

**Anacostia Trails Heritage Area**

**Boundary Expansion**

**Feasibility Study**

**Final Report**

**May 2022**

*Anacostia Trails Heritage Area (ATHA) is dedicated to preserving and promoting the historic, artistic, cultural, and natural resources of the Certified Heritage Area.*

*Prepared for: Anacostia Trails Heritage Area, Inc.*

*Prepared By:*

*Carolyn Brackett*  
*Cultural Heritage Works*  
[cbrackett@culturalheritageworks.com](mailto:cbrackett@culturalheritageworks.com)

**AND**

*August Carlino, Planning Consultant*  
*President & CEO, Rivers of Steel National Heritage Area*  
*Pittsburgh, PA*

**Consultant team:**

Carolyn Brackett, Principal, Cultural Heritage Works, Project Lead

August Carlino, Planning Consultant, President & CEO, Rivers of Steel NHA

Nancy Morgan, Principal, Point Heritage Development Consulting

Zada Law, Director, Fullerton Laboratory for Spatial Technology,  
Department of Geosciences, Middle Tennessee State University

Emily George, Student, Fullerton Laboratory for Spatial Technology,  
Department of Geosciences, Middle Tennessee State University



This project and report has been financed in part with state funds from the Maryland Heritage Areas Authority, an instrumentality of the State of Maryland. However, the contents and opinions do not necessarily reflect the views or policies of the Maryland Heritage Areas Authority. The Maryland-National Capital Parks and Planning Commission, the Prince George's County Historic Preservation Commission, Town of Upper Marlboro, and the Potomac River Heritage Tourism Alliance are also generous supporters of this initiative.

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Kirstin Falk  
Project Manager

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## Executive Summary

Certified in 2001 by the Maryland Heritage Areas Authority (MHAA), the current Anacostia Trails Heritage Area (ATHA) encompasses over 100 square miles of northern Prince George's County – bordered by Washington, D.C. to the south, Montgomery County to the west, Howard and Anne Arundel County to the north and encompassing portions of Bowie, Glenn Dale, and Cheverly to the east. Anacostia Heritage Area Inc. is the legal name of the heritage area's 501(c)3 management entity.

The heritage area is staffed by an executive director and program manager. A 14-member managing board includes representatives from throughout the heritage area. A 17-member governing board serves an advisory role and includes elected officials, staff and civic leaders from participating communities

In 2020, ATHA undertook a study to consider a programmatic boundary amendment to potentially include sites and communities in southern Prince George's County. The boundary amendment study included many on-site visits to tour historic, cultural and outdoor/recreational resources in order to assess connections to ATHA themes. Additionally, many meetings were held with many stakeholders and elected officials.

The study fulfilled the MHAA's requirements for programmatic boundary amendments:

*Programmatic boundary amendments are made to add new geographic areas to the CHA (Certified Heritage Area) that were not contemplated in the approved management plan. These areas may be jurisdictions that have already amended their comprehensive plans to incorporate the CHA management plan, or they may be in new jurisdictions that have not yet amended their comprehensive plans.*

As a next step ATHA will update its management plan to include a larger boundary area. The new plan will include the expanded boundary area, revisit and update heritage area goals, revise interpretive themes, identify new partners, and revise the management structure and budget to accommodate a larger boundary. In preparation for this undertaking, the boundary amendment study included an assessment of current management and operations and provided recommendations for future management including finances, staffing, and recruitment of board members.

This report documents the study process and provides guidelines for incorporating an expanded boundary into the Anacostia Trails Heritage Area's interpretation, programs, and management.

## **Establishment of Study Parameters**

The study's parameters were developed to meet the requirements of MHAA:

- 1) **Connection to interpretive themes** - An inventory of known significant historical, natural, or cultural resources that will aid in interpreting the themes of the heritage area as presented in the management plan;
- 2) **Heritage tourism potential/visitor readiness** - The types of heritage tourism-related public and private uses that would be encouraged within the area;
- 3) **Heritage area support opportunities** - Information on known or contemplated projects, sites, and programs that could be supported through MHAA benefits including grants, loans, and tax credits.
- 4) **Local government support** - A description of existing or proposed mechanisms such as local government ordinances, historic preservation commissions, or local tax credits that will assist in preserving and protecting the unique historical, natural, and cultural resources that are key to defining and telling the stories of the heritage area.

Anacostia Trails Heritage Area's board of directors and staff believe an expansion of the heritage area into southern Prince George's County is merited. For planning and mapping purposes, the proposed geographic addition to ATHA is organized in four cluster areas.

### **Cluster area #1 – Upper Marlboro, Clinton, Brandywine**

The Town of Upper Marlboro is also the county seat of Prince George's County. Clinton and Brandywine are unincorporated, census-designated communities.

### **Cluster area #2 – Aquasco, Eagle Harbor, Cedar Haven**

Aquasco, Eagle Harbor, and Cedar Haven are communities located at the southern point of Prince George's County.

### **Cluster area #3 – Accokeek, Fort Washington, Oxon Hill**

Accokeek, Fort Washington, and Oxon Hill are unincorporated communities on the western side of southern Prince George's County.

### **Cluster area #4 – Fairmount Heights, Seat Pleasant, Suitland, Capitol Heights, Landover**

The Town of Fairmount Heights and Seat Pleasant are incorporated communities. Suitland and Landover are unincorporated communities.

## **Introduction: Purpose of the Boundary Amendment Final Report**

This report is intended to document the study process and to provide guidelines for incorporating an expanded boundary into the Anacostia Trails Heritage Area's interpretation, programs, and management. This report builds upon a situation analysis report prepared in November of 2020 which documented the boundary amendment study, provided recommendations, created maps showing the locations of sites and communities in the proposed area, and identified issues for consideration by the staff and board of directors to move forward with the study and amendment request. At that time, the board approved proceeding with the study through stakeholder outreach and development of organizational management recommendations.

## **Maryland Heritage Areas Program**

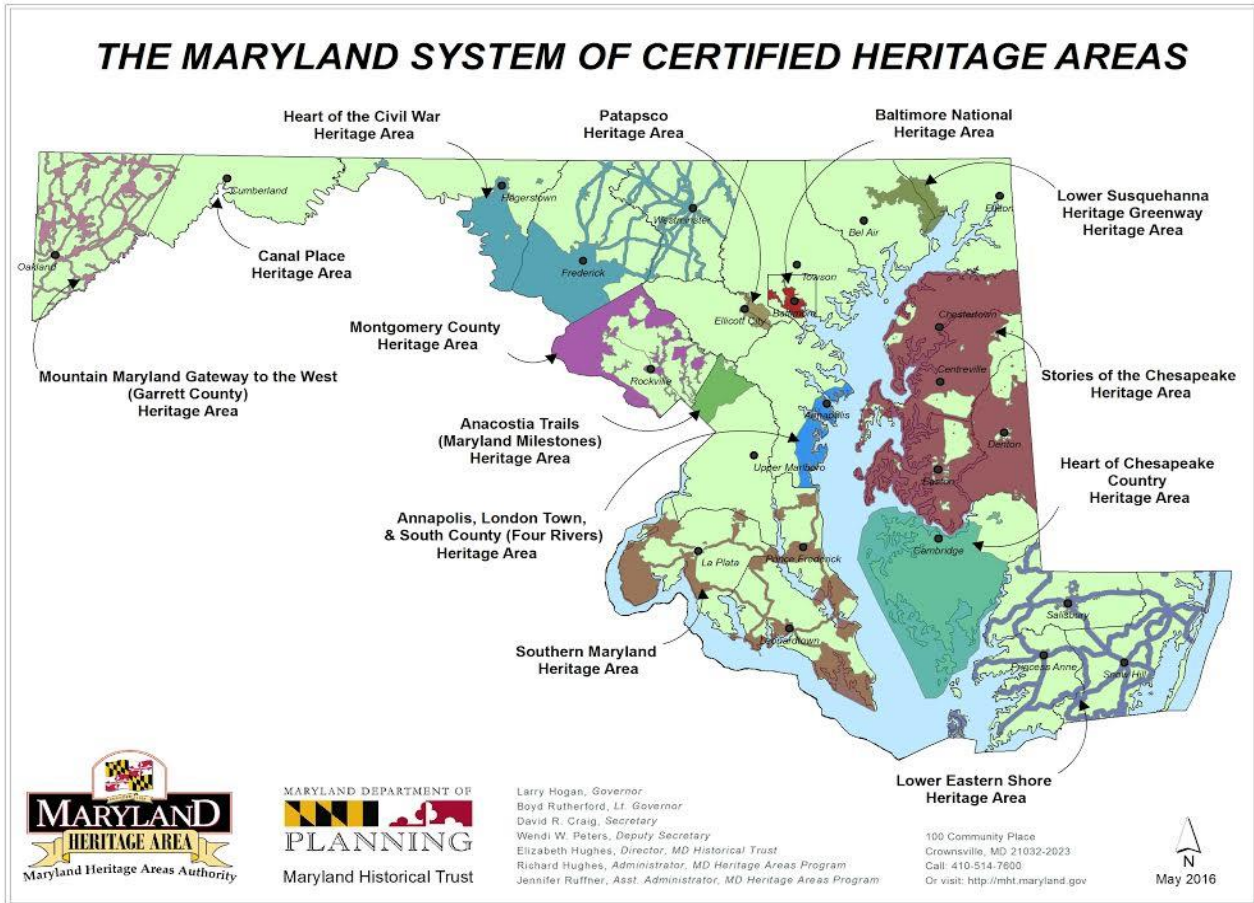
The Maryland Heritage Areas Program was created in 1996 to help communities use heritage tourism to strengthen their economies through the development, protection, and promotion of authentic cultural, historical, and natural resources.

The program is governed by the Maryland Heritage Areas Authority (MHAA) and administered by the Maryland Historical Trust, an agency of the Maryland Department of Planning. MHAA provides financial and technical assistance for 13 certified heritage areas. The 13 heritage area management entities form the Maryland Coalition of Heritage Areas. Through the Coalition, heritage areas share information, organize statewide activities, and support the statewide heritage area system.

The state's Program Open Space provides \$6 million in annual funding for the Maryland Heritage Areas Program. Program Open Space is a land preservation and park development program managed through the Maryland Department of Natural Resources. Funds are generated by a transfer tax of 0.5 percent for every real estate transaction in the state. In FY2021, approximately \$6.1 million was allocated in grants for heritage area staffing, marketing, and capital and non-capital projects statewide.

Each of Maryland's 13 certified heritage areas (CHA) is defined by a distinct focus or theme. These distinctive places exhibit tangible evidence of the area's heritage in historic buildings and districts, archaeological sites, cultural traditions, natural landscapes, as well as other resources such as museums, parks, and traditional ways of life. The uniqueness of each heritage area attracts not only out-of-state visitors, but locals who want to learn more about their heritage and take pride in their community's unique sense of place. A strategic plan for the state's heritage areas summarized work in three key areas: developing heritage tourism products, building partnerships, and sustaining regional identity.

A study released in 2020 found significant economic impact from heritage areas. The study found that heritage areas contribute \$2.4 billion to Maryland’s economy, support and sustain 33,815 full-time and part-time jobs, and generate \$319.8 million in annual total state and local tax impact.<sup>1</sup>



<sup>1</sup> *Economic Contribution of Maryland Milestones to the Maryland Economy*: economic impact study of the state’s 13 heritage areas conducted by Strategic Impact Advisors, 2020.

## Anacostia Trails Heritage Area

Certified in 2001 by the Maryland Heritage Areas Authority (MHAA), the current Anacostia Trails Heritage Area (ATHA) encompasses over 100 square miles of northern Prince George's County – bordered by Washington, D.C. to the south, Montgomery County to the west, Howard and Anne Arundel County to the north and encompassing portions of Bowie, Glenn Dale, and Cheverly to the east. Anacostia Heritage Area Inc. is the legal name of the heritage area's 501(c)3 management entity.

The heritage area's management plan was completed at the time of certification. The plan explained the name and the purpose of the newly designated heritage area:

*The name is derived from the Anacostia River watershed and associated recreational greenway that exists in much of the area. This area has been targeted for a new state program to invest in heritage areas. It was selected because of its interesting history, with many well-developed interpretive sites and intact historic resources reflecting the area's more than 300 years of settlement; because of its beautiful urban greenway, the Anacostia Tributary Trails System; and because of its extensive green spaces beyond the Beltway and along the Patuxent River. As this management plan explains, ATHA has the potential to become a new tourist destination and gateway to Washington, D.C. <sup>2</sup>*

The management plan set forth nine goals for the heritage area that address preservation and conservation of historic, cultural and natural resources, interpretation of the area's history, building a network of partners and attractions, and generating economic impact through heritage tourism:

1. Promote understanding of the importance of the area's historic sites to the history of Maryland and the history of our nation.
2. Conserve and interpret natural and recreational resources and open spaces in ATHA in support of heritage tourism.
3. Preserve and enhance historic sites and cultural resources in ATHA.
4. Expand and enhance linkages among heritage attractions throughout ATHA.
5. Expand existing partnerships and create new opportunities for partnerships to achieve the goals of ATHA.
6. Promote development of the arts in ATHA.
7. Improve the image of towns, the river and the entire heritage area through heritage tourism efforts.
8. Organize and unite communities and facilities by disseminating information and interpreting our shared history.
9. Increase economic activity, create jobs, boost small business development and create a stronger tax base as a result of expanded heritage tourism opportunities.

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<sup>2</sup> Anacostia Trails Heritage Area Management Plan, 2001

Additionally, the management plan included four primary interpretive themes and 16 subthemes. An interpretive plan was developed in 2003. The plan included a detailed historic narrative of the heritage area, an analysis of sites and communities, and identification of potential interpretive trails. The plan also included five primary themes and 22 subtopics.

Maryland Milestones, a brand established in 2012, highlights first and unique events connected to the heritage area's themes.



ATHA's eastern boundary was amended in 2017 to include two municipalities – Bowie and Cheverly – and a portion of the unincorporated area around the community of Glenn Dale.

The heritage area is staffed by an executive director and program manager. A 14-member managing board includes representatives from throughout the heritage area. A 17-member governing board serves an advisory role and includes elected officials, staff and civic leaders from participating communities.

ATHA has led or participated in many partnerships to extend the impact of programs.

Partnerships include:

1. **Federal:** National Park Service, Star-Spangled Banner National Historic Trail, Beltsville Agricultural Research Center, NASA Goddard, Greenbelt National Park, and the Patuxent Wildlife Refuge
2. **State:** Maryland Heritage Areas Authority, Maryland Office of Tourism, Preservation Maryland
3. **Regional:** Experience Prince George's County (tourism bureau), Maryland-National Capital Parks and Planning Commission, Prince George's County Council, Prince George's County Historic Preservation Commission, Prince George's County Historical Society, Prince George's County History Consortium, Washington Area Bicycle Association, Capital Trail Coalition, Port Towns, 4 Cities
4. **Municipalities:** Bladensburg, Colmar Manor, Cottage City, Edmonston, Berwyn Heights, Greenbelt, College Park, Mt. Rainier, Hyattsville, Brentwood, North Brentwood, Riverdale Park, University Park, the Beltsville area, Bowie, Cheverly, and unincorporated areas around Glenn Dale and southern Prince George's County
5. **Sites and Organizations:** Numerous historic, cultural, and natural resource sites and organizations which preserve, document, commemorate, and celebrate the heritage area's history and culture (For a list of grant recipients, see Appendix, page 85).

## Projects, Programs, Advocacy and Assistance

ATHA fulfills many roles in support of heritage tourism, education, community investment, and historic preservation including:

1. **Heritage Center** –One of the major ways that ATHA interfaces with the public is through a Heritage Center in a shared space with Pyramid Atlantic Arts Center in Hyattsville. The heritage center provides an introduction to the area for visitors, and exhibit spaces feature artists whose work showcases the heritage area as well as history exhibits. ATHA’s offices are also located there.
2. **Partnership Network** –ATHA is the convener of the Prince George’s County History Consortium, a network of historic, cultural, and natural resource sites throughout the heritage area. Connecting staff and volunteers from sites and communities builds a strong alliance and a network of partners who mentor and assist each other.
3. **Events** –ATHA actively supports the heritage area’s events and programs through outreach, marketing, and sponsorships. Grants have also supported local festivals.
4. **Heritage Routes** - Heritage Routes designed around one or more interpretive themes are driving and/or walking tours which connect multiple sites and themes. A brochure for each thematic route includes a map and information on places to visit. Guided “Cycling through History” bicycle tours have also offered.
5. **Interpretation** –ATHA develops and implements plans to tell the story of the heritage area including a Civil Rights Trail and the War of 1812 Battle of Bladensburg.
6. **3 Minute Milestones** – A series of videos highlighting the heritage area’s milestones includes the Dueling Grounds, Streetcar Line #82, Fort Lincoln Cemetery, Greenbelt, Bostwick, Beltsville Agricultural Research Center, Glenn Dale Hospital, Laurel Railroad Station, Belair Stables and U.S. Route 1.
7. **Grantmaking** –ATHA’s Rocket Grant grant program supports partners’ projects throughout the heritage area. The grant program provides startup funding (up to \$5,000 per grant) for innovative exhibits, tours, planning, art programs, historic preservation, marketing, conservation, educational programming, and projects which build upon the heritage area’s primary stories. Since 2010, ATHA has awarded an average of \$25,000 annually in Rocket Grants totaling 71 unique grant recipients. Larger grants (up to \$100,000) are also awarded to projects by the Maryland Heritage Areas Authority (MHAA) to assist in the preservation of historic, archeological, natural, and cultural resources and to support economic development through heritage tourism. ATHA manages local review for these grants and has connected dozens of projects with large funding packages from MHAA and other funding sources to support the heritage area’s



tourism infrastructure. Since 1999, \$2,231,517 in MHAA grants have been awarded in ATHA, totaling 62 project/program awards to 35 unique grantees. The average award is just over \$35,000.

8. **Technical Assistance** –ATHA serves as a strong advocate for heritage tourism infrastructure. Assistance includes:
- working with legislators and local advocates;
  - partnering with the State of Maryland during the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the War of 1812;
  - advocating for the development and expansion of a bike path infrastructure;
  - collaborating with the Maryland Heritage Areas Coalition to ensure full funding of heritage areas;
  - providing technical support to local museums as well as arts and historic preservation organizations.

***Anacostia Trails Heritage Area  
Economic Impact***

Anacostia Trails Heritage Area generates an impressive economic impact annually\*:

**\$36.1 million annual economic impact**  
**\$5.3 million in state and local tax revenue**  
**Supports and sustains 565 jobs**

\**Economic Contribution of ATHA/Maryland Milestones to the Maryland Economy*: economic impact study of the state's 13 heritage areas conducted by Strategic Impact Advisors, 2020.

## The Boundary Amendment Study

In 2020, ATHA undertook a study to consider a programmatic boundary amendment to potentially include sites and communities in southern Prince George's County. The study was conducted in response to requests from the Potomac River Heritage Tourism Alliance comprised of several sites and communities to be considered for inclusion in an expanded heritage area.

The study fulfilled the MHAA's requirements for programmatic boundary amendments:

*Programmatic boundary amendments are made to add new geographic areas to the CHA (Certified Heritage Area) that were not contemplated in the approved management plan. These areas may be jurisdictions that have already amended their comprehensive plans to incorporate the CHA management plan, or they may be in new jurisdictions that have not yet amended their comprehensive plans.*

As a next step ATHA will update its management plan to include a larger boundary area. The new plan will include the expanded boundary area, revisit and update heritage area goals, revise interpretive themes, identify new partners, and revise the management structure and budget to accommodate a larger boundary.

### Establishment of Study Parameters

The study's parameters were developed to meet the requirements of MHAA:

- 5) **Connection to interpretive themes** - An inventory of known significant historical, natural, or cultural resources that will aid in interpreting the themes of the heritage area as presented in the management plan;
- 6) **Heritage tourism potential/visitor readiness** - The types of heritage tourism-related public and private uses that would be encouraged within the area;
- 7) **Heritage area support opportunities** - Information on known or contemplated projects, sites, and programs that could be supported through MHAA benefits including grants, loans, and tax credits.
- 8) **Local government support** - A description of existing or proposed mechanisms such as local government ordinances, historic preservation commissions, or local tax credits that will assist in preserving and protecting the unique historical, natural, and cultural resources that are key to defining and telling the stories of the heritage area.

## **Study Process**

The study included communities in areas of Prince George's County not currently within the boundaries of ATHA including:

### **Incorporated**

Upper Marlboro (county seat)  
Fairmount Heights  
Seat Pleasant  
Eagle Harbor  
Capitol Heights  
Forest Heights

### **Unincorporated/Census-designated**

Accokeek  
Aquasco  
Brandywine  
Clinton  
Fort Washington  
Largo  
Landover  
Lanham  
Oxon Hill  
Mitchellville  
Temple Hills

### **Resource Inventory**

Each incorporated and unincorporated/census-designated community was researched to identify historic, cultural, natural and recreational sites, districts, and communities that preserve – or have the potential to preserve - places and stories of importance to Prince George's County's history and identity. Each listing included the site or district name, address, owner/manager/friends group, contacts, website links, and open-to-the-public status. Resource types included in the inventory are:

- Historic districts
- Historic house museums
- Historic homes – rental venues
- Historic churches and cemeteries
- Historic schools
- Archaeological parks
- National and state parks
- Parks – recreational areas, nature trails
- Wildlife sanctuary, nature centers, environmental center
- Wineries and vineyards, farmsteads
- National Historic Trail, State Byway

- National Harbor – conference center, resort, casino
- Performing arts center, arena

### **Review of Documentation**

Review began by studying ATHA’s primary documents, *The Anacostia Trails Heritage Area Management Plan (2001)* and *Interpretive Plan for the Anacostia Trails Heritage Area (2003)*. Additionally, the 2015 boundary amendment report, *Anacostia Trails Heritage Area Boundary Modification Request, City of Bowie, Town of Cheverly and Prince George’s County Council*, was reviewed. Additional resources included:

- **Anacostiatrails.org** – The website for **ATHA** includes information on heritage tours, attractions, upcoming events, a map, and other information for visitors, as well as information for ATHA partners about grant opportunities.
- **Mncppc.org** – The website for **Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission (MNCPPC)** provides information on historic, cultural, and natural resources MNCPPC owns and operates. Additionally, MNCPPC has researched and prepared documents that focus on specific subjects including *African American Historic and Cultural Resources in Prince George’s County, Maryland* and a brochure, *African American Heritage Sites, Prince George’s County*. Other informative documents prepared by MNCPPC’s Planning Department are *Historic Sites and Districts Plan: Prince George’s County*, *Priority Preservation Area Functional Master Plan* and *Brandywine Revitalization and Preservation Study*.
- **Mht.maryland.gov - Maryland Historical Trust** maintains an extensive inventory of historic properties comprised of information and files of the Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties. The survey files for Prince George’s County contain hundreds of historic resources (including private properties). Records contain information such as the history of the property, drawings showing the location of buildings, an assessment of the property’s condition, and notation of properties listed in the National Register of Historic Places.
- <https://mht.maryland.gov/nr/NRCountyList.aspx?COUNTY=Prince%20Georges> – Also on the **Maryland Historical Trust** website is a list of 105 properties in Prince George’s County listed in the National Register of Historic Places. Each entry includes a description of the site, a summary of its history, and a link to the National Register nomination. Additionally, a National Register Multiple Property Documentation Form (MPDF), *African American Historic Resources of Prince George’s County*, documents African American history and historic resources from the 17<sup>th</sup> century to the mid-20<sup>th</sup> century.
- **Dnr.maryland.gov** – The **Maryland Department of Natural Resources** maintains information on sites owned by the state and managed by DNR. Strategic plans were also available for some of the sites. The department’s *Land Preservation and Recreation Plan: 2019-2023* provided goals and strategies for conservation and outdoor recreation in the state’s parks and open spaces.
- **Nps.gov** – The website of the **National Park Service** provides information on several sites in southern Prince George’s County that are included in the study.

