

Prince William County
TRAILS AND BLUEWAYS COUNCIL
 Advisors to the Board of County Supervisors

Meeting Minutes
 July 23, 2024; 6:30 PM
 Approved by the T&BC on August 27, 2024

Attendance

District	Appointee	Present (in person)	Present (virtual)	Absent
At Large	Amy Latalladi-Fulton			✓
	Bill McCarty			✓
Brentsville	Liz Cronauer	✓		
	Catherine O'Connor	✓		
Coles	Mike DePue	✓		
	Joe Marshall	✓		
Gainesville	Duane Martin	✓		
	Ken Johnson		✓	
Neabsco	Jason Williams			✓
	Rich Wilson	✓		
Occoquan	Eileen Sheridan	✓		
	Neil Nelson	✓		
Potomac	Steven Cover	✓		
	Bill Selfridge			✓
Woodbridge	David Brickley	✓		
	Lynda Silverstrand	✓		

Staff persons David Kroeger, Patti Pakkala, and DPR Deputy Director Janet Bartnik were present. Ed DeLeon and Amarjit Riat attended virtually.

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Liz Cronauer at 6:33 PM.

Pledge of Allegiance

Administrative:

- Resolution 24-14 allowing virtual attendance by Ken Johnson was approved through a motion by David and seconded by Duane.
- June 25, 2024, T&BC minutes were approved through a motion by Lynda and seconded by David.
- July 5 Site Visit Notes were approved through a motion by Neil and seconded by Steven.
- July 17 PHNST Subcommittee Notes were approved through a motion by Eileen and seconded by David.
- Ken Johnson was introduced as the new T&BC member from the Gainesville district. He is currently living in Haymarket after spending four decades in Manassas. While in Manassas, he participated in its Recreation and Parks Committee and then as a Planning Commissioner and creating the Manassas Bike and Trail Plan. He brings a strong background in land use and enjoys biking. The T&BC is now at full strength (16 positions filled) for the first time in several years.
- Following up on discussions from the June T&BC meeting, a resolution was brought forward asking the Board of Supervisors to review Proffer legislation with our local state legislators in order to achieve a better balance between contributions by developers and impacts of new populations on trails, parks and open space in Prince William County. The resolution (Res. 24-15) was discussed, slightly edited and then approved unanimously among the 12 T&BC members present.

Citizen's Time.

- There were no citizens present at the meeting.

County Agency Representatives

PWC Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR). Janet Bartnik, Patti Pakkala, David Kroeger, Ed DeLeon

- Patti reported that DPR had hired a new principal planner, Robert Boyd. She is hopeful the increased staff will contribute to more progress on trails work.
- Ed DeLeon (project manager) and Amarjit Riat (projects division chief), reported on progress on the studies and design of the Powell's Crossing project. A few slides highlighting the features under consideration were shown. Ed promised to provide an early copy of the three concepts under consideration in the next week or so to the T&BC for comments and then further discussion at the August 20 PHNST meeting and September 24 T&BC meeting. The goal is to select one concept to take forward to public stakeholder meetings in the Fall.

PWC Transportation.

- No Report.

PWC Planning.

- No Report.

Community Development Applications

- No applications were reviewed.
-

Presentations/Reports.

Interesting Sidewalks, Janet Bartnik, Mike McCormack

- Janet introduced Mike McCormack, her former boss in Colorado, who described their efforts to make paths to school more interesting. They added single track sidewalks in parallel to normal sidewalks that could be transited for a more interesting and exciting ride. This led to more kids bicycling to school than walking in Eagle, Colorado. The approach has caught on in other towns.
- Janet then showed a video supplied by Rich from Bentonville, Arkansas showing the paved and armored Masterpiece mountain bike trails throughout that town. These are supported by funding from Walmart but argue that paved trails pay for themselves in 4 years versus yearly maintenance.
- The moral of these examples was to look for ways to add interest and fun to the trails we advocate for to draw more users outside and beyond their simple mobility needs.

