

Chesapeake National Recreation Area Act One-Page Summary of Changes

Senator Van Hollen and Congressman Sarbanes released the CNRA discussion draft and map for public feedback in November 2022. The legislators hosted a nearly six-month public comment period, which included several listening sessions with groups such as local elected officials, neighborhood community organizations, and interested parties across the watershed. Senator Van Hollen and Congressman Sarbanes worked with the CNRA [Working Group](#) to review the feedback they received from all sources to determine what changes to the draft legislative text were necessary to address the concerns and suggestions that were presented by the public. Substantive edits to the text were made based on community feedback and technical edits were also made to align the CNRA legislation with existing statute:

Substantive Edits based on Public Feedback Concerning Traffic and Community Engagement:

- Includes explicit language to require NPS to conduct transportation planning assistance on the initial sites within the CNRA. NPS will work to minimize the traffic burden on surrounding communities.
- Directs NPS to prioritize water and trail access to certain CNRA sites, in a manner that does not modify their existing regulatory authority with respect to navigation or regulation of commercial or recreational fishing activities.
- Instructs NPS to collect community feedback on traffic at the initial sites selected for inclusion.
- Allows NPS to conduct additional transportation and visitor experience planning activities for future CNRA sites.
- Allows grassroots organizing expertise to be represented on the Advisory Commission.

Technical Edits:

- Aligns the definition of “the Bay” with statutory definitions of the Chesapeake Bay watershed also referenced in the text.
- Clarifies that NPS may use Burtis House for historic and cultural interpretive services in addition to administrative and visitor services uses.
- Clarifies that NPS may lease or enter into a cooperative management agreement for an administrative location in Annapolis – instead of requiring NPS to acquire property by purchase or donation.
- Clarifies that NPS may acquire, lease, or enter into a cooperative management agreement for an interpretive and visitor services uses near Fort Monroe.
- Aligns the description of an eligible site with existing definitions of national significance.
- Clarifies that NPS shall set terms and conditions for voluntary partner site and cooperative management agreements based on the needs of individual sites.