


City of Alexandria, Virginia

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2-22-05

MEMORANDUM

DATE: FEBRUARY 17, 2005
TO: THE HONORABLE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF CITY COUNCIL
FROM: JAMES K. HARTMANN, CITY MANAGER 
SUBJECT: CONSIDERATION OF AN APPLICATION TO THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE TO DESIGNATE THE ALEXANDRIA HERITAGE TRAIL AS A SEGMENT OF THE POTOMAC HERITAGE NATIONAL SCENIC TRAIL SYSTEM

ISSUE: Application to the National Park Service to designate the Alexandria Heritage Trail as a segment of the Potomac Heritage National Scenic Trail system.

RECOMMENDATION: That City Council:

- (1) Approve the application from the City of Alexandria to the National Park Service to designate the Alexandria Heritage Trail as a segment of the Potomac National Scenic Trail System; and
- (2) Authorize the City Manager to execute all necessary documents that may be required with the application and letter of support (Attachment 1).

DISCUSSION: The Potomac Heritage National Scenic Trail (PHNST), a part of the National Trail System administered by the National Park Service, provides outdoor recreation combined with educational opportunities through a developing network of existing, planned, and proposed corridors located between the Chesapeake Bay and the Allegheny Highlands in western Pennsylvania. The existing 17-mile Mount Vernon Trail is a designated segment of the PHNST and 4.3 miles of the trail runs through the City of Alexandria, along areas of the Potomac River and Old Town (Attachment 2).

The Alexandria Heritage Trail (AHT) is a 23-mile route of designated on-street and off-street trails connecting over 50 historically significant cultural, archeological, and natural places throughout the City of Alexandria (Attachment 3a & 3b). These sites have been documented in the publication titled, *Walk and Bike the Alexandria Heritage Trail* by City Archaeologist Pamela J. Cressey. These places provide valuable insight into the rich history of Alexandria while incorporating outdoor recreation.

Local jurisdictions seeking PHNST designation must meet guidelines relating to natural, historical, and cultural resources, recreational opportunities in the form of non-motorized travel, quality of life, trail and corridor connectivity, educational opportunities, and trail management. The Alexandria Heritage Trail meets these guidelines. Historic sites have been identified and documented by Alexandria Archaeology. The trail is an interconnected network of routes that cover a large portion of existing City designated bike routes. These routes are maintained by the City's Department of Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities and Department of Transportation and Environmental Services. The potential benefits of a PHNST designation include:

- Increased opportunities to develop routes and outdoor educational opportunities in coordination with local jurisdictions, citizen groups and state and federal land managers;
- Use of the PHNST marker (logo) in marketing, information and educational programs;
- Priority consideration for funds to support PHNST-related projects and partners through the NPS Challenge Cost-Share program; and
- Technical assistance with trail corridor planning, project development and implementation, fund-raising, interpretive planning and educational programming, project development, marketing and promotion, communications and public involvement, and heritage tourism projects.

With designation, the City can develop additional educational and interpretive programming, marketing, and heritage tourism opportunities. This application is in concert with the City Council's strategic plan goals, Goal #4 "A strong tourism development strategy."

FISCAL IMPACT: There is no fiscal impact to the City to have the Alexandria Heritage Trail designated as a segment of the Potomac Heritage Trail system as the City has taken the necessary steps to achieve designation. The National Park Service has provided the City with a grant of \$8,000 in order for six Heritage Trail signs to be installed in waterfront area parks. Plans to sign more of the Trail across the City will have a fiscal impact on the City when undertaken. The Heritage Trail signs are contemplated to be part of the overall multi-year comprehensive City-wide sign program. This comprehensive sign program will be considered by Council as part of the upcoming FY 2006 budget process.