Organization Representatives' Time

Greater Prince William Trails Coalition (GPWTC). Eileen Sheridan

- The NVRC Fall Trails Summit will be spread over two days in September. A virtual half-day meeting will take place on September 5th from 10 AM to 1 PM and an in-person half-day meeting will take place on September 9th at Lubber Run Community Center in Arlington from 9:30 PM to 1 PM. A one-page registration sheet with a QR code is attached. Or one can register at www.novaregion.org/1595/2024-Recreational-Trails-Summit.

Prince William Trails & Streams Coalition (PWTSC).

- No report.

Mid Atlantic Off-Road Enthusiasts (MORE).

- No report

Trails Keepers. Catherine O'Connor

- No report

Members' Time:

- The meeting adjourned to a work session. Janet provided an updated summary of our plan with discussion points prior to the meeting. (attached)
- Each member brought forward observations, comments and ideas on how to move forward on our plans. Some of the ideas discussed included:
 - T&BC is not well-known in the county – need more public exposure.
 - There is no “Top 10” list of trails in Prince William County – would help publicize trails and parks.
 - T&BC needs to make material available for new T&BC members that include documents and explain acronyms.
 - \$1M insurance requirement in Volunteer Stewardship Agreement is a stumbling block.
 - Need to build on the success of the Occoquan Greenway in its working with and support to the Lake Ridge HOA. This needs to be duplicated throughout the county when working on new trails, easements, and agreements.
 - Data Centers pose major challenges since they take prime open space but don't result in people needing trails.

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- Blueways must get more focus.
- T&BC members need to work together by district to create priority lists of SUPs, recreational trails and blueways. These will enable targeted planning and funding.
- While district priorities are key, the TBC also needs to look at overall County trail systems to get the big picture.
- Visual high-level schedules for incomplete or proposed trails will provide tools for targeting and planning trail efforts and funding. CIP Funding plans should now focus over 6 years with increasing asks as progress is made. For example, finish the connection of Powell's Creek Trail to Route 1 would be one segment of the Powell's Creek Greenway trail.

Meeting Recap:

- None

Next meeting agenda items:

- August meeting agenda items should be forwarded to Liz, Amy, or Joe by August 12th.
- We expect to hear an update on the Broad Run Greenway from David K. and Patti.
- We also expect to hear the PHNST subcommittee's observations on the Powell Creek concepts.
- Having prioritized lists by districts will enable pulling together CIP funding requests at the meeting.

Next meetings:

- At Hellwig: Full T&BC – August 27th at 6:30 PM.
- At Hellwig: PHNST S/C – August 20th at 2 PM.

Adjourn: The meeting adjourned at 9:12 PM based on motion by Lynda, seconded by Neil.



Meeting Date:	July 23, 2024
Agenda Title:	GOALS PROGRESS UPDATE
Requested Action:	Consider progress on Council goals and provide feedback
Staff Lead:	Janet Bartnik, Deputy Director

BACKGROUND

At its December 2023 meeting, the Trails and Blueways Council (TBC) created a set of goals for 2024. Goals were bucketed and a work plan to address the goals was developed in January. TBC meeting agendas have attempted to make progress on the goals. For the July 2024 work session, TBC members are asked to reflect on the goals and progress and provide input and feedback that will guide agenda planning for the remainder of the calendar year.

DISCUSSION

The TBC’s goals for 2024, with progress and staff reflection, are:

- 1. Explore, collect, and warehouse information about existing community trails and other “low-hanging fruit” that could be added to the county trail system without significant costs or effort. Find ways to utilize volunteers to make some of these realities. (A comprehensive county-wide trails plan, unconstrained)**

We’ve explored and mapped many opportunities for future trails on First Friday Hikes with the Greater Prince William Trails Coalition. Staff provided several Greenway trail presentations as GIS data was confirmed via field work in an effort to get all TBC members comfortable with trails outside their respective districts. We’ve invested a great deal of effort into collecting information on all NVRC’s identified ‘gaps’ in the PHNST as it passes through Prince William County. Staff continues to confirm trail and easement locations are accurately documented in the County’s GIS system in preparation for the development of the Countywide Trails Plan.

A stewardship agreement has been developed and approved for use administratively that allows for volunteer groups to work cooperatively with DPR’s Maintenance and Operations Trails Crew to build trails when they are able to maintain what is built.

