



100 YEARS

FIELDREPORT

Mid-Atlantic Region | Spring-Summer 2019

Help Fix Our Parks!

As the National Park Service's operating budget continues to shrink, resulting in fewer rangers and reduced capacity to address regular maintenance needs, the list of major park repair projects continues to grow. At NPCA, we're proud of our leadership on this front: pushing Congress to increase overall park funding as well as specific funding for the parks' repair backlog. In the 116th Congress, Senate and House leaders have re-introduced bipartisan bills to directly address the park maintenance needs.

At press time, **H.R. 1225** sponsored by Rep. Rob Bishop (R-UT01) has 139 cosponsors including Reps. Norton (D.C.); Cummings and Sarbanes (MD); Boyle, Cartwright, Dean, Doyle, Evans, Fitzpatrick, Houlahan, Joyce, Lamb, Reschenthaler, Scanlon and Wild (PA); Connolly (VA); Miller and Mooney (WV).

S. 500, a similar bill sponsored by Sen. Rob Portman (R-OH) has 32 cosponsors including Sens. Casey (PA), Kaine and Warner (VA), and Capito and Manchin (WV).

Please thank your members of Congress who have cosponsored these bills.

If your senator/s and representative are not on this list, please contact them and urge them to add their support.

Capitol Switchboard: 202.224.3121

America's Common Ground Sparks Bipartisan Achievement

America's national parks and public lands are our common ground—today more than ever.

The 116th Congress reaffirmed America's support for parks when both chambers voted overwhelmingly in February in support of the bipartisan **Natural Resources Management Act**, a package of more than 100 bills to expand and improve America's public lands system, including national park sites around the country. President Trump signed the bill into law in March.

Our thanks to our supporters and partners, who have worked with NPCA for years to achieve these important park victories. Of fundamental interest, the act:

- Permanently reauthorizes the **Land and Water Conservation Fund**, one of our most important tools to protect public lands from incompatible development. Congress established this trust fund in 1965 to protect some of America's most vulnerable public lands using a portion of federal income from existing offshore drilling royalties. These funds allow the National Park Service to buy private land inside national parks from willing sellers, thereby protecting these inholdings from becoming the site of trophy homes, mini-marts or even mining operations.



- Reauthorizes historic preservation grants for **Historically Black Colleges and Universities** through fiscal year 2024 to support preservation and restoration of buildings and structures at campuses across the nation.
- Authorizes the Department of the Interior and other federal agencies to provide free entry to America's public lands for fourth graders and their families. Since 2016, the **Every Kid in a Park** program has been a popular—and fun—way of connecting young people to the outdoors.

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Top: Native Virginia bluebells greet spring at Harpers Ferry, WV, one of many parks where LWCF funds have protected our history and heritage. ©Jon Bilous | Dreamstime **Above:** LWCF funding also helps protect habitat for park wildlife like the great blue heron. ©Donyanedomam | Dreamstime

FIELD REPORT

SPRING-SUMMER 2019

Delaware, District of Columbia,
Maryland, Pennsylvania,
Virginia, West Virginia

Mid-Atlantic Regional Office

777 6th Street, NW • Suite 700
Washington, DC 20001

www.npca.org/regions/mid-atlantic
midatlantic@npca.org

SENIOR DIRECTOR

Joy M. Oakes: 202.454.3386

SENIOR PROGRAM DIRECTOR

Pamela Goddard: 202.454.3365

DIRECTOR OF FOUNDATION RELATIONS

Julie Hogan: 202.454.3362

SENIOR COORDINATOR

Melanie McDowell: 202.454.3328

CHESAPEAKE FIELD REPRESENTATIVE

Katie Morgan: 202.419.3713

CULTURAL RESOURCES DIRECTOR

Alan Spears: 202.454.3384

Member Services Team

1.800.628.7275 • npca@npca.org

Pennsylvania & Delaware Field Office

PHILADELPHIA, PA 19130

PENNSYLVANIA & DELAWARE

SENIOR PROGRAM MANAGER

Halle Van der Gaag: 215.896.3983

Delaware River Field Office

528 Seven Bridge Road • Suite 106
East Stroudsburg, PA 18301

MIDDLE & UPPER DELAWARE RIVER

PROGRAM MANAGER

Sharon Davis: 570.460.4468



100 YEARS

npca.org

Welcome New Mid-Atlantic Team Members!



