



Martin O'Malley, Governor

PRESS RELEASE



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Maryland Heritage Areas Authority to Hold Hearing on a Request to Amend the Management Plan of the Anacostia Trails Heritage Area

To Change the Heritage Area Management Entity from the Redevelopment Authority of Prince George's County to the Anacostia Trails Heritage Area, Inc.

BALTIMORE (August 17, 2010) – The Maryland Heritage Areas Authority will hold a public hearing on a request to amend the management plan of the Anacostia Trails Heritage Area to change the heritage area management entity from the Redevelopment Authority of Prince George's County to the Anacostia Trails Heritage Area, Inc., an incorporated non-profit organization.

WHAT: Maryland Heritage Areas Authority Public Hearing on a request to amend the Anacostia Trails Heritage Area Management Plan

WHEN: Thursday, August 26, 2010
6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

WHERE: The George Washington House
4302 Baltimore Avenue
Bladensburg, MD 20710

Local government officials, heritage resource organizations, conservationists, tourism industry representatives, business and property owners and others who are interested in the proposal to amend the management plan of the Anacostia Trails Heritage Area to change the heritage area management entity from the Redevelopment Authority of Prince George's County to the non-profit organization Anacostia Trails Heritage Area, Inc.

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On August 26, 2010 the Maryland Heritage Areas Authority (MHAA) will hold a public hearing on a request from the Anacostia Trails Heritage Area (ATHA) in Prince George's County to amend ATHA's management plan to change the designated management entity of the heritage area from the Redevelopment Authority of Prince George's County to the non-profit organization Anacostia Trails Heritage Area, Inc. ATHA was certified by MHAA in October 2001 and currently includes the following municipalities in Prince Georges County: Berwyn Heights, Bladensburg, Brentwood, College Park, Colmar Manor, Cottage City, Edmonston, Greenbelt, Hyattsville, Mt. Rainier, North Brentwood, Riverdale Park, and University Park.

State-certified heritage areas bring together government agencies, businesses, and private organizations in partnership to preserve and promote historical, cultural, and natural resources, revitalize communities, and promote sustainable economic development through a managed level of heritage tourism. To obtain State certification, Heritage Areas must develop a management plan that designates a local entity to manage the State-certified heritage area; describes the current boundaries of the Certified Heritage Area; defines "target investment zones" within which certain State benefits including grants, loans and Heritage Preservation Tax Credits are available; outlines the Heritage Area's vision and goals and the area's significance and resources; assesses relevant land use issues; lists interpretive resources and programs; provides a market analysis, and evaluates linkages between sites and appropriate organizations. The current, approved Anacostia Trail Heritage Area Management Plan is available online at www.pgplanning.org/Resources/Publications/Plan.htm.

MHAA has received a request from the present certified heritage area management entity, the Redevelopment Authority of Prince George's County, to amend the current management plan to change the designated management entity to the non-profit organization Anacostia Trails Heritage Area, Inc. The County Council of Prince George's County passed a resolution on July 13, 2010 expressing approval of the proposed change. The Board of Anacostia Trails Heritage Area, Inc., made up of elected officials from the municipalities within ATHA, unanimously voted on January 28, 2010 to approve a five year Strategic Plan, which included the endorsement of the change in the management entity from the Redevelopment Authority of Prince Georges County to the Anacostia Trails Heritage Area, Inc.

After the public hearing and review of any comments received, MHAA will approve, approve with conditions or disapprove the request to amend ATHA's management plan to change the designated management entity of the heritage area from the Redevelopment Authority of Prince George's County to the non-profit organization Anacostia Trails Heritage Area, Inc.

The Maryland Heritage Areas Authority is an independent unit of state government that operates in the Maryland Department of Planning (MDP). For more information, contact the Maryland Heritage Areas Authority, MDP at (410) 514-7685.

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