



Listening & Learning Session in the Chesapeake Watershed June 25th, Maryland Hall, Annapolis MD

Americans have a proud tradition of working together - from the ground-up - to conserve farmland and open space for future generations, restore rivers and streams, protect areas for hiking and biking, preserve beaches and coastlines, conserve wildlife habitat for fishing and hunting, and restore the cultural and historic sites that tell America's story. In fact, community-driven efforts to conserve America's land, water, and wildlife are a major reason why we are blessed with the parks, refuges, forests, and open spaces that we enjoy today.

Starting with the White House Conference on the Great Outdoors on April 16, President Obama launched a national dialogue about conservation in America. As part of this dialogue, we are bringing together ranchers, farmers and forest landowners, sportsmen and women, state and local government leaders, tribal leaders, public-lands experts, conservationists, youth leaders, business representatives, and others to learn about some of the smart, creative ways communities are conserving outdoor spaces.

The June 25th public listening session is an opportunity for leaders of the America's Great Outdoors Initiative to hear from Chesapeake voices on solutions for building a 21st century conservation and recreation agenda and reconnecting people with the outdoors.

Agenda:

- 12:00 Registration table open, main hallway, Maryland Hall. A small café is open during the noon hour on the lower level.
- 1:00 Introductory Remarks, Ken Salazar, Secretary of the Interior
Welcome, Governor Martin O'Malley
Bob Perciasepe, Deputy Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency
Harris Sherman, Under Secretary, US Department of Agriculture
America's Great Outdoors Video
- 1:35 Panel Discussion, Sharing Examples of Innovative Land Conservation, Recreation & Citizen Stewardship
 - Robert Etgen, Executive Director, Eastern Shore Land Conservancy
 - Chris Miller, President, Piedmont Environmental Council; Treasurer, Journey Through Hallowed Ground Partnership
 - Annette Gantt, President and CEO, Earth Conservation Corps
 - Jacqueline M. Carrera, President & CEO, Parks & People Foundation
 - Ta Brant, Pennsylvania Wilds Small Business Ombudsman
- 2:30 Facilitated Break-out Sessions Begin Organized by topic area:
 - Open space and working lands conservation
 - Recreation and public access
 - Citizen stewardship, including youth and environmental education
 - General breakout session
- 4:30 Adjourn

Thank you for registering for the America's Great Outdoors Initiative public listening session on Friday, June 25th at the Maryland Hall for the Creative Arts in Annapolis, Maryland.

We would like to provide you with a bit of additional information to assist your participation.

Getting to the Session:

- Maps and directions to Maryland Hall can be found at this site: <http://www.marylandhall.org/generalinfo/mapdirections.html>
- There will be signs for Maryland Hall and the listening session at the entrance roads to the Hall grounds from both Spa Road and West Street/Amos Garrett Blvd.
- ***Please plan to arrive early to avoid an undue delay at the check-in tables*** – recommended arrival time is between Noon and 12:45.

When to Arrive and What to Do:

- When you arrive at Maryland Hall, please check in at one of the tables on the second floor. At check-in, you'll receive a name tag and room assignment for the discussion group sessions based on the topic preference you indicated when you pre-registered.
- Again, we recommend you arrive early to avoid a delay at the check-in tables. You may check in as early as 12:00.
- An information table will also be staffed on the second floor level near the auditorium.
- A selection of images of the Chesapeake watershed's great outdoors will be playing in the auditorium from 12:30 to the start of the program.
- If you arrive early and need a bite to eat the Hard Bean Café is located on the first floor (lunch is on your own!); you may request and submit a lunch pre-order by emailing hbcater@aol.com (must be received by 9:00 AM Thursday).
- For those arriving even earlier, Maryland Hall is just a block or so from West Street where one can find restaurants and other places to gather before (or after!) the session.
- Some light refreshments will be provided at about 2:30, courtesy of the Chesapeake Conservancy.
- ***Please note:*** No food, drinks, or water bottles are permitted in the auditorium.

What to Wear:

- It's summertime in Annapolis – business casual is the mode of the day. Be comfortable.

What to Expect:

- We will all gather in the auditorium for an opening session and panel discussion before going to break out groups to hear your thoughts, suggestions and ideas on open space and working lands conservation, recreation and public access, and citizen stewardship (including youth and environmental education).
- An agenda for the day is attached; we aim to end by 4:30 pm
- Among the administration officials attending are Ken Salazar, Secretary of the Interior, Bob Perciasepe, Deputy Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, and Harris Sherman, Under Secretary, US Department of Agriculture
- Martin O'Malley, Governor of Maryland will also offer welcoming remarks.