



Washington-Rochambeau Revolutionary Route National Historic Trail

Washington-Rochambeau Revolutionary Route News -- June 2011

by Joseph DiBello, Superintendent

Samantha Driscoll, who recently joined us as the preservation planner for the Washington-Rochambeau Revolutionary Route National Historic Trail, will continue **mapping the NHT through the development of GIS files** in addition to the Google Maps already available (see end of newsletter). Our headquarters in Washington DC are leading an effort to create GIS map files for all National trails, parks, landmarks and heritage areas. The Washington-Rochambeau NHT GIS files are being created with help of James Farrell, GIS Specialist in the Northeast Region. Joe and Samantha participated in a national conference call discussing standards and process for completing the official nationwide map of all NPS units and related areas. This project will create a unified and consistent NPS map that will be easily accessible by the public, also serving to clearly highlight the many locations of Washington-Rochambeau NHT connects with NPS units, trails and related areas.

The **draft strategic plan** provides a foundation for future planning and activities for the NHT. The **cooperative agreement with W3R-US** calls for us to work together to carry out these activities. It also requires a work plan which identifies priority activities and projects. The draft strategic plan is available for review. Please contact Samantha for a copy. Her phone number is 215-597-2334 and her email address is samantha_driscoll@nps.gov. The mailing address is 200 Chestnut Street on the 3rd floor (370E) Philadelphia PA 19106. And please add her to your to your NHT mailing lists.

The Washington-Rochambeau Revolutionary Route project was awarded a \$300,000 grant under the Transportation Enhancement Program (TEP) in conjunction with the New York State Department of Transportation (NYSDOT). The grant will be used for designing, installing, and determining locations for directional signage and wayside exhibits for the Washington-Rochambeau NHT in New York. The grant also will support the development of maps and brochures, like the NPS unigrid brochure, for the NHT in NY. The Washington-Rochambeau NHT, working through the NPS Harpers Ferry Center and with our NY and Hudson River Valley National Heritage Area partners, will carry out the project.

Dominic Cardea, Acting Chief of Interpretation and Education, is helping us complete and print **the unigrid brochure**, develop **the final NHT logo design** and begin building **our NPS web site**.

The Marchers are currently walking the Washington-Rochambeau NHT. The team began in June 2011 and will arrive in Yorktown, VA in October 2011. We think this a great opportunity to get the word out about the NHT; feature local events; and engage local communities along this more than 700 mile route. We are always looking for ways that NPS can help or participate in an event in your community. Please let the Marchers know if you are interested in or hosting an event in your area or contact Samantha with any questions or ideas. Check out a sampling of the media coverage since the expedition began: Rochambeau Marchers spread historic message during Monroe stay ...; Marchers to Remember Washington-Rochambeau Meeting in Mount Kisco; History to March Through Bedford.

Bill Poindexter is exploring the NHT while bicycling. The goal of the excursion is to add a new dimension and new partners to the trail experience. Timing some of the biking activities with events planned by the Marchers offers some exciting possibilities for building awareness and sharing information about the NHT. Learn more about it on Bill's blog at www.cyclingw3r.blogspot.com and see the recent coverage by the media: Cyclist Mapping W3R Route Stops By Joy Homestead, www.kansascity.com/2011/06/17/2957954/cyclist-is-a-pioneer-on-historic.html.

Ralph Nelson of the W3R-US also began exploring bicycle routes (Boston to Providence and Newport to Providence) in co-operation with the Marchers, the Cycling W3R Expedition, the National Park Service, and the W3R-US. For further information about the W3R-NHT and these treks see www.w3r-us.org.