- **Experienceprincegeorge’s.com** – The website of Experience Prince George’s, the county’s **conference and visitors bureau** is the county’s official tourism website. Information is provided on attractions, events, lodging, dining, shopping, sports, and transportation.
- **Site and community websites**



## Analysis: Current Interpretive Themes

This section focuses on the connection to interpretive themes. ATHA currently has nine primary themes and 38 subthemes described in the management and interpretive plans as shown in the following tables.

All primary themes have one or more connections to the proposed boundary amendment area. In some cases, themes appear in both plans, with varying wording. In other cases, themes are found only in one plan. Additionally, while some primary themes are similar, accompanying subthemes may differ.

For the purposes of the boundary amendment study, this report presents all primary themes and addresses subthemes that have connections to the proposed geographic area of the boundary extension.

The analysis of primary themes and subthemes includes a summary of the intent of the themes, and connections of themes to sites in the boundary amendment study area. Maps in each section illustrate these areas. The large number of themes in the management and interpretive plans are simplified on the maps as follows:

- Settlement Patterns
- Natural Environment
- Historic Armed Conflicts
- Transportation and Communication Innovations
- Arts and Entertainment

Table 1 presents themes and subthemes from the management plan.

Table 2 presents themes and subthemes from the interpretive plan.

**Note: All primary themes have connections to the proposed boundary amendment area. Subthemes that have connections are highlighted in yellow (they may appear gray in a black and white version of this document).**

### Ownership:

**MNCPPC – Maryland National Capitol Park and Planning**

**NPS – National Park Service**

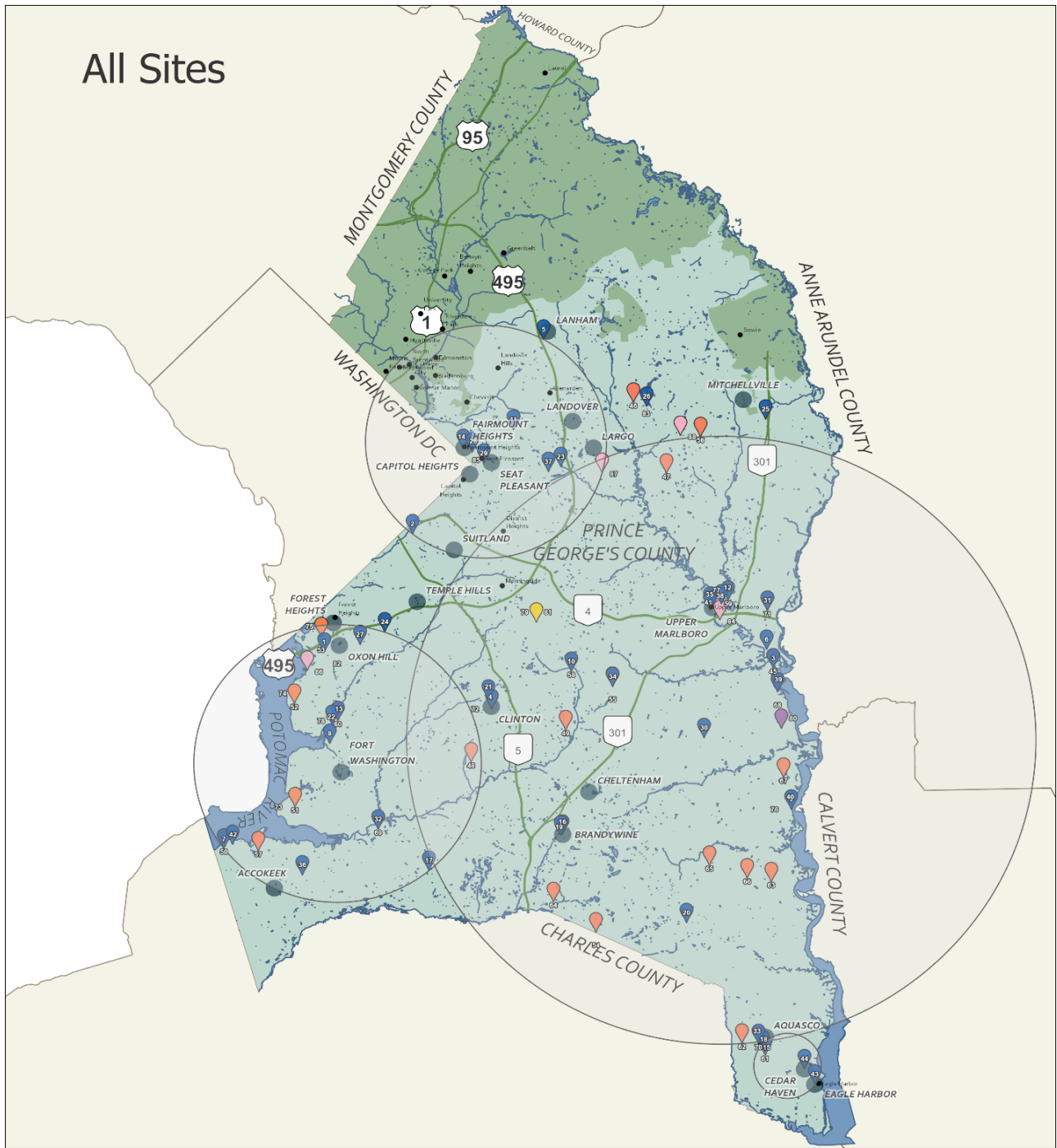
**MDNR – Maryland Department of Natural Resources**

**TABLE 1: Management Plan Themes and Subthemes**

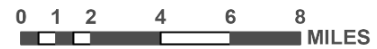
| Theme                                             | Subtheme                                   | Subtheme                   | Subtheme        | Subtheme                                | Subtheme                       | Subtheme                    | Subtheme |
|---------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------|-----------------------------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------------------|----------|
| Settlement, Development and Growth of Communities | Rise of African American Middle Class      | Notable Citizens           | Education       | Pattern Book and Sears Mail-Order House | Greenbelt, A Planned Greentown | Religion and Early Churches | Industry |
| The Natural Environment                           | Wildlife and Agricultural Research Centers | Trail Systems              | Nature Centers  | Dinosaur Park                           | Natural History of Agriculture |                             |          |
| The Battle of Bladensburg (War of 1812)           |                                            |                            |                 |                                         |                                |                             |          |
| Linking the Nation                                | Turnpikes, Taverns, Inns                   | Nation’s Main Street (US1) | Aviation Firsts | Streetcar Suburbs                       |                                |                             |          |

**Table 2: Interpretive Plan Themes and Subthemes**

| Theme                                          | Subtopics                  | Subtopics                                   | Subtopics                                   | Subtopics                                     | Subtopics                                  | Subtopics                                   | Subtopics                       |
|------------------------------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Adaptation and Ingenuity                       | Agriculture                | Aviation                                    | Wildlife                                    | Earthbound Transportation                     | Paleontology                               | Technology and Its Evolution                |                                 |
| Settlement Patterns                            | Communities                | Plantations                                 |                                             |                                               |                                            |                                             |                                 |
| The Geography of Conflict                      | Civil War                  | Bladensburg Races                           | Experiences of War Veterans                 | Modern Defense                                |                                            |                                             |                                 |
| Pursuing Creative Arts, Aesthetics, and Design | Noted Artists              | Early 20 <sup>th</sup> Century Design       | International Cultures and Their Expression |                                               |                                            |                                             |                                 |
| Changes in the Landscape                       | Taming the Anacostia River | Harnessing Water Power on the Coastal Plain | Restoring the Anacostia River               | Transportation as the Armature of Development | Transition from Plantation to Municipality | Preservation of Open Space as Federal Lands | Landscaping the Urban Landscape |



# HERITAGE RESOURCES IN PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY



Cartographer: Emily George, Middle Tennessee State University  
 Data Source: Prince George's County Planning Department  
 March, 2022

### Settlement Patterns

- 1: Oxon Hill Manor
- 2: Lincoln Memorial Cemetery
- 3: Mount Calvert Historical and Archaeological Park
- 4: Surratt House Museum
- 5: Seabrook Schoolhouse
- 6: Billingsley House
- 7: Piscataway Park
- 8: Harmony Hall
- 9: Nottingham School
- 10: Poplar Hill on His Lordship's Kindness
- 11: National Harmony Memorial Park
- 12: Town of Upper Marlboro
- 13: Broad Creek Historic District
- 14: Fairmount Heights Historic District
- 15: Villa de Alpaca Farm
- 16: Brandywine
- 17: Asbury Methodist Episcopal Church and Cemetery
- 18: St. Mary's Rectory
- 19: Chapel of the Incarnation
- 20: Immanuel Methodist Church and Cemetery
- 21: Christ Episcopal Church and Cemetery
- 22: St. John's Episcopal Church
- 23: Ridgely Methodist Episcopal Church
- 24: St. Ignatius Church
- 25: Carroll Methodist Chapel and Cemetery
- 26: Holy Family Roman Catholic Church
- 27: St. Paul's Methodist Episcopal Church

- 28: St. Matthew's Church – Addison Chapel and Cemetery
- 29: Mount Victory Baptist Church – Old St. Margaret's Catholic Church
- 30: St. Thomas Episcopal Church
- 31: Compton Bassett
- 32: Piscataway Village Historic District
- 33: Aquasco
- 34: Mount Airy Mansion
- 35: Union Memorial Methodist Episcopal Church
- 36: Christ Church
- 37: Ridgely Rosenwald School
- 38: Darnall's Chance Historic House Museum
- 39: Patuxent Rural Life Museum
- 40: Nottingham School
- 41: Town of Upper Marlboro
- 42: Moyaone Reserve Historic District
- 43: Eagle Harbor
- 44: Cedar Haven

### Natural Environment

- 45: Mount Calvert Historical and Archaeological Park
- 46: Newton White Mansion
- 47: Watkins Nature Center at Watkins Regional Park
- 48: Clearwater Nature Center at Cosca Regional Park
- 49: Cheltenham Wetlands Park
- 50: Piscataway Park
- 51: Fort Washington Park
- 52: Fort Foote Park

- 53: Oxon Cove Park/Oxon Hill Farm/Mount Welby
- 54: Cedarville State Forest
- 55: Rosaryville State Park
- 56: Belt Woods Natural Environment Area
- 57: Hard Bargain Environmental Center
- 58: Poplar Hill on His Lordship's Kindness
- 59: Town of Upper Marlboro
- 60: Broad Creek Historic District
- 61: Villa de Alpaca Farm
- 62: P.A. Bowen Farmstead
- 63: Robin Hill Farm and Vineyards
- 64: Gemeny Winery and Vineyards
- 65: Janemark Winery and Vineyard
- 66: Romano Vineyard and Winery
- 67: Merkle Wildlife Sanctuary and Visitors Center
- 68: Patuxent River Park/Patuxent Rural Life Museums
- 69: Piscataway Village Historic District
- 70: Aquasco
- 71: Compton Bassett

### Historic Armed Conflicts

- 72: Surratt House Museum
- 73: Fort Washington Park
- 74: Fort Foote Park
- 75: Oxon Cove Park/Oxon Hill Farm/Mount Welby

- 76: Nottingham School
- 77: Town of Upper Marlboro
- 78: Broad Creek Historic District
- 79: Joint Base Andrews Park

### Transportation and Communication Innovations

- 80: Columbia Air Center
- 81: Joint Base Andrews

### Arts and Entertainment

- 82: Oxon Hill Manor
- 83: Newton White Mansion
- 84: Show Place Arena and Prince George's Equestrian Center
- 85: Fairmount Heights Historic District
- 86: National Harbor
- 87: Prince George's Community College – Center for Performing Arts
- 88: Six Flags America

- Towns
- Municipalities

□ Cluster Areas

■ Current Anacostia Trail Heritage Area

Cartographer: Emily George, Middle Tennessee State University  
 Data Source: Prince George's County Planning Department  
 March, 2022

## **Settlement, Development and Growth**

Proximity to Washington D.C. has driven growth in northern Prince George's County since the 19<sup>th</sup> century. This part of the county, including the current ATHA boundary, is urban/suburban in nature. To the southern part of the county, not currently included in the heritage area boundary, a semi-rural landscape emerges with suburban developments, farms and small, mostly unincorporated, communities scattered throughout the countryside.

ATHA's themes about settlement and growth reflect the urban/suburban history of the northern part of the county. The management plan's primary theme, **Settlement, Development and Growth of Communities**, has seven subthemes. Of these, six are relevant to southern Prince George's County:

- Rise of the African American middle class
- Notable citizens
- Education
- Pattern book and Sears mail-order houses
- Religion and early churches
- Industry

The management plan notes that within five years of its founding in 1742, Bladensburg became the site of a tobacco inspection station and shipping port. Tobacco supported the growth of the area into the 19<sup>th</sup> century when new towns emerged. African American communities formed after the Civil War.

The interpretive plan's theme, **Settlement Patterns**, acknowledges the once-rural nature of northern Prince George's County as a landscape of plantations. The plan's discussion of settlement patterns also references the many small towns including Laurel, a planned mill town.

Table 1 identifies sites in the boundary amendment area and connections to the primary theme and subtheme.

**Table 1**  
**Primary Theme:**  
**Settlement, Development, and Growth of Communities (Management Plan/MP)**  
**Settlement Patterns (Interpretive Plan/IP)**

| Site                                             | Location       | Owner      | Subthemes                             |                  |           |                                         |                             |          |             |             |
|--------------------------------------------------|----------------|------------|---------------------------------------|------------------|-----------|-----------------------------------------|-----------------------------|----------|-------------|-------------|
|                                                  |                |            | Rise of African American Middle Class | Notable Citizens | Education | Pattern Book and Sears Mail Order House | Religion and Early Churches | Industry | Communities | Plantations |
| Darnall's Chance Historic House Museum           | Upper Marlboro | MNCPPC     |                                       | x                |           |                                         |                             |          |             |             |
| Mount Calvert Historical and Archaeological Park | Upper Marlboro | MNCPPC     |                                       |                  |           |                                         |                             |          |             | x           |
| Compton Bassett                                  | Upper Marlboro | MNCPPC     |                                       |                  |           |                                         | x                           |          |             | x           |
| Patuxent Rural Life Museum                       | Upper Marlboro | MNCPPC     |                                       |                  |           | x                                       |                             |          |             |             |
| Nottingham School                                | Upper Marlboro | MNCPPC     |                                       |                  | x         |                                         |                             |          |             |             |
| Billingsley House (rental)                       | Upper Marlboro | MNCPPC     |                                       |                  |           |                                         |                             |          |             | x           |
| Mount Airy Mansion (rental)                      | Upper Marlboro | MDNR       |                                       |                  |           |                                         | x                           |          |             | x           |
| Town of Upper Marlboro                           | Upper Marlboro |            | x                                     | x                |           |                                         | x                           |          |             |             |
| Surratt House Museum                             | Clinton        | MNCPPC     |                                       | x                |           |                                         |                             |          |             |             |
| Poplar Hill on His Lordship's Kindness           | Clinton        | NON PROFIT |                                       | x                |           |                                         |                             |          |             | x           |
| Piscataway Village Historic District             | Clinton        |            |                                       |                  |           |                                         | x                           | x        | x           |             |

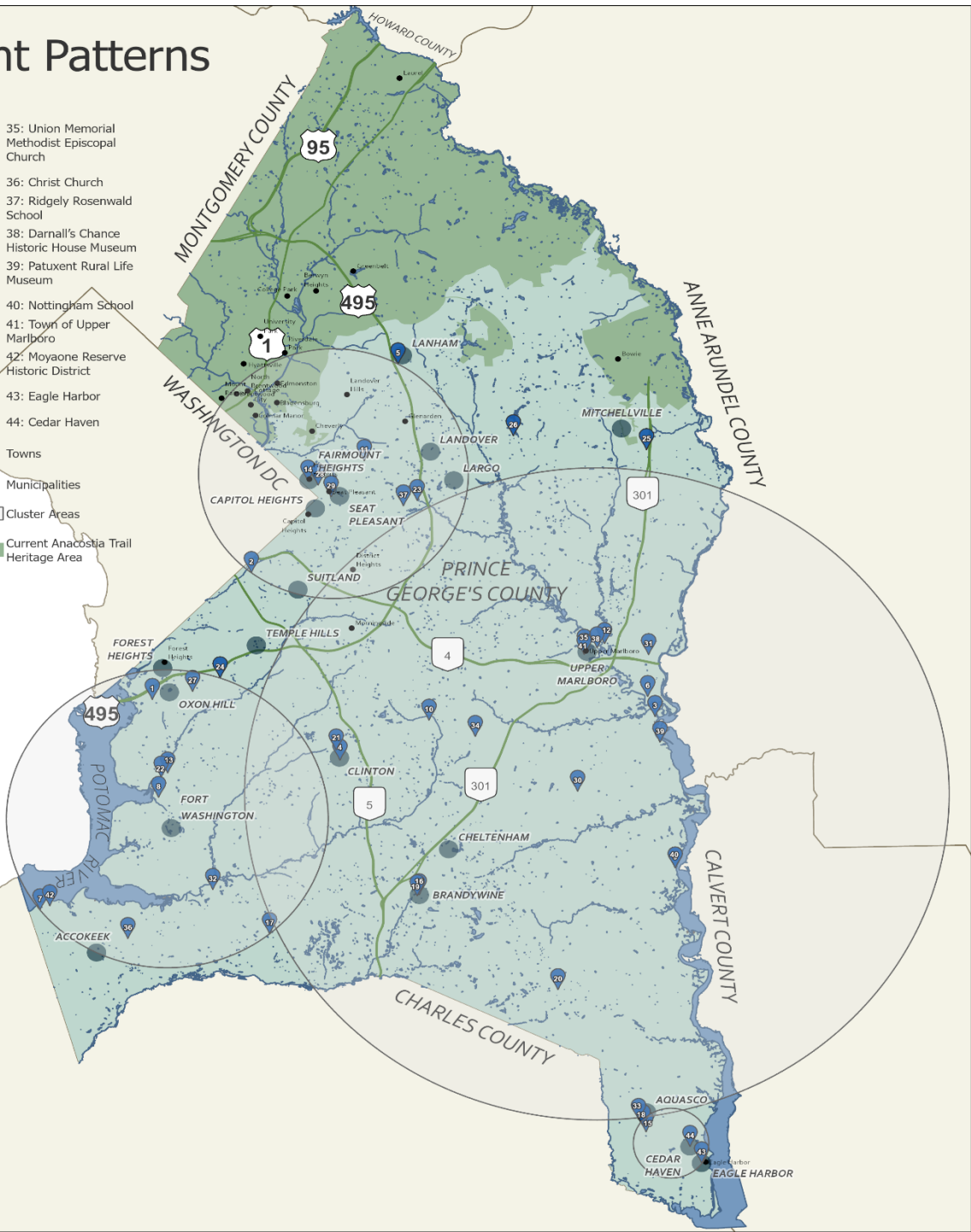
**Table 1 (continued)**  
**Primary Theme:**  
**Settlement, Development, and Growth of Communities (Management Plan/MP)**  
**Settlement Patterns (Interpretive Plan/IP)**

| Site                                | Location                  | Owner   | Subthemes                             |                  |           |                                         |                             |          |             |             |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------------|---------|---------------------------------------|------------------|-----------|-----------------------------------------|-----------------------------|----------|-------------|-------------|
|                                     |                           |         | Rise of African American Middle Class | Notable Citizens | Education | Pattern Book and Sears Mail Order House | Religion and Early Churches | Industry | Communities | Plantations |
| Harmony Hall                        | Fort Washington           | MNCPPC  |                                       |                  |           |                                         |                             |          |             | X           |
| Piscataway Park                     | Accokeek                  | MNCPPC  |                                       |                  |           |                                         |                             |          |             | x           |
| National Harmony Memorial Park      | Lanover                   |         | x                                     | x                |           |                                         |                             |          | X           |             |
| Seabrook Schoolhouse                | Lanham                    | MNCPPC  |                                       |                  | X         |                                         |                             |          | X           |             |
| Ridgely Rosenwald School            | Capitol Heights           | MNCPPC  |                                       |                  | x         |                                         |                             |          |             |             |
| Oxon Hill Manor                     | Oxon Hill                 | MNCPPC  |                                       | x                |           |                                         |                             |          |             |             |
| Broad Creek Historic District       | Fort Washington           |         | x                                     |                  |           |                                         | x                           |          | X           | x           |
| Fairmount Heights Historic District | Fairmount Heights         |         | x                                     | x                | x         |                                         |                             |          | X           |             |
| Aquasco and Villa de Alpaca Farm    | Aquasco                   | PRIVATE |                                       |                  |           |                                         |                             |          | X           |             |
| Eagle Harbor and Cedar Haven        | Eagle Harbor, Cedar Haven |         | x                                     |                  |           | x                                       |                             |          | X           |             |
| Brandywine                          | Brandywine                |         |                                       | x                |           |                                         | x                           |          | x           |             |
| Early churches                      |                           |         |                                       |                  |           |                                         | x                           |          |             |             |

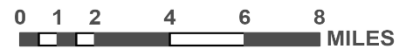
# Settlement Patterns

- 1: Oxon Hill Manor
- 2: Lincoln Memorial Cemetery
- 3: Mount Calvert Historical and Archaeological Park
- 4: Surratt House Museum
- 5: Seabrook Schoolhouse
- 6: Billingsley House
- 7: Piscataway Park
- 8: Harmony Hall
- 9: Nottingham School
- 10: Poplar Hill on His Lordship's Kindness
- 11: National Harmony Memorial Park
- 12: Town of Upper Marlboro
- 13: Broad Creek Historic District
- 14: Fairmount Heights Historic District
- 15: Villa de Alpaca Farm
- 16: Brandywine
- 17: Asbury Methodist Episcopal Church and Cemetery
- 18: St. Mary's Rectory
- 19: Chapel of the Incarnation
- 20: Immanuel Methodist Church and Cemetery
- 21: Christ Episcopal Church and Cemetery
- 22: St. John's Episcopal Church
- 23: Ridgely Methodist Episcopal Church
- 24: St. Ignatius Church
- 25: Carroll Methodist Chapel and Cemetery
- 26: Holy Family Roman Catholic Church
- 27: St. Paul's Methodist Episcopal Church
- 28: St. Matthew's Church - Addison Chapel and Cemetery
- 29: Mount Victory Baptist Church - Old St. Margaret's Catholic Church
- 30: St. Thomas Episcopal Church
- 31: Compton Bassett
- 32: Piscataway Village Historic District
- 33: Aquasco
- 34: Mount Airy Mansion
- 35: Union Memorial Methodist Episcopal Church
- 36: Christ Church
- 37: Ridgely Rosenwald School
- 38: Darnall's Chance Historic House Museum
- 39: Patuxent Rural Life Museum
- 40: Nottingham School
- 41: Town of Upper Marlboro
- 42: Moyaone Reserve Historic District
- 43: Eagle Harbor
- 44: Cedar Haven

- Towns
- Municipalities
- Cluster Areas
- Current Anacostia Trail Heritage Area



# HERITAGE RESOURCES IN PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY



Cartographer: Emily George: Middle Tennessee State University  
 Data Source: Prince George's County Planning Department  
 March, 2022

## **The Natural Environment**

Although the current heritage area boundaries are primarily an urban area of municipalities and suburban communities, the management plan includes **The Natural Environment** as a primary theme. The area encompasses large tracts of parkland, natural settings and wildlife preserves including the Patuxent Research Refuge (4,700 acres), Beltsville Agricultural Research Center (7,000 acres), Greenbelt Park (part of the National Park System, 1,100 acres), and the 15-mile-long Anacostia Tributary Trails System. The management plan includes four subthemes that are relevant to southern Prince George's County:

- Wildlife and Agriculture Centers
- Trail Systems
- Nature Centers
- Natural History of Agriculture

An additional subtheme, Dinosaur Park, is specific to land owned by Maryland-National Capital Parks and Planning (MNCPPC) to protect dinosaur fossils and to serve as an outdoor research laboratory. This theme is not included on Table 2.

