
Introduction

Background

In 2003, Cape Charles began its vision for developing a trail to connect its various destination points, including the deepwater harbor, historic district, business district, beach, primary town park, and museum. An \$89,000 Transportation Enhancement Grant was awarded to the town and negotiations to connect the deepwater harbor to the town were begun. After several years of discussions and negotiations, this linkage hit a roadblock. Town officials then turned their efforts toward other sections of the trail network and put out a request for proposals for professional services to assist in the design and implementation of sections of the trail that are fully within the town's control. A portion of the allocated funding went toward the development of this document. The remaining funding will go toward the design and construction documentation of the first phase of the trail as identified in this document.

A second Transportation Enhancement Grant in the amount of \$200,000 was awarded to the town in 2006. These funds will be utilized for the construction of the first phase of the trail.

Project Goals

The master plan presented in the following pages merges the town's original vision, to link its major destination points, with opportunities to highlight the historic character of the town, improve its streetscapes, and link the entire town to its core destinations and adjacent communities. It identifies opportunities for nodes, gateways, and vistas. The master planning process and final document produced focuses on achieving the following goals.

Consensus Building

Opening up a dialogue and building consensus for the development of the trail with all the various stakeholders and public/private property owners.

Identifying a Network of Trails

Providing a network of trails for exercise, transportation, recreation, and natural area viewing opportunities, while linking adjoining commercial, residential, and public land uses.

Preservation of the Town's Historic Character

Assisting in the preservation and protection of the town's historic character through the understanding and incorporation of various historic elements into the design of the trail.

Identification of Implementation Tools and Techniques

Identifying various implementation strategies and tools for the systematic implementation of the trail network and enhanced development coordination as the area continues to grow and redevelop.



2006 aerial of Cape Charles provided by Simmons & Riley Aerial Photography