



NORTHERN VIRGINIA POTOMAC HERITAGE NATIONAL SCENIC TRAIL:

Completing the Gaps

January 2022

ANNUAL TRAIL USE

The study found that trail users walk 13.6 million miles and bike 45 million miles each year. On average this represents 100,000 miles of walking and 300,000 miles of biking for each mile of the completed trail.



WALKING

13.6 million
miles walked on the trails annually

100,000
times a year
that each mile of trail is walked on average

70% of users
are regional residents



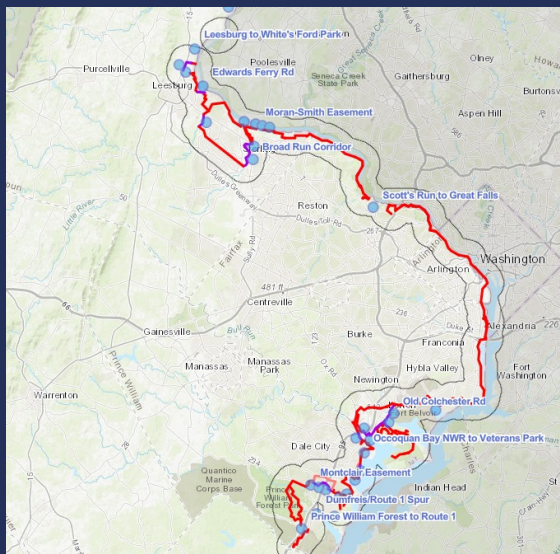
BIKING

45 million
miles biked on the trails annually

300,000
times a year
that each mile of trail is biked on average

67% of users
are regional residents

* Modeled using existing counter, Streetlight, and Strava data. Annual usage based on 2018 data.



PLANNED ROUTES

There are currently approximately 21 miles of planned routes to close gaps in the PHNST. Completing these planned trail segments might result in the following annual benefits for the northern Virginia region:



1.3 million
additional miles walked



4.5 million
additional miles biked

\$7.9 million
in avoided health care costs

\$52.4 million
in mortality reduction benefits (-5 fatalities/year)

960,000 miles
of avoided commuting

\$627,000
in avoided commuting costs

UNROUTED GAPS

Some gaps in the PHNST currently do not have a planned route. BBC worked with NVRC to estimate the potential length of trail required to close those gaps (13.7 miles). Completing these unrouted gaps might result in the following additional annual benefits for the northern Virginia region:



900,000
additional miles walked



2.9 million
additional miles biked

\$5.2 million
in avoided health care costs

\$34.1 million
in mortality reduction benefits

630,000 miles
of avoided commuting

\$410,000
in avoided commuting costs



<https://www.novaregion.org/1533/Equity-and-Economic-Study>