In the interpretive plan, Theme 1: **Adaptation and Ingenuity**, includes two relevant subthemes, **Agriculture** and **Wildlife**. The plan includes these subthemes due to the presence of the Beltsville Agricultural Center and the Patuxent Wildlife Research Center.

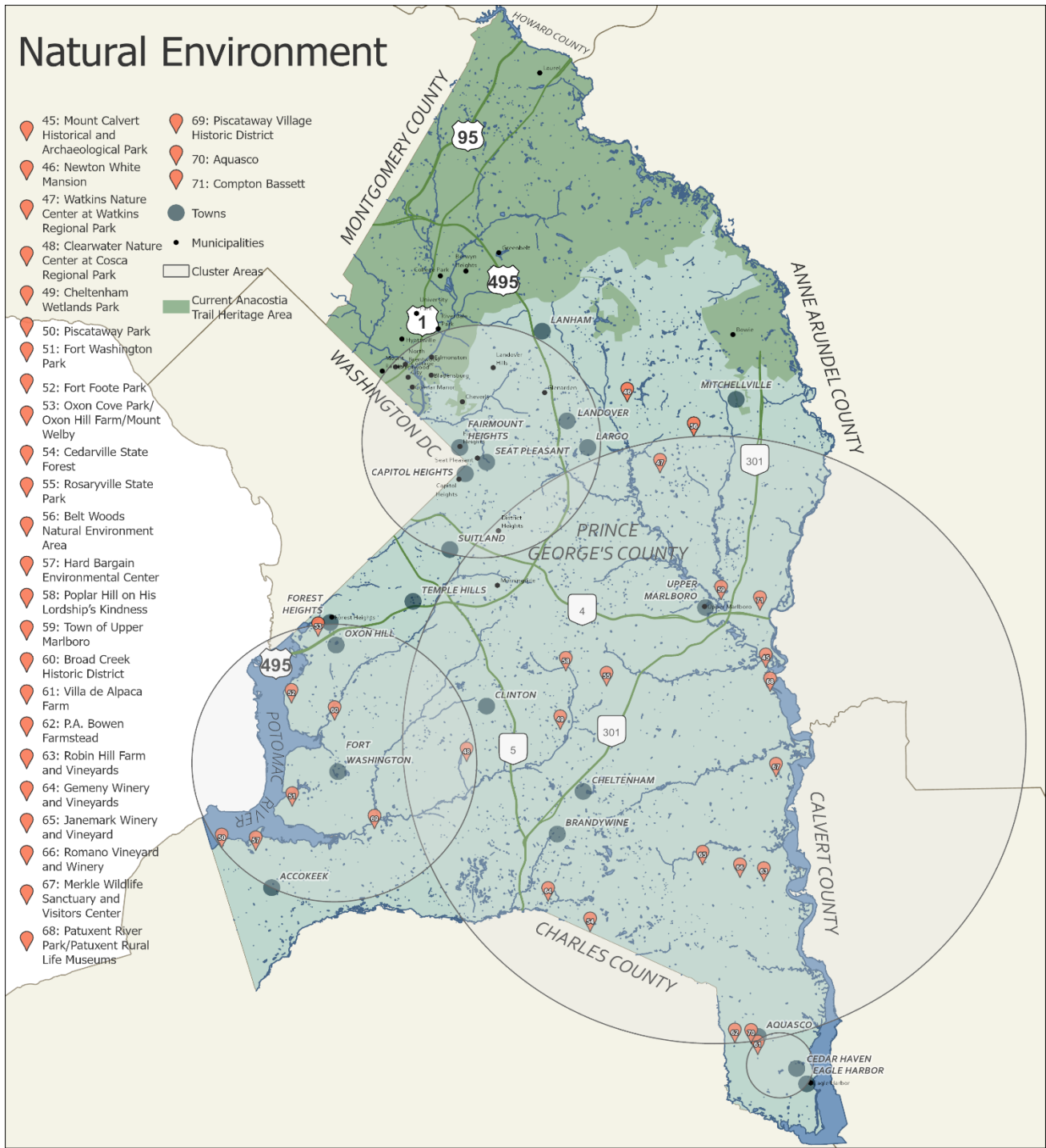
Table 2 identifies sites in the boundary amendment area and connections to the primary theme and subtheme.

| <b>Table 2</b>                                                     |                 |              |                                               |               |                |                                                         |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------|--------------|-----------------------------------------------|---------------|----------------|---------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Primary Theme: The Natural Environment (Management Plan/MP)</b> |                 |              |                                               |               |                |                                                         |
| <b>Adaptation and Ingenuity (Interpretive Plan/IP)</b>             |                 |              |                                               |               |                |                                                         |
| <b>Site</b>                                                        | <b>Location</b> | <b>Owner</b> | <b>Subthemes</b>                              |               |                |                                                         |
|                                                                    |                 |              | Wildlife and Ag Centers (MP)<br>Wildlife (IP) | Trail Systems | Nature Centers | Natural History of Agriculture (MP)<br>Agriculture (IP) |
| Watkins Nature Center at Watkins Regional Park                     | Upper Marlboro  | MNCPPC       | x                                             |               | x              |                                                         |
| Patuxent River Park/Patuxent Rural Life Museums                    | Upper Marlboro  | MNCPPC       |                                               |               | x              | x                                                       |
| Rosaryville State Park                                             | Upper Marlboro  | MDNR         |                                               |               |                | X                                                       |
| Merkle Wildlife Sanctuary and Visitors Center                      | Upper Marlboro  | MDNR         | x                                             |               | x              |                                                         |
| Belt Woods Natural Environment Area                                | Upper Marlboro  | MDNR         | x                                             |               |                | x                                                       |
| Compton Bassett                                                    | Upper Marlboro  | MNCPPC       |                                               |               |                | x                                                       |
| Mount Calvert Historical and Archaeological Park                   | Upper Marlboro  | MNCPPC       |                                               |               |                | x                                                       |
| Town of Upper Marlboro                                             | Upper Marlboro  |              |                                               |               |                | x                                                       |
| Clearwater Natural Center at Cosca Regional Park                   | Clinton         | MNCPPC       | x                                             |               | x              |                                                         |
| Piscataway Village Historic District                               | Clinton         |              |                                               |               |                | X                                                       |
| Poplar Hill on His Lordship's Kindness                             | Clinton         | NON PROFIT   |                                               |               |                | x                                                       |
| Cheltenham Wetlands Park                                           | Cheltenham      | MNCPPC       | x                                             |               |                |                                                         |
| Piscataway Park                                                    | Accokeek        | MNCPPC       | x                                             | x             | x              | x                                                       |
| Hard Bargain Environmental Center                                  | Accokeek        | NON PROIFT   | x                                             | x             | x              | x                                                       |

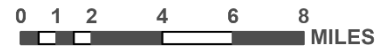
| <b>Table 2 (continued)</b>                                                                                                 |                 |              |                                               |               |                |                                                         |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------|--------------|-----------------------------------------------|---------------|----------------|---------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Primary Theme: The Natural Environment (Management Plan/MP)</b>                                                         |                 |              |                                               |               |                |                                                         |
| <b>Adaptation and Ingenuity (Interpretive Plan/IP)</b>                                                                     |                 |              |                                               |               |                |                                                         |
| <b>Site</b>                                                                                                                | <b>Location</b> | <b>Owner</b> | <b>Subthemes</b>                              |               |                |                                                         |
|                                                                                                                            |                 |              | Wildlife and Ag Centers (MP)<br>Wildlife (IP) | Trail Systems | Nature Centers | Natural History of Agriculture (MP)<br>Agriculture (IP) |
| Newton White Mansion                                                                                                       | Mitchellville   | MNCPPC       |                                               |               |                | X                                                       |
| Fort Washington Park                                                                                                       | Fort Washington | NPS          |                                               | x             |                |                                                         |
| Oxon Cove Park/Oxon Hill Farm/Mount Welby                                                                                  | Oxon Hill       | MNCPPC       |                                               | x             |                |                                                         |
| Fort Foote                                                                                                                 | Fort Washington | NPS          |                                               | x             |                |                                                         |
| Broad Creek Historic District                                                                                              | Fort Washington |              |                                               |               |                | X                                                       |
| Aquasco and Villa de Alpaca Farm                                                                                           | Aquasco         | PRIVATE      |                                               |               |                | x                                                       |
| Cedarville State Forest                                                                                                    | Brandywine      | MDNR         | X                                             | x             |                |                                                         |
| P.A. Bowen Farmstead                                                                                                       | Brandywine      | PRIVATE      |                                               |               |                | x                                                       |
| Robin Hill Farm and Vineyards<br>Gemeny Winery and Vineyards<br>Romano Vineyard and Winery<br>Janemark Winery and Vineyard | Brandywine      | PRIVATE      |                                               |               |                | x                                                       |

# Natural Environment

- 45: Mount Calvert Historical and Archaeological Park
- 46: Newton White Mansion
- 47: Watkins Nature Center at Watkins Regional Park
- 48: Clearwater Nature Center at Cosca Regional Park
- 49: Cheltenham Wetlands Park
- 50: Piscataway Park
- 51: Fort Washington Park
- 52: Fort Foote Park
- 53: Oxon Cove Park/Oxon Hill Farm/Mount Welby
- 54: Cedarville State Forest
- 55: Rosaryville State Park
- 56: Belt Woods Natural Environment Area
- 57: Hard Bargain Environmental Center
- 58: Poplar Hill on His Lordship's Kindness
- 59: Town of Upper Marlboro
- 60: Broad Creek Historic District
- 61: Villa de Alpaca Farm
- 62: P.A. Bowen Farmstead
- 63: Robin Hill Farm and Vineyards
- 64: Gemeny Winery and Vineyards
- 65: Janemark Winery and Vineyard
- 66: Romano Vineyard and Winery
- 67: Merkle Wildlife Sanctuary and Visitors Center
- 68: Patuxent River Park/Patuxent Rural Life Museums
- 69: Piscataway Village Historic District
- 70: Aquasco
- 71: Compton Bassett
- Towns
- Municipalities
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# HERITAGE RESOURCES IN PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY



Cartographer: Emily George; Middle Tennessee State University  
 Data Source: Prince George's County Planning Department  
 March, 2022

## The Battle of Bladensburg– War of 1812

### The Geography of Conflict

The management plan focuses one theme on the War of 1812 and a battle known as the Battle of Bladensburg. The British victory saw the poorly prepared Maryland militia fleeing the battle prior to the British invasion of Washington – the battle has been called the Bladensburg Races – however it is also historically documented that the militia delayed the British long enough to allow President Madison to flee the Capital and for First Lady Dolly Madison to famously save possessions before president’s home was burned, notably a portrait of George Washington.

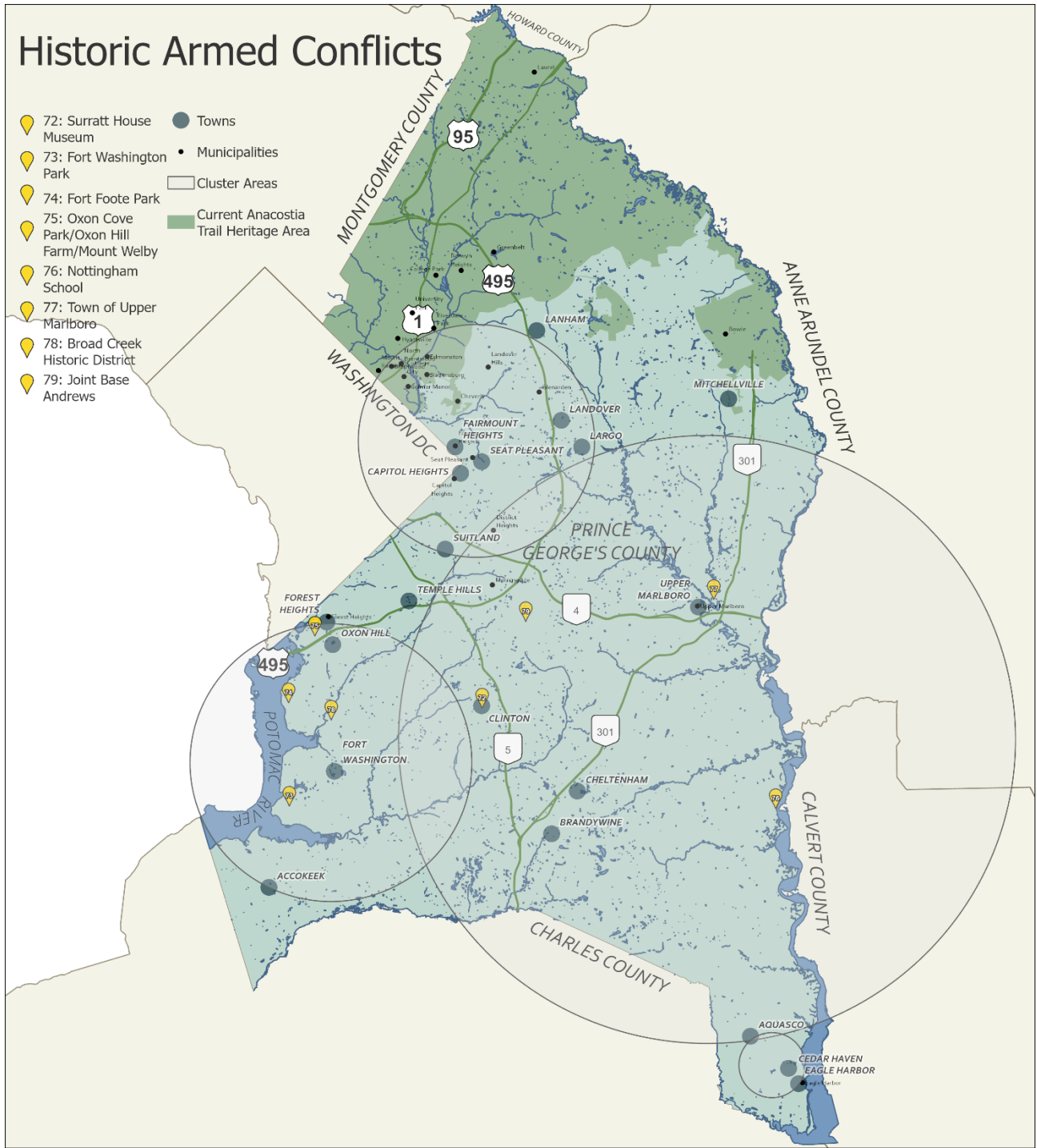
The interpretive plan includes the Battle of Bladensburg and adds subtopics (subthemes) for the **Civil War, the experiences of war veterans, and modern defense.**

Table 3 identifies sites in the boundary amendment area and connections to the primary theme and subthemes.

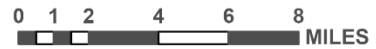
| <b>Table 3</b><br><b>Primary Theme:</b><br><b>Battle of Bladensburg – War of 1812 (Management Plan)</b><br><b>The Geography of Conflict (Interpretive Plan)</b> |                 |               |           |                       |                             |                |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------|---------------|-----------|-----------------------|-----------------------------|----------------|
| Site                                                                                                                                                            | Location        | Owner         | Subthemes |                       |                             |                |
|                                                                                                                                                                 |                 |               | Civil War | Battle of Bladensburg | Experiences of War Veterans | Modern Defense |
| Nottingham School                                                                                                                                               | Upper Marlboro  | MNCPPC        |           | x                     |                             |                |
| Fort Foote Park                                                                                                                                                 | Fort Washington | NPS           | x         |                       |                             |                |
| Fort Washington Park                                                                                                                                            | Fort Washington | NPS           | X         | X                     | x                           | x              |
| Broad Creek Historic District                                                                                                                                   | Fort Washington |               | X         |                       |                             |                |
| Oxon Cove Park/Oxon Hill Farm/Mount Welby                                                                                                                       | Oxon Hill       | MNCPPC        |           | X                     |                             |                |
| Surratt House Museum                                                                                                                                            | Clinton         | MNCPPC        | X         |                       |                             |                |
| Joint Base Andrews                                                                                                                                              | Clinton         | FEDERAL GOV'T |           |                       |                             | x              |
| Town of Upper Marlboro                                                                                                                                          | Upper Marlboro  |               |           | X                     |                             |                |
| Aquasco                                                                                                                                                         | Aquasco         |               |           | X                     |                             |                |

# Historic Armed Conflicts

- 72: Surratt House Museum
  - 73: Fort Washington Park
  - 74: Fort Foote Park
  - 75: Oxon Cove Park/Oxon Hill Farm/Mount Welby
  - 76: Nottingham School
  - 77: Town of Upper Marlboro
  - 78: Broad Creek Historic District
  - 79: Joint Base Andrews
- Towns
  - Municipalities
  - Cluster Areas
  - Current Anacostia Trail Heritage Area



# HERITAGE RESOURCES IN PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY



Cartographer: Emily George; Middle Tennessee State University  
 Data Source: Prince George's County Planning Department  
 March, 2022

## Linking the Nation







### Adaptation and Ingenuity

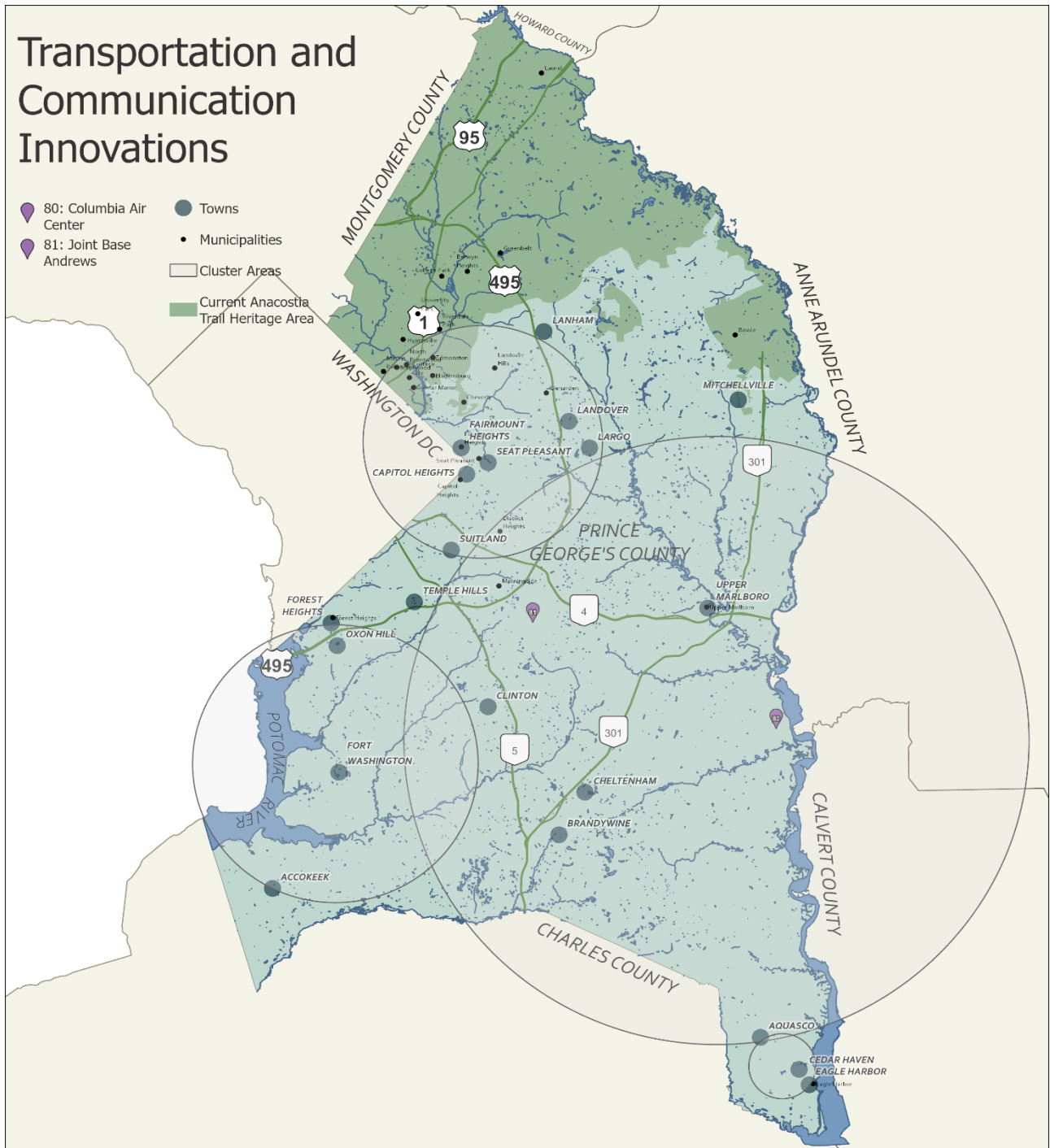
The management plan’s primary theme, **Linking the Nation**, includes four subthemes that tell the stories of the area’s development of transportation routes over the centuries. These subthemes, Turnpikes, Taverns, Inns; Nation’s Main Street; and Streetcar Suburbs, are specific to the current ATHA boundary. An additional subtheme, **Aviation Firsts**, and the interpretive plan’s subtheme, **Aviation**, are applicable to the expanded boundary area.

Table 4 identifies sites in the boundary amendment area and connections to the primary theme and subthemes.