The W3R-PA will be holding an event on July 14th to **announce the Washington-Rochambeau NHT in Philadelphia.** The W3R-PA will be joined by the NPS, the French Consul, as well as elected officials and many additional partners and supporters. The event will include a dedication of W3R banners and a sign on the banks of the Schuylkill River, which was a campsite during the combined armies' time in Pennsylvania. Following the dedication ceremonies will be a presentation of the documentary film, *Our National Heritage: The Revolutionary River*, at the Fairmount Water Works Interpretive Center. The ceremonies will begin at 11:00 am at the east bank of the Schuylkill River, just north of the Market Street Bridge. RSVP if you would like to attend to Ursula Reed, VP of the W3R-PA, at ureed@earthlink.net or 215-563-8599.

Samantha participated in a conference call organized by Anna Cosner of George Washington's Mount Vernon about collaborating with them on events they have planned for Sept 9, 10 and 11. The events are planned to include an **encampment, reenactment, and ceremony commemorating the events upon Washington and Rochambeau's arrival to Mount Vernon.** The discussion included coordinating projects with the Marchers, visitors, and press. There are also plans to invite elected and government officials in the Department

of the Interior and the National Park Service for a ceremonial kick-off to the weekend events. Please save the dates of September 9-11 if you would like to attend.

We continue to receive more and more requests for information, comment and assistance from organizations and the general public. We are doing our best to provide timely, helpful responses and referrals. We are also moving ahead with plans to get the NPS web page up and running and we are exploring the application of social media. For your interest, the following article discusses the "Battle of the Chesapeake," or the "Battle of the Virginia Capes" and its instrumental role in the route to Yorktown: **The Forgotten Battle Which Won The American Revolution**

Announcements and Opportunities

W3R-US on Facebook

Check out the W3R-US Facebook site.

www.facebook.com/pages/W3R-Washington-Rochambeau-Revolutionary-Route/185127584842354

NPS Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance

The mission of the Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance (RTCA) is to assist community-led natural resource conservation and outdoor recreation initiatives. The RTCA staff provides help, not money, to communities so they can conserve waterways, preserve open space, and develop trails and greenways. RTCA has helped us develop the strategic plan for the NHT. Water trails, or blueways, are a great way to get people down to the water, and help communities connect to their waterways. The National Park Service is currently helping local efforts to create water trails in 48 communities across the country through its Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance program. Waterways played a huge role in the Washington- Rochambeau Revolutionary Route and there may be opportunities to combine paddling, hiking, biking and history along the route. Do you have an idea for a local conservation and outdoor recreation project along the NHT? We will help fill out an RTCA Application which is due August 1. Please let us know if you are interested in pursuing this.

Orton Family Foundation

The Orton Family Foundation seeks to partner with four new communities in the second round of its five-year, \$10 million Heart & Soul Community Planning initiative. The initiative challenges citizens to imagine and achieve a better future for themselves and their town through an innovative community planning process. The Request for Proposals (RFP) was released.

The Foundation will select four towns with a population under 30,000 – two in New England and two in the northern Rocky Mountain West. Each selected community will receive training, technical assistance, and \$100,000 in supporting funds over two years as they pursue a Heart & Soul Community Planning project. The submission deadline for proposals is July 20, 2011.

Building a New National Trail : SEPTEMBER 11TH NATIONAL MEMORIAL TRAIL™

This year as America approaches the tenth anniversary of September 11, 2001, when the United States and the world were shocked by an act of terrorism beyond imagination, our citizens throughout the country have an opportunity to be part of a national trail to be called the September 11th National Memorial Trail; built as a tribute to all those who perished in America's single worst terrorist attack. The establishment of a hiking, biking and driving trail will provide a physical linkage connecting the three memorials commemorating the tragic events that occurred at the Flight 93 National Memorial, the World Trade Center, and the Pentagon.

[* image removed by W3R-US Website manager to reduce file size *]

The September 11th National Memorial Trail will eventually be a 1,100-mile motorized route and non-motorized hiking and cycling trail connecting the three national memorials. Localities along the planned route would be vital hubs with the trail serving as an important recreational and transportation venue for promoting tourism, economic development, healthy bodies and minds, and cultural and educational opportunities for generations to come. The goal is to have the route established with a number of segments open for use in time for the tenth anniversary of the September 11th 2001 attacks.