ATTACHMENTS:

- Attachment 1. Letter of Support
- Attachment 2. Map of Mt. Vernon Trail
- Attachment 3a. Map of Alexandria Heritage Trail
- Attachment 3b. Map of Alexandria Heritage Trail Old Town Alexandria

STAFF:

- Kirk Kincannon, Director, Department of Recreation, Parks & Cultural Activities
- Jean Federico, Director, Office of Historic Alexandria
- Aimee Vosper, Landscape Architect Supervisor, Department of Recreation, Parks & Cultural Activities
- Pam Cressey, City Archaeologist, Office of Historic Alexandria, Alexandria Archaeology
- Judy Lo, Assistant Landscape Architect, Department of Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities

Terry R. Carlstrom, Regional Director
National Capital Region
National Park Service
1100 Ohio Drive S.W.
Washington DC 20242

Dear Mr. Carlstrom:

Enclosed is an application by the City of Alexandria for designation of the Alexandria Heritage Trail as a segment of the Potomac Heritage National Scenic Trail.

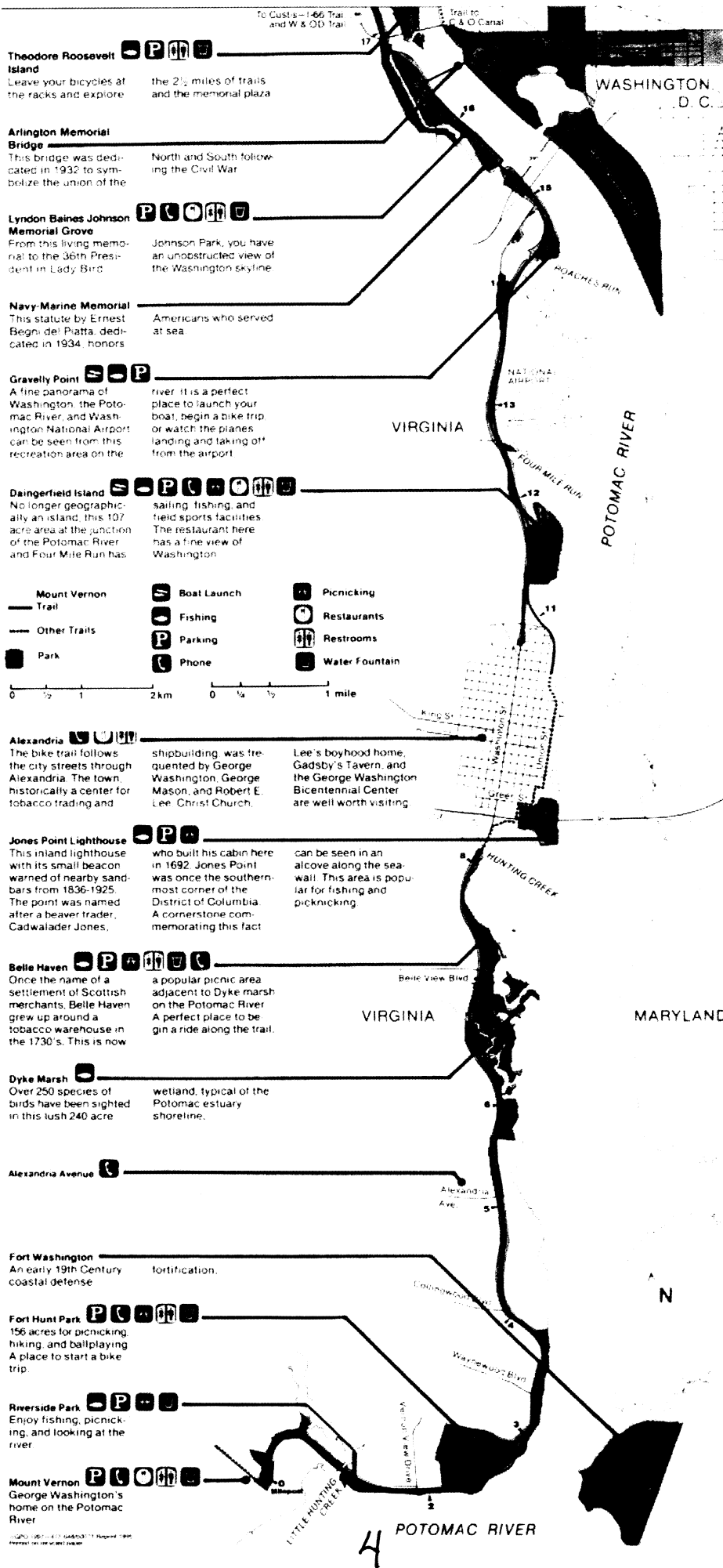
The Alexandria Heritage Trail, officially launched in June 2002, is a 23-mile loop off the Mount Vernon Trail that links Alexandria's many stream valleys, parks, historic museums and charming neighborhoods to provide a continuous system for exploring Alexandria's history. Developed in partnership between City agencies and volunteers, the trail provides an exceptional blend of outdoor recreation and educational opportunities.