Katie Morgan joined NPCA in January as the Chesapeake field representative to promote the protection and preservation of parks in the watershed, including those in Maryland, Virginia and Washington, D.C. Katie is a native Marylander, growing up in Frederick and attending St. Mary's College. She previously worked at the Ocean Conservancy and, prior to that, as a communications and field operations consultant for state and federal campaigns.

Halle Van der Gaag joined NPCA in February as the senior manager for our Pennsylvania and Delaware programs. Halle comes to NPCA from the National Wildlife Federation, where she led "4 the Delaware," an initiative to promote the Delaware River's health and build regional collaboration across four states. Previously, she served as executive director of Blue Water Baltimore. In her spare time, Halle enjoys exploring the parks, museums, historic sites and live music scene of Philadelphia, her home since 2017. She has two children in their early 20s, Zachary and Mackenzie.

Jessica Loya, a member of NPCA's Next Generation Advisory Council and the Mid-Atlantic Leadership Council, is a conservation and public lands policy

advocate based in Washington, D.C. As the national policy director for GreenLatinos, a national network of Latino conservation and environmental advocates, she elevates Latino voices in public land, climate and conservation policy. She previously worked for the White House Council on Environmental Quality Office of Public Engagement. She received degrees in environmental studies and economics from University of California, Santa Cruz.

Ayomide Sekiteri is a member of NPCA's Next Generation Advisory Council and Mid-Atlantic Leadership Council. She is a proud first-generation Nigerian-American from Baltimore, MD. Ayomide holds a B.A. in Environmental Science and Policy with a minor in Global Studies from Hood College in Frederick, MD. She has interned for the National Park Service at both Jean Lafitte National Historical Park and Preserve and the National Mall and Memorial Parks. She previously worked for the Student Conservation Association and now works for Urban Teachers in Washington, DC. Ayomide is a diversity advocate, conservation enthusiast, avid reader and budding artist.

Clockwise from upper left: Katie Morgan, Ayomide Sekiteri, Jessica Loya, Halle Van der Gaag ©NPCA

HAVE A PHOTO OR COMMENT TO SHARE?

We welcome photos from members enjoying national parks, particularly those in the Mid-Atlantic region. We also appreciate feedback on our Field Report. Share your digital photos, comments and ideas with us via **email at midatlantic@npca.org**

America's Common Ground Sparks Bipartisan Achievement

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In the Mid-Atlantic region, the act establishes the **Appalachian Forest National Heritage Area** in West Virginia and Maryland, and the **Susquehanna National Heritage Area** in Pennsylvania. National heritage areas are large, lived-in landscapes that preserve America's cultural history. While operated as a program of the Park Service, these areas are managed through innovative partnerships and are not official national park sites.



The bill also authorizes **new special resource studies** to allow the Park Service to evaluate whether two sites in Baltimore, Maryland would be significant, suitable and feasible to include in the National Park System. These sites include the neighborhood where **Thurgood Marshall** attended school as a youth and the **President Street Station**, an important railway link during the Civil War.

