



Scoping Newsletter

Wetland Restoration Action Plan Environmental Assessment

The National Park Service's (NPS) National Capital Region (NCR) is proposing to prepare a Wetland Restoration Action Plan (WRAP) for four parks within the NCR:

- Catoctin Mountain Park
- Chesapeake & Ohio Canal National Historical Park
- Harpers Ferry National Historical Park
- Monocacy National Battlefield

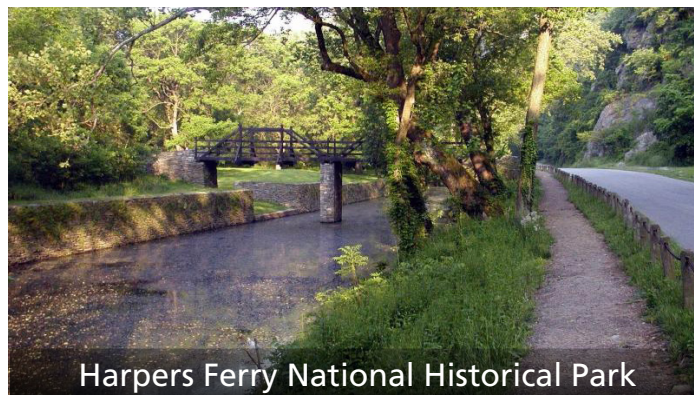
An Environmental Assessment is being prepared to evaluate potential impacts of the proposed project on the natural resources, cultural resources, and visitor experience at the four NCR parks, in accordance with National Environmental Policy Act.



Catoctin Mountain Park



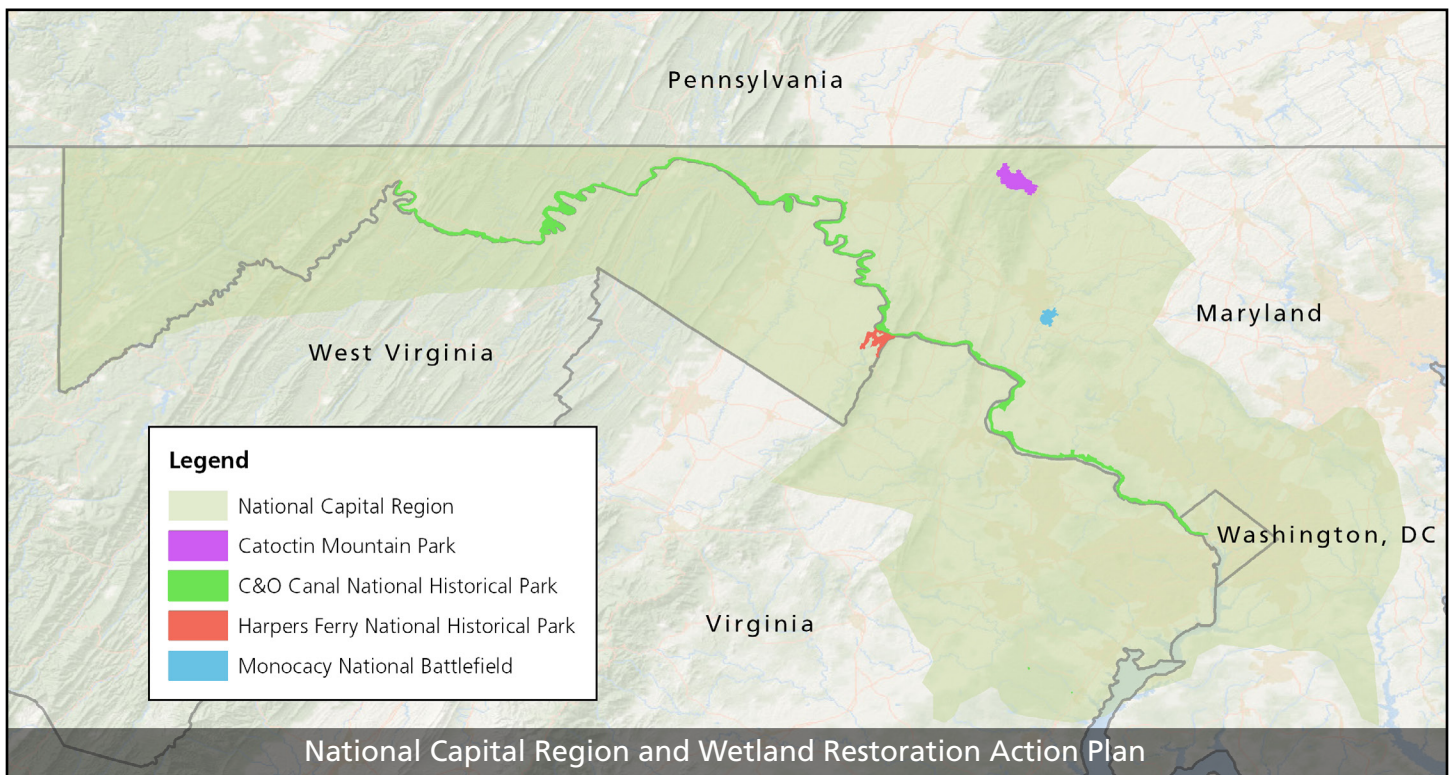
Chesapeake & Ohio National Historical Park