The Alexandria Heritage Trail reflects the spirit and intent of the Potomac Heritage National Scenic Trail. It scratches below the surface of daily life to show linkages between the past and the present; encourages the conservation of Potomac lands and waters; and celebrates the character of Alexandria through making it accessible to all.

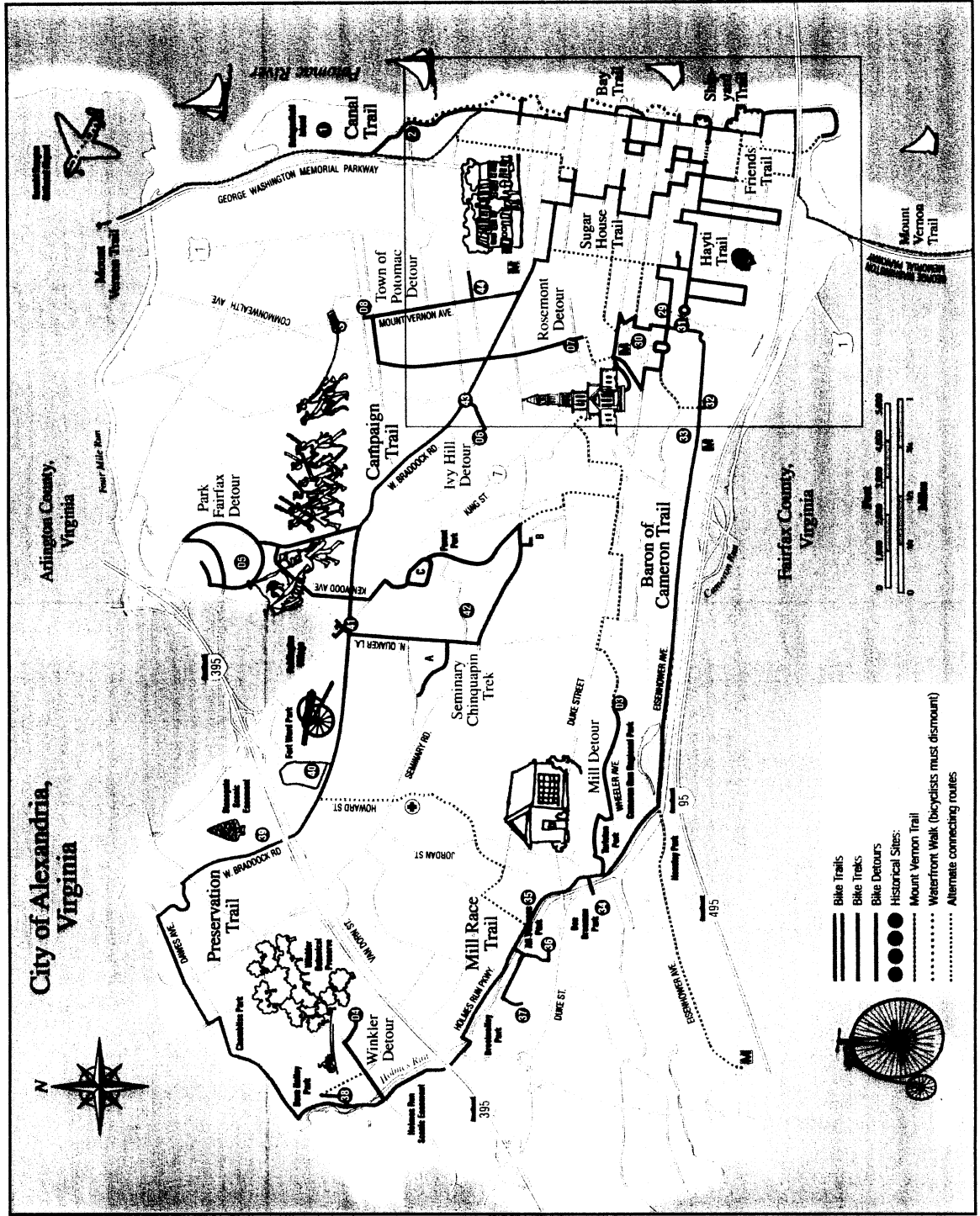
This designation recognizes the substantial role the City and its environs contribute to an understanding of the National Scenic Trail corridor and the quality of life for residents and visitors.