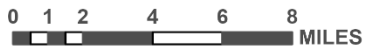
| <b>Table 4</b><br><b>Primary Theme:</b><br><b>Linking the Nation (Management Plan)</b><br><b>Adaptation and Ingenuity (Interpretive Plan)</b> |                |               |                          |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------|---------------|--------------------------|
| Site                                                                                                                                          | Location       | Owner         | Subtheme                 |
|                                                                                                                                               |                |               | Aviation Firsts/Aviation |
| Columbia Air Center                                                                                                                           | Upper Marlboro | MNCPPC        | x                        |
| Joint Base Andrews                                                                                                                            | Clinton        | FEDERAL GOV'T | x                        |

# Transportation and Communication Innovations

-  80: Columbia Air Center
-  81: Joint Base Andrews
-  Towns
-  Municipalities
-  Cluster Areas
-  Current Anacostia Trail Heritage Area



## HERITAGE RESOURCES IN PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY



Cartographer: Emily George; Middle Tennessee State University  
 Data Source: Prince George's County Planning Department  
 March, 2022

## Pursuing Creative Arts, Aesthetics, and Design

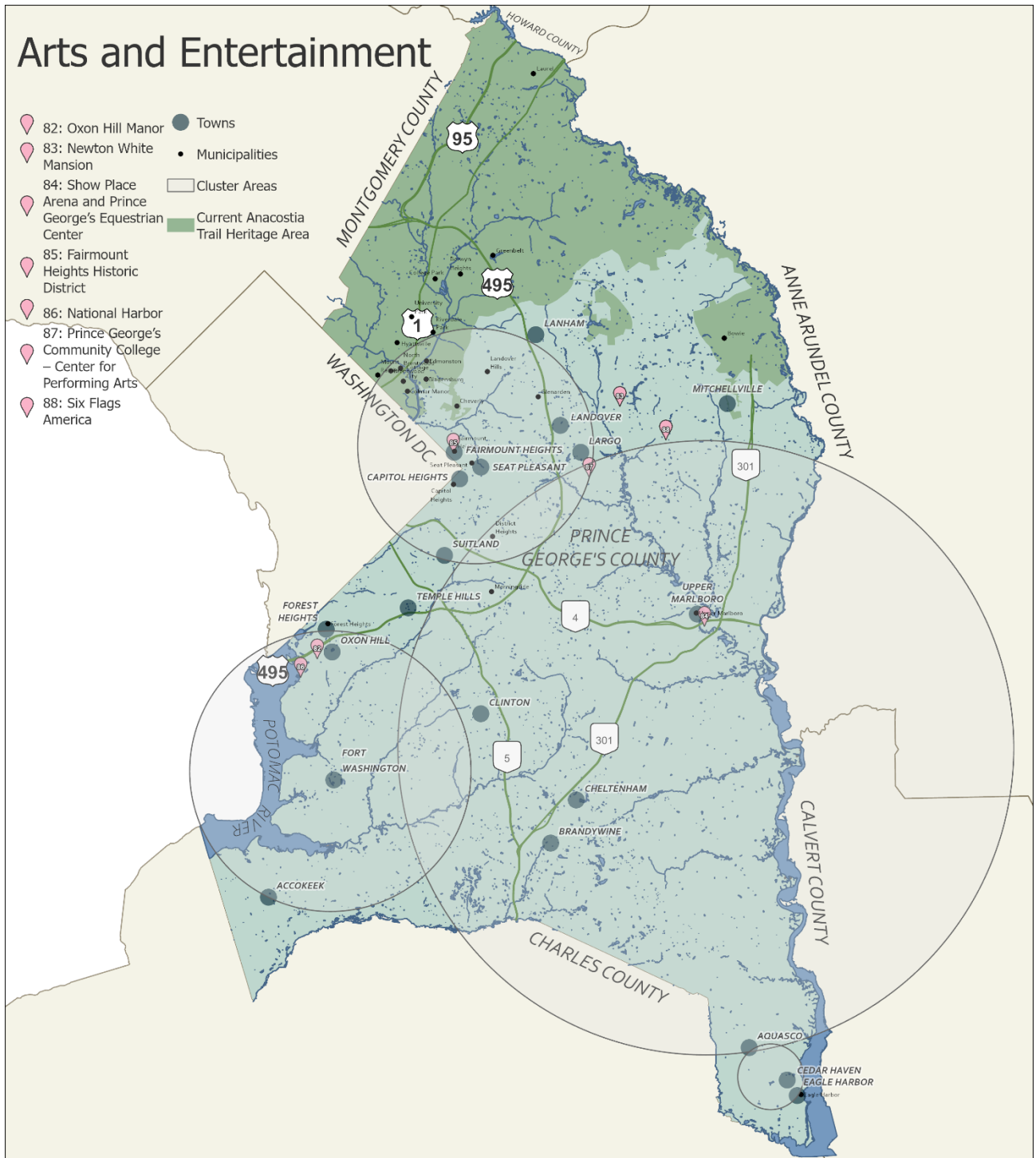
This interpretive plan theme recognizes the exceptional representation of cultures in the arts and design throughout the current heritage area boundaries. The subtheme, **Early 20<sup>th</sup> Century Design**, is applicable to several sites within the proposed boundary amendment area.

Table 5 identifies sites in the boundary amendment area and connections to the primary theme and subthemes.

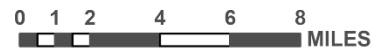
| Table 5<br>Primary Theme:<br>Pursuing Creative Arts, Aesthetics, and Design (Interpretive Plan) |                   |        |                                       |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------|--------|---------------------------------------|
| Site                                                                                            | Location          | Owner  | Subtheme                              |
|                                                                                                 |                   |        | Early 20 <sup>th</sup> Century Design |
| Oxon Hill Manor                                                                                 | Oxon Hill         | MNCPPC | x                                     |
| Newton White Mansion                                                                            | Mitchellville     | MNCPPC | x                                     |
| Fairmount Heights Historic District                                                             | Fairmount Heights |        | x                                     |

# Arts and Entertainment

-  82: Oxon Hill Manor
  -  83: Newton White Mansion
  -  84: Show Place Arena and Prince George's Equestrian Center
  -  85: Fairmount Heights Historic District
  -  86: National Harbor
  -  87: Prince George's Community College – Center for Performing Arts
  -  88: Six Flags America
-  Towns
  -  Municipalities
  -  Cluster Areas
  -  Current Anacostia Trail Heritage Area



# HERITAGE RESOURCES IN PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY



Cartographer: Emily George: Middle Tennessee State University  
 Data Source: Prince George's County Planning Department  
 March, 2022

## Changes in the Landscape

This interpretive plan theme addresses changes due to the need for transportation routes including bridges across the Anacostia River, the area’s proximity to Washington D.C. and its transition from plantations to municipalities. Two subtopics, **Preservation of Open Space as Federal Lands** and **Landscaping the Urban Landscape**, are relevant to the proposed boundary amendment area.

Table 6 identifies sites in the boundary amendment area and connections to the primary theme and subthemes. (There is not a map for this table.)

| <b>Table 6</b>                                                     |                 |              |                                             |                                 |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------|--------------|---------------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| <b>Primary Theme: Changes in the Landscape (Interpretive Plan)</b> |                 |              |                                             |                                 |
| <b>Site</b>                                                        | <b>Location</b> | <b>Owner</b> | <b>Subthemes</b>                            |                                 |
|                                                                    |                 |              | Preservation of Open Space as Federal Lands | Landscaping the Urban Landscape |
| Piscataway Park                                                    | Accokeek        | NPS          | x                                           |                                 |
| Fort Washington Park                                               | Fort Washington | NPS          | x                                           |                                 |
| Fort Foote Park                                                    | Fort Washington | NPS          | X                                           |                                 |
| National Harbor                                                    | National Harbor | PRIVATE      |                                             | x                               |

## Justification for Boundary Amendment

Based upon the research included in this report, Anacostia Trails Heritage Area's board of directors and staff believe an expansion of the heritage area into southern Prince George's County is merited. This section describes the expanded area's boundaries and assesses the potential for increased heritage tourism, evaluates connections to ATHA's themes and existing heritage trails, discusses opportunities to develop new themes and to provide support through the heritage area's grant program.

### Potential Boundaries

For planning and mapping purposes, the proposed geographic addition to ATHA is organized in four cluster areas.

### Cluster Area #1 – Upper Marlboro, Clinton, Brandywine

The **Town of Upper Marlboro** is also the county seat of Prince George's County. **Clinton** and **Brandywine** are unincorporated, census-designated communities.

The **Town of Upper Marlboro's Historical Committee** documented the town's historic residential and commercial districts to create a walking/driving tour, available in a downloadable PDF. The committee also offers free, guided walking tours by appointment. A National Register of Historic Places Multiple Property Theme Study, *African American Resources in Prince George's County*, identifies a post-Civil War era African American residential neighborhood that reflects the transition from slavery to freedom.

Two churches in Upper Marlboro are listed in the National Register of Historic Places: **St. Thomas Episcopal Church** and **Union Memorial Methodist Episcopal Church**.

Significant sites in Upper Marlboro trace the stories of human habitation over hundreds of years and reflect the evolution of the area's culture. Sites include **Mount Calvert Historical and Archaeological Park** (MNCPPC) where archaeologists have uncovered evidence of over 8,000 years of human culture. John Brown built the stately brick house on this site around 1780 and constructed a detached brick kitchen around 1800. John Brookes bought the property around 1840 and added to the house, resulting in the finished product seen today. Mount Calvert is a successful tourism destination which hosts school groups, tourists and locals for tours and programs. In 2021, plans called for a major renovation of the museum's exhibits. Exhibits will tell the story of the site's three time periods – 1) Native American, 2) Colonial Era, and 3) Plantation Era.

Interpretation at **Darnell's Chance House Museum** (MNCPPC) focuses on women's history. The home was built by a wealthy merchant, James Waldrop. Following his death, the property changed hands several times, each time sold to a wealthy merchant.



Darnell's Chance House Museum, Photo: MNCPPC

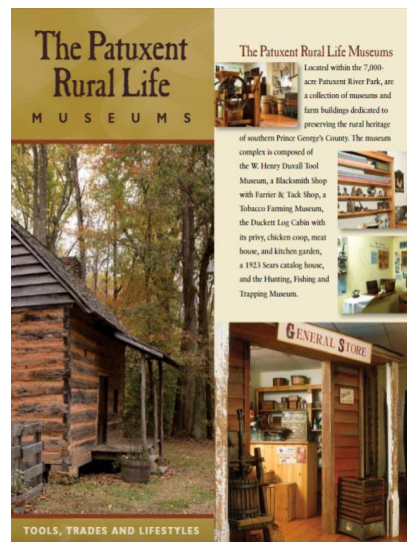
Current interpretation focuses on the life of Lettice Lee (1726-1776), as she lived in the house for almost 30 years, married three times, and was an unusual 18<sup>th</sup> century woman. Tours also includes information on other women who lived at Darnell's Chance and in Prince George's County at that time. The Maryland Historical Trust notes the property has strong potential as an important archeological site: *A 1761 inventory, a 1765 deed, and a 1787 newspaper advertisement describe many outbuildings on the property, none of which have survived.*

**Billingsley House** (MNCPPC) is a late 18<sup>th</sup> century brick plantation house located on the Patuxent River. Billingsley is a rental facility and site for picnics, meetings, and other functions. The house was substantially altered and modernized in both the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries. Historical maps mark the presence of two 17<sup>th</sup> century Indian villages: Wighkawamecq and Coppahan. In addition, the proceedings of the Maryland Assembly on May 23, 1674 note that Major John Billingsley purchased his 700 acres from the Mattapany and Patuxon, at least some of whom, "...doe Continue upon the Land."

**Nottingham School** (MNCPPC) educated grade school children for approximately 50 years. The school was built on the site of an earlier schoolhouse, and materials from the previous building were used in the construction. After World War II, the consolidation of schools across the country made the one-room schoolhouse obsolete, and Nottingham School was closed. Of importance to the heritage area is the opportunity to connect the property to the War of 1812 story where British troops came down the river and landed. There is also potential for archaeological research.

**Patuxent Rural Life Museums**, (MNCPPC) located within the 7,000-acre Patuxent River Park, are a collection of museums and farm buildings dedicated to preserving the heritage of southern Prince George's County. The site includes:

- **W. Henry Duvall Tool Museum** - Houses trade tools, household items and farm implements from the 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries.
- **Blacksmith Shop with Farrier & Tack Shop** - Contains a reproduction blacksmith shop with farrier and tack shop and a working forge.
- **Tobacco Farming Museum** - Tells the story of tobacco in southern Maryland. Exhibits include tobacco-related farming equipment including a late 19<sup>th</sup> century tobacco press.
- **Duckett Cabin** - According oral history, the cabin was built in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century by Charles Duckett, a former slave who served in the Union Navy during the Civil War. An early 20<sup>th</sup> century privy, a chicken coop, and a meat house are located nearby.
- **Sears House** - The 1923 prefabricated mail-order house contains three rooms with no plumbing or electricity and is furnished with period pieces.



- **Hunting, Fishing & Trapping Museum: Working the River** - Exhibit tells the story of the people, the resources, and the impact hunting, fishing, and trapping has had on the Patuxent River ecosystem.

**Brandywine** began as a stagecoach stop in the 18<sup>th</sup> century and later became a railroad hub. Although the community experienced some growth in the 20<sup>th</sup> century, it retains a rural setting. A unique building in Brandywine is the **Chapel of the Incarnation**, listed in the National Register of Historic Places. The National Register nomination states: "It is unique in Prince George's County in its application of the early 20th century Mission/Spanish Colonial Revival style to an ecclesiastical building. The Mission style may have been deemed appropriate to the church's status as a



Chapel of the Incarnation, National Register of Historic Places

"mission chapel," or offshoot, of St. Thomas' Church in Croom. Architect William J. Palmer, who designed numerous residences and churches in Washington, D.C., prepared the plans and specifications for the church and attached Parish Hall. The church is owned by St. Thomas Church in Upper Marlboro and is available for rental for small ceremonies or meetings.

**St. Paul's Parish Church** in Brandywine is also listed in the National Register of Historic Places. Originally constructed between 1733-1735, additions were made in 1793 and in 1921. In 1692, the Church of England became the established church in the Province of Maryland. Ten counties had been formed, and St. Paul's Parish was among the first 30 parishes established in these counties.

Several agritourism attractions in Brandywine reflect transitions in southern Prince George's County's agriculture economy. These include the **P.A. Bowen Farmstead** (Privately owned) which features artisan cheese, and four vineyards and wineries: **Robin Hill Farm and Vineyards, Gemeny Winery and Vineyards, Janemark Winery and Vineyard, and Romano Vineyard and Winery** (all are privately owned).

Established during the 1770s, **Clinton** was known as Surrattsville in the 1800s. The small community included Surratt House. Built in 1852, **Surratt House** (MNCPPC) served as a tavern, public dining room, and hotel and was the focal point of a 300-acre plantation. During the Civil War, the tavern became a clandestine Confederate safe house. In the fall of 1864, faced with financial difficulties, the widowed Mary Surratt rented the home and moved to Washington to open a boarding house. It was at this location the Surratt family became entangled in the plot by John Wilkes Booth to kidnap Lincoln which culminated in his assassination on April 14, 1865. During his escape Booth stopped at the Surratt tavern to retrieve weapons and supplies hidden there. As a result, Mary Surratt was tried and convicted



Surratt House  
Photo: Wikimedia Commons

of conspiracy to assassinate the president. On July 7, 1865, she became the first woman to be executed by the United States government.

Also located in Clinton, **Poplar Hill on His Lordship's Kindness** (nonprofit) was built between 1731-1735 and is a National Historic Landmark due to its architectural significance. The home remained in the family of the original owner (Henry Darnall) until 1929. In the years following, the property was sold several times before purchase by John and Sara Walton in 1955. The Waltons undertook restoration while living in the home and raising their family. They established a foundation in 1988 for the ongoing care of the site which includes the house, 130+ acres and several original outbuildings including an infirmary for enslaved persons who worked on the farm. The home is furnished with period pieces as well as Walton family furnishings and pictures. Following the Waltons' deaths, their son, John Walton Jr., took over management of the foundation and the property. Tours are offered by appointment for groups of 15 or more.



Poplar Hill on His Lordship's Kindness, Photo: Carolyn Brackett

Clinton is also home to **Joint Base Andrews** (federal government). Although not open to the public on a regular basis, every two years the Legends of Flights JBA Air and Space Expo is held at the base and is open to the public.

**Christ Episcopal Church and Cemetery** in Clinton is listed in Historic Sites Inventory of the Maryland Historical Trust. The church was constructed in 1928 and is an excellent example of an early- to mid-twentieth-century Gothic-Revival style church. The cemetery associated with the church dates to the 1890s.

This cluster area includes several parks and outdoor recreation resources. In Clinton, **Clearwater Nature Center at Cosca Regional Park** (MNCPPC) offers a variety of interpretive programs hosted by park naturalists. The center offers exhibits, programs, and special events. The center features a small indoor pond, live animal exhibits, a lapidary workshop, and seasonal gardens. The nature center is in a beautiful park setting of 690 acres of natural, undeveloped areas and developed areas for recreational use and camping.

In Upper Marlboro these parks and outdoor resources include:

- **Rosaryville State Park**, (MDNR) a 982-acre day-use park with trails for hiking, biking, and equestrians.
- Hiking trails include a bird-watching trail and an agricultural trail. Historic structures include a dairy barn and tobacco barn constructed in the late 19<sup>th</sup> or early 20<sup>th</sup> century. Also in the park is **Mount Airy Mansion**, one of the oldest Maryland mansions connected to the Calvert family (a founding Colonial family of Maryland). Originally dating to the late 17<sup>th</sup> century, the east wing was built in the mid-18<sup>th</sup> century after a

fire destroyed the original building. The building was significantly altered over the years, including the early 19<sup>th</sup> century Greek Revival-style west wing. Another fire in 1931 left only the masonry walls standing when Eleanor Medill Patterson, publisher of the *Washington Times-Herald*, purchased the ruins and rebuilt the home. In 1973, the State of Maryland purchased Mount Airy and made it part of the park.



Mount Airy Mansion, Photo: Preservation Maryland

The building has been used as a rental facility for weddings, parties, and other gatherings. It is currently closed for planning process to determine its future use. The Maryland Historical Trust holds an easement on the mansion.

- **Merkle State Wildlife Sanctuary and Visitor's Center (MDNR)** is named for conservationist Edgar Merkle (1900-1984). Merkle encouraged thousands of Canada Geese to visit the 400-acre Merkle farm to feed and rest here. In 1970, the Merkles sold their 400 acres to the state. With the acquisition of adjoining tracts, the area now encompasses over 1,900 acres. The area is the wintering ground for the largest concentration of Canada geese on the Chesapeake Bay's western shore. The visitor center includes live animal exhibits (turtles, snakes), an interpretive display about Merkle and displays about environmental and wildlife topics, a viewing area, and a history corner that highlights the War of 1812 on the Patuxent River and local Native American heritage. The site offers fishing, hiking, and birdwatching. Merkle State Wildlife Sanctuary has a partnership with the Piscataway Tribe who occupied the area before colonization. They will be building Piscataway structures and developing interpretation.



Merkle Wildlife Center, Photo: MNCPPC

- **Watkins Nature Center and Park (MNCPPC)** offers live animals, hands-on exhibits, interpretive programs, and special events. Live animal displays include insects, amphibians, reptiles, and birds of prey. The nature center also features indoor and outdoor ponds, a songbird feeding area, and a butterfly/hummingbird garden. Nature hikes, campfires, animal shows, puppet shows, crafts, summer day camps, and other programs are offered. Also on the property is Old Maryland Farm, an agricultural educational farm, and a miniature train, miniature golf, carousel, camp sites, and Wizard of Oz themed playground.
- **Patuxent River Park (MNCPPC)** Patuxent River Park comprises over 7,800 acres of riverside parkland that protects the land's natural resources and preserves the scenic character of the park. The park offers a variety of amenities and outdoor activities including a visitors center, boat ramps, canoe and kayak rentals and launches, campsites, pavilion, trails, historic sites, fishing, hunting, birdwatching, observation tower with elevator, and more. Jug Bay Natural Area is the headquarters for Patuxent River Park. Programming for educators and the public includes environmental and historical education programs, guided canoe and kayak trips, and pontoon boat tours.

- In addition to **Patuxent Rural Life Museums** the park includes the **Columbia Air Center**. The outdoor exhibit area has four interpretive panels. In 1941, aviation history was made when the first African American-owned and operated airfield in the state of Maryland was licensed on the site. John W. Greene Jr., a pioneer in black aviation, was instrumental in developing the airfield, which was originally called Riverside Field. It was occupied by the U.S. Navy during WWII and used for training missions. After the war, Greene reopened the airfield as Columbia Air Center. It offered a flying school, charter services, and facilities for major and minor repairs. The first Black Civil Air Patrol squadron in the Washington, D.C. area, called the Columbia Squadron, was formed here.
- **Belt Woods Natural Environment Area** (MDNR) was designated as a National Natural Landmark by the National Park Service. The 56.3-acre site contains one of the last stands of old-growth hardwoods on the Atlantic Coastal Plain. The old-growth oaks and tulip poplar trees include 200-year-old trees over 140 feet tall. Prominent understory trees include flowering dogwood, spicebush, sweet haw, and ironwood. Most of the acreage in Belt Woods is also designated as a Maryland State Wildland, providing additional protections to support the preservation of its wilderness nature within an urbanizing landscape. The area's fields and forests provide important nesting habitat for an exceptional population of neotropical songbirds, such as wood thrush, red-eyed vireo, and Kentucky warbler. A historic farmhouse and barn are also on the property. The property is not currently open to the public.

Also in this area is the unincorporated community of **Mitchellville**. Two historic churches in the community are listed in the Maryland Historical Trust's Inventory of Historic Properties and are identified as eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places – **Carroll Methodist Chapel and Cemetery** and **Holy Family Catholic Church**. Also in this community is the **Newton White Mansion** (MNCPPC) . Constructed in 1939 for naval officer Captain Newton H. White, Jr., the Regency Revival-style, single-family dwelling was designed by noted architect William Lawrence Bottomley of Richmond, Virginia. In 1971, Captain White's widow, Rebecca Terry White, conveyed the property to the Maryland National Capital Parks and Planning. The property is a rental venue.

Further north is the unincorporated community of **Lanham**. One of three schoolhouses owned by Maryland National Capital Parks and Planning is **Seabrook Schoolhouse** (MNCPPC) The school was built in 1896 by the residents of the Seabrook community and provided education for grades one through eight until the early 1950s. The building is unique in that it was built to resemble the Victorian Gothic architectural style of the cottages that were originally built in the community.

In addition to visitor attractions, this cluster area also offers visitor services. These include hotels, restaurants, and many locations for special events or meetings including restored tobacco barns, historic homes, and parks. Sites that are open to the public also offer many special programs, exhibits, tours, and events throughout the year.

Additionally, two attractions draw large numbers of visitors to the area:

- **Show Place Arena** (MNCPPC) - The arena is a venue for college basketball tournaments, cheer and dance events, consumer shows, concerts, nationally-acclaimed equestrian events, and the Prince George's County Fair. Equestrians from all over the world compete in events at the center. Facilities are rented for local, regional, and national equestrian events. The site has been used for horse racing since the mid-18th century. In the early 1900s, the Marlboro Race Track was constructed; races were sponsored by the Maryland Jockey Club until 1972. There is interest in placing interpretive signage along the route of the historic race track.
- **Six Flags America** - The amusement park offers a variety of roller coaster and water rides, restaurants, shopping, performances, and special events.