For more detail, check out:
<http://www.npca.org/nrma>



Voting "Aye" from the Mid-Atlantic region:

DELAWARE

Senator Carper (D)
Senator Coons (D)
Representative Rochester (D-01)

MARYLAND

Senator Cardin (D)
Senator Van Hollen (D)
Representative Ruppberger (D-02)
Representative Sarbanes (D-03)
Representative Brown (D-04)
Representative Hoyer (D-05)
Representative Trone (D-06)
Representative Cummings (D-07)
Representative Raskin (D-08)

PENNSYLVANIA

Senator Casey (D)
Representative Fitzpatrick (R-01)
Representative Boyle (D-02)
Representative Evans (D-03)
Representative Dean (D-04)
Representative Scanlon (D-05)
Representative Houlihan (D-06)
Representative Wild (D-07)
Representative Cartwright (D-08)
Representative Meuser (R-09)
Representative Smucker (R-11)
Representative Joyce (R-13)
Representative Reschenthaler (R-14)
Representative Thompson (R-15)

VIRGINIA

Senator Kaine (D)
Senator Warner (D)
Representative Wittman (R-01)
Representative Luria (D-02)
Representative Scott (D-03)
Representative McEachin (D-04)
Representative Riggleman (R-05)
Representative Spanberger (D-07)
Representative Beyer (D-08)
Representative Wexton (D-10)
Representative Connolly (D-11)

WEST VIRGINIA

Senator Capito (R)
Senator Manchin (D)
Representative McKinley (R-01)
Representative Mooney (R-02)
Representative Miller (R-03)



Voting "No" from the Mid-Atlantic region:

MARYLAND

Representative Harris (R-01)

PENNSYLVANIA

Senator Toomey (R)

VIRGINIA

Representative Cline (R-06)
Representative Griffith (R-09)

We look forward to continued work with our congressional delegation and their staffs to protect our national parks, their natural and cultural resources, and their neighboring communities.



Left: Thanks to the Natural Resource Management Act, P.S. 103 in West Baltimore, the school attended by former Supreme Court Justice Thurgood Marshall, will be evaluated as a possible future park site. ©Wikimedia Commons **Background:** The newly designated Susquehanna National Heritage Area protects and celebrates the cultural and natural value of Lancaster and York Counties along the Susquehanna River. ©Jon Bilous | Dreamstime

JOIN US AT AN UPCOMING EVENT NEAR YOU!

Contact midatlantic@npca.org or check out www.npca.org/events for updated info on any of these events.

Potomac Watershed Cleanup at Greenbelt Park	APR 6	Join NPCA and the NPS for the Alice Ferguson Foundation's Annual Potomac River Watershed Cleanup, the largest project of its kind in the region. Park volunteers will help keep our area of the Potomac River watershed clean. Greenbelt, MD
Balancing Nature and Commerce in the Brandywine Valley Spring Forum	APR 8-9	Join partners across the Brandywine Valley region in northwestern Delaware and southeastern Pennsylvania in this two-day action planning workshop to identify regional, community-driven projects that capitalize on and complement the new First State National Historical Park and other cultural, natural and historic assets in this beautiful region. Wilmington, DE
Anacostia River Festival	APR 14	Come celebrate the Anacostia River at the annual Anacostia River Festival presented by the 11th Street Bridge Park and the NPS. Take a canoe out to explore the river, ride in a bike parade, play lawn games with your family, and experience southeast D.C.'s local arts scene at this special FREE event. Washington, D.C.
Scenic Wild Delaware River Mobile Workshop	APR 30	Join NPCA and the Monroe County Conservation District on a bus tour to learn about best management practices in green resorts, green building, vineyard ecology and agri-tourism. Stroudsburg, PA
Ft. McHenry Field Day	MAY 18	Join NPCA and the National Aquarium Conservation Team (ACT!) at Fort McHenry National Monument to remove debris from wetlands, maintain pollinator and rain gardens, and plant trees in celebration of Arbor Day. Afterwards, explore the birthplace of our national anthem. Baltimore, MD
10th Annual Choose Clean Water Coalition Conference	MAY 20-22	Join more than 250 coalition member organizations, service providers, and local, state, and federal officials to discuss strategies to restore the hundreds of streams and rivers that flow into the Chesapeake Bay. Baltimore, MD Learn more and register here: https://www.choosecleanwater.org/our-conference/
Birding at the Battlefield	JUN 8	Come enjoy the birds of Petersburg National Battlefield with multiple bird watching opportunities, art and educational programming, and bird house building. Petersburg, VA
Susquehanna River Rally	JUN 15	Join us in raising your voice, paddle and rally sign as we call for clean water leadership from the Pennsylvania Legislature. Harrisburg, PA
Zane Grey Festival	JUL 13	Come celebrate the natural and cultural heritage of the Upper Delaware region and learn more about local parks and NPCA's work in the Scenic Wild Delaware River. Lackawaxen, PA
Paddle the Potomac	AUG 14	Join NPCA and Potomac Conservancy at this ever-popular alternative happy hour. Participants will learn about the Potomac River and ways to advocate for clean water before launching a canoe, kayak or stand-up paddle board. Washington, D.C.
400th Anniversary of African Arrival Commemorative Weekend	AUG 24-25	Take part in myriad educational and cultural events—a commemoration ceremony and dedication of the Fort Monroe Visitor and Education Center, children's activities and a concert. Sunday programming aims to create a day of healing and reconciliation for all people. Ft. Monroe, VA
Warren County Preservation Day	SEPT 28	Come celebrate countywide conservation efforts and support the Scenic Wild Delaware River at the Warren County Preservation Day. Hardwick Township, NJ
Capitol Hill Centennial Celebration	SEPT TBD	NPCA is planning a photo exhibit, special tours and a reception to celebrate our 100 years of successful national park advocacy and to look ahead toward our next century of impact. Washington, D.C.