While staff continues to make progress on funded trail development projects (shared use paths, PHNST segments, Metz Wetland Boardwalk, Neabsco Greenway, Broad Run Greenway, etc), volunteers have added both new trail (Andrew Leitch Park, Long Park) and new trail opportunities (Braemar Park Loop) to Prince William County’s natural surface trail inventory. This volunteer stewardship initiative isn’t without challenges – it is limited to natural surface trails, involves significant ongoing commitment from volunteers, and is a new system with kinks to be worked out. It is, however, showing promise.

Reflection: Is there more community trail data that you feel you need to assist you in serving the TBC’s purpose?

2. Interface with other groups to connect our trails and planned trails to Fairfax County, Stafford County, Loudoun County, and the National Capital Region.

Connections with nonprofit organizations have strengthened as both TBC members and staff regularly attend organization meetings such as GPWTC, NVRC, Fredericksburg Area MPO-CTAC, and more. Connections with agencies, such as VDOT, PWW (formerly PWCSA), Stafford County, and others exist and/or are developing. A list of potential connecting groups was drafted in June with input from staff and the TBC.

This list needs both further development and finalization and attention to the relationships it proposes. As well, an earlier effort to identify potential connections relating to the “where” began and will need more definition as the Countywide Trails Plan progresses.

3. Encourage volunteer efforts for maintaining more PWC trails using new PWC approved methodology.

As reported above, a stewardship agreement has been developed and approved for use administratively. Volunteers have added both new trails (Andrew Leitch Park, Long Park) and new trail opportunities (Braemar Park Loop) to Prince William County’s natural surface trail inventory.

Reflection: Is the existing stewardship agreement working well for the organizations using it? Are there specific opportunities with new groups that should be explored?

4. Support and encourage PWC CIP additions for trails outside of bonds and additional trail maintenance funds.

Advocacy efforts by the TBC and groups like the GPWTC resulted in the addition of funding for both capital and operating support for trails to the County’s FY25 budget. Staff notes that next steps include the identification of priority trails projects (of all types) by District. This identification will help with the development of the Countywide Trails Plan and Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) projects.

Reflection: Can you commit to working with your District teammate to identify and prioritize trails projects in your magisterial district?

5. Finish arranging plans and approaches for gaps in PHNST. Establish a traceable schedule to track in future years completing in 2031.

The FLAP grant-funded gap analysis study is just kicking off. Since that is not yet complete, there are a few segments without formal alignments, including those under review by the consultants and the Potomac Shores to Dumfries segment. A schedule can be developed although it would be aspirational as necessary funding cannot be guaranteed.

6. Encourage and track changes and updates to the Occoquan Greenway culminating in completion of this route from McCoart to Occoquan in 2025.

The Occoquan Greenway is progressing more swiftly as design is finalized. Staff will be bidding Segments 2 and 6 together shortly. Route changes are being tracked by staff.

Reflection: With this moving along well, what level of attention does the TBC require of this in terms of meeting agenda time?

7. **Inventory and identify gaps and approaches toward completion of the Broad Run Greenway.**
8. **Inventory and identify gaps and approaches toward completion of the Neabsco Creek Greenway.**
9. **Inventory and identify gaps and approaches toward completion of the Catharpin Creek Greenway.**
10. **Inventory and identify gaps and approaches toward completion of the Powells Creek Greenway.**
11. **Inventory and identify gaps and approaches toward completion of a Bull Run Loop trail in concert with Fairfax County.**

Schedule of presentations covering inventory, alignment, and gaps for the following Greenways:

- Broad Run Greenway (partial presentation) – held October 2023
- Catharpin Greenway – held February 2024
- Powell's Creek Greenway – held March 2024
- Neabsco Greenway – held April 2024
- Bull Run Loop – TBD
- Broad Run Greenway (comprehensive presentation) – tentatively targeting August 2024

12. Develop maps, plans, and approaches for one or more blueways in the county.

Mike DePue provided a presentation of blueways opportunities and challenges last August. Staff is getting up to speed on these opportunities. Staff plans to incorporate this into the Countywide Trails Plan.

13. Develop two prioritized lists for each district of recreational trails and bike/pedestrian trails. Get buy-in from each district's supervisor for the list.

In alignment with Goal 4 - Staff notes that next steps include the identification of priority trails projects (of all types) by District. This identification will help with the development of the Countywide Trails Plan and Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) projects.

