

NANTICOKE RIVER DELAWARE

Project Name: Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Trail

Project Type:

- Acquisition/Easement/Protection
- Education
- Recreation (River Connecting Trail)



Project Description: The Nanticoke River is a major tributary of the Chesapeake Bay on the Delmarva Peninsula. A 26-mile water trail running along the River was set aside in July 2011 by the State of Delaware and Federal officials, contiguous with a 37-mile water trail extending through Maryland to the Chesapeake Bay. This project will further the goals of the water trail by identifying additional public access points and extending the reach of the Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Trail to the Upper Nanticoke.

The Upper Nanticoke River Connector Trail is closely associated with Captain John Smith's exploration of the Bay and its tributaries. It provides tremendous recreation and tourism opportunities and adds additional points of public access to the Captain John Smith National Historic Trail. The connecting trail is nationally significant because of its association with our Nation's early exploration and settlement; American Indian heritage; commerce and trade; and for its outstanding natural and recreational resources. Lastly, it has a wealth of natural, cultural, and recreational features, which meet the NPS criteria described in the Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Trail comprehensive management plan.

Lead Federal Agencies:

- National Park Service

Non-Federal Partners:

- Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control
- Chesapeake Conservancy

Outcomes for 2012:

- Obtain River Connecting Trail designation
- Install trail signage
- Launch National Park Service Chesapeake Application with John Smith Trail component
- Complete management plan and land protection plan for entire Captain John Smith trail
- Identify additional sites for boating access
- Design of new public access



National Park Service