## Cluster Area #2 – Aquasco, Eagle Harbor, Cedar Haven

Aquasco, Eagle Harbor, and Cedar Haven are communities located at the southern point of Prince George's County. Eagle Harbor and Cedar Haven have significant African American stories from the early 20<sup>th</sup> century.

In 2019, students in the University of Maryland's School of Architecture, Planning, and Preservation participated in a Historic Preservation Studio Workshop to research the history of these communities and to develop a heritage tourism plan. The resulting report, titled *Changing Landscapes: Farmsteads and Resort Towns*, was developed in partnership with the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission and the National Center for Smart Growth's Partnership for Action Learning in Sustainability. The purpose of the student's project was to develop a heritage trail linking the three communities. The resulting plan includes a history of each community and identification of themes for the heritage trail. Themes are

tobacco and reconstruction, religion, education, and resort towns. Planned products include a trail guide and route map, content for historic markers and kiosks, and an audio tour script.



St. Mary's Rectory, National Register of Historic Places

The small community of **Aquasco**, first known as Woodville, was established in this location in the 18<sup>th</sup> century. Serving as a town center for surrounding tobacco farms and prospered with fisheries, a mill, stores, and a trade port on the Patuxent River. The War of 1812 directly affected Aquasco

as it lay in the path of British forces marching toward Washington. In August 1814, Secretary of State James Monroe scouted British troop movements from Aquasco Mills. The British left a trail of destruction in their wake— destroying tobacco and private property as they made their way up the Patuxent to what would be known as the Battle of Bladensburg. The British also drew enslaved individuals from the plantations along the way, promising freedom if they would take up arms against American forces. After the Civil War, the community became known as Aquasco. Many formerly enslaved African Americans stayed in the area, becoming landowners or tenant farmers. **St. Mary's Rectory** is listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

**Eagle Harbor** and **Cedar Haven** were developed as resort communities for African Americans in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. These resorts provided waterfront vacation locations during segregation when African Americans were not allowed in white-owned or white-visited destinations. Although established as vacation destinations, over time these communities also became homes to permanent residents.

The beach at Eagle Harbor was advertised as “Paradise on the Patuxent.” As land was divided in 1925, lots were sold to African American teachers, federal workers and others looking for a get-away from Washington D.C. and Baltimore. Eagle Harbor was incorporated as a town in 1929, the first incorporated African American town in Maryland.

The success of Eagle Harbor inspired a similar development nearby – Cedar Haven – established in 1927. Those purchasing lots at Cedar Haven were encouraged to order Sears, Roebuck and Company kit homes for small bungalows. In 1929, the Cedar Haven Hotel (no longer extant) opened, providing a place for conferences, events, and parties. The hotel was the location of a secretarial school which was advertised as a “Splendid Opportunity: No Racial Discrimination.” The decline of Cedar Haven is not documented but most likely occurred as vacation destinations were desegregated in the mid-20<sup>th</sup> century.

Eagle Harbor is an incorporated community with an active system of government and citizens association. In 2018, Eagle Harbor developed a sustainability plan. Based on extensive community engagement, the plan includes goals and strategies to protect historic and cultural resources, develop community leadership, increase year-round occupancy, address environmental issues, improve access to the Patuxent River, and others.

### **Cluster Area #3 – Accokeek, Fort Washington, Oxon Hill**

**Accokeek, Fort Washington, and Oxon Hill** are unincorporated communities on the western side of southern Prince George’s County.

This cluster area includes five units of the National Park Service and multiple sites with stories of Piscataway, African American and women’s history. Significant archaeological sites are located in this area.

The largest site in the area is **Piscataway Park** (NPS), located in Accokeek and established as a unit of the National Park Service in 1961. The park covers approximately 5,000 acres and stretches for six miles from Piscataway Creek to Marshall Hall on the Potomac River.

Preservation of this land began in the mid-1950s with the intent of preserving the viewshed to George Washington’s Mount Vernon. In 1957, Congresswoman Frances Payne Bolton of Ohio who was also Vice Regent of the Mount Vernon Ladies Association, purchased 485 acres, established the Accokeek Foundation and donated the land for its care. Additional lands purchased by Henry and Alice Ferguson in the 1920s were transferred to the park in the 1960s by the Alice Ferguson Foundation. It took many years for Congress to appropriate funds and for

land purchases to be completed to create a national park. The park reached its current boundaries in 1974.

The site contains several historic and natural resources within its boundaries including:

- **Accokeek Creek site (archaeological)** – This area is a National Historic Landmark and is not open to the public. The area includes several archaeological sites dating from the Late Archaic period (c. 3000 B.C.) to historic times. The earliest evidence includes hunting and campsites. During the Middle Woodland period (c. A.D. 800), small horticultural hamlets were established. The major component at Accokeek Creek is an extensive late-16th/early-17th century village of the Piscataway Indians, referred to as Moyaone.
- **Marshall Hall (ruins) and family cemetery** – The historic home is in ruins and is closed to the public. The cemetery contains the grave of the original owner, Thomas Marshall, along with other family members.
- **Hiking trails** – There are several hiking trails in the park.

The Accokeek Foundation partners with the National Park Service to care for and interpret a 200-acre area in the park for visitors and school groups. The Foundation is currently (2022) developing new interpretation to tell the stories of the Piscataway who lived on this land for hundreds of years. Sites managed by the Accokeek Foundation include:



National Colonial Farm, Photo: Nancy Morgan

- **National Colonial Farm** – The historic farm museum demonstrates 18<sup>th</sup> century farming practices. The site includes an 18<sup>th</sup> century dwelling and tobacco barn, an 18<sup>th</sup> century-style garden and rare breeds of farm animals.
- **National Colonial Farm Visitor Center** – Operated by the Accokeek Foundation, the center includes a gift shop. Visitors can pick up brochures and maps for the park.

Also within the boundaries of Piscataway Park is **Moyaone Reserve**, a 1400-acre wooded, residential community listed in the National Register of Historic Places. Moyaone Reserve is geographically divided into seven sectors based on the phases when they were acquired by Alice Ferguson or the Moyaone Corporation between the 1940s and 1970s. Among the 189 homes are a variety of architectural styles including Victorian, Craftsman, Colonial revival and contemporary. The prevailing style (more than 60%) is mid-century modern in period and style. Nowhere else in Charles and Prince Georges counties was modernism thriving more than in the Moyaone Reserve between 1945 and 1976. Although this is a private, residential neighborhood, the Moyaone Association hosts a home tour event periodically.

Neighboring **Hard Bargain Farm** is owned and operated by the nonprofit Alice Ferguson Foundation. The property has more than two dozen historic buildings. Additionally, the site includes a net-zero, environmentally sustainable meeting facility that is available for rental. The site's historical significance is rooted in the lives and work of Alice and Henry Ferguson, who contributed to local and national influences social history, the arts, archaeology, science, and conservation. The Potomac shoreline is also significant, preserving the Piscataway landscape and Mount Vernon Viewshed, much as Piscataway Park.



Farm house and garden at Hard Bargain Farm.  
Photo: National Register of Historic Places

The site's education program for elementary and middle school students is designed to promote understanding and stewardship of the natural resources in the Potomac River watershed and the legacy of farming in southern Maryland. Educational programs are available to schools and individuals. Although programs are aimed at children, the mission statement addresses serving children, adults, regional residents, and visitors. Small groups (four to 10) are welcome. The site also offers annual professional development opportunities for teachers and environmental education practitioners in partnership with Piscataway National Park. There is an active volunteer program to assist with clean-up days on the Potomac River, trail maintenance, gardening, and other activities.

**Asbury Methodist Episcopal Church and Cemetery** is located in Accokeek and is included in a National Register of Historic Places Multiple Property Documentation Form, *African American Resources in Prince George's County*. Also historically significant is **Christ Church Accokeek and Cemetery** which dates to the 18<sup>th</sup> century.

The area around the community of **Fort Washington** (NPS) was rural until the 1960s when suburban growth began. It is continuing to grow, adding new, large family homes in small developments next to older existing developments. Two National Parks are located here:

**Fort Washington Park** (NPS) is significant as part of the nation's early coastal defense system, as well as an important fort in the chain that surrounded the nation's capital. Fort Washington was originally established in 1808 on a site overlooking the Potomac River that was selected by George Washington to defend the new capital. The earliest fort was destroyed during the War of 1812; only archaeological resources remain. The fort was rebuilt in 1817 and continued to be updated as part of the coastal defense system through 1921.

The site became a national park in 1946. The park includes the extant fort and supporting structures including concrete artillery batteries built in the 1890s, as well as greenspace for visitors' use. Ranger-guided tours are offered in addition to self-guided tours; the schedule varies seasonally. The visitors' center, housed in the former commanding officer's home, includes a bookstore operated by Eastern National, a nonprofit which operates stores at 130+ NPS sites. At nearly 350 acres, the park is one of the largest public green spaces in the county.

**Fort Foote Park** (NPS) was constructed in 1863 atop Rozier's Bluff overlooking the Potomac River. It was part of the ring of fortifications that encircled Washington, D.C. Two of the guns that protected the capital are still there, along with the remains of the fort's earthworks. It operated until 1878, when the post was abandoned, and was used briefly during World War I and World War II. The site is maintained in a mostly natural state.

**Broad Creek Historic District** in Fort Washington contains remains of the oldest chartered town on the Potomac River near Washington, D.C., the port town of Aire, established in 1706, and the site of Prince George's County's oldest church, St. John's Episcopal Church, established in 1692 (extant church building was constructed c. 1766-68). The district includes approximately 50 properties and 28 standing structures. There are four 18th-century structures that are individually designated county historic sites. The remaining structures date from the 1920s through the middle of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, and two dwellings were completed in the 1990s.

The National Register-listed district includes five contributing properties including three buildings, one cemetery, one canal site and associated wooded parcels. Broad Creek includes a mile-long stretch of wooded riverfront, the archaeological site of the first (1691) homestead in the Washington area, the ruins of an early 1700s manor house; St. John's Church and cemetery; Harmony Hall Manor; one of the oldest surviving commercial shipping channels in North America; and the story of the integration of Native American, African American, and European Colonial cultures.

Limited archeological testing by the National Park Service confirmed Native American occupation of the area prior to the end of the 17th century. The area around Broad Creek was surrounded by large tobacco plantations, powered by enslaved laborers. After the Civil War, many formerly enslaved African American families remained in the Broad Creek area and worked on tenant farms or were able to purchase their own farms.



Harmony Hall, Photo: Nancy Morgan

Located in the Broad Creek Historic District, **Harmony Hall Manor** (NPS) is an 18th century Georgian-style mansion located on 62+-acres and built by wealthy landowner and tobacco merchant Enoch Magruder. In 1929, Harmony Hall was purchased by historian, attorney, and preservationist Charles W. Collins, who restored deteriorated buildings, demolished some outbuildings, and constructed additions and new outbuildings. (Collins's pro-segregation writings in the 1940s helped inform the Dixiecrat movement and opposition to Civil Rights). The property was purchased by the National Park Service in 1966 as part of a proposed parkway to Fort Washington which was never built. The mansion is not open to the public. Visitors may walk on the grounds, but there are no walking trails and there is no interpretation of the site.

Two churches in Fort Washington are listed in the National Register of Historic Places: **St. John's Episcopal Church** and **St. Ignatius Church**.

**Oxon Hill** is located near downtown Washington D.C. and is bisected by the Capital Beltway (I-95/495) with suburban development dating to the 1940s. Nearby is the incorporated community of **Forest Heights** which developed in the 1940s and 1950s as home to many federal employees.

In Oxon Hill, the 289-acre **Oxon Cove Park** (NPS) includes **Oxon Hill Farm**, a unit of the National Park Service, interprets the agricultural history of Prince George's County during the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries. The landscape is associated with Tidewater tobacco culture of the 1700s, when tobacco became the primary export of the country. In later years, the farm had agricultural crops, fruit trees, ornamental plantings, and woodlands. The farm became a National Park Service unit in 1967. A self-guided tour brochure is available at the Visitor Barn Bookstore. The site includes **Mount Welby**, an early 19<sup>th</sup> century home, and other outbuildings including a root cellar, stables, and farm buildings from various eras. The residents of Mount Welby witnessed many events such as The Battle of Bladensburg, the buying and selling of people under the institution of slavery, and a plague that took the lives of several residents. The home is open for tours and includes exhibits about the history of the property. There are two hiking trails in the park.

**Oxon Hill Manor** (MNCPPC) was designed in 1928 for Sumner and Mathilde Welles from a neo-Georgian design by the Washington architect, Jules-Henri de Sibour. Sumner Welles served as Assistant Secretary of State, Ambassador to Cuba, and under Secretary of State in the Franklin D. Roosevelt administration. The first mansion was built on the property in 1711; the home burned in 1895. Welles purchased the property in 1927 to build the 49-room mansion. The property is located next to National Harbor and is a rental venue. The site has benefited from its proximity to National Harbor which includes a hotel and conference center. The site is often used for receptions and other gatherings by groups holding meetings at National Harbor. Additionally, Oxon Hill Manor is a popular wedding venue.

**St. Paul's Methodist Episcopal Church's** history traces to a late 18<sup>th</sup> century congregation of free African Americans, possibly making St. Paul's lineage the oldest in the county.

Although not a historic site, **National Harbor** is included in the inventory of resources as a source of visitor services and for its large number of visitors. The 300-acre waterfront entertainment district overlooks the Potomac River and offers myriad activities including water cruises, night clubs, gambling, entertainment, a carousel, golf, and a ferris wheel. Arts and history are incorporated into the overall design of the district, with public art installations concentrated in the center but present throughout. A seek-and-find mosaic based on history is built into the floor of the waterfront area adjacent to the ferris wheel. National Harbor includes:

- **Gaylord National Resort and Waterfront District**– 150+ shops, 40+ restaurants, almost 2,000 hotel rooms, 500,00+ square feet of meeting and event space.
- **MGM National Harbor Casino** – The casino has massive resources to attract tourism, some arts content in its overall presentation, but no discernible outreach or connection to the rest of National Harbor or the surrounding region.
- **Tanger Outlets - Experience Salubria - Potomac River Heritage Visitors Center** - Tanger Outlets was built on the former Salubria Plantation, a significant site for its association with an enslaved woman. As part of the mitigation for development, archaeological investigations were conducted a memorial garden was built outside, and a space in the Shoppers Services area was given for the establishment of the Potomac River Heritage Visitors Center, including an exhibit on regional history. While the interpretation is of high quality and presents relevant content in both places—regional history, archaeology, plantation history, enslavement and rebellion, agriculture, and medicine—both the garden and the visitors center exhibit are in out of the way spaces, and there is virtually no marketing or direction to find either of them.

## Cluster Area #4 – Fairmount Heights, Seat Pleasant, Suitland, Capitol Heights, Landover

The **Town of Fairmount Heights** was incorporated in 1935, making the community the second established African American Township in Prince George’s County.

The **Fairmount Heights Historic District**, listed in the National Register of Historic Places, is a 20th-century residential suburb clustered around the eastern corner of the District of Columbia and surrounded by mixed residential, commercial, and industrial uses. The historic district consists of approximately 558 properties (301 contributing) constructed in six subdivisions on approximately 144 acres of land between 1900 and 2010. The first subdivision was platted as in 1900 by Robinson White and Allen Clark, attorneys and developers from Washington, D.C. The subdivision became one of the first planned communities for African American families in the county. The majority of properties are single-family dwellings that were constructed between 1900 and 1960.

**Fairmount Heights Elementary School** is a contributing structure in the National Register district. Built in 1912, the two-story frame schoolhouse was designed by noted African American architect and resident William Sidney Pittman. It was the first school in the new community of Fairmount Heights, and the first in Prince George’s County to offer industrial training for black students. The school was closed in 1934 and for 70 years served as the Mount Zion Apostolic Faith Church.



Fairmount Heights School, Photo: Nancy Morgan

In 2015, the Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development through its Community Legacy Program awarded the town a grant of \$75,000 to design and install historic markers that would identify many of the historic sites and historic resources. The **Fairmount Heights Historic African American Signage Trail** features interpretive signs at 18 significant sites in the community.

**Seat Pleasant** was incorporated in 1931 following several decades of growth as a streetcar suburb in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. Highway construction in the post-World War II years made the community become more accessible and home construction sparked migration of African Americans from Washington D.C. to Seat Pleasant. **St. Matthew’s Church – Addison Chapel and Cemetery** is listed in the National Register of Historic Places. **Mount Victory Baptist Church – (Old St. Margaret’s Catholic Church)** is listed in the Maryland Historical Trust’s Inventory of Historic Properties.

**Suitland** is an unincorporated community named after Senator Samuel Taylor Suit who purchased 800 acres for his estate after the Civil War. By the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, the village of Suitland emerged and remained a rural farming community until World War II. In 1941 the **Suitland Federal Center** was constructed to house the Census Bureau, sparking construction of homes and apartments for federal workers. Other tenants of the Suitland Federal Center have included the Naval Oceanic Office, the U.S. Weather Bureau, the Federal Records Center, the Naval Intelligence Support Center, the Smithsonian Institution, the Naval Ice Center, the Federal Protective Service, the 1996 Inaugural Committee, the National Archives and Records Administration, the Naval Maritime Intelligence Center, the Government Services Administration, and the Army Communications Command. Additional buildings have been constructed on the campus over the years. **Lincoln Memorial Cemetery** was established in 1927. In the first decade, prominent African-Americans buried there included Charles A. Tignor, physician and former instructor at Howard Medical School (1936); Eleanor Robinson Lee, teacher and a founder of the Teacher’s Benefit and Annuity Society (1938); and Kelly Miller, mathematician, educator, and columnist (1939). The cemetery is listed in the Maryland Historic Trust Inventory of Historic Properties.

In 2020, **Creative Suitland**, an arts-based community development project, was established. The new endeavor offers a wide range of programs designed to include residents and businesses in defining the cultural and creative spirit of the greater Suitland area. Creative Suitland offers art studio spaces, workshops in creative development, classes in music, dance, and martial arts and many other programs. Additionally, the **Suitland Heritage Project** documents the history of the community through research, interviews, and data collection which will be used to create an online resource.



**Capitol Heights** was incorporated in 1910 to support the development of infrastructure as the community became a suburb of Washington D.C. Originally founded with a restriction against selling housing lots to African Americans, today Capitol Heights' population is over 90 percent African American. Built in 1927, **Ridgely Rosenwald School** (MNCPPC) was one of 27 schools in the county to receive assistance from the Rosenwald Fund. The two-teacher, two-room school served African American children until the 1950s. Restored and reopened as a museum in 2011, it is one of the best examples of a preserved and interpreted Rosenwald School in the county. The school is listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

**Landover** is an unincorporated community consisting of several small subdivisions. Landover is home to **FedEx Field**, home of the NFL Washington Commanders.

The **National Archives for Black Women's History** is located at the National Park Service Museum Resource Center. Founded in 1935, the Archives collects materials about Mary McLeod Bethune – educator, civil rights advocate and advisor to President Franklin D. Roosevelt - the National Council of Negro Women, other African American women's organizations, and individuals associated with those organizations. The Archives also documents the ongoing preservation and interpretation of the Bethune legacy.

**National Harmony Memorial Park** in Landover traces its history to the early 19<sup>th</sup> century. In 1825, a small group of Washington's free African Americans established the Harmoneon Society which focused on supporting the sick and providing a dignified burial alternative to the colored-only sections of white cemeteries. The organization collected minimal dues from members to cover funeral expenses and extend financial support to their spouses and children. Today, the burial grounds of the Harmoneon Society are known as National Harmony Memorial Park. The current cemetery was established in the late 1950s when the government contracted with National Harmony to move the historically African American Columbian Harmony Cemetery (1857-1959). The site covers more than 100 acres.

**Ridgely Methodist Episcopal Church** in Landover is listed in the National Register of Historic Places. Built in 1921, the church served the rural African American farming community.

## Heritage Tourism Potential - Visitor Readiness

The majority of sites in the proposed boundary amendment area are owned and managed by the county, state or federal government (MNCPPC, MDNR, NPS). Some – such as Surratt House (MNCPPC) and Piscataway Park (NPS) - have foundations or “Friends Of” groups which provide support ranging from fundraising to giving tours and presenting programs. Other sites are owned or managed by nonprofit organizations or privately-owned businesses. More than half of the sites that were assessed were “visitor-ready” or “somewhat visitor ready.” Criteria for assessing visitor readiness focused on three categories. (Assessment forms are in the Appendix.)

### 1) **Visitor Services**

Basic visitor services include maintaining regular hours and having appropriate signage to help visitors find the site. Visitor-ready sites are also ADA accessible, have plenty of parking, public restrooms and other amenities that are important to visitors. A gift shop and food service offer additional services but are not requirements of visitor-ready designation.

### 2) **Visitor Experience**

The visitor experience is determined by the condition of the site and the quality of the site’s interpretation. Interpretation (whether guided or self-guided) should educate visitors about the significance of the site to the community, state and/or nation. It should also be evident that efforts have been made to preserve the site and the original character of the buildings, landscape, and artifacts.

### 3) **Management**

Management includes all aspects of the site’s administration and operations. The site should have enough staff and volunteers to properly manage and maintain the site, to accommodate visitors and maintain regular hours of operation. Management should make every effort to promote the site to visitors and to partner with a network of cultural, heritage and natural attractions and tourism organizations in promoting the site and the region.

## ***ATHA Heritage Routes***

ATHA has created a series of heritage routes based on the heritage area’s interpretive themes. Examples include *Trail Blazing Stories of African American History*, *War of 1812 and the Battle of Bladensburg*, *Balloons to the Moon: History of Aviation*, *Festivals and Farmers Markets*, and *Fields and Farms: Agriculture Heritage Route*. With the heritage area’s boundary amendment, these and other heritage routes can be expanded to include sites in the new geographic area. Other thematic heritage routes can also be created incorporating sites in southern Prince George’s County.

## Potential Grants

Grantmaking priorities for ATHA and MHAA apply to many of the sites and communities in the boundary amendment area, ranging from educational programs to interpretive exhibits, preservation planning and restoration. Examples of projects that could benefit from being eligible for ATHA and/or MHAA grants include:

- **Aquasco, Eagle Harbor, Cedar Haven** – In 2019, the University of Maryland Historic Preservation Studio class, in partnership with Maryland-National Capital Parks and Planning, undertook extensive research of the histories of these communities to develop a heritage trail. The plan includes an audio tour, route maps, and interpretive signage. A heritage area grant could assist with the implementation of this plan.
- **Hard Bargain** – This site offers a variety of programs for elementary and middle school students focused on environmental literacy. Heritage area education grants could support the development of new programs and the creation of program materials.
- **Poplar Hill on His Lordship’s Kindness** – Maryland Historical Trust has awarded grants for planning and preservation of this National Historic Landmark. Heritage area grants could support additional preservation work as well as interpretive planning and development.
- **Broad Creek Historic District** – This National Register-listed district in Fort Washington could be supported with grants to develop a master plan for preservation and interpretation and development of a plan for wayfinding and interpretation.

## Current and Potential Additional Themes

As the management plan update moves forward, considerations for the boundary expansion related to themes will include the following steps.

