

[DONATE NOW](#)



THE COALITION TO PROTECT
AMERICA'S NATIONAL PARKS
VOICES OF EXPERIENCE

[DONATE NOW](#)



**COALITION EXPRESSES STRONG CONCERN
OVER POTENTIAL DEVELOPMENT NEAR
MANASSAS NATIONAL BATTLEFIELD PARK**





Executive Council
Michael Allen
Sarah G. Allen
Russell Galipeau
Don Hellmann
Linda Mazzu
Mike Murray
Don Neubacher
Jim Northup
Dick Ring
Cheryl Schreier
Bill Shaddox
Chris Soller
Sheridan Steele
Terri Thomas
Clara Wooden



January 25, 2022

Chair Wheeler and Members of the Prince William Board of County Supervisors,

I am writing you today on behalf of the Coalition to Protect Americas National Parks, a non-profit organization composed of more than 2,100 retired, former and current employees of the National Park Service (NPS), who collectively have over 40,000 years of experience managing and protecting national parks. We believe that our parks and public lands represent the very best of America, and advocate for their protection. Coalition members strive to apply their experience, credibility, and integrity by supporting the National Park Service mission, and by speaking out for national park solutions that uphold the law and apply sound science.

I would like to express our concerns regarding the study to change the adopted Comprehensive Plan of Prince William County, Virginia (the "CPA") to allow for intensive development along Pageland Lane, adjacent to Manassas National Battlefield Park (the Park) and for subsequent rezoning to allow the current proposal for a 2,133-acre data center along Pageland Lane.

[Commending GAO Hearing](#)

[Coalition Praises Bennet's Push to Pass Amache Legislation](#)

[Organizations Send Notice of Intent to Sue EPA Over Failure of Regional Haze Plans](#)

[CPANP Seeking A Part Time Staff Assistant](#)

[NPT: Room To Grow? For Parks In The Eastern US, More Than You Realize](#)

ACTIONS ARCHIVE

[February 2022](#)

[January 2022](#)

[December 2021](#)

[November 2021](#)

[October 2021](#)

[September 2021](#)

[August 2021](#)





The contiguous rural landscape preserved and protected by Manassas National Battlefield Park allows visitors to better connect with the historic events of the battles, helps foster reverence for the suffering and sacrifice of its participants, and provides opportunities to experience the outdoors and for learning in an immersive environment.

As a largely unspoiled area surrounded by the intense pressure of development from Washington, D.C., the streams, landforms, fields, and forests that comprise the Manassas National Battlefield Park are becoming an important refuge for wildlife and people.

Prince William County's Comprehensive Plan and subsequent zoning decisions in the areas adjacent to the Park should reflect uses that demonstrate an understanding and commitment to the preservation of that heritage and the open space benefits it provides.

Changing the County Comprehensive Plan to allow for more intensive development of the Pageland Lane corridor represents a significant threat to Manassas National Battlefield Park.

The Board of County Supervisors may understandably be attracted by the tax revenue promised by the current proposal for a 2,133-acre data center corridor along Pageland Lane. However, the board should also consider the resulting loss to the County's and nation's heritage as well as the significant benefits the Park provides both in terms of job creation and economic output, as well as open space enjoyment. These benefits would steadily degrade from this data center and other intense development adjacent to the Park.

The southern 570-acre application area is particularly sensitive and has been recognized by both state and federal agencies for

[February 2021](#)

[January 2021](#)

[December 2020](#)

[November 2020](#)

[October 2020](#)

[September 2020](#)

[August 2020](#)

[July 2020](#)

[June 2020](#)

[May 2020](#)

[April 2020](#)

[March 2020](#)

[February 2020](#)

[January 2020](#)

[December 2019](#)

[November 2019](#)

[October 2019](#)

[September 2019](#)

[August 2019](#)



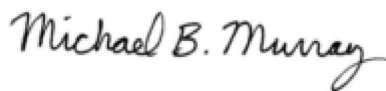


can identify other suitable and feasible locations for a Data Center that would enable the county to benefit from the development of such a center while retaining the current benefits of the Park.

In closing, we believe that the Comprehensive Plan should not be amended to accommodate more intensive development in the Pageland Lane area. An alternative location for the proposed data center should be identified consistent with an update to the Data Overlay District. Prince William County, with the support of the NPS, should undertake a Comprehensive Plan Amendment Study to address the many issues of County growth in all areas adjacent to the Park in a manner that recognizes and provides for its long-term protection and enhances its long-term benefits to the County.

Thank you for your consideration of this important matter.

Sincerely,



Michael B. Murray
Chair, Executive Council
The Coalition to Protect America's National Parks

 [Letter, National Park Management, Statement](#)

 [national park management](#)

[February 2019](#)

[January 2019](#)

[December 2018](#)

[November 2018](#)

[September 2018](#)

[August 2018](#)

[July 2018](#)

[May 2018](#)

[April 2018](#)

[March 2018](#)

[February 2018](#)

[January 2018](#)

[December 2017](#)

[November 2017](#)

[October 2017](#)

[September 2017](#)

[July 2017](#)

[March 2017](#)

[February 2017](#)



« [Coalition Joins Call Urging Passage Of Final FY 22 Appropriations Bills](#)



[DONATE NOW](#)



[February 2016](#)

[January 2016](#)

[December 2015](#)

[July 2015](#)

[February 2015](#)

[March 2014](#)

[January 2014](#)

[December 2012](#)

