



# Sails Set for Bay Trail

## *Public Open Houses Announced for Trail to Commemorate Voyages of John Smith, Chesapeake Indians, and Natural History of Bay*

More than four centuries ago, Englishman John Smith led several expeditions into the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries, reporting back to his countrymen on the "fruitful and delightsome land." Today his journeys along the Chesapeake have been established as a national historic trail, and the first as a national water trail.

This trail, signed into law in 2006 and administered by the National Park Service, joins a system of national historic, scenic, and recreation trails crossing the country. National historic trails are extended trails that follow as closely as possible the original routes of travel associated with the importance of historic events. Smith's map, journals, and later writings provide a detailed description of his 3,000-mile journey and his interactions with American Indian settlements in the Chesapeake region in 1607-1609.

The trail complements the Chesapeake Bay Gateways and Watertrails Network, a system of more than 160 water trails, parks, museums, wildlife refuges, and other sites. While the John Smith trail will be most fully experienced by watercraft, visitors will also be able to view the trail setting and learn stories from the land.

NPS will work closely with the Gateways Network, Friends of the John Smith



Chesapeake Trail, and with federal, state and local governments, organizations, and other interested groups and individuals. NPS is currently developing a comprehensive management plan and environmental assessment (CMP/EA) for the trail, which will serve as a long-term guide establishing the objectives, policies, and management actions necessary to ensure both the preservation and enjoyment of the trail.

Shaped by extensive public involvement through workshops and consultations, the plan will set the framework for the management and use of the trail, including visitor experiences, public education, resource stewardship, and partnerships with non-profits and communities along the trail.

Vital to the development of the comprehensive management plan are the suggestions and ideas of citizens throughout the Bay area. Open houses will be held throughout the region (see pages 3 and 4 for more details).

## **The Purpose of the Trail**

The purpose of the Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Trail is to commemorate the exploratory voyages of Captain Smith on the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries in 1607-1609; to share knowledge about the American Indian societies and cultures of the seventeenth century; and to interpret the natural history of the Bay (both historic and contemporary). The trail will complement the Chesapeake Bay Gateways and Watertrails Network and provide new opportunities for education, recreation, and heritage tourism in the Chesapeake Bay region. In providing a focus on and appreciation of the Bay's natural and cultural resources, the trail will help to facilitate their protection.

"This new historic water trail will inspire future generations of Americans and visitors to follow Smith's journeys, learn about the roots of our nation, and better understand the contributions of Native Americans who lived within the Bay region. It would also help highlight the Chesapeake Bay's remarkable maritime history, the diversity of its peoples, its historical settlements, and our current efforts to restore and sustain the world's most productive estuary."

— Former Maryland Senator Paul Sarbanes, 2006

Today we dedicate new forms of discovery for our visitors as they explore the wonder of what the Captain called a 'goodly bay.' The Trail will be enjoyed by water, whether paddled, sailed, or motored. It will also be enjoyed from the land at sites all along the shores of the Chesapeake and tributaries."

— Mary Bomar, Director, National Park Service, 2007

## Message from the Superintendent

Dear Friends,

Welcome to the Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Trail. We are delighted to begin developing the trail's comprehensive management plan and environmental assessment. The crafting of this plan will bring together multiple agencies, organizations, and individuals to ensure the trail reflects the diversity of resources the Chesapeake Bay offers.

The planning process will be conducted over the next two years in consultation with federal, state, and local agencies, as well as American Indian communities and interested individuals and organizations in Delaware, Pennsylvania, Maryland, Virginia, and the District of Columbia.

You will have several opportunities during the planning process to provide your thoughts on this important project. Your participation is paramount, and we urge your continued involvement as trail planning and implementation proceed. Together we can determine the future of this historic trail.