### Clarify and Confirm Themes

ATHA currently has two sets of themes in the management plan and in the interpretive plan. Some of the themes are the same, e.g., Settlement, Development, and Growth of Communities/Settlement Patterns. Other themes are only found in one of the plans, e.g., Paleontology, Preservation of Open Space as Federal Lands, and Earthbound Transportation. As part of the management plan update, the themes should be reviewed to identify the key primary themes and subthemes, resulting in one simplified list of themes that reflects the entire region.

### Add Themes

At the same time that the existing list of themes and subthemes will be reviewed and simplified, additional themes will be considered. Some of the sites and communities assessed have stories of Native American (Piscataway) and African American history. There are currently no themes addressing Native American history. Only one theme addresses African American history – *Rise of the African American Middle Class*. Many of the sites and communities assessed in this report have stories of enslavement, freedom, segregation, and civil rights of African Americans. Additionally, a theme or subtheme may focus on women’s history. In the

thematic area of agriculture, consideration will be given to incorporating a sub-theme that addresses the county's long history of growing tobacco.

### **Religious Freedom National Scenic Byway**

This scenic byway travels through Charles and St. Mary's County in the Southern Maryland Heritage Area. The route follows US Route 301 and MD Route 5. Both roads continue into southern Prince George's County. Pending a boundary amendment, ATHA may consider partnering with Southern Maryland Heritage Area to expand this byway through southern Prince George's County. A corridor management plan was completed for the byway which would provide guidance for interpretation and promotion.

### **Southern Maryland National Heritage Area**

In March of 2022, a feasibility study for the Southern Maryland National Heritage Area was approved by the National Park Service as meeting the criteria for National Heritage Area designation. The study was undertaken by the Southern Maryland State Heritage Area (known by its branding identity of Destination Southern Maryland) and includes the three counties in the state-certified heritage area – Calvert, Charles, and St. Mary's.

Additionally, southern Prince George's County, as far north as Upper Marlboro, and west to Accokeek and Fort Washington, is included in the proposed National Heritage Area. This part of Prince George's County is included because of thematic connections such as tobacco and agriculture, the War of 1812, and the Piscataway Conoy Tribe.

Legislation has been introduced to Congress to designate the National Heritage Area. Senator Ben Cardin is the sponsor in the Senate, and Congressman Steny Hoyer is the House sponsor. Maryland's Congressional delegation supports the legislation. The legislation has been reviewed by committees in the House and Senate.

ATHA staff served on the Program Advisory Committee for the feasibility study. Because southern Prince George's County is in the proposed boundary amendment for ATHA and also in the proposed boundary for the Southern Maryland National Heritage Area, the two state-certified heritage areas will work closely to provide services and programs to the area that are complementary and not duplicative.

## Site Visits, Stakeholder and Elected Officials Engagement

The boundary amendment study included many on-site visits as well as virtual meetings with stakeholders and elected officials. The following chart documents this outreach.

| <b>Site and Community Visits</b><br><b>Conducted by Aaron Marcavitch (former ATHA executive director), Kirstin Falk, ATHA project manager, Carolyn Brackett and Nancy Morgan, consultant team</b><br><b>(Note: Some sites were visited but a contact was not on site.)</b> |                                                                          |                                                                                                            |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Location                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | Site                                                                     | Contact                                                                                                    |
| Upper Marlboro                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | Darnall's Chance House Museum                                            | Susan Reidy, Director                                                                                      |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | Mount Calvert Historical and Archaeological Park                         | Kristin M. Montaperto, Chief Archaeologist, M-NCPPC                                                        |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | Compton Bassett Historic House                                           | Gina Vaughan, Preservation and Special Projects Coordinator, MNCPPC                                        |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | Patuxent River Park<br>Patuxent Rural Life Museum<br>Columbia Air Center | Esther Woolworth, Interpreter                                                                              |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | Rosaryville State Park, Mount Airy Mansion                               | Peter Morrill, Curator Program Manager, Land Acquisition and Planning, Maryland Dept. of Natural Resources |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | Merkle State Wildlife Sanctuary and Visitor's Center                     | Peter Morrill, Curator Program Manager, Land Acquisition and Planning, Maryland Dept. of Natural Resources |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | Town of Upper Marlboro                                                   | Brian Callicott, Archivist, Town of Upper Marlboro Historical Committee                                    |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | Show Place Arena and Prince George's Equestrian Center                   | Bryan Anthony, General Manager                                                                             |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | Belt Woods Natural Environment Area                                      | Peter Morrill, Curator Program Manager, Land Acquisition and Planning, Maryland Dept. of Natural Resources |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | Nottingham School and Patuxent Water Trail                               |                                                                                                            |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | Watkins Nature Center at Watkins Regional Park                           |                                                                                                            |

| <b>Site and Community Visits (continued)</b> |                                                 |                                                                                                             |
|----------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Location</b>                              | <b>Site</b>                                     | <b>Contact</b>                                                                                              |
| Clinton                                      | Surratt House Museum                            | Colleen Puterbaugh, Director                                                                                |
|                                              | Poplar Hill on His Lordship's Kindness          | John Walton Jr., Owner and Director                                                                         |
|                                              | Clearwater Nature Center at Cosca Regional Park | Stephanie Jacob<br>Park Naturalist                                                                          |
| Oxon Hill                                    | Oxon Hill Manor                                 | Sharon Williams<br>Director                                                                                 |
|                                              | Oxon Cove Park/Oxon Hill Farm/Mount Welby       |                                                                                                             |
| Accokeek                                     | Piscataway Park and National Colonial Farm      | Laura Ford, Director, National Colonial Farm                                                                |
|                                              | Hard Bargain Environmental Center               | Theresa Cullen, Director                                                                                    |
| Fort Washington                              | Fort Washington Park                            |                                                                                                             |
|                                              | Fort Foote Park                                 |                                                                                                             |
|                                              | Harmony Hall                                    |                                                                                                             |
|                                              | Broad Creek Historic District                   | Aurora Carmichael<br>Michael Leventhal                                                                      |
| Fairmount Heights                            | Fairmont Heights Historic District              |                                                                                                             |
| Eagle Harbor                                 | Town of Eagle Harbor                            | Dorothea Smith, Resident and Historian; Lucille Walker, Executive Director, Southern Maryland Heritage Area |

**Additional Sites and Communities**

**Note: These sites or communities were not visited due to COVID and time constraints. However, the sites are included in the Situation Analysis (November 2020) and contacts continue to be made to sites and communities.**

| Location             | Site                                                                            | Contact                                                                                                    |
|----------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Upper Marlboro       | Billingsley House                                                               | Ed Day, Historic Preservation Coordinator/Lead Preservation Coordinator, MNCPPC                            |
| Lanham               | Seabrook Schoolhouse                                                            |                                                                                                            |
| Capitol Heights      | Ridgley Rosenwald School                                                        |                                                                                                            |
| Mitchellville        | Newton White Mansion                                                            |                                                                                                            |
| Cheltenham           | Cheltenham Wetlands Park                                                        |                                                                                                            |
| Brandywine           | Cedarville State Forest                                                         | Peter Morrill, Curator Program Manager, Land Acquisition and Planning, Maryland Dept. of Natural Resources |
|                      | P.A. Bowen Farmstead                                                            |                                                                                                            |
|                      | Robin Hill Farm and Vineyards                                                   |                                                                                                            |
|                      | Gemeny Winery and Vineyards                                                     |                                                                                                            |
|                      | Janemark Winery and Vineyard                                                    |                                                                                                            |
|                      | Romano Vineyard and Winery                                                      |                                                                                                            |
| Landover             | National Harmony Memorial Park                                                  |                                                                                                            |
| Aquasco              |                                                                                 |                                                                                                            |
| Villa de Alpaca Farm | Aquasco                                                                         |                                                                                                            |
| Cedar Haven          |                                                                                 |                                                                                                            |
| National Harbor      | National Harbor resort, waterfront district, casino, convention center, outlets |                                                                                                            |
| Largo                | Prince George's Community College – Center for Performing Arts                  |                                                                                                            |
| Clinton              | Joint Base Andrews                                                              |                                                                                                            |

| <b>Stakeholder and Elected Officials Engagement</b>                                   |                                                 |                                          |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------|
| <b>Stakeholders OR Elected Officials</b>                                              | <b>Organization</b>                             | <b>Community</b>                         |
| Managing Board                                                                        | ATHA                                            | Heritage area                            |
| Governing Board                                                                       | ATHA                                            | Heritage area                            |
| Board and staff                                                                       | Accokeek Foundation                             | Accokeek                                 |
| Calvin S. Hawkins II, Council Chair<br>Prince George's County Council (At-Large)      | County Council                                  | Prince George's County                   |
| Thomas E. Dernoga, Council Member<br>Prince George's County Council (District 1)      | Council Council                                 | Prince George's County                   |
| Dannielle M. Glaros, Council Member<br>Prince George's County Council (District 3)    | County Council                                  | Prince George's County                   |
| Jolene Ivey, Council Member<br>Prince George's County Council (District 5)            | County Council                                  | Prince George's County                   |
| Sydney J. Harrison, Council Vice-Chair<br>Prince George's County Council (District 9) | County Council                                  | Prince George's County                   |
| Mayor Sara Franklin                                                                   |                                                 | Town of Upper Marlboro                   |
| Mayor Pro Tem<br>Linda K. Pennoyer                                                    |                                                 | Town of Upper Marlboro                   |
| Kyle Snyder<br>Town Administrator                                                     |                                                 | Town of Upper Marlboro                   |
| Board of Commissioners                                                                |                                                 | Town of Upper Marlboro                   |
| Governmental Affairs and Technology<br>Committee                                      | Seat Pleasant City<br>Council                   | Seat Pleasant                            |
| City Council                                                                          |                                                 | Seat Pleasant                            |
| City Council                                                                          |                                                 | Fairmount Heights                        |
| City Council                                                                          |                                                 | Eagle Harbor                             |
| Mayor Noah Waters, Ph.D.                                                              |                                                 | Eagle Harbor                             |
| Mayor Emmett Jordan                                                                   |                                                 | Greenbelt                                |
| Public meeting – National Heritage Area<br>Feasibility Study                          | Southern Maryland<br>Heritage Area              | Accokeek                                 |
|                                                                                       | Prince George's<br>Heritage                     |                                          |
| Public Webinar                                                                        |                                                 | All – Southern Prince George's<br>County |
| Shauntee Daniels<br>Executive Director                                                | Baltimore National<br>Heritage Area             |                                          |
| Carol Benson<br>Executive Director                                                    | Four Rivers Heritage<br>Area                    |                                          |
| Julie Gilberto-Brady<br>Executive Director                                            | Heart of Chesapeake<br>Country Heritage<br>Area |                                          |

| <b>Stakeholder and Elected Officials Engagement<br/>(continued)</b>                                                          |                                    |                  |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------|------------------|
| <b>Stakeholders OR Elected Officials</b>                                                                                     | <b>Organization</b>                | <b>Community</b> |
| Sarah Rogers<br>Executive Director                                                                                           | Heritage<br>Montgomery             |                  |
| Kim Folk<br>Executive Director                                                                                               | Mountain Maryland<br>Heritage Area |                  |
| Lindsey Baker<br>Executive Director                                                                                          | Patapsco Valley<br>Heritage Area   |                  |
| Lucille Walker<br>Executive Director                                                                                         | Southern Maryland<br>Heritage Area |                  |
| Omar Eaton-Martínez<br>Assistant Division Chief<br>Historic Resources Natural & Historical<br>Resource Division              | M-NCPPC                            |                  |
| Ed Day<br>Lead Preservation Officer                                                                                          | M-NCPPC                            |                  |
| Dr. Jonathan Van Caudill<br>Countywide Arts Coordinator, Historic<br>Rental Properties, Arts & Cultural Heritage<br>Division | M-NCPPC                            |                  |

| Sites listed in the National Register of Historic Places      |                   |                                                  |
|---------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------|--------------------------------------------------|
| Site                                                          | Location          | Level of Significance                            |
| Town of Upper Marlboro – residential and commercial districts | Upper Marlboro    | Local                                            |
| Darnall’s Chance House Museum                                 |                   | Local                                            |
| Compton Bassett Historic Home                                 |                   | State                                            |
| St. Thomas Episcopal Church                                   |                   | Not given                                        |
| Union Memorial Methodist Episcopal Church                     |                   | Included in historic district                    |
| Surratt House Museum                                          | Clinton           | National                                         |
| Poplar Hill on His Lordship’s Kindness                        |                   | National Historic Landmark                       |
| Piscataway Village Historic District                          |                   | Local                                            |
| Oxon Hill Manor                                               | Oxon Hill         | State                                            |
| Oxon Cove Park                                                |                   | National                                         |
| Piscataway Park                                               | Accokeek          | National Historic Landmark (Accokeek Creek Site) |
| Hard Bargain Environmental Center                             |                   | Local                                            |
| Fort Washington Park                                          | Fort Washington   | National                                         |
| Fort Foote Park                                               |                   | National                                         |
| Harmony Hall                                                  |                   | Local                                            |
| Broad Creek Historic District                                 |                   | Local                                            |
| St. John’s Church                                             |                   | State                                            |
| St. Ignatius Church                                           |                   | Not given                                        |
| Fairmount Heights Historic District                           | Fairmount Heights | Local                                            |
| St. Mary’s Rectory                                            | Aquasco           | State                                            |
| Villa de Sales                                                |                   | Not given                                        |
| Early Family Historic District                                | Brandywine        | Local                                            |
| Church of the Incarnation                                     |                   | Local                                            |
| Immanuel Methodist Church and Cemetery                        |                   | Not given                                        |
| Ridgely Methodist Episcopal Church                            | Landover          | Not given                                        |
| St. Matthew’s Church – Addison Chapel and Cemetery            | Seat Pleasant     | Not given                                        |

## ATHA Management and Organization

Anacostia Trails Heritage Area is one of 13 certified Maryland Heritage Areas administered by the Maryland Heritage Areas Authority. MHAA is supported by the Maryland Historical Trust including funding for staff. When established in 2001, the Anacostia Trails Heritage Area was initially managed by the Redevelopment Authority of Prince George's County. In 2010, the Redevelopment Authority of Prince George's County transferred the responsibility of management, governance, and programming to the non-profit Anacostia Trails Heritage Area, Inc. The leadership of ATHA successfully extended the boundaries of the heritage area in 2017 to include the Bowie, Cheverly, and Glenn Dale communities within Prince George's County. Today, the Anacostia Trails Heritage Area covers more than 100 square miles north and east of Washington, D.C.

When established, the mission of the Anacostia Trails Heritage Area was defined as “to preserve and promote the historical, artistic, cultural, and natural resources of the Certified Heritage Area.” That mission continues today.

Anacostia Trails Heritage Area, Inc. manages the Anacostia Trail Heritage Area. ATHA, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) organization established in 1997 as an advisory group to the Redevelopment Authority as it developed the heritage area. The role of ATHA, Inc. changed in 2010 when it assumed sole responsibility for the operation of the heritage area. The organization is currently staffed by two professionals – an executive director and a project manager. ATHA, Inc. is governed by a managing board of directors and a governing board of directors, the latter action mainly in an advisory capacity to the organization and managing board.

A management plan dating to 2001, developed by the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission and the Prince George's County Planning Department, continues to guide the organization's work. ATHA, Inc. currently maintains a Platinum Seal of Transparency from GuideStar, a clearinghouse of information on nonprofit organizations in the United States<sup>3</sup>. In addition, a five-year strategic plan (2012-2017) still guides the organization as it manages the day-to-day programming and projects of the heritage area. A five-year plan from each Certified Heritage Area, to span FY2024-FY2029, has been required by MHAA to be completed by Spring 2023.

In 2012, ATHA established Maryland Milestones as a tourism brand to highlight the historic firsts and unique moments which have occurred through time in the region. Under Maryland Milestones, ATHA conducts research and updates interpretive signs and wayfinding, enhances and promotes multi-modal trails, hosts educational and recreational events, and operates a visitor center in Hyattsville, Maryland. Evaluating the recognition and efficacy of both names will be part of the management plan update for the organization.

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<sup>3</sup>ATHA staff is currently working to update all information on the GuideStar website. The last update of financial information on ATHA, Inc. information is dated to 2017.

## ATHA Management

When established, the Anacostia Trails Heritage Area was managed by the Redevelopment Authority of Prince George's County (RDA) and specifically authorized to coordinate programs authorized and funded by the State of Maryland or Prince George's County through the MHAA program. In addition, RDA was directed to work as an advisory partner with ATHA, Inc., other government agencies, and other entities to develop an annual work program following the goals and strategies of the ATHA plan. In this participatory process, the partners employ a heritage tourism strategy to build the local economy while preserving, developing, and promoting the heritage area's natural, historical, and cultural resources.

The transfer of authority to ATHA, Inc. from RDA may have resulted in some loss of program and project delivery capacity for the heritage area overall. When housed within RDA, its planning department staff provided community organizing, revitalization, planning design, and grant writing expertise. ATHA, Inc. is currently staffed with two highly regarded and dedicated professionals but lacks the sheer number of professionals and those expert positions within RDA.

When accepting management control of the heritage area, ATHA, Inc. assumed the following responsibilities outlined in the ATHA Management Plan:

- Develop an annual heritage tourism work program based upon this plan that outlines which of the projects in the plan will be undertaken each year.
- Manage the heritage tourism work program.
- Develop and implement marketing, promotion, and branding strategies for the ATHA heritage tourism program to be undertaken project-by-project.
- Consult on management plan [implementation] issues with municipalities and citizen organizations.
- Coordinate with the above-mentioned county, municipal, regional, state, and federal agencies that own or are responsible for public facilities related to heritage tourism in carrying out the phased projects.
- Apply to MHAA for grants for qualified projects, including identifying the source of needed matching funds.
- Act as the contact for state agencies in ensuring that state activities are consistent with the management plan and will not have an adverse effect on resources.

## Organization Governance and Management

ATHA, Inc. is governed by two distinct, but cooperating, boards. One is a Managing Board responsible for the nonprofit's operations, and a Governing Board that operates as a community advisory board. The powers and responsibilities of each board are defined in ATHA, Inc.'s bylaws, which were revised and adopted in 2017.

The Managing Board holds primary responsibility for all aspects of ATHA, Inc.'s oversight, including financial matters, fundraising, and staff. The managing board's membership is limited to 15 members and includes a president, vice president, treasurer, and secretary. According to the bylaws, its membership is dictated by those "representatives of the public," including businesses, economic and community development, arts, cultural, environmental, historical groups, business organizations, and residents. In addition, one member of the Governing Board is also a member of the Managing Board in an ex-officio, non-voting role.

The Governing Board consists of one appointed representative of each municipality participating in the Anacostia Trails Heritage Area. The role of the Governing Board is to ensure the heritage area remains true to its community purpose and functions more in an advisory role, with some input on decisions as it relates to the organization, programs, and projects. This oversight role is specifically spelled out in the bylaws for the representative of the Governing Board who acts as the liaison to the Managing Board. ATHA, Inc. bylaws state that the Governing Board representative "is to provide updates on the work of the Managing Board and ensuring the Managing Board is performing its duties within the scope of the bylaws, approved Management Plan, and/or the Five Year Plans." The bylaws do not specify any chair or president or any other hierarchy of representatives of the Governing Board.

Both boards meet as determined by the bylaws. The Governing Board meets twice a year, at minimum, while the Managing Board's meeting schedule is established each year by the board, with meetings occurring at least quarterly or more often.

Both boards meet jointly at the end of the fiscal year to elect the Managing Board members. At that meeting, the slate of Managing Board members is presented to the Governing Board but only voted upon by the Managing Board. Those board members elected are selected and nominated by a Governance and Nominations Committee of the Managing Board "with the help of Governing Board members." This joint meeting of the boards may also be the Annual Meeting of ATHA, Inc., which members of the public are invited to attend.

## Recommendations

With the planned, expanded boundary, both boards will have increased roles and responsibilities within ATHA, Inc. As a bylaws requirement, the Governing Board will need to expand its membership, adding new representatives from the municipalities and towns included in the new heritage area region. These new representatives will be added to a board of 20.<sup>4</sup> Identifying new members from the communities added with the boundary expansion should be a priority for ATHA, Inc.

During the public outreach conducted with this plan, it was evident that few municipalities or towns in the proposed new boundary area knew of ATHA or what a heritage area, in general, does. This is not unusual as the concept of a “heritage area” is sometimes difficult to understand to unfamiliar audiences. Community outreach is a critical task that nonprofit organizations like ATHA must always maintain. Despite the limitations and restrictions on in-person meetings during the height of the pandemic, ATHA and its consultant team made considerable efforts and were successful in carrying out the public outreach by utilizing remote technologies to conduct meetings. That information – introducing the heritage area to the community – still needs to be conducted in some towns, and communication with all jurisdictions should remain a constant priority for ATHA, Inc. ATHA meets annually with each municipality during one of their scheduled meetings and often participates in meetings throughout the year if there are pertinent agenda items. The four new municipalities of the expanded boundary area will be added to that roster for a total of 24 members.

The Managing Board will also assume more significant roles and responsibilities with an expanded boundary. It will have increased oversight on added programs and projects, but it will be responsible for additional staff necessary to conduct the increased workload effectively. More programs and projects and added staff also translate into a larger operating budget, with greater demands for added revenues to cover these additional programs and operational expenses.

ATHA, Inc.'s Managing Board must always maintain its financial oversight and governance responsibilities. Problems experienced in the past with missing financial filings or payments to the State of Maryland must be avoided in the future. In 2003 and 2011, Anacostia Trails Heritage Area, Inc. had its corporate charter suspended by the Secretary of the State of Maryland for failure to pay certain taxes as required by state law. ATHA, Inc. remedied the matter by paying the taxes and related penalties and applying for Articles of Revival with the State in both instances. While both incidences occurred under different management and boards of directors than in 2022, it is a reminder that public agencies constantly scrutinize the governance and management of nonprofit organizations. These matters have been fully resolved and ATHA's licensing with the State of Maryland is current. ATHA's current executive director has made it a priority to further the confidence in and compliance of the organization by taking steps to add a professional financial manager/controller to the organization, and

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<sup>4</sup> At the time of writing this report, ATHA, Inc.'s website indicated that the Governing Board consists of 20 members with four vacancies.

ensuring all regulatory compliance and filings are submitted as required. In addition, the staff and board will maintain sound business practices in order to maintain confidence in the organization's operations, policies, and procedures.

One crucial step recently taken by ATHA, Inc. was to hire a professional bookkeeping consultant responsible for managing income and expenses, timely filings for all regulatory matters, and providing accurate financial reports to the Managing and Governing Boards. ATHA also retains a professional accountant annually to produce a financial review and 990. Retaining these professionals is essential for any boundary or service area increase.