Reflection: Can you commit to working with your District teammate to identify and prioritize trails projects in your magisterial district?

14. Encourage at least one trails or blueways ribbon cutting in each district.

A ribbon cutting was celebrated for the Occoquan Greenway segment 3 bridge (Occoquan). A ceremony for Brentsville Road / Dumfries Road will be held atop the pedestrian bridge crossing over 234 on July 25 (Coles). A groundbreaking for Featherstone's PHNST segment is about to be scheduled (Woodbridge).

15. Publicity / awareness of the TBC and its work

16. Communication plan to keep Supervisors updated – formalize

Eileen Sheridan drafted a communications plan adopted by the TBC in February. TBC members are included in capital project updates emailed to their respective Supervisors.

Reflection: Is there more support that you require from staff to be able to communicate effectively with your Supervisor?

17. Get more representation from the Potomac District especially since the potential for a park at cockpit point is coming closer

There are two Council representatives appointed to represent the Potomac District.

18. More signage / standardized signage

Two types of signs have been discussed in TBC meetings – MTB signs at Long Park and interpretive trail signs at Discovery Trail. Staff desires to wrap up the Park Entry Sign Refresh Project and get the DPR standards manual more complete in order to tackle this objective.

19. Boat launch at Sinclair Mill site (with different language).

Dove's Landing Cultural and Natural Resources Park is now under design. Design will focus on all elements of the existing Dove's Landing Park and Sinclair Mill site. The Preserve at Long Branch is not included since its development is the responsibility of the developer. Improvements will be made in alignment with Board direction and as funding becomes available.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

For information and discussion.

STAFF CONTACT INFORMATION

Janet Bartnik | (703) 792-3918

JBartnik@pwcgov.org

Prince William County
TRAILS AND BLUEWAYS COUNCIL

Advisors to the Board of County Supervisors

MOTION: David Brickley

July 23, 2024

Regular Meeting

Res. No. 24-14

SECOND: Duane Martin

RE: APPROVE KEN JOHNSON'S REQUEST TO PARTICIPATE REMOTELY THROUGH ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATION MEANS

ACTION:

WHEREAS, the Prince William County Trails and Blueways Council adopted a policy pursuant to Section 2.2-3708.2, VA Code Ann., to allow for remote participation by Members of the Council, and

WHEREAS, in accordance with the Council's policy, Ken Johnson notified the Chair that they (the member) are requesting permission from the Council to electronically participate at the Council's May 28, 2024, Meeting; and

WHEREAS, the member certified (*Check A or B*);

- A. _____ the Member is unable to attend the meeting due to (i) a temporary or permanent disability or other medical condition that prevents the Member's physical attendance or (ii) a family member's medical condition that requires the member to provide care for such family member, thereby preventing the member's physical attendance; OR
- B. XXX the Member is unable to attend the meeting due to the following specifically identified personal matter: (specify) out of town

AND the Member has not already participated electronically due to a personal reason in excess of two meetings this calendar year or 25 percent of the meetings held per calendar year rounded up to the next whole number, whichever is greater; and

WHEREAS, the remote location from which the Member plans to electronically participate is his residence; and this remote location will/will not (*underline one*) be open to the public; and

WHEREAS the Member verifies that the Member's participation in any closed session of the meeting shall remain confidential and not be disclosed to any unauthorized persons or entities; and

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WHEREAS, pursuant to the Council's policy, a request for electronic participation from a remote location shall be approved unless participation violates the Council's policy or any provisions of the Virginia Freedom of Information Act;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Prince William County Trails and Blueways Council does approve the request to participate in the meeting through electronic communication means in accordance with the Council's policy; a quorum of the Council was physically assembled at one primary or central meeting location; and arrangements were made for the voice of the Member to be heard by all persons at the primary or central meeting location.

