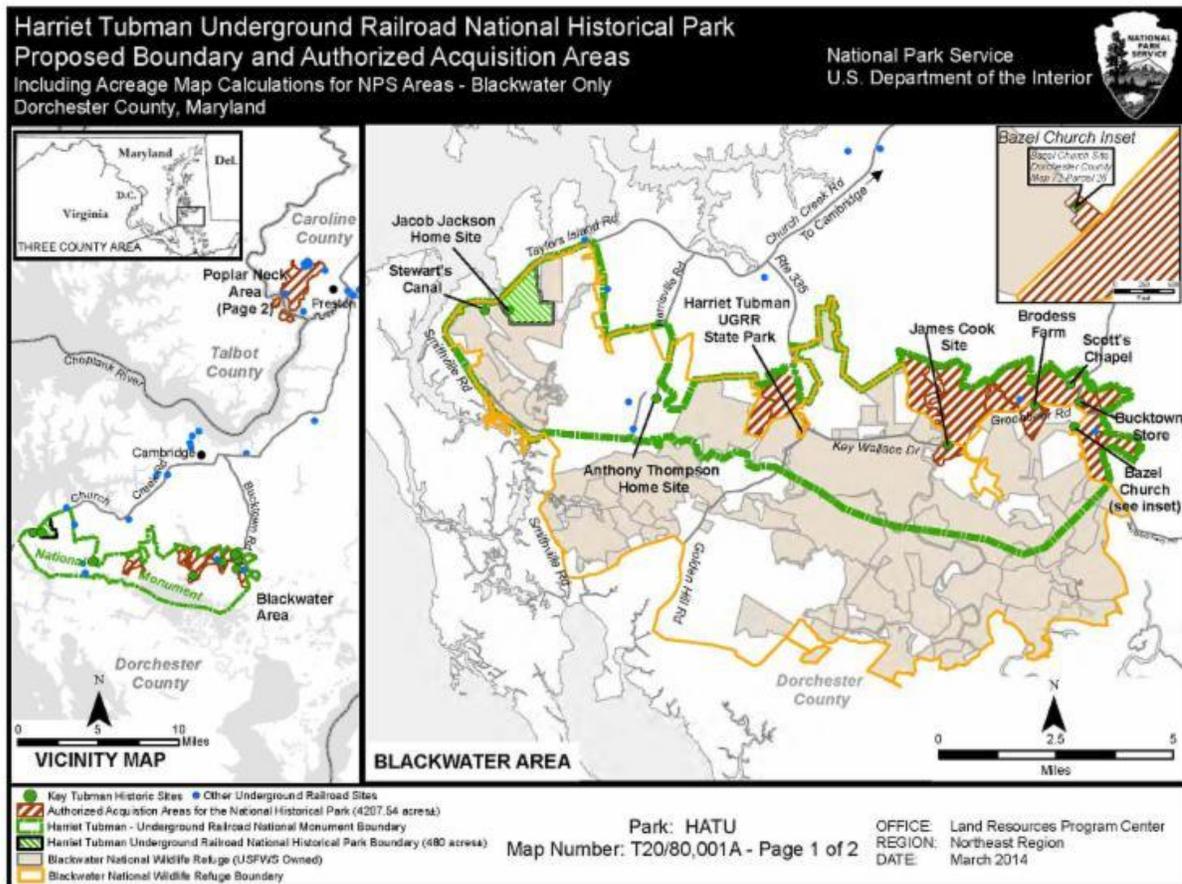


December
2014

Tubman Partners Joint Newsletter



President Signs Legislation Authorizing the Establishment of Harriet Tubman-Underground Railroad National Historical Park

On December 19, 2014, President Obama signed in to law H.R. 3979, in which was authorized the creation of the Harriet Tubman-Underground Railroad National Historical Park. This is an exciting moment for the community and the three partner agencies. So, what does this mean for the Eastern Shore?