To ensure proper financial oversight, ATHA, Inc. should, at a minimum, do the following:

1. Always retain a qualified financial expert on staff and the board. ATHA, Inc. now has a professional accounting consultant working with the staff and board. Additionally, the Managing Board should have qualified board members with professional experience in financial matters.
2. Ensure financial statements are prepared and audited according to Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP).
3. Ensure annual financial statements are audited or reviewed as dictated by law. The MD Solicitations Act §6-402 (b)(7) states that charitable organizations must file an audited financial statement prepared by an independent certified public accounting group if the gross income from charitable contributions is at least \$750,000. For organizations with gross annual contributions between \$300,000-\$750,000, financial statements must be reviewed or audited by an independent certified public accountant.
4. If one does not exist, it recommended that audit committee should be established to oversee ATHA, Inc.'s annual audit. The audit committee should be comprised of board members with financial acumen. It should never include any officer of the board or any board member involved with the daily financial function of the organization. The audit committee's responsibility is to provide oversight of the financial reporting process, the audit process, the company's system of internal controls. In actuality, the audit committee examines the organization's financial operations *and* the staff and board members who have responsibility for and manage the daily finances.
5. Report an IRS-990 each year, whether (or not) financial statements were compiled, reviewed, or audited by an independent accountant. Maintaining up-to-date filings guarantees transparency and could help advance ATHA, Inc.'s fundraising and development goals by providing current information that potential donors often investigate.

## Recruiting Managing Board Members

The bylaws of ATHA, Inc. allow for one member of the Governing Board to participate as a non-voting member on the Managing Board. This Governing Board member holds the responsibility to report back on the actions of the Managing Board and staff. As ATHA expands its boundaries, one consideration could be to add additional members from the Governing Board to the Managing Board. The role and function of ATHA, Inc. will undoubtedly change with the added region, and other Governing Board members could be of considerable benefit to the Managing Board as it works in new municipalities and towns.

Additionally, with a one-year term limit for Governing Board members serving on the Managing Board, ATHA, Inc. could consider those Governing Board members whose terms are up as new members for the Managing Board. New board members are always critical to any nonprofit as they bring energy, different perspectives, and varying talents to an organization. This "stepping up" could further solidify the partnership aspect of the two working boards, demonstrating to the communities that their representatives' involvement is welcome and vital.

## Financial Reporting

Financial reports provided to the boards do not need to be complicated to provide thorough, accurate information. Each board meeting should contain an agenda item identified as "*Financial Reports – Balance Sheet and Income Statement – ACTION ITEM.*" Under GAAP, the financial statements are reported to the board and discussed, with a motion and vote to **acknowledge receipt of the financial statements**. This is an important distinction as financial reports should not be approved at board meetings as they still need to be audited. Approving financial reports at a board meeting indicates that the statements are accurate and correct. Under GAAP, they are not deemed accurate until the audit verifies them as such.

A set of simplified financial reporting templates are suggested on the following pages, including a sample annual budget, a sample quarterly income statement, and a sample balance sheet. While the budget is used at the beginning of the year to set the financial plan for the organization, the quarterly income statement and the balance sheet are tracking tools reported at board meetings throughout the year. These documents are critical for transparency and understanding an organization's financial condition and health.

On the annual budget template provided, each expense and income line-item category are suggested as examples only, with each adding up to the higher-level line for that category. If ATHA, Inc. adopts this format, it should name the lines as it determines best for its reporting. In addition, revenues released from restrictions from previous fiscal years are tracked on a separate line from revenues received for the current fiscal year, providing a clear delineation between new revenue in the current fiscal year, and revenue carried over from past fiscal years.

Comparing the current fiscal year's actual income and expenses to the budget is always a good governance practice. However, equally important is the comparison of those figures against the

previous year(s) budget of actual income and expenses. This allows the board and staff to monitor swings or trends in those lines where costs might have been unexpected or revenues are increasing due to more grants or increased earned income from activities.

| Sample ATHA, Inc. Annual Budget         |                                |                            |                            |                                    |
|-----------------------------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|------------------------------------|
|                                         |                                | <u>Current Year Actual</u> | <u>Current Year Budget</u> | <u>Future Budget Year Proposed</u> |
| <b>Operating Revenue</b>                |                                |                            |                            |                                    |
|                                         | Tours and Entrance Fees        |                            |                            |                                    |
|                                         | Service Fees and Other Income  |                            |                            |                                    |
|                                         | Other Operating Income         |                            |                            |                                    |
|                                         | Donations                      |                            |                            |                                    |
|                                         | Interest                       |                            |                            |                                    |
|                                         | Special Events Net             |                            |                            |                                    |
|                                         | Retail Net                     |                            |                            |                                    |
| <b>Total Operating Revenue</b>          |                                |                            |                            |                                    |
| <b>Program Revenues</b>                 |                                |                            |                            |                                    |
|                                         | Federal Grants                 |                            |                            |                                    |
|                                         | State Grants                   |                            |                            |                                    |
|                                         | Local Grants / Fees            |                            |                            |                                    |
|                                         | Private & Other Grants         |                            |                            |                                    |
|                                         | Misc. Income                   |                            |                            |                                    |
| <b>Total Program Revenue</b>            |                                |                            |                            |                                    |
| <b>TOTAL REVENUE</b>                    |                                |                            |                            |                                    |
| <b>Operating Expenses</b>               |                                |                            |                            |                                    |
|                                         | Salaries & Related Expenses    |                            |                            |                                    |
|                                         | Audit and Legal                |                            |                            |                                    |
|                                         | Construction                   |                            |                            |                                    |
|                                         | Consultants                    |                            |                            |                                    |
|                                         | Insurance                      |                            |                            |                                    |
|                                         | Loans and Capital Leases       |                            |                            |                                    |
|                                         | Travel and Related Expenses    |                            |                            |                                    |
|                                         | Professional Expenses          |                            |                            |                                    |
|                                         | Office and Facility Expenses   |                            |                            |                                    |
|                                         | Marketing, Publicity, Printing |                            |                            |                                    |
|                                         | Equipment Leases               |                            |                            |                                    |
|                                         | Depreciation                   |                            |                            |                                    |
|                                         | Tour Expenses                  |                            |                            |                                    |
|                                         | Misc. Operating Expenses       |                            |                            |                                    |
|                                         | Grants                         |                            |                            |                                    |
| <b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>                   |                                |                            |                            |                                    |
| <b>Funds Released From Restrictions</b> |                                |                            |                            |                                    |
| <b>Net Surplus (Deficit)</b>            |                                |                            |                            |                                    |

A Quarterly Income Statement builds from the same income and expense categories used in the budget and tracks each quarter against the previous year's budget. This report allows management and board to understand financials as they progress throughout each fiscal year quarter. A sample Quarterly Income Statement follows.

| Sample ATHA, Inc. Quarterly Income Statement |                |                 |                 |                    |        |            |               |
|----------------------------------------------|----------------|-----------------|-----------------|--------------------|--------|------------|---------------|
|                                              | Current Budget | Current Quarter | Prior Year      | FY Actuals         | Budget | Actual vs. | YTD Actual as |
|                                              | Year           | Actuals         | Quarter Actuals | Year to Date (YTD) | YTD    | Budget YTD | % of Budget   |
| <b>Operating Revenue</b>                     |                |                 |                 |                    |        |            |               |
| Tours and Entrance Fees                      |                |                 |                 |                    |        |            |               |
| Service Fees and Other Income                |                |                 |                 |                    |        |            |               |
| Other Operating Income                       |                |                 |                 |                    |        |            |               |
| Donations                                    |                |                 |                 |                    |        |            |               |
| Interest                                     |                |                 |                 |                    |        |            |               |
| Special Events Net                           |                |                 |                 |                    |        |            |               |
| Retail Net                                   |                |                 |                 |                    |        |            |               |
| <b>Total Operating Revenue</b>               |                |                 |                 |                    |        |            |               |
| <b>Program Revenues</b>                      |                |                 |                 |                    |        |            |               |
| Federal Grants                               |                |                 |                 |                    |        |            |               |
| State Grants                                 |                |                 |                 |                    |        |            |               |
| Local Grants / Fees                          |                |                 |                 |                    |        |            |               |
| Private & Other Grants                       |                |                 |                 |                    |        |            |               |
| Misc. Income                                 |                |                 |                 |                    |        |            |               |
| <b>Total Program Revenue</b>                 |                |                 |                 |                    |        |            |               |
| <b>TOTAL REVENUE</b>                         |                |                 |                 |                    |        |            |               |
| <b>Operating Expenses</b>                    |                |                 |                 |                    |        |            |               |
| Salaries & Related Expenses                  |                |                 |                 |                    |        |            |               |
| Audit and Legal                              |                |                 |                 |                    |        |            |               |
| Construction                                 |                |                 |                 |                    |        |            |               |
| Consultants                                  |                |                 |                 |                    |        |            |               |
| Insurance                                    |                |                 |                 |                    |        |            |               |
| Loans and Capital Leases                     |                |                 |                 |                    |        |            |               |
| Travel and Related Expenses                  |                |                 |                 |                    |        |            |               |
| Professional Expenses                        |                |                 |                 |                    |        |            |               |
| Office and Facility Expenses                 |                |                 |                 |                    |        |            |               |
| Marketing, Publicity, Printing               |                |                 |                 |                    |        |            |               |
| Equipment Leases                             |                |                 |                 |                    |        |            |               |
| Depreciation                                 |                |                 |                 |                    |        |            |               |
| Tour Expenses                                |                |                 |                 |                    |        |            |               |
| Misc. Operating Expenses                     |                |                 |                 |                    |        |            |               |
| Grants                                       |                |                 |                 |                    |        |            |               |
| <b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>                        |                |                 |                 |                    |        |            |               |
| <b>Funds Released From Restrictions</b>      |                |                 |                 |                    |        |            |               |
| <b>Net Surplus (Deficit)</b>                 |                |                 |                 |                    |        |            |               |

A balance sheet reports an organization's assets (what is owned) and liabilities (what is owed). The net assets (also called equity, capital, retained earnings, or fund balance) represent the sum of all the annual surpluses or deficits that an organization has accumulated over its entire history. The balance sheet is an accumulated financial history of the organization. A sample ATHA, Inc. balance sheet is provided. The first table provides an example of assets and the second table an example of liabilities.

## Balance Sheet - Assets

| Sample ATHA, Inc. Balance Sheet           |  |                  |                   |                    |                                                                                 |
|-------------------------------------------|--|------------------|-------------------|--------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                                           |  | Current Month FY | Previous Month FY | Same Month Last FY | Notes                                                                           |
| <b>Assets</b>                             |  |                  |                   |                    |                                                                                 |
| Current Assets                            |  |                  |                   |                    |                                                                                 |
| Cash in Bank                              |  |                  |                   |                    |                                                                                 |
| Operating Account Balance                 |  |                  |                   |                    |                                                                                 |
| Petty Cash Balance                        |  |                  |                   |                    |                                                                                 |
| Federal Funds Balance                     |  |                  |                   |                    |                                                                                 |
| State Funds Balance                       |  |                  |                   |                    |                                                                                 |
| County/ Municipality Balance              |  |                  |                   |                    |                                                                                 |
| Foundation / Private Grants Balance       |  |                  |                   |                    |                                                                                 |
| Donations                                 |  |                  |                   |                    |                                                                                 |
| Tickets and Sales Balance                 |  |                  |                   |                    |                                                                                 |
| Cash Transfers Balance                    |  |                  |                   |                    |                                                                                 |
| Reserve Funds Balance                     |  |                  |                   |                    |                                                                                 |
| Total Cash in Banks                       |  |                  |                   |                    |                                                                                 |
| Investments (if any)                      |  |                  |                   |                    |                                                                                 |
| Total Investments                         |  |                  |                   |                    |                                                                                 |
| Accounts Receivable                       |  |                  |                   |                    |                                                                                 |
| Operating Funds Receivable                |  |                  |                   |                    |                                                                                 |
| Federal Grants Receivable                 |  |                  |                   |                    |                                                                                 |
| State Grants Receivable                   |  |                  |                   |                    |                                                                                 |
| County / Municipality Funds Receivable    |  |                  |                   |                    |                                                                                 |
| Foundation / Private Funds Receivable     |  |                  |                   |                    |                                                                                 |
| Donations Receivable                      |  |                  |                   |                    |                                                                                 |
| Total Accounts Receivable                 |  |                  |                   |                    |                                                                                 |
| Inventory (Gift Shop, etc)                |  |                  |                   |                    |                                                                                 |
| Total Inventory                           |  |                  |                   |                    |                                                                                 |
| Total Current Assets                      |  |                  |                   |                    |                                                                                 |
| Fixed Assets                              |  |                  |                   |                    |                                                                                 |
| Buidling Improvements                     |  |                  |                   |                    |                                                                                 |
| Land                                      |  |                  |                   |                    |                                                                                 |
| Historic Asset Improvements               |  |                  |                   |                    |                                                                                 |
| Accumulated Depreciation of Building/Land |  |                  |                   |                    |                                                                                 |
| Office Furniture & Fixtures               |  |                  |                   |                    |                                                                                 |
| Office Equipment                          |  |                  |                   |                    |                                                                                 |
| Accumulated Depreciation Office           |  |                  |                   |                    |                                                                                 |
| Total Fixed Assets                        |  |                  |                   |                    |                                                                                 |
| <b>Total Assets</b>                       |  |                  |                   |                    | These totals should match the total in "Total Liabilities and Net Assets" below |

## Balance Sheet – Liabilities and Totals

|                                         | Current Month FY                                            | Previous Month FY | Same Month Last FY | Notes |
|-----------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------|--------------------|-------|
| <b>Liabilities and Net Assets</b>       |                                                             |                   |                    |       |
| Liabilities                             |                                                             |                   |                    |       |
| Accounts Payable                        |                                                             |                   |                    |       |
| Taxes and Regulatory Fees               |                                                             |                   |                    |       |
| Others                                  |                                                             |                   |                    |       |
| Total                                   |                                                             |                   |                    |       |
| Employee Net Payroll                    |                                                             |                   |                    |       |
| Retirement Plans (if any)               |                                                             |                   |                    |       |
| Misc. Payroll Deductions                |                                                             |                   |                    |       |
| Total                                   |                                                             |                   |                    |       |
| Notes Payable (if any)                  |                                                             |                   |                    |       |
| Line of Credit                          |                                                             |                   |                    |       |
| Mortgages                               |                                                             |                   |                    |       |
| Loans                                   |                                                             |                   |                    |       |
| Total                                   |                                                             |                   |                    |       |
| <b>Net Assets</b>                       |                                                             |                   |                    |       |
| Unrestricted Net Assets                 |                                                             |                   |                    |       |
| Temporarily Restricted Net Assets       |                                                             |                   |                    |       |
| <b>Total Net Assets</b>                 |                                                             |                   |                    |       |
| <b>Total Liabilities and Net Assets</b> | These totals should match the total in "Total Assets" above |                   |                    |       |
| <b>Net Surplus / (Deficit)</b>          |                                                             |                   |                    |       |
| <b>Ending Fund Balance</b>              |                                                             |                   |                    |       |

## Organization Administration and Staffing

Anacostia Trails Heritage Area, Inc. staffs the heritage area with a spartan team consisting of an executive director and a project manager. The project manager's efforts are 100 percent programmatic and the executive director's 60 percent. Once managed by a former executive director, the financials and bookkeeping are now tasked to a consulting accountant. In addition, a new position has recently been created, to be shared with a partner organization, for a part-time associate responsible for visitor services and events.

The staff of ATHA, Inc. is professional, capable, and effective in their work. Nevertheless, the strains created by the pandemic and the resulting limited, person-to-person contact were noticeable during the planning process as outreach to possible new communities in an expanded boundary appeared to be challenging to achieve. That matter is not unique to ATHA, as many organizations have struggled with community outreach during the pandemic. Nevertheless, as the restrictions on public gatherings continue to be lifted, ATHA should place more effort into direct meetings with municipalities, towns, and other public and private organizations to ensure the boundary expansion is understood and endorsed by its partners. Along with the many other responsibilities of the executive director, this outreach will always be a critical element of the position.

The current job description for the executive director is:

The Executive Director is responsible for the fiscal management and mission-driven operations of the organization in coordination with federal, state, and county agencies, the board of directors, coordinating with project partners and funders, and leading staff and projects from inception to completion to implementation. Additionally, the Executive Director will interface with the elected officials and agency leaders across Prince George's County and municipalities in the Heritage Area. The Executive Director must be organized, transparent, and willing to engage with stakeholders on a variety of topics related to cultural tourism and historic preservation. This position should be held by a professional with 7-10 years of management experience in community-focused projects.

The executive director also has several other inherent, critical responsibilities with the governance and management of ATHA, Inc. Building from the current job description, these may include:

- Collaboration with the Managing Board and the Governing Board to identify, create and implement strategic plans to actualize ATHA, Inc.'s business objectives.
- Identifying, recruiting, training, and developing ATHA, Inc.'s talented team of employees who lead critical projects and programs and manage daily business functions.
- Monitoring ATHA, Inc.'s operations and ensuring its practices comply with regulatory and legal requirements.
- Developing and fostering the organizational culture and promoting transparency and collaboration throughout the organization.

- Establishing and nurturing partnerships with stakeholders, local government agencies, elected officials, and other relevant community partners.
- Identifying potential risks and opportunities within the organization and its environment to protect business interests.
- Identifying potential sources of investment and organizing fundraising efforts.

Salaries of other Maryland Heritage Area Authority certified heritage areas were examined as part of this study, with eight heritage areas' information available for review.<sup>5</sup> Of the eight heritage areas, the highest total salary for a full-time executive director is \$98,325, and the lowest is \$49,735.<sup>6</sup> Of these eight Maryland heritage areas, the highest number of payroll employees was 33<sup>7</sup> at an overall annual cost of \$269,924, and the lowest was one employee at \$49,735 per year. Most Maryland heritage areas have between two to four employees. Therefore, the size of ATHA, Inc.'s staff is not out of the ordinary, but workloads could be of considerable difference.

The salary of the executive director and other staff members should always be gauged against other Maryland heritage areas and compared with other nonprofits in the region. The economic climate for the Washington, D.C. metropolitan region is expensive, and maintaining a talented, capable staff is always the one constant and most expensive cost for a nonprofit. Therefore, ATHA, Inc.'s Managing Board should periodically review compensation to ensure it remains a place of employment that provides a fair, equitable, and living salary, with benefits. Health care is currently offered while a retirement plan and/or match is not.

### **Current ATHA, Inc. Staff**

The ATHA Strategic Plan 2013-2017 contains several goals and objectives for the heritage area and the organization. One of those objectives states, "ATHA, Inc.'s staffing structure is lean enough to be efficient, yet effective enough to coordinate partners to accomplish the mission and vision of the Heritage Area."

At the time of writing this report, only one other position, a part-time project manager, existed at ATHA, Inc. The current description for the position is:

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<sup>5</sup> One state heritage area executive director's salary information was not included as the salary information was reported as such a low number that it was significant enough to question without verification.

<sup>6</sup> At least one executive director is paid as a consultant, not as a salaried employee.

<sup>7</sup> Of the 33 employees of Baltimore Heritage Area Association, which manages the state and national heritage area, the majority are either part-time or part-time/seasonal staff.

The Project Manager leads the coordination and completion of ATHA, Inc.'s major planning, wayfinding, interpretation, and preservation projects including managing consultants and engaging with project partners. The Project Manager should have five or more years of experience in project management, community planning, and historic preservation policy with a focus on architectural history and settlement patterns of the U.S. Mid-Atlantic. This position is flexible full-time or part-time, with offered benefits, and the workload often ebbs and flows with major grant awards and project deadlines. The Project Manager works closely with the Executive Director and often represents the organization at project and public meetings.

### **Additional Staff Needs**

To adequately manage the expanded heritage area region, ATHA, Inc.'s Managing Board and staff should consider other additions to the staff to meet the responsibilities associated with the larger area. These positions are identified below. One position to consider is a person responsible for fundraising and donations. Fund development, while the primary responsibility of the development staff, always remains a priority of the chief executive in all nonprofits, becoming a team effort between the two and others on staff.

A job description for a development professional for ATHA, Inc. could be:

The ATHA Director of Development oversees all the organization's fundraising and manages relationships with ATHA, Inc.'s financial partners. Duties include planning fundraising events, interacting with former donors to encourage ongoing contributions, and seeking out opportunities for financial support through grants and sponsorships.

Specifically, the Development Director shall:

- Use sales and spending cycles to guide fundraising campaign decisions.
- Find ideal donors from public and private investors.
- Build upon the respected reputation of ATHA, Inc. to maintain and foster future donations and contributions.
- Construct financial graphs and reports to convey the strategies and needs of ATHA, Inc.
- Build new donor relationships while maintaining existing connections.
- Write content to earn government grants, corporate sponsorships, major donors, and foundation support.

With the expanded boundary of the Anacostia Trails Heritage Area, a Program Manager may also be a necessity. A Program Manager job description could be:

A Program Manager would lead the creation and coordination of ATHA, Inc.'s programming partnerships and communications related to those programs (marketing, social media, etc) including at the Hyattsville Visitor Center and throughout the Heritage Area and region. Ideally, this will be a full-time position with a set salary and benefits. The work often will extend into some weeknight and occur on weekend hours. The Program Manager will be supervised by the Executive Director and may manage one or

more Program Associates. Candidates for this position shall have documented experience in public history, historic interpretation, community advocacy, and/or outdoor education.

Another position already being considered is a Program Associate to be a shared position with Pyramid Atlantic Arts Center. According to the advertised description, this Program Associate will:

...[M]anage ATHA, Inc.'s public programming and outreach efforts under the direction of the Program Manager, including at the Hyattsville Visitor Center, as well as events at partner sites throughout Prince George's County and along the region's trails. This position is available to one or more associates for part-time work, paid hourly, and will require weeknight and weekend hours. The best candidates for this entry-level, flexible position, will be outgoing and organized with a passion for sharing the history and culture of Maryland.

Another partner of ATHA, Inc., Destination Southern Maryland (DSM), is advancing toward a National Heritage Area designation that will overlay parts of Prince George's County within the proposed expansion area for ATHA. This presents a real opportunity to capitalize on the increased benefits that come to communities that are within a national heritage area. Destination Southern Maryland and ATHA, Inc. have discussed the possibility of shared staff that will work to benefit the two organizations within the overlaid region of the state and federal designations. These positions are not yet defined but could include a part-time Program Associate and a part-time Project Associate.

All of these positions will depend on funding availability, and it is anticipated that additional funds will be available from MHAA with the expanded boundary.

Given the labor climate in the nation in a post-pandemic economy, these positions could add considerable expense to ATHA, Inc.'s operating budget and require additional sources of revenue. An estimated average of these positions' salaries could be as follows:

- Director of Development (full-time) - \$65,000 year plus benefits
- Program Manager (full-time) - \$55,000 year plus benefits
- Part-time Program Associate (shared w/ DSM) - \$17,500
- Part-time Project Associate (shared w/ DSM) - \$17,500

Another often overlooked but key position to consider in a growing organization is administrative support. All of the positions listed previously will generate a considerable amount of in-house responsibilities, i.e., filing of reports, tracking of contracts, answering general calls, emails, and other communications, etc. While each of these positions could include these tasks as part of their day-to-day responsibilities, a high-functioning organization like ATHA, Inc. could begin to overwhelm its staff with this minutia and detail that keeps the back of the house running smoothly and efficiently. An administrative staff position, most likely part-time at the outset, could relieve the other professional staff of this work, allowing them to

be spending more of the work time advancing and growing ATHA, Inc. One possibility for this position could also be a virtual administrative assistant – a live person that works remotely through a contracted service. Several online companies provide these services.