Respectfully,

William D. Euille, Mayor



Alexandria Heritage Trail



Canal Trail

1. Pearson's Island
2. Bellevue Plantation

Hayti Trail

29. Hooff's Run Bridge
30. Silver Leaf Society Cemetery

31. Old West End Village Trek

Baron of Cameron Trail

32. Old Cameron Run and Cameron Mill
33. Cameron Mills and Cameron Village

- D-3 Phoenix Mill Detour

Mill Race Trail

34. Camp California/Cameron Station
35. Bicentennial Tree

36. Alexandria's 250th Anniversary Time Capsule

37. Cloud's Mill and Mill Race

- D-4 Winkler Botanical Preserve Detour

Preservation Trail

38. Jerome "Buddie" Ford Nature Center/Dora Kelly Nature Park and Wildlife Sanctuary

39. Stonegate Archaeological Preserve

40. Fort Ward Museum and Historic Site

Campaign Trail

41. Fairlington Village Historic District and Oakland Baptist Church

42. Seminary/Chinquapin Trek

- D-5 Parkfairfax Historic District Presidential Detour

43. Braddock Cannon

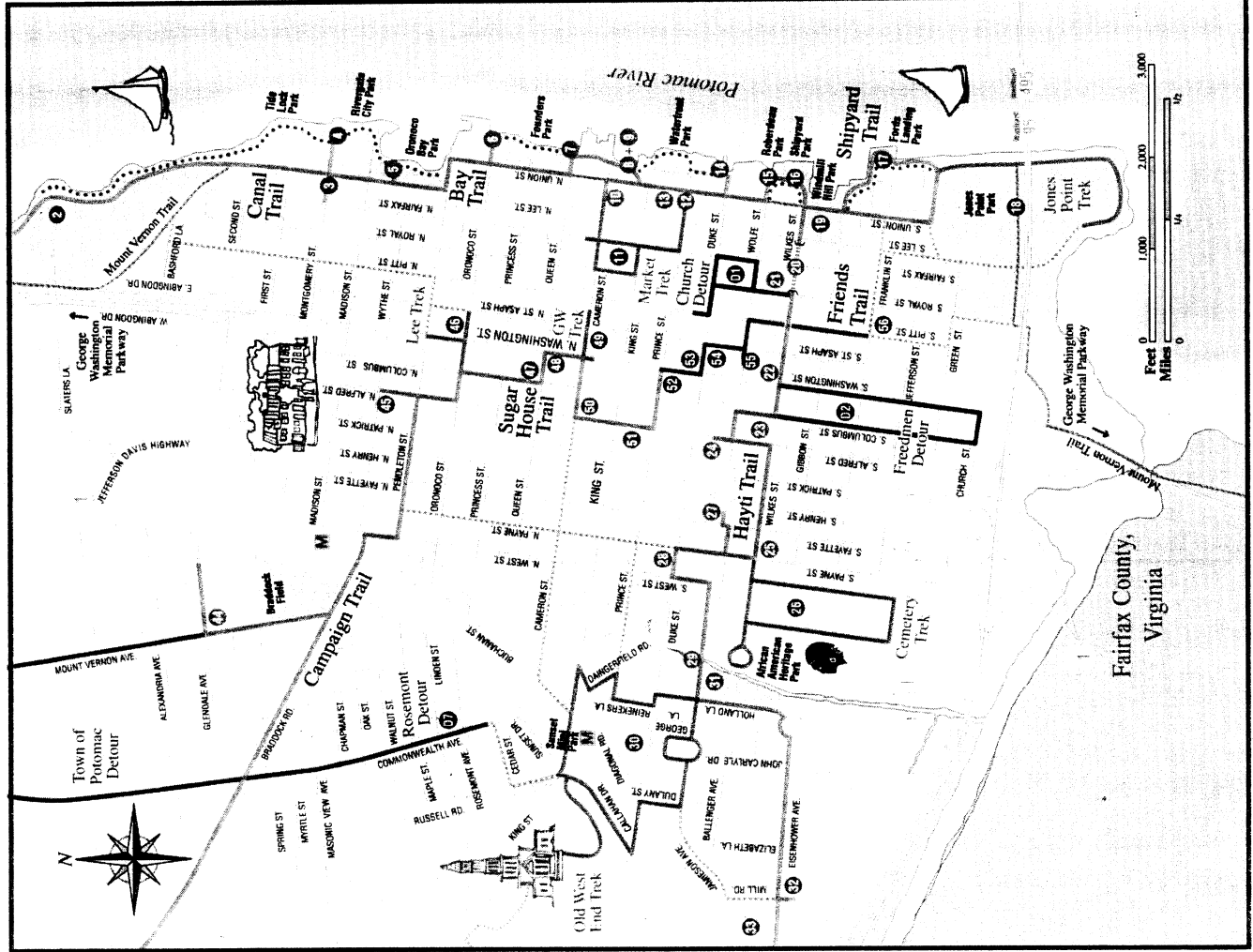
- D-6 Ivy Hill Cemetery Detour

- D-7 Rosemont Historic District Detour

- D-8 Town of Potomac Historic District Detour

44. Alexandria 200th Anniversary Time Capsule

Alexandria Heritage Trail – Old Town Alexandria



- Canal Trail**
 - 3. Old Dominion Glass Factory and "Cross Canal" Neighborhood
 - 4. Alexandria Canal Tide Lock
- Bay Trail**
 - 5. Ralph's Gutt Bay
 - 6. West's Point Tobacco Port
 - 7. Alexandria Seaport Center
 - 8. Torpedo Factory Art Center
 - 9. Alexandria Archaeological Museum