John Maounis  
Superintendent  
Captain John Smith Chesapeake  
National Historic Trail  
National Park Service

### The Trail's Advisory Council

The advisory council, appointed by the Secretary of the Interior, consults with the Secretary in the development of the CMP/EA and other matters relating to the trail. The council consists of federal and state agency personnel and representatives of private Bay-related organizations. The council plays an active role in the creation of the management plan, as well as assisting the National Park Service in identifying significant resources and other sites of interest along the 3,000 miles of the Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Trail.

### Friends of the John Smith Chesapeake Trail

The Friends of the John Smith Chesapeake Trail promote public access, conservation, education, and foster local support along the trail. The Friends united many individuals, businesses, non-profit groups, government organizations, and local, county, and state governments to support the legislation to establish the trail. Now the Friends and their partners continue to build support for the trail, and will be engaged throughout the CMP/EA process and implementation of the trail. The organization, a 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation, celebrates the unique history and environment of the Chesapeake Bay and seeks opportunities to conserve lands along the Bay and its tributaries to create a lasting conservation legacy for future generations.

# The Promise of the John Smith Trail

How will visitors experience the trail? What are the opportunities that the trail can provide for heritage tourism, economic development, and Bay stewardship?

There will be journeys on land — walking, bicycling, motoring — and journeys on water—paddling, sailing, and cruising, in craft large and small—providing a National Park quality experience in partnership with state and local governments, non-profit organizations and for-profit organizations. The trail can be an important factor in stewardship of the Chesapeake Bay and stewardship of the spirit.

The trail can provide interpreted and educational experiences of the Bay:

- To learn about Smith, what he saw, and the world of the Chesapeake at the turn of the 17th century, the impact of his journeys, his maps, his published descriptions of the Chesapeake.
- To learn about Chesapeake Indians, how they lived, their complex societies and cultures, their world of the Chesapeake at the turn of the 17th century.
- To learn about the Chesapeake as the Indians lived in it and Smith explored it, its abundance, its richness, and its natural systems.
- To use traditional means and cutting edge mobile and web technology to enable individual, group, and community experiences on the trail
- To engage teachers, students, visitors, and citizen stewards at places all around the bay, at historic sites, at wildlife refuges, at state parks, at public landings, at public and private marinas, wherever the stories can be told and visitors/trail users can get to the Bay, get on the Bay, and experience the Bay's rich heritage.

The trail can provide opportunities to protect the Bay and its resources:

- By identifying and protecting important Native American sites, historic sites



- relevant to Smith and his journeys, and significant landscapes and viewsheds evocative of the seventeenth century.
- By affording opportunities for federal, state, and local governments and non profit partners to enter into agreements, easements, and other means to protect special spaces around the Bay.
- By creating a network of connecting trails on the main stem of the trail and beyond.
- By providing those experiences and opportunities that will build understanding, promote action, and instill a citizen stewardship ethic. By providing opportunities to volunteer and take direct action to protect the Bay.

How can this work? Through a robust trail partnership of the NPS, the Friends of the John Smith Trail, the Chesapeake Bay Gateways and Watertrails Network, the Friends of Chesapeake Gateways, federal and state agencies, communities throughout the region, non-profit organizations, and businesses along the trail. Together we are dedicated to envisioning a future for the Chesapeake that looks to the past for inspiration.

*Join the adventure!*

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“The John Smith trail provides such great opportunities to enjoy and conserve the Chesapeake, to commemorate Smith and his adventures, to appreciate the abundance of the Bay that he saw and the Native Americans who were here before him, while providing new and exciting recreational opportunities for all who wish to join the adventure. The trail will be like a linear national park on the Chesapeake, a conservation legacy for future generations, bringing to life a time 400 years ago.”

— Charlie Stek, Chairman, Friends of the John Smith Chesapeake Trail

# Your Voice Matters

## Public Input and the Planning Process

NPS is currently developing the trail's comprehensive management plan and environmental assessment (CMP/EA). The plan, which will implement the legislation passed by Congress to add the Chesapeake voyages of Captain John Smith to the National Trails System, will provide guidance for the future use of the trail and its related resources.