With support from the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, the National Park Service's Rivers, Trails & Conservation Assistance Program, and trail and outdoors organizations, three public planning meetings/open houses were held in PA. Now, the National Memorial Trail is looking for the public to

help in the planning of the New Jersey section of the trail. With support from Morris County Park Commission, the National Park Service's Rivers, Trails & Conservation Assistance Program, and trail and outdoors organizations, a public planning meeting was held on July 6th at the Morris County Park Commission Headquarters.

For further information please contact:

Russell J. Nee, Trails Foreman Morris County Park Commission Memorial Trail Alliance 973-631-5136 email: rnee@morrisparks.net 911Trail@comcast.net www.morrisparks.net www.911MemorialTrail.org	or	David Brickley, President September 11th National Memorial Trail Alliance 703-628-5007 email:
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Bike Wilmington DE

On July 17, from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m., you can take a beginner bike ride through the city of Wilmington and the Riverfront, and learn how to get around safely on a bicycle with Carol Ireland of Bike Delaware. Stop along the way to discover natural history points of interest. Finish with demonstrations on bike maintenance including changing a tire. You can bring your own bike or borrow one from the Urban Bike Project. The ride starts and ends at Delaware Environmental Education Center. Helmets are recommended and required by law for children. For more information, please visit http://www.delawarenaturesociety.org/cp10_deec.html.

Maryland Statewide Bicycling Survey

The Maryland Office of Tourism, Department of Transportation, and State Highway Administration are conducting a bicycle user survey to learn more about cyclists in Maryland and what products they would find most useful to help plan bicycle trips. To take the survey, please visit <http://www.surveymonkey.com/CycleMaryland>. For more info on the Cycle MD promotion, please visit <http://visitmaryland.org/events/pages/cyclinginmaryland.aspx>. To view the Cycle MD bicycling map, which includes event locations and routes, please visit www.mdimap.com/marylandcycling/

GOOGLE MAPS OF THE WASHINGTON ROCHAMBEAU NHT

Massachusetts

<http://maps.google.com/maps/ms?msa=0&ie=UTF8&z=10&msid=209906619738887673153.0004a4baba5f22e309618>

Rhode Island

<http://maps.google.com/maps/ms?msa=0&ie=UTF8&ll=41.657523,-71.520996&spn=0.724375,0.955811&z=10&msid=209906619738887673153.0004a4bab853899e17653>

Connecticut

<http://maps.google.com/maps/ms?msa=0&ie=UTF8&z=9&msid=209906619738887673153.0004a262479ecf46ddb7>

New York

<http://maps.google.com/maps/ms?msa=0&ie=UTF8&z=10&msid=209906619738887673153.0004a2624b4370a353a50>

New Jersey Corridor 1:

<http://maps.google.com/maps/ms?msa=0&ie=UTF8&ll=40.657722,-74.459839&spn=1.47101,1.911621&z=9&msid=209906619738887673153.0004a2624c7bf1a944856>

New Jersey Corridor 2:

<http://maps.google.com/maps/ms?msa=0&ie=UTF8&z=9&msid=209906619738887673153.0004a2624dde067a2eea2>

Pennsylvania

<http://maps.google.com/maps/ms?msa=0&msid=209906619738887673153.0004a54b61470a5c48d35&ie=UTF8&z=10>

Delaware

<http://maps.google.com/maps/ms?msa=0&ie=UTF8&z=11&msid=209906619738887673153.0004a26250ec5a59b5191>

Maryland

<http://maps.google.com/maps/ms?msa=0&ie=UTF8&z=9&msid=209906619738887673153.0004a262523351697efa7>

Virginia

<http://maps.google.com/maps/ms?msa=0&ie=UTF8&z=8&msid=209906619738887673153.0004a26253679ff8426e3>

Washington DC

<http://maps.google.com/maps/ms?msa=0&ie=UTF8&z=12&msid=209906619738887673153.0004a3a1d7f366907de05>