Harpers Ferry National Historical Park



Monocacy National Battlefield



Purpose of the Wetland Restoration Action Plan

The purpose of the WRAP is to provide a comprehensive approach to restoring, enhancing, and/or protecting wetlands, waterways, and stream habitats at the four NCR parks. The approach would prioritize specific areas within the parks and provide specific restoration actions for these areas to deal with degraded natural resource conditions or deficiencies.



Potential fish passage stream restoration site near the Catoclin Mountain Park Visitor Center



Potential wetland restoration site within Monocacy National Battlefield currently impacted from agricultural practices



Potential wetland restoration site at C&O Canal National Historical Park currently dominated by invasive species

Potential streambank restoration site at C&O Canal National Historical Park



Streambank erosion restoration site proposed for stabilization at Harpers Ferry National Historical Park

The Wetland Restoration Action Plan aims to:

- Provide a step-by-step framework for park managers to complete restoration projects once funding is secured
- Identify wetland and stream areas within each park for potential restoration/enhancement activities
- Assess baseline conditions of the parks' wetlands and streams, internal and external influences on wetlands and streams, and potential future threats
- Prioritize potential wetland and stream enhancement projects
- Help protect the parks' resources from continued degradation from increased stream erosion and other influences
- Identify opportunities where mitigation requirements could occur when wetlands and streams are either damaged or lost due to construction projects
- Assist the parks in tracking improvements to wetlands and streams and their overall contribution to protecting the Chesapeake Bay Watershed

The four parks manage their wetland and stream resources as issues arise, with the help from volunteers and nonprofit organizations, and address outside applicants that have projects that would affect park wetlands. Currently, there is not a consistent way the parks are mitigating impacts to wetlands.



Scoping for the Proposed Wetland Restoration Action Plan Open for Comment

The NPS announces a 30-day public scoping period to solicit public comments for the proposed WRAP. During this scoping period, the public is invited to identify any issues or concerns they may have with the proposed plan so that the NPS can appropriately consider them in the Environmental Assessment. Public comment will be accepted through September 16, 2016. You may provide comments in the following ways:

- **Preferred Method: Comment online** at <http://parkplanning.nps.gov>
- Mail comments to Joel Gorder, Regional Environmental Coordinator, National Capital Region, National Park Service, 1100 Ohio Drive Southwest, Washington, DC 20242

Before including your address, phone number, e-mail address, or other personal information in your comment, you should be aware that your entire comment – including your personal identifying information – may be publicly available at any time. Comments made by individuals or organizations on behalf of other individuals or organizations will not be accepted.

Project Schedule

September 16, 2016	Public scoping comment period closes
Fall 2016	Preparation of the WRAP/ Environmental Assessment
Late Fall/Winter 2016	Public review of the WRAP/Environmental Assessment
Winter 2017	Recommendation of the Finding of No Significant Impact
Late Winter 2017	Decision on the Finding of No Significant Impact by the NPS National Capital Regional Director