Pipelines in the Mid-Atlantic Threaten Parks

CAMPAIGN UPDATE

Dominion Energy's proposed Atlantic Coast Pipeline would travel 600 miles, bringing fracked natural gas from West Virginia to North Carolina while harming the George Washington and Monongahela National Forests, the Appalachian Trail, and the Blue Ridge Parkway. In 2018, the Southern Environmental Law Center (SELC) filed two lawsuits—one against the U.S. Forest Service and the other against the National Park Service—to challenge the permits each agency issued to allow this pipeline to move forward.

NPCA and the Coalition to Protect America's National Parks filed an *amicus curiae* brief last December in support of SELC's suit against the NPS, contending that the agency wrongly granted a right-of-way permit allowing the pipeline to cross the parkway. Our amicus contends that the NPS must

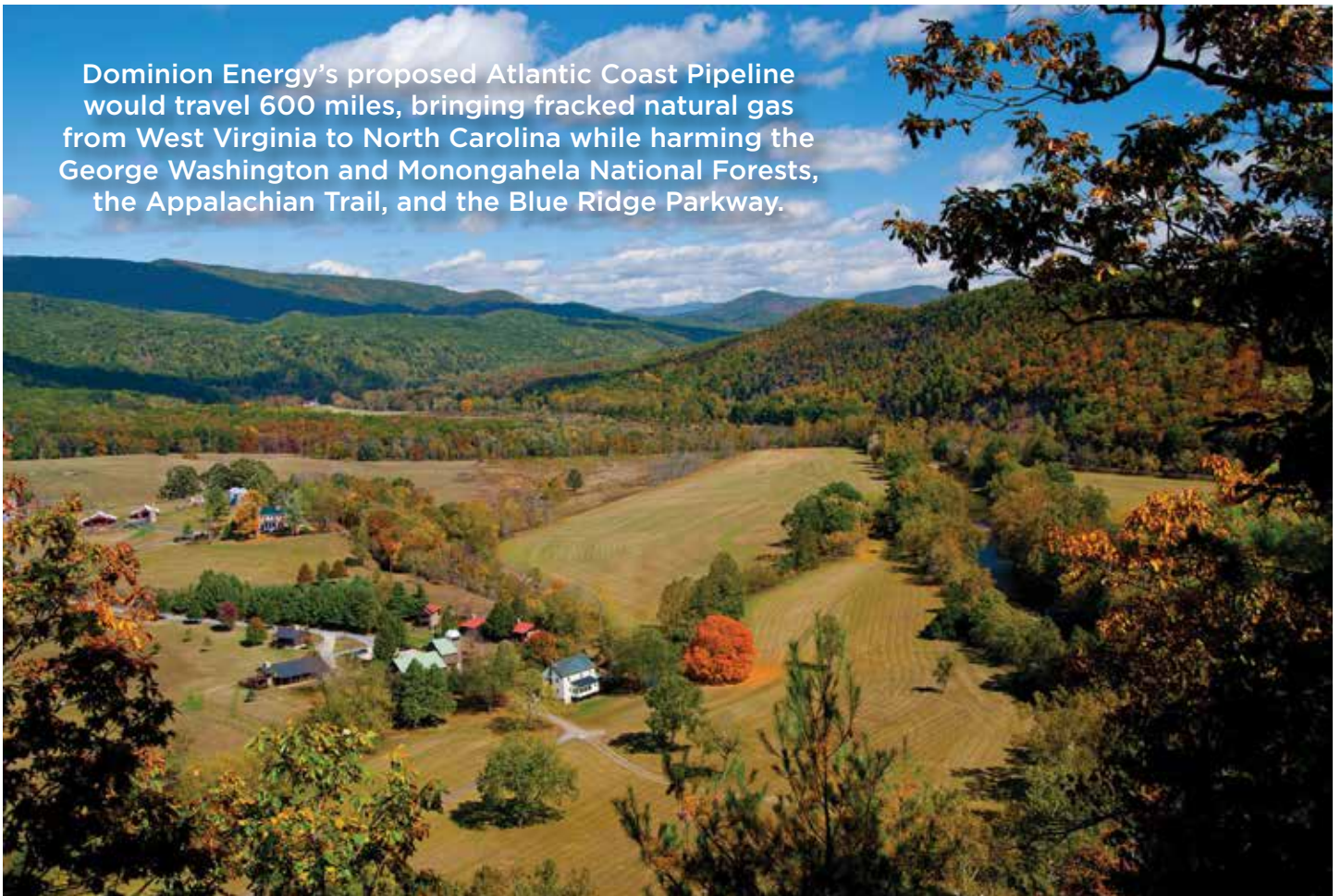


complete an Environmental Impact Statement before deciding whether to permit this pipeline crossing. Both lawsuits are pending before the 4th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals. The U.S. Forest Service and NPS permits

for the project are on hold as this issue winds through the court.

Above: Photo by Amy Jackson **Below:** Scenic sites along the proposed 600-mile Atlantic Coast Pipeline track. ©Bill Sublette