Wide public participation is needed to ensure that the trail's goals and management plan reflect the desires of those close to the trail as well as the mission of the NPS. In late September and early October, a series of public open houses will be held across the Chesapeake Bay region for gathering ideas from individuals and communities on how the trail should evolve (see page 4 for the workshop dates and locations). NPS staff will be on hand at these informal meetings to respond to questions.

NPS has identified issues related to the trail falling under three main areas: trail administration; the visitor experience and public education; and resource stewardship. Below are just a few examples of the issues.

- How can the trail provide opportunities and experiences that appeal to a broad range of trail users?
- What stories, experiences and natural/historic resources are key to public understanding of the trail?
- How will access to significant trail routes be provided?
- How can the trail foster citizen stewardship of the Bay?
- What facilities are needed for visitors?
- What role can NPS and its partners play in conserving trail sites and resources?

During the open houses, attendees will have the chance to share their ideas, comments, and suggestions. In addition to responding onsite, you are invited to share your comments on the web at <http://parkplanning.nps.gov/cajo>.



The Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Trail traces Smith's several voyages around the Chesapeake Bay. The trail combines the routes of all of these historic voyages, and covers more than 3,000 miles and touches the states of Virginia, Maryland, Delaware, and the District of Columbia. (Map: National Park Service)

### Next Steps for the Trail

After the series of public open houses scheduled for September and October, NPS will develop alternatives that address the issues raised. These alternatives will also be brought to the public in another series of events to be held in early 2009.

A draft of the CMP/EA will be made public in fall 2009. Again, the public will have the opportunity to provide additional ideas and suggestions during a minimum 30-day review period.

A final version of the plan will be prepared and submitted to the NPS Regional Director for approval. NPS expects the plan to be finalized and approved in early 2010 and to guide decisions about the trail over the next 10-15 years.

### TIMELINE

**Fall 2008**  
Public Open Houses

**Spring 2009**  
Public Alternatives Open Houses

**Fall 2009**  
Draft CMP/EA distributed for public comment

**Early 2010**  
CMP/EA approved by NPS Regional Director



**National Park Service**  
**U.S. Department of the Interior**

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## Planning Schedule Announced Sessions at Multiple Locations Around Bay

Public open houses have been scheduled for the fall of 2008. For more information about these events, please visit the Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Trail website at [www.nps.gov/cajo](http://www.nps.gov/cajo) or call Christine Lucero at 757-898-2432.

**September 23, 2008**

Historic Jamestowne Visitor Center  
 1368 Colonial Parkway  
 Jamestown, VA 23081  
 6 – 8 pm

**September 24, 2008**

Deltaville Community Center  
 17147 General Puller Highway  
 Deltaville, VA 23043  
 6 – 8 pm

**September 25, 2008**

Indigo Landing Restaurant  
 1 Marina Drive  
 Alexandria, VA 22314  
 6:30 – 8:30 pm

**September 30, 2008**

Fort McHenry National Monument and  
 Historic Shrine Visitor Center  
 2400 East Fort Ave  
 Baltimore, MD 21230  
 6 – 8 pm

**October 1, 2008**

Seaford City Hall  
 414 High Street  
 Seaford, DE 19973  
 6 – 8 pm

**October 2, 2008**

Havre de Grace Maritime Museum  
 100 Lafayette St  
 Havre De Grace, MD 21078  
 6 – 8 pm

**October 7, 2008**

Anheuser-Busch Coastal Research Center  
 (University of Virginia)  
 6364 Cliff Road (off Crumb Hill Road)  
 Cape Charles, VA 23310  
 6 – 8 pm

**October 8, 2008**

Chesapeake Bay Maritime Museum  
 213 North Talbot Street  
 St. Michaels, MD 21663  
 6 – 8 pm



This newsletter was produced in connection with the Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Trail Comprehensive Management Plan and Environmental Assessment.

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The National Park Service coordinates the Chesapeake Bay Gateways and Watertrails Network and serves as the administrator for the Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Trail and the National Heritage Areas of the Northeast Region.

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