Votes:

Ayes: 10

Nays: 0

Absent from Vote: 0

Absent from Meeting: 6

SIGNED:



Prince William Trails and Blueways Council chair

Prince William County
TRAILS AND BLUEWAYS COUNCIL

Advisors to the Board of County Supervisors

MOTION: Steven Cover

July 23, 2024

SECOND: Duane Martin

Regular Meeting

Res. No. 24-15

RE: DEVELOPER PROFFER INCONSISTENCY FOR RECREATIONAL TRAILS, PARKS, AND OPEN SPACE

ACTION:

WHEREAS, The County has received applications for a significant number of new residential developments based upon changes that were approved in the 2023 update to the Land Use Chapter of the Prince William County Comprehensive Plan, and

WHEREAS, monetary contributions for Parks and Open Space to provide recreational facilities for the new residents of new subdivisions are being calculated in an inconsistent manner using criteria generated by the individual developer rather than by the county or state, resulting in widely varying contributions, or the conclusion by the applicant that no contribution at all is necessary to mitigate the impact of the new residents in an area, and

WHEREAS, this problem affects monetary contributions to Recreational Trails, Parks, and Open Space, and potentially leaves the funding for resources to provide these public services to substantial numbers of new residents totally up to the existing taxpayers, which could eventually result in increases in taxes or a substantial decrease in the quality and availability of public services, and

WHEREAS, the legal basis for this inconsistency appears to be based upon the applicants' individual interpretation of state law: Section 15.2-2303.4 of the Code of Virginia,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Trails and Blueways Council recommends that the County's Board of Supervisors requests interpretation by state lawmakers and possible changes to the above referenced law to ensure that there is a balance between contributions by developers and the impacts of the new population on Parks and Open Space and other public services.

Votes:

Ayes: 12

Nays: 0

Absent from Vote: 0

Absent from Meeting: 4

For Information:

County Attorney

SIGNED: 
Prince William Trails and Blueways Council chair



**REGISTRATION IS
NOW OPEN!**

**SEPT 5 AND 9
2024**

2024 NORTHERN VIRGINIA RECREATIONAL TRAILS SUMMIT

Join the Northern Virginia Regional Commission and partner organizations for the third annual Recreational Trails Summit. This summit will focus on the planning and development of the region's trails and will be comprised of two, half-day events. Day 1 will be held virtually and Day 2 will be held in-person at the Lubber Run Community Center in Arlington, VA. Both sessions are open to all government entities, advocates, trail users, and community members.

**USE THE QR CODE BELOW TO SIGN UP FOR DAY 1 AND/OR DAY 2
OF THE SUMMIT.**



**SCAN TO LEARN MORE
AND REGISTER**

Trails Workshop

Joe Marshall

Schedule Concept

- Take a proposed or partially-completed trail
- Break into segments according to status (and size if needed)
- Give each segment a status or combined status:
 - Proposed
 - In CIP or Grant or otherwise Funded Land/Easement(s) Obtained
 - Design Construction
 - Completed Maintained - group
- Estimate time to reach Next State and End State
- Estimate order of magnitude cost to reach Next State and End State
- Layout Status on Graphic of Trail – connect segments to CIP Table
- Could be used to populate CIP requests and track recreational trails such as Greenways and PHNST
- This should help show whether something can be accomplished and how – is 2031 doable for some or all of the PHNST gaps?

Coles District

- Shared Use Paths
 - Mostly tied to transportation projects and rezonings
 - Planned SUPs create a good network across district
 - Possible Priorities (no coordination with others yet)
 - Rt. 234 from Brentsville to Rt. 28 (and beyond in other districts)
 - Hoadly Road – Rt. 234 to Spriggs Road (and beyond in other districts)
 - Rt. 28 from Manassas Park to Fairfax County (connects to Fairfax)
 - Brentsville Road – Rt. 234 to Lucasville (access to Doves Landing Park)
- Recreational Trails – Focus on Greenways and Blueways
 - Doves Landing eastern and Sinclair Mill Trails to Preserve at Long Branch
 - Ben Lomond Park to Godwin Drive along Flat Branch
 - Powell’s Creek Greenway – Landfill to Spriggs
 - Broad Run Greenway from Dove’s Landing
 - No other planned trails in Coles shown on County Mapper – wait for Trails Plan
- Blueways
 - Boat launches at Doves Landing and Sinclair Mill
 - Boat launch at Rt.234 below dam
 - Boat launch at Rt. 294 crossing of Occoquan
 - Boat launch along Bull Run near Rt. 28