Dominion Energy's proposed Atlantic Coast Pipeline would travel 600 miles, bringing fracked natural gas from West Virginia to North Carolina while harming the George Washington and Monongahela National Forests, the Appalachian Trail, and the Blue Ridge Parkway.



Success for Valley Forge National Historical Park!

CAMPAIGN UPDATE

Since 2016, NPCA has worked to protect Valley Forge National Historical Park from increased stormwater runoff generated by a proposed Pennsylvania Turnpike expansion along the park's southern border. For decades, uncontrolled stormwater from the existing road has poured into Valley Creek—which flows past General George Washington's Continental Army Headquarters—flooding the park and degrading exceptional wild trout habitat.

In late February, NPCA and our partners announced a negotiated settlement in our litigation, resulting in a much-improved stormwater management plan. The turnpike's stormwater runoff will be slowed, cooled and cleaned before it enters Valley Creek, thereby reducing flooding and other threats to the park. We are grateful to Valley Forge Trout Unlimited whose members are long-time Valley Creek advocates, and to



our team of legal and engineering experts for their effective leadership: Sive, Paget & Riesel, Arnold & Porter, Begelman Orlow, PennFuture, and Princeton Hydro.

Above: In the past two decades, NPCA has led half a dozen successful campaigns to preserve Valley Forge National Historical Park's historic character and ecological integrity. ©Joy Oakes

CAMPAIGN UPDATE

Court Rules for James River and Jamestown!

