

PROTECT YORK RIVER: IT BELONGS TO ALL OF US

October 2018

Dear Fellow Citizen,

The **York River Watershed Stewardship Plan** can be found on our website: **www.YorkRiverMaine.org** – right on the home page. There are also copies at town hall and York Public Library. The plan contains detailed information, confirming the following:

- The York River, with its clean water and exemplary historic, ecological, economic and cultural resources, is **eligible for a Partnership Wild and Scenic River designation**.
- The Stewardship Plan is advisory, not regulatory, and it ensures local control.
- The National Park Service may **not** acquire land in the designated area, and the **river will continue to be governed by local ordinances and state law**. The river and surrounding lands will **not** be managed by the National Park Service.
- Designation will bring many opportunities for funding to help implement the plan.
- Designation can enhance property values and **sustain economic activities**.
- The Stewardship Plan identifies threats to the river (e.g., loss of critical habitat, spread of invasive species, overuse, sea level rise, increased population growth and over development) and offers proactive recommendations to address those threats.
- Designation and implementation of the Stewardship Plan **will provide the framework to engage more citizens in river protection**.

This plan has won near universal praise. The York Harbor Board and the York Lobstermen's Association executive committee have endorsed it unanimously.

Designation as a Partnership Wild and Scenic River is a distinction that less than 0.1% of U.S. rivers enjoy. We believe the York River and its citizens are worthy of this honor.

The river is in remarkably good shape because of the engaged citizens who went before us. Now it is our turn! Let's be faithful to their efforts by protecting the river for the generations that follow us.

If you have questions about the Stewardship Plan or the York River Study Committee's recommendation to pursue Partnership Wild and Scenic River designation – **ARTICLE 2 on York's November ballot** for your consideration, please contact us.

Sincerely,

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