### **Future Funding Needs**

With a boundary expansion, it is logical to conclude that the operating costs for ATHA, Inc. will be higher than they would be if the boundary were not expanded. Basic added costs for additional programming or new projects will be immediate, and no doubt paid for by new grants or additional revenues. The need to add additional staff, and when this will occur, will be dictated by the extent to which ATHA, Inc.'s current staff can manage the added workload **and the availability of funds to pay for these positions.**

Sustainability of any nonprofit organization is critical for its ability to carry out projects and programming as it advances its mission. Beyond the recurring municipality fees, annual grants from MHAA, ATHA should consider expanding its funding base in order to further sustain the organization. Without a broad-level of financial support from multiple sources, any disruption to one of the recurring funding sources could cripple ATHA. Mining for other grants from local, state, or federal funds could identify program and project funding opportunities. Additionally, private philanthropic support and corporate foundations, including sponsorships, could provide support for events and programs. Individual donors could also be identified for annual giving or other special solicitations. ATHA should also consider revenue generating programs, like receptive tourism services or other fee-for-service activities. While most revenues generated from these programs could fall within the mission of ATHA and be non-taxable revenues, other activities that generate revenues outside of the mission are permissible and reported on the organization's annual IRS-990 with taxes paid on those net revenues (after expenses) of those activities.

It will be necessary for the executive director and the Managing and Governing Boards to develop a funding sustainability plan that forecasts those grants that could be used to pay for new positions – grants and revenues that may be recurring, to ensure a baseline of support for staffing operations. One place to look at is the revenue generated from the fees paid by towns and municipalities within the heritage area boundary. This amount, which is \$0.25 per person, may need to be adjusted upward to cover inflationary increases since it was established.

The following table, provided by ATHA, Inc., is an estimate of current and future revenues to be collected from the town fees. While the amount of revenue increases, the totals collected alone are insufficient to support ATHA, Inc. in its current operation capacity, let alone with the projected staffing needs. Therefore, ATHA, Inc.'s board and staff will need to strategize on fund development and prioritize those new positions as funds become available. In addition, as a new management plan for the heritage area is contemplated, ATHA, Inc. should consider a fund development capitalization strategy and plan as part of that work.

ATHA, Inc. Fees from Towns and Municipalities:

| Incorporated Municipality                                       | Population                  | Fee Per Resident | Projected ATHA Dues |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------|------------------|---------------------|
| Berwyn Heights                                                  | 3345                        | 0.25             | \$ 836.25           |
| Bladensburg                                                     | 9657                        | 0.25             | \$ 2,414.25         |
| Bowie                                                           | 58329                       | 0.25             | \$ 14,582.25        |
| Brentwood                                                       | 3046                        | 0.25             | \$ 761.50           |
| Capitol Heights*                                                | 4,050                       | 0.25             | \$ 1,012.50         |
| Cheverly                                                        | 6170                        | 0.25             | \$ 1,542.50         |
| College Park                                                    | 34740                       | 0.25             | \$ 8,685.00         |
| Colmar Manor                                                    | 1588                        | 0.25             | \$ 397.00           |
| Cottage City                                                    | 1305                        | 0.25             | \$ 326.25           |
| District Heights**                                              | 5959                        | 0.25             | \$ 1,489.75         |
| Eagle Harbor*                                                   | 67                          | 0.25             | \$ 16.75            |
| Edmonston                                                       | 1617                        | 0.25             | \$ 404.25           |
| Fairmount Heights*                                              | 1528                        | 0.25             | \$ 382.00           |
| Forest Heights*                                                 | 2658                        | 0.25             | \$ 664.50           |
| Glenarden**                                                     | 6402                        | 0.25             | \$ 1,600.50         |
| Greenbelt                                                       | 24921                       | 0.25             | \$ 6,230.25         |
| Hyattsville                                                     | 21187                       | 0.25             | \$ 5,296.75         |
| Landover Hills**                                                | 1815                        | 0.25             | \$ 453.75           |
| Laurel                                                          | 30060                       | 0.25             | \$ 7,515.00         |
| Morningside**                                                   | 1240                        | 0.25             | \$ 310.00           |
| Mount Rainier                                                   | 8333                        | 0.25             | \$ 2,083.25         |
| New Carrollton**                                                | 13715                       | 0.25             | \$ 3,428.75         |
| North Brentwood                                                 | 593                         | 0.25             | \$ 148.25           |
| Riverdale Park                                                  | 7351                        | 0.25             | \$ 1,837.75         |
| Seat Pleasant*                                                  | 4522                        | 0.25             | \$ 1,130.50         |
| University Park                                                 | 2454                        | 0.25             | \$ 613.50           |
| Upper Marlboro*                                                 | 652                         | 0.25             | \$ 163.00           |
|                                                                 |                             |                  |                     |
|                                                                 | <b>Total Potential Dues</b> |                  | <b>\$ 64,326.00</b> |
|                                                                 | <b>Total Current Dues</b>   |                  | <b>\$ 53,674.00</b> |
|                                                                 |                             |                  |                     |
| *Not currently in the Heritage Area but part of draft expansion |                             |                  |                     |
| ** Not currently in Heritage Area and not part of this report   |                             |                  |                     |
|                                                                 |                             |                  |                     |

## Conclusions

ATHA, Inc. is an accomplished heritage area in the State of Maryland, with significant achievements in heritage tourism and development benefiting the communities of Prince George's County. Expanding its boundary to include additional municipalities and towns could bring further benefits to the communities, with increased tourism and tax revenues, more jobs, and greater recognition and publicity for the region. With an eye back to ATHA, Inc.'s strategic plan, these tenets stated in the plan are still relevant and can be further built upon with the work in a new boundary. They are:

- The Anacostia Trails Heritage Area, Inc. is the official management entity for the Anacostia Trails Heritage Area. In that role, ATHA, Inc. is the catalyst for getting things done and ensuring that the vision for the heritage area is achieved.
- ATHA, Inc. is an advocate for historic, cultural, and natural preservation and conservation in order to develop the heritage "product."
- ATHA Inc. is a catalyst in enhancing visitor experience in the heritage area by galvanizing support and resources for capital improvements to connect historic, cultural, and natural sites. It shares information about the benefits within the Heritage Area for economic development and works to ensure that visitors return.
- ATHA, Inc. works with partners to promote the Heritage Area to neighbors, visitors, and to develop and expand new partners.
- The new board structure energizes the municipalities while ensuring stability, expertise, and accountability.
- ATHA, Inc.'s staffing structure is lean enough to be efficient, yet effective enough to coordinate partners to accomplish the mission and vision of the Heritage Area.

# Appendix

**Prince George's County  
Historic, Cultural, Natural Resource  
Site Assessment Form**

**Name of Site:**

**Organization – owner and/or manager:**

**Street Address, City/Zip Code:**

**Primary contact: (Name, phone, email)**

**Others interviewed for this site:**

**Website:**

**BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE SITE AND MAIN STORY THAT IS COMMUNICATED TO VISITORS:**

**IS THE SITE LISTED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES? (Individual, district and/or NHL)**

- Year of designation
- Level of designation

**CHECKLIST**

**Scoring: Total of 41 possible points**

**Scoring Categories:**

1. Interpretive Themes – 3 possible points
2. Heritage Tourism/Visitor Readiness
  - Visitor Services – 15 possible points
  - Visitor Experience – 11 possible points
  - Management – 5 possible points
3. Heritage Area Support Opportunities – 5 possible points
4. Local Government Support – 2 possible points

**Ranking:**

- **34-41 – Meets heritage area criteria and is visitor ready**
- **23-33 – Meets some heritage area criteria and is somewhat visitor ready**
- **22 or fewer – Emerging – Could meet heritage area criteria and become visitor ready**

| Interpretive Themes                                                                                                                        | Possible Points | Points | Comments                 |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------|--------|--------------------------|
| Connects to primary interpretive theme or subtheme<br>(note theme or subtheme in comments)                                                 | 3               |        | <b>Theme or Subtheme</b> |
| <b>Visitor Services</b>                                                                                                                    |                 |        |                          |
| Maintains regular hours/days of operations.<br>(Preference for at least one weekend day – not a requirement.)                              | 3               |        |                          |
| Has adequate signage leading to the attraction.                                                                                            | 2               |        |                          |
| Has adequate signage in front of attraction.<br>(Hours/days of operation; directions to admission area)                                    | 2               |        |                          |
| Offers plenty of parking.<br>(Can accommodate cars and buses)                                                                              | 2               |        |                          |
| Has public restrooms.                                                                                                                      | 2               |        |                          |
| Site is ADA accessible.                                                                                                                    | 2               |        |                          |
| Offers a gift shop.                                                                                                                        | 1               |        |                          |
| Offers food service.                                                                                                                       | 1               |        |                          |
| <b>Visitor Experience</b>                                                                                                                  |                 |        |                          |
| Offers guided tours by trained staff or volunteers <u>OR</u> self-guided tours using brochures/maps, interpretive signs, audio tours, etc. | 3               |        |                          |
| Offers special programs, events or behind-the-scenes tours.                                                                                | 2               |        |                          |
| Site has been preserved and is maintained through active preservation/conservation efforts.                                                | 3               |        |                          |
| Collections (artifacts and/or archival) have been preserved and are maintained through active preservation/conservation efforts.           | 3               |        |                          |

| <b>Management</b>                                                                                                               | <b>Possible Points</b> | <b>Points</b> | <b>Comments</b> |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------|---------------|-----------------|
| Site has staff and volunteers to manage site, accommodate visitors and maintain regular hours of operation.                     | 3                      |               |                 |
| Works to promote the site to reach potential visitors.                                                                          | 2                      |               |                 |
| <b>Heritage Area Support Opportunities</b>                                                                                      |                        |               |                 |
| MHAA benefits – grants, loans, tax credits – could benefit site.                                                                | 2                      |               |                 |
| Site has capacity to match and manage funds.                                                                                    | 3                      |               |                 |
| <b>Local Government Support</b>                                                                                                 |                        |               |                 |
| Site receives (or has received) support from local government(s).<br>(Note in comments if this is one-time or ongoing support.) | 2                      |               |                 |

**Additional notes:**

1. **The vision for the site’s development as a tourism destination.**
2. **How they envision the site participating as a part of a state-certified heritage area.**
3. **Potential grants:**
  - 1) **Rocket (mini) grants from Anacostia Trails**
  - 2) **Grants from MHAA**

## Historic District Assessment Form

**Name of Historic District:**

**City/Community:**

**Primary contact: (Name, phone, email)**

**Others interviewed this district:**

**Website:**

**DESCRIPTION OF THE HISTORIC DISTRICT: (evaluation is aimed primarily at commercial districts but may include residential if appropriate for visitors)**

**WHAT IS THE MAIN THEME FOR THIS HISTORIC DISTRICT (i.e., if there is a walking tour (guided or self-guided), what is the main story or the time period that is communicated to visitors)?**

**IS THE DISTRICT LISTED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES?**

**Scoring: Total of 39 possible points**

**Scoring Categories:**

1. **Interpretive Themes – 3 possible points**
2. **Heritage Tourism – Visitor Readiness**
  - **Visitor Services – 12 possible points**
  - **Visitor Experience – 12 possible points**
  - **Management/Heritage Area Support – 10 possible points**
3. **Local Government Support – 2 possible points**

**Ranking:**

- **34-41 – Meets heritage area criteria and is visitor ready**
- **23-33 – Meets some heritage area criteria and is somewhat visitor ready**
- **22 or fewer – Emerging – Could meet heritage area criteria and become visitor ready**

| <b>Interpretive Themes</b>                                                                                                                                                  | <b>Possible Points</b> | <b>Points</b> | <b>Comments</b> |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------|---------------|-----------------|
| Connects to primary interpretive theme or subtheme.                                                                                                                         | 3                      |               |                 |
| <b>Visitor Services</b>                                                                                                                                                     |                        |               |                 |
| Has adequate highway/roadway signage leading to the historic district.                                                                                                      | 2                      |               |                 |
| Has adequate signage in the historic district. (Directions to parking, directions to visitors center, etc.)                                                                 | 2                      |               |                 |
| Offers plenty of parking.<br>(Can accommodate cars and buses)                                                                                                               | 2                      |               |                 |
| Has public restrooms in the district.                                                                                                                                       | 1                      |               |                 |
| ADA compliant (ramps, curb cuts, accessibility into retail shops, etc.)                                                                                                     | 2                      |               |                 |
| Visitors center is located in the district and is open and staffed on a regular schedule. (Note in comments if visitor center is located in another area of the community.) | 1                      |               |                 |
| Restaurants – variety of restaurants that would appeal to visitors (note in comments if locally owned/local cuisine)                                                        | 2                      |               |                 |

| <b>Visitor Experience</b>                                                                                                  | <b>Possible Points</b> | <b>Points</b> | <b>Comments</b> |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------|---------------|-----------------|
| Cultural landscape – appearance of area – nearby, leading to the district – such as scenic views, riverfronts, farms, etc. | 2                      |               |                 |
| General appearance of historic district– landscaping, maintenance, storefront occupancy                                    | 3                      |               |                 |
| Historic preservation – does the historic district appear to be well preserved or in need of preservation?                 | 3                      |               |                 |
| Retail – variety of shops that would appeal to visitors<br>Self-guided interpretive signage, maps, tour apps, etc.         | 2                      |               |                 |
| Guided tours by trained guides (paid or volunteer)                                                                         | 1                      |               |                 |
| Offers special programs, events or behind-the-scenes tours.                                                                | 1                      |               |                 |

| <b>Management/Organizational – Heritage Area Support Opportunities</b>                                                         |   |  |  |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---|--|--|
| Group(s) advocates for the district and works for its preservation.                                                            | 3 |  |  |
| Group(s) works to promote the site to reach potential visitors.                                                                | 2 |  |  |
| MHAA benefits – grants, loans, tax credits – could benefit historic district                                                   | 2 |  |  |
| Site has capacity to match and manage funds                                                                                    | 3 |  |  |
| <b>Local Government Support</b>                                                                                                |   |  |  |
| Site receives (or has received) support from local government(s)<br>(Note in comments if this is one-time or ongoing support.) | 2 |  |  |

**Additional notes:**

1. The vision for the historic district’s development as a tourism destination.
2. How they envision the historic district participating in a state-certified heritage area.
3. Potential grants:
  - 1) Rocket (mini) grants from Anacostia Trails
  - 2) Grants from MHAA

**Maryland Heritage Area Authority****Grants within the Anacostia Trails Heritage Area**

| <b>Grantee</b>                                                                                              | <b>Year</b> | <b>Project</b>                                                                                          | <b>Award</b>  |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------|
| Prince George's Heritage                                                                                    | 1999        | Anacostia Trailways Heritage Area Management Plan                                                       | \$ 130,000.00 |
| College Park City - University Partnership                                                                  | 2003        | North Gate Park at the Paint Branch                                                                     | \$ 16,600.00  |
| Maryland Humanities                                                                                         | 2003        | History Matters                                                                                         | \$ 40,000.00  |
| City of Hyattsville                                                                                         | 2004        | 4318 Gallatin Street Project                                                                            | \$ 15,000.00  |
| City of College Park                                                                                        | 2005        | Berwyn Commercial District Streetscape Improvements                                                     | \$ 100,000.00 |
| City of College Park                                                                                        | 2005        | Old Town and Calvert Hills Walking Guide                                                                | \$ 15,000.00  |
| Port Towns Community Development Corporation                                                                | 2006        | Port Towns Historic Mural Program<br>Walking Tour Brochure for the Lakeland and Berwyn<br>Neighborhoods | \$ 8,600.00   |
| City of College Park                                                                                        | 2007        | Brentwood Art Center                                                                                    | \$ 22,000.00  |
| Gateway Community Development Corporation<br>Prince George's African-American Museum and<br>Cultural Center | 2007        | Telling the Full Story: Brochures for the PGAAMCC                                                       | \$ 4,350.00   |
| City of College Park                                                                                        | 2008        | Decorative Pedestrian Streetlights                                                                      | \$ 20,000.00  |
| City of Greenbelt                                                                                           | 2008        | Renovation of Old Greenbelt Theatre                                                                     | \$ 80,000.00  |
| Port Towns Community Development Corporation                                                                | 2008        | The Port Towns Murals Program                                                                           | \$ 14,000.00  |
| World Arts Focus                                                                                            | 2008        | Joe's Performance Theatre in Historic Mount Rainier                                                     | \$ 50,000.00  |
| City of College Park                                                                                        | 2009        | Old Town Historic Markers/Street Signs                                                                  | \$ 12,000.00  |
| Port Towns Community Development Corporation                                                                | 2009        | Port Towns Youth Mural Program                                                                          | \$ 27,730.00  |
| City of College Park                                                                                        | 2010        | Lackawanna Streetscape Improvements                                                                     | \$ 100,000.00 |
| Greenbelt Farmers Market                                                                                    | 2010        | Greenbelt Farm and Garden                                                                               | \$ 2,650.00   |
| National Museum of Language                                                                                 | 2010        | Language Adventures on the Anacostia Trail                                                              | \$ 12,350.00  |
| City of College Park                                                                                        | 2011        | ATHA Banner Program Expansion<br>War of 1812: Battle of Bladensburg Mural and Port Towns<br>Mural       | \$ 10,000.00  |
| Port Towns Community Development Corporation                                                                | 2011        | Brentwood Heritage Tour                                                                                 | \$ 24,250.00  |
| Town of Brentwood                                                                                           | 2011        | George Washington House Sustainable Landscape Project                                                   | \$ 29,250.00  |
| State of Maryland Department of Natural Resources                                                           | 2012        | Beyond the Battle: Bladensburg's History in Context                                                     | \$ 37,000.00  |
| Prince George's Heritage                                                                                    | 2013        | Three Sisters: Gardens for All Seasons                                                                  | \$ 25,000.00  |
| Alight Dance Theatre                                                                                        | 2014        | Anacostia Trail Bike Stop                                                                               | \$ 4,900.00   |
| Engaged Community Offshoots                                                                                 | 2014        | Battle of Bladensburg Monument ("undaunted"<br>Monument                                                 | \$ 4,500.00   |
| Aman Memorial Trust                                                                                         | 2014        | Downtown Hyattsville Arts Festival                                                                      | \$ 50,000.00  |
| Hyattsville Community Development Corporation                                                               | 2014        | Lenore Thomas Straus Exhibition                                                                         | \$ 12,000.00  |
| Friends of the Greenbelt Museum                                                                             | 2015        | Berwyn Heights Bikeways                                                                                 | \$ 5,000.00   |
| Town of Berwyn Heights                                                                                      | 2015        | ARTways: Sculptural Signage & Mapping                                                                   | \$ 15,000.00  |
| Hyattsville Community Development Corporation                                                               | 2016        | Hyattsville Arcade Development                                                                          | \$ 40,000.00  |
| Pyramid Atlantic Arts Center                                                                                | 2016        | Establishment of Greenbelt Visitor and Education Center                                                 | \$ 90,000.00  |
| Friends of the Greenbelt Museum                                                                             | 2017        | College Park Aviation Campus Exterior Interpretation &<br>Wayfinding                                    | \$ 50,000.00  |
| Maryland-National Capital Parks and Planning<br>Commission                                                  | 2017        | Belair Stable Museum Replacement Interpretive Panels                                                    | \$ 14,400.00  |
| City of Bowie                                                                                               | 2018        | USPS Air Mail Centennial Exhibit                                                                        | \$ 9,350.00   |
| Field of Firsts Foundation                                                                                  | 2018        | Bostwick House Exterior Envelope Restoration                                                            | \$ 34,000.00  |
| Aman Memorial Trust                                                                                         | 2018        | Prince George's County Civil Rights Trail                                                               | \$ 87,500.00  |
| Anacostia Trails Heritage Area                                                                              | 2019        |                                                                                                         | \$ 40,000.00  |

|                                                             |      |                                                                                                      |                        |
|-------------------------------------------------------------|------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------|
| Anacostia Watershed Society                                 | 2019 | Anacostia Watershed Field Guide & Interpretative Signage                                             | \$ 10,000.00           |
| City of Greenbelt                                           | 2019 | Greenbelt Community Center - Statues                                                                 | \$ 29,500.00           |
| City of Hyattsville                                         | 2019 | Getting Around Town: A Cycling and Wayfinding Plan for Hyattsville                                   | \$ 29,339.00           |
| Pyramid Atlantic Arts Center                                | 2019 | Pyramid Atlantic Arcade Building Facility Improvements                                               | \$ 16,200.00           |
| Town of North Brentwood                                     | 2019 | 4510 41st Avenue, Outdoor Pavilion                                                                   | \$ 25,500.00           |
| Anacostia Trails Heritage Area                              | 2020 | Boundary Feasibility Study                                                                           | \$ 40,000.00           |
| City of Bowie, Maryland                                     | 2020 | 10th Street Bowie Heritage Park                                                                      | \$ 74,660.00           |
| Compass, Inc.                                               | 2020 | Roof Repairs on Mt. Rainier Circle<br>Prince George's County Film Center and Media Arts Literacy Lab | \$ 50,000.00           |
| Friends of Greenbelt Theatre                                | 2020 |                                                                                                      | \$ 75,000.00           |
| Friends of Greenbelt Theatre                                | 2020 | COVID-19 Emergency Operating Support                                                                 | \$ 10,000.00           |
| Laurel Historical Society                                   | 2020 | COVID-19 Emergency Operating Support                                                                 | \$ 10,000.00           |
| Prince George's African-American Museum and Cultural Center | 2020 | COVID-19 Emergency Operating Support                                                                 | \$ 20,000.00           |
| Pyramid Atlantic Arts Center                                | 2020 | COVID-19 Emergency Operating Support                                                                 | \$ 10,000.00           |
| Town of University Park                                     | 2020 | University Park-Adelphi Rd Connectivity Project                                                      | \$ 40,750.00           |
| City of Mount Rainier                                       | 2021 | Rhode Island Avenue Revitalization<br>Phase II of Greenbelt Museum Education and Visitor Center      | \$ 100,000.00          |
| Friends of the Greenbelt Museum                             | 2021 |                                                                                                      | \$ 100,000.00          |
| Laurel Historical Society                                   | 2021 | Building Rehabilitation at the Laurel Museum                                                         | \$ 30,000.00           |
| Neighborhood Design Center                                  | 2021 | Art at the Divide: Windom Road Barrier Reimagined                                                    | \$ 30,500.00           |
| Pyramid Atlantic Arts Center                                | 2021 | Artwork Preservation and 40th Anniversary Exhibition                                                 | \$ 16,000.00           |
| Town of Bladensburg                                         | 2021 | Bostwick Use Feasibility & Market Analysis                                                           | \$ 20,000.00           |
| City of College Park                                        | 2022 | Lakeland Community Heritage Augmented Reality Tour                                                   | \$ 15,000.00           |
| Prince George's County Parks and Recreation Foundation      | 2022 | Garden for the Dinosaurs                                                                             | \$ 21,638.00           |
| Town of North Brentwood                                     | 2022 | North Brentwood Dance Pavillion 4510 41st Avenue                                                     | \$ 55,000.00           |
| World Arts Focus, Inc.                                      | 2022 | Joe's Movement Emporium's Story of Water and Art                                                     | \$ 50,000.00           |
|                                                             |      | <b>Total</b>                                                                                         | <b>\$ 2,231,517.00</b> |