Though our fight continues to protect historic Jamestown from the harmful effects of a massive transmission line being built by Dominion Energy in Virginia, we have reason to celebrate. Last December, NPCA's case went before the U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit, where we made the claim that the Army Corps of Engineers failed to complete an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for this controversial project before granting Dominion its permit. An EIS would determine the actual need for this project and examine other practical alternatives that would minimize the harm to the historic character and viewshed of Colonial National Historical Park, the Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Trail and surrounding area. In March, the court ruled unanimously in our favor, requiring the Army Corps to vacate its permit to Dominion and conduct a complete EIS.

Background: NPCA continues to fight to protect the natural and cultural health and character of historic Jamestown and the James River. ©Joy Oakes

Oxon Cove Threatened by Proposed Land Swap

CAMPAIGN UPDATE

Oxon Cove Park provides a green oasis along an otherwise heavily urbanized section of the Potomac River. Part of the National Park System and located in both Prince Georges County, Maryland and D.C.'s Ward 8, Oxon Cove offers walking and biking trails and a historic farm that provide year-round educational and recreational opportunities to the local community and school groups.

Unfortunately, a proposed land swap threatens this urban park.

In 2017 Maryland Governor Larry Hogan and former Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke quietly reached a non-legally binding agreement to transfer all of the park land in Maryland to the state to allow private commercial development. NPCA is working to raise the profile of this hidden gem and build awareness of its value as park land. We will provide updated information at www.npca.org as this campaign moves forward.

NPCA is working to raise the profile of this hidden gem and build awareness of its value as park land.

Lower Left: Students visiting Oxon Cove Park enjoy precious green space—now at risk from commercial development. ©Lacombe **Lower Right:** Students learn about farm animals ©NPCA



Fort Monroe, Site of 400 Years of African American History

CAMPAIGN UPDATE

Congress created the “400 Years of African American History” commission to commemorate the 1619 arrival of the first enslaved Africans to the English colonies. Over the next year, the commission will plan and conduct programs and activities throughout the country that recognize the contributions of African Americans to our nation over the last four centuries.

In August, the commission will dedicate a new visitor center at Fort Monroe National Monument in Hampton, VA, where in 1619 sailors on the English privateer ship White Lion sold 20 kidnapped Africans to colonists in exchange for food and other provisions. Learn more about the commission’s activities and how you can participate on Facebook at “400 Commission.”



Fort Monroe
©Wikimedia Commons



100YEARS

MID-ATLANTIC REGIONAL OFFICE

777 6th Street, NW • Suite 700
Washington, DC 20001

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Show Your Park Love

Your passion and dedication to national parks continues to make a tremendous difference—thank you! As we celebrate our centennial year and look ahead to the next 100, we hope we can count on you to recommit to NPCA and our parks. Here are some impactful ways you can show your love for our national parks.

Make a Gift

Your generous support is more critical than ever. To learn more about how you can support NPCA financially, visit npca.org/give.

Volunteer

Partnering with us as a volunteer is a hands-on and fun way to support your favorite national park. See “Upcoming Events” for volunteer opportunities or contact Melanie McDowell, mmcdowell@npca.org.

Attend an Event

We are celebrating our centennial in a big way this year, and you’re invited! See local events listing, and visit npca.org/events to learn about other activities happening around the country.



Top: NPCA staff help clean up the Oxon Cove shoreline and enjoy one of our local sites on a staff service day. ©Jenny Phan **Bottom:** Students learn about keeping their parks and water clean before enjoying a canoe ride on the Susquehanna River with Wilderness Inquiry. ©Melanie McDowell

Travel with Us

Join us on one of our small-group educational land adventures or small-ship cruises and experience the very best of our national parks. Land tours are limited to just 16 participants plus two guides and include meals, accommodations and on-trip transportation. Find details at npca.org/trips.

Become an Online Activist

Learn more about the threats facing our parks and take action online at npca.org/advocacy.

Leave Your Park Legacy

Leaving a gift to NPCA in your will or trust is a personal way you can ensure national parks thrive for generations to come. To learn more about making national parks a part of your enduring legacy, visit MyParkLegacy.org.

