



Annapolis, London Town & South County Heritage Area (ALTSCHA, Inc., dba Four Rivers Heritage Area) Updated Priorities Document

Priorities as Represented in Planning Documents – REVISED NOVEMBER 2021

1. From ALTSCHA Management Plan (2000)

ALTSCHA gives priority to projects mentioned or consistent with our Interpretive Themes in the Management Plan. Section 3 of the Plan contains our “Interpretive Framework.” Note: the plan was written in 2000, before some of our sites were fully developed. If a site is relevant but not specifically mentioned as a “Key Resource,” please describe how your site and project fits the interpretive theme(s).

Interpretive Themes and Subthemes:

- **Waterways:** The Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries draw many visitors to the Four Rivers Heritage Area. The Four Rivers refers to the Severn, South, West and Rhode in Anne Arundel County. The heritage area is rich with maritime history and many sites have a connection to the waterways, either historically or presently. Whether it’s the use of the land itself, watermen making a living on the waterways, or the many uses of water recreation the heritage area provide, Four Rivers includes a wealth of resources. Local farms and farmers also contribute to the land and water, does your site connect with local produce or seafood? Refer to pages 9-12 in the Management Plan for a more detailed explanation.
 - The Ecology of the Water’s Edge: Key resources: Chesapeake Bay Foundation, Annapolis Recreation and Parks, SERC, Historic London Town and Gardens, City Dock in downtown Annapolis
 - Waterborne Commerce and Communication: Key resources: The Annapolis Historic District, Captain Avery Museum, Galesville, Deale, Shady Side, Eastport, Historic Annapolis, Historic London Town and Gardens
 - Commerce to Recreation: Key resources: Galesville, Highland Beach, Bay Ridge, Annapolis Harbor, Eastport, Shady Side, Sandy Point State Park, Annapolis Maritime Museum, Deale
 - Life on the Water: Key resources: The Naval Academy (guided tours, Visitor’s Center, Museum), Maryland State Archives, City Dock, Historic Annapolis, Captain Avery Museum, Galesville, AAACCVB Visitor’s Center, Deale, Shady Side
- **Living with the Past:** Four Rivers is extremely fortunate to have a high concentration of living historical landmarks within the heritage area. Many of these sites retain their original use such as the Naval Academy and the Maryland State House. Historic preservation, archaeological investigations, cultural conservation, and historical research also play into this theme along with adaptive reuse of many of the buildings in the heritage area. The heritage area also boasts a well-known artist community that dates back centuries, including Charles Willson Peale and John Shaw. Refer to pages 12-14 in the Management Plan for more information.
 - Living Landmarks: Key resources: Historic Annapolis, historic churches within the heritage area, Maryland State House, Historic London Town and Gardens, Hammond-Harwood House, Chase-Lloyd House, Naval Academy, Maryland State Archives

- Preserving the Past: Key resources: the Wilson House restoration in Galesville, ongoing archaeological digs and archives, Captain Avery Museum, Charles Carroll House, Historic Annapolis, Hammond-Harwood House, Historic London Town and Gardens
- The Re-Usable Past: Key resources: Banneker-Douglass Museum, Historic Annapolis, various properties in Eastport
- Artists, Architects, and Artisans: Key resources: Annapolis City Plan, Historic Annapolis (William Paca House), Charles Carroll House, Chase-Lloyd House, Historic London Town and Gardens (William Brown House), National Register properties in the heritage area, Hammond-Harwood House, Naval Academy, Maryland State House
- America's Roots: The heritage area is, in many ways, a model on which America as a nation has been patterned. This is seen in our early days when European settlers came to this region and began colonization. African Americans also have an extremely rich history in the heritage area, especially in the Annapolis Historic District. Many key events in the American Revolution and the Civil War happened in this region. Refer to pages 15-16 in the Management Plan for more details.
 - A Revolutionary Time: Key resources: Charles Carroll House, Chase-Lloyd House, Hammond Harwood House, Maryland State Archives, Maryland State House, Historic Annapolis (William Paca House), St. John's College
 - War and Peace: Key resources: Maryland State Archives, Maryland State House, Naval Academy, Galesville, Deale, Eastport (WWII history)
 - African Americans in Anne Arundel: Key resources: African American Heritage in Annapolis, Annapolis Historic District, Asbury Methodist Church, Banneker-Douglass Museum, Galesville, Historic Annapolis, Charles Carroll House, Hammond-Harwood House, Highland Beach, Kunta Kinte Alex Haley Memorial Site at City Dock, Maryland State Archives, Maryland State House, Naval Academy

2. From 5-Year Plan (Approved 2013)

A. Revised Mission and Vision Statements

Vision for the Next Five Years: To create and lead the way to a seamless connection between heritage and cultural sites, parks and natural resources, that are all dynamic, evolving, well maintained, and financially viable, which together present a spectacular visitor experience.

Mission: To advance, support and promote the natural, historic and cultural resources of the region.

B. ALTSCHA Priority Statement: Integrating the goals and objectives of ALTSCHA's 2009-2011 Strategic Plan and MHAA's 10-Year Plan for Sustainability, ALTSCHA priorities reflect stewardship of the diversity of heritage-related resources in our area, including:

- National Register districts and properties, National Historic Landmarks, and other historic designations,
- our small rural communities,
- archaeological investigations that preserve the "archaeological record" of the past,
- the preservation of the built environment,
- the conservation and stewardship of our natural resources, and

- research resulting in strengthened heritage tourism products.

3. From Boundary Amendment Application (Approved April 8, 2021)

ALTSCHA gives priority to projects mentioned or consistent with existing and newly-added Interpretive Themes, which are:

- Rail-to-Trail Recreation
- Native American Heritage
- Natural Resources Experiences
- Railroad Heritage

Please refer to Section 4, Interpretive Themes, pp. 17-21 for more information.

4. Value Statement on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (Adopted November 2021)

ALTSCHA follows the Alliance of National Heritage Areas, a related organization, in making a commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion in our work, policies, and practices. Heritage Areas work collectively to protect and promote diverse people and places that tell Maryland's (and America's) stories equitably and inclusively.

We define diversity as meaningful representation of different individuals and groups in cultural heritage development, included but not limited to race, age, gender identity, sexual orientation, physical/mental ability, ethnicity, geography, and perspective.

We define equity as policies and practices that help communities gain access to opportunity, networks, and resources toward reaching their full cultural heritage development potential.

We define inclusion as authentic engagement of diverse groups in cultural heritage development, providing all community members with a genuine sense of belonging.