 - 10. Carlyle-Dalton Wharf
 - 11. Market Square Trek
 - 12. Wales Tavern and Wharf
 - 13. Prince St. Warehouses
 - 14. Point Lumley
- Shipyard Trail**
 - 15. Roberdeau Distillery
 - 16. Hunter's Shipyard
 - 17. Keith's Wharf
 - 18. Jones Point Trek
 - 19. Windmill Hill
- Hayti Trail**
 - 20. Wilkes St. Tunnel
 - 21. "Hayti" free African American Neighborhood
 - D-1 Church Detour
 - 22. Wilkes St. Pottery
 - D-2 Freedmen Detour
 - 23. The "Bottoms" free African American Neighborhood and Odd Fellows Hall
 - 24. Alfred St. Baptist Church
 - 25. District of Columbia SW Mile Marker 1
 - 26. Cemetery Trek
- Friends Trail**
 - 27. Orange and Alexandria Roundhouse
 - 28. 1315 Duke St. Slave Pen
 - 29. Hooff's Run Bridge
 - 30. Silver Leaf Society Cemetery
 - 31. Old West End Village Trek
 - 52. The Lyceum, Alexandria's History Museum
 - 53. Piercy Pottery
 - 54. Stabler Homes
 - 55. Alexandria Academy and Friends Meeting House
 - 56. Yeates Garden
- Baron of Cameron Run and Cameron Mill**
 - 32. Old Cameron Run and Cameron Mill
 - 33. Cameron Mills and Cameron Village
- Campaign Trail**
 - D-7 Rosemont Historic District Detour
 - 44. Alexandria 200th Anniversary Time Capsule
- Sugar House Trail**
 - 45. Alexandria Black History Resource Center/ Watson Reading Room
 - 46. Lee Family Trek
 - 47. Friends Burying Ground
 - 48. Lloyd House and Hoffman Sugar House
 - 49. George Washington Trek
 - 50. Moore-McLean Sugar House
 - 51. Friendship Firehouse