Heritage Tourism and Working Landscapes
What is Heritage Tourism?
13 Heritage Areas in State of Maryland
- Locally Designated, State-Certified
- Supports Heritage Tourism
- Funded through Program Open Space
- Granting Organization
• Maryland Heritage Area Program is overseen by the Maryland Heritage Areas Authority (MHAA)

• Administered through the Maryland Historical Trust, an agency of the Maryland Department of Planning.

• Of the $6 million allocated annually through Program Open Space funds, over $5.1 million goes directly back to the counties by way of grants.
Maryland Heritage Areas
Make An Impact

$2.4 Billion in Annual Economic Impact

33,815 Jobs Supported and Sustained

$319.8 Million in Annual State and Local Tax Revenue
Who Are We?

Southern Maryland Heritage Area
Calvert, Charles, and St. Mary’s Counties
(Will include Southern Prince George’s with the National Designation)

We Are Rural!

What Do We Do?
Heritage Tourism
Promote the Region (Regional Identity)
Support through Grants & Advocacy
Build Partnerships
Southern Maryland MAKES AN IMPACT

$187.0 MILLION in economic impact
2,637 JOBS supported and sustained
$25.3 MILLION in state and local tax revenue
Destination Southern Maryland (Southern Maryland Heritage Area) is a successful state-based heritage area.

Now it is time to go National!

Why?
We are a National Story
A National Heritage Area is...  
...a place designated by the United States Congress where natural, cultural, historic, and recreational resources combine to form a cohesive, nationally significant landscape arising from patterns of human activity shaped by geography.

Only 55 National Heritage Areas in the United States.

Southern Maryland National Heritage Area aiming to be the 56th!
Congressional Legislation Introduced

**S. 825**

117th CONGRESS
1st Session

To establish the Southern Maryland National Heritage Area, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES
March 14, 2023

Mr. Carper (for himself and Mr. Van Hollen) introduced the following bill:

A BILL

To establish the Southern Maryland National Heritage Area, and for other purposes.

1. Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,
2. SECTION I. SHORT TITLE.
3. This Act may be cited as the “Southern Maryland National Heritage Area Act”.

**H. R. 2024**

117th CONGRESS
1st Session

To establish the Southern Maryland National Heritage Area, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
March 14, 2023

Mr. Rettig introduced the following bill, which was referred to the Committee on Natural Resources.

A BILL

To establish the Southern Maryland National Heritage Area, and for other purposes.

1. Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,
2. SECTION I. SHORT TITLE.
3. This Act may be cited as the “Southern Maryland National Heritage Area Act”.
Partnerships!

Funding for this study was supported by the Rural Maryland Council.
Stories of Southern Maryland

1) Piscataway People: The Land is Who We Are
2) Sea Change: Time and Tide Shape Land and Life
3) Tobacco: A Growing Concern
4) Spirit of Faith, Spirit of Law, Spirit of Progress
5) Defense of a Nation
OPPORTUNITIES
CONSERVATION
EDUCATION

Resiliency
Recovery
Sustainability

Working Landscapes
Cultural Landscapes
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