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## National Park Service Chesapeake Bay



October 2014

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all talk with and listen  
to more people.

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### Thank you, NOAA!

In August, our own Buddy Bison got a first-hand look at the Goose's Reef buoy in [NOAA's Chesapeake Bay Interpretive Buoy System](#). The buoys provide real time wind and water conditions, scientific data, and interpretation on the John Smith Trail and the Star-Spangled Banner Trail. Lucky buffalo !



### NPS Chesapeake Participates in National Workshop on Large Landscape Conservation



NPS Chesapeake Bay staff is participating in the [National Workshop on Large Landscape Conservation](#) in Washington DC October 23 and 24. This forum is being held in the Chesapeake region for the first time, and brings together conservation practitioners and policy makers from across North America.

Our partner and Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Trail partner -- the [Chesapeake Conservancy](#) -- hosts the forum and with NPS will be showcasing the work we have been doing on large landscape conservation in the Chesapeake watershed. NPS staff will participate in panel discussions on collaborative conservation, education, digital innovations, and indigenous cultural landscapes.

Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewell will be the keynote speaker. The workshop will be at the Ronald Reagan Building and Convention Center in Washington, DC.

The Chesapeake Conservancy is looking for volunteers to work at the event. Volunteers are asked to work at least one full day on either Thursday or Friday, and for help preparing on Wednesday the 22nd from 5:00 - 7:00. Interested? Contact Christopher Maxwell at [CMaxwell@ChesapeakeConservancy.org](mailto:CMaxwell@ChesapeakeConservancy.org).

All Sensory Trail at Patapsco Valley State Park

In the summer of 2013, NPS Chesapeake worked with Anne Arundel County's Lake Waterford Park to build an All Sensory Trail for people of all abilities to enjoy. The project was a success, and a real eye-opener for future projects.

In summer 2014, NPS Chesapeake Bay Youth Program Manager Lina Oliveros discovered a source of funding to implement universal accessibility at a local park. NPS was able to leverage funding through a [National Park Foundation](#) Active Trails grant that covered all of the trail's construction expenses and outreach. In addition, NPS provided youth crew funding, project management, and technical assistance.

The Maryland Department of Natural Resources volunteered to implement a project at Patapsco Valley State Park outside of Baltimore, MD that would be modeled on the work accomplished at Lake Waterford Park.

Maryland DNR's [Conservation Jobs Corps](#) participants built the trail in the Hilton area of Patapsco Valley State Park under the direction of NPS-funded intern Chassity Seymour. Accessible for people of all abilities, the [Patapsco Valley State Park All Sensory Trail](#) provides an experience in nature where all of one's senses can play. The trail includes a guide rope to walk or roll the ADA accessible tenth of a mile loop. Herbs and native plants in gardens are within reach for touching. Bird houses lure the sounds of wildlife, while drums and chimes give trail users a place to experiment with their own music.

Chassity worked with the [Maryland School for the Blind](#) whose staff and students experimented with the trail and offered recommendations for design improvements. "Throughout the trail's construction, continued involvement and consultation with the Maryland School for the Blind was crucial," said Chassity Seymour, Project Coordinator, Maryland Department of Natural Resources. "Students with visual impairments and developmental disabilities experienced and tested the trail, providing great feedback and ideas to make the trail more accessible."

The trail's ribbon cutting is today, October 16, from 3:00 to 5:00 and all are welcome to enjoy!

Click through to see a preview of the [soon-to-be-finished video](#) about the making of the trail.



A student from the Maryland School for the Blind tests the new All Sensory Trail (photo Maryland Department of Natural Resources).

## Public Access Projects Receive Funding from NPS Chesapeake Bay

Eight projects throughout the Chesapeake Bay watershed received funding for public access and outdoor recreation opportunities along the [Captain John Smith Chesapeake](#) and [Star-Spangled Banner](#) national historic trails. Each project is leveraged by the partner through additional means such as matching funds, in-kind services, and volunteer hours.

### Cat Point Creek Access

Partner: Menokin Foundation - Warsaw, VA

Amount: \$99,000

This project on Cat Point Creek will allow visitors, including those with physical limitations, to drive to a drop-off area at the waterfront, and provide a turn-around and extra parking. The area has been identified as an indigenous cultural landscape, retaining the natural and cultural resources that supported the lifeways of American Indians at the time Captain John Smith explored the Rappahannock River in 1609.

### Dutch Gap and Henricus Access

Partner: Chesterfield County Parks and Recreation Department - Chesterfield, VA

Amount: \$125,000

At the completion of this project, visitors to Dutch Gap Conservation Area and Henricus Historical Park will have additional access to the Relic River Marsh Area on the James River via an elevated boardwalk and floating boardwalks to a small craft launching area, an observation platform, and a portage path.

### Front Street Access to the West Branch of the Susquehanna River

Partner: Borough of Jersey Shore - Jersey Shore, PA

Amount: \$108,700

With the completion of this project, residents and visitors will have a new boat launch along Front Street including a new access road, a viewing area, native plantings and a rain garden.



Officials gather on October 3rd for a ground-breaking ceremony at Jersey Shore Borough on the West Branch of the Susquehanna River. Public amenities will include ADA compliant paddling access.

### Pitts Landing Paddle Craft Facility on the Pocomoke River

Partner: Accomack County - Accomac, VA

Amount: \$49,000

The existing public access boat ramp and wharf at Pitts Landing will be greatly improved with an ADA accessible paddle craft launch and retrieval facility, additional parking, and ADA compliant restroom facilities.

### McVeytown Access to the Juniata River

Partner: Mifflin County Planning and Development Department - Lewistown, PA

Amount: \$125,000

When complete, the Juniata River boat access project will include an ADA accessible boat ramp and parking, and ADA compliant stabilized fishing area and picnic area. The addition of public access in McVeytown plugs a 22 mile gap in river access between Granville Township and Newton Hamilton Borough.

