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NEWS RELEASE

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Volunteers Improve Trail at Blackwater NWR

Volunteers and staff at Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge (NWR) have recently made improvements to the Tubman Road Trail, a one and one-half mile walking trail located off Hip Roof Road near Golden Hill, MD. A raised boardwalk more than 300 feet long now stretches across a portion of the trail that was frequently impassible to visitors due to high water. The boardwalk is constructed of recycled composite decking material, and was installed by volunteers and Youth Conservation Corps students under the supervision of Volunteer Rick Abend, who also serves on the board of directors of the Friends of Blackwater.

In addition to the boardwalk, an ADA accessible outdoor spotting scope was added to the Tubman Road Trail observation deck. Located in the trail's parking lot, the deck overlooks a small tidal wetland creek and a forest that is in a state of regrowth after being struck by a tornado in 2002. The deck also provides one of the best views of an active eagle's nest on the refuge.

Funding for the new spotting scope and boardwalk materials was provided by the Friends of Blackwater through the annual "Wild Goose Chase" women's bike ride fundraiser, hosted by Terry Precision Cycling. Funds raised by this popular event are also being used to renovate two of the large freshwater ponds important to migratory waterfowl at the refuge. This year's "Wild Goose Chase" is taking place this weekend, October 22-23. Proceeds from the ride will once again be donated to the Friends of Blackwater and be used to enhance wildlife habitat and visitor experiences at Blackwater NWR.

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Tubman Road Trail Boardwalk & Spotting Scope

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