- Legally, the national monument designation stays in place. But soon there

- probably will not be any signs or literature that refer to the monument.
- The **Harriet Tubman-Underground Railroad National Historical Park** will be the portion of the monument that is administered by the The National Park Service (NPS), alone or in partnership, for the purpose of commemorating and interpreting history related to Harriet Tubman and the Underground Railroad.
 - Currently, the only property the NPS administers is the 480-acre Jacob Jackson home site.
 - The legislation authorizes acquisition of property in Dorchester, Caroline, and Talbot Counties, MD. This recognizes the historic significance of Caroline and Talbot Counties in the Tubman story. (see map above)
 - Any properties acquired by NPS through donation, exchange, or by purchase from willing sellers would become a part of the national historical park. NPS will not acquire land through condemnation.
 - Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) will maintain its existing authorities to manage the Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge, including the authority to acquire land with the refuge acquisition boundary, regardless of whether or not the land is within the national monument boundary.
 - Nothing in the legislation will impact private property land rights within or adjacent to the national historical park or national monument.

I'm happy to answer any additional questions you may have. Please contact me at brian_joyner@nps.gov, 410-228-2677, extension 32.

Tubman-UGRR NHP hosting 2 Community Conversations on January 28, 2015

We invite you to join us for one of the two community conversations concerning future planning for Harriet Tubman-Underground Railroad National Historical Park taking place on **Wednesday, January 28, 2015**.

The first will be at the Dorchester County Public Library in Cambridge, MD from **1-3 pm**. The second will happen at the Blackwater NWR Visitor Center, from **7-9 pm**. We will send you more information closer to the date.

Dorchester County Public Library
303 Gay Street
Cambridge, MD 21613

Blackwater NWR Visitor Center
2145 Key Wallace Drive
Cambridge, MD 21613

Network to Freedom Nominations Due January 15

We look forward to the next review of Underground Railroad applications. Please visit the NTF website at www.nps.gov/ugrr for guidelines and criteria for the listing of sites, programs and facilities. Contact Eola Dance at eola_dance@nps.gov for technical assistance.

Damaged Signs at the Brodess Farm Repaired

Thanks to the Heart of Chesapeake Country Heritage Area and Dorchester County for replacing the wayside signage at the Brodess Farm pull-off near Bucktown. The wayside had been vandalized earlier in the year, not long after the Presidential Proclamation designating parts of Dorchester County a national monument celebrating Tubman's legacy.



Maryland State Highway Administration also repaired a historical marker at the same location, which notes Tubman's connection to the area and her accomplishments.

State Park VC Update

The construction of the State Park Visitor Center remains on schedule. The project is approximately one quarter complete. Finally, we are starting to see change in the vertical. The foundation walls of the administration building are visible on the left side of the photograph.



For the immediate future, we hope the weather allows continued progress on the foundations and placement of the concrete slabs for the storage facility and administration building. Progress is exciting!

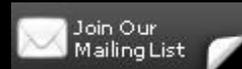
Any questions regarding the State Park can be directed to Dana Paterra at dana.paterra@maryland.gov or 410-228-2124.

National Day of Service, January 19, 2015

The Martin Luther King, Jr. National Holiday serves as a reminder to us that in service to others, we can have a lasting impact.

Each year on the 3rd Monday in January, Americans across the country answer that question by coming together on the King Holiday to serve their neighbors and communities.

The MLK Day of Service is a part of United We Serve, the President's national call to service initiative. It calls for Americans from all walks of life to work together to provide solutions to our most pressing national problems.



Harriet Tubman UGRR NM
Harriet Tubman UGRR State Park
Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge

<http://www.nps.gov/hatu>

"Harriet Tubman was a true American heroine and patriot, for whom liberty and freedom were not just ideas, but represented a real struggle for human rights. One hundred years after her death, we are properly honoring the legacy of this remarkable woman's life, work, and contributions to our nation's history," --Senator Cardin.