



2026

TrailLink Unlimited



Guides



Capital Crescent Trail

*District of
Columbia,
Maryland*



Capital Crescent Trail

District of Columbia, Maryland

Detour Notice: As of September 2017, the Capital Crescent Trail east of downtown Bethesda was closed due to the construction of



Detour Notice: As of September 2017, the Capital Crescent Trail east of downtown Bethesda was closed due to the construction of the Purple Line light-rail system. It is estimated that the reopening of the CCT from Bethesda to Silver Spring as a paved trail adjacent to the Purple Line will happen in 2025 or 2026. An on-road detour has been designated around the closure; a map of the route is available on the website for the [Purple Line project](#).

Note: The detour involves busy Jones Bridge Road, which doesn't have a shoulder or a marked bike lane. Trail users can find lower-stress alternatives to the official detour on the Washington Area Bicyclist Association [website](#).

Forming an emerald arc around the northwestern borders of the District of Columbia, the Capital Crescent Trail,

connects Washington to the Maryland suburbs through 12.7 miles of trail. The pathway is lushly wooded at many points along the trail, and at times, it is possible to forget that the hustle and bustle of the city is just a few short steps away.

About the Route

The southern end of the trail is located in D.C.'s Georgetown neighborhood, just a few blocks from the prestigious John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts and the infamous Watergate complex. The southernmost few miles of the trail are located within the Chesapeake & Ohio National Historical Park, and follows alongside the C&O towpath trail, with both trails - one asphalt and one gravel, nestled between the C&O Canal and the Potomac River. There are several places to switch between the trail routes, which are often at two different elevations, including Fletcher's Cove in D.C. The stone house overlooking Fletcher's Cove is one of the oldest structures along the Capital Crescent Trail, and this park features a rental shop that sells kayaks, canoes, rowboats, and even hydro bikes that trail users can take out on the Potomac.

From Fletcher's Cove, the Capital Crescent Trail splits off from the C&O canal via a bridge suspended high above Canal Rd. NW. From here, there is a nearly continuous slight uphill grade all the way to Bethesda. Just past the DC-MD border, the trail goes through the Dalecarlia Tunnel, a 340-ft long brick structure. A feature of this tunnel is the unusual person-size cutouts designed to allow a pedestrian to move out of incoming train traffic.

Near here, the trail also passes through the Little Falls Stream Valley Park, where a number of hiking trails are available.

As the trail continues to chug uphill, the trail comes to an abrupt end in downtown Bethesda on Bethesda Ave. There are numerous retail and dining options here, perfect for tired and hungry trail users.



Capital Crescent Trail

District of Columbia, Maryland

States: District of Columbia, Maryland

Counties: Montgomery, Washington

Length: 12.7 miles

Trail end points: 30th St NW & K St NW
(Washington, D.C.) to Lanier Dr & Talbot Ave
(Silver Spring, MD)

Trail surfaces: Asphalt

Trail category: Rail-Trail

Trail activities: Bike, Fishing, Inline
Skating, Walking, Wheelchair Accessible

Parking & Trail Access

The Capital Crescent Trail runs between 30th St NW & K St NW (Washington, D.C.) and Lanier Dr & Talbot Ave (Silver Spring, MD), with parking at the southern end.

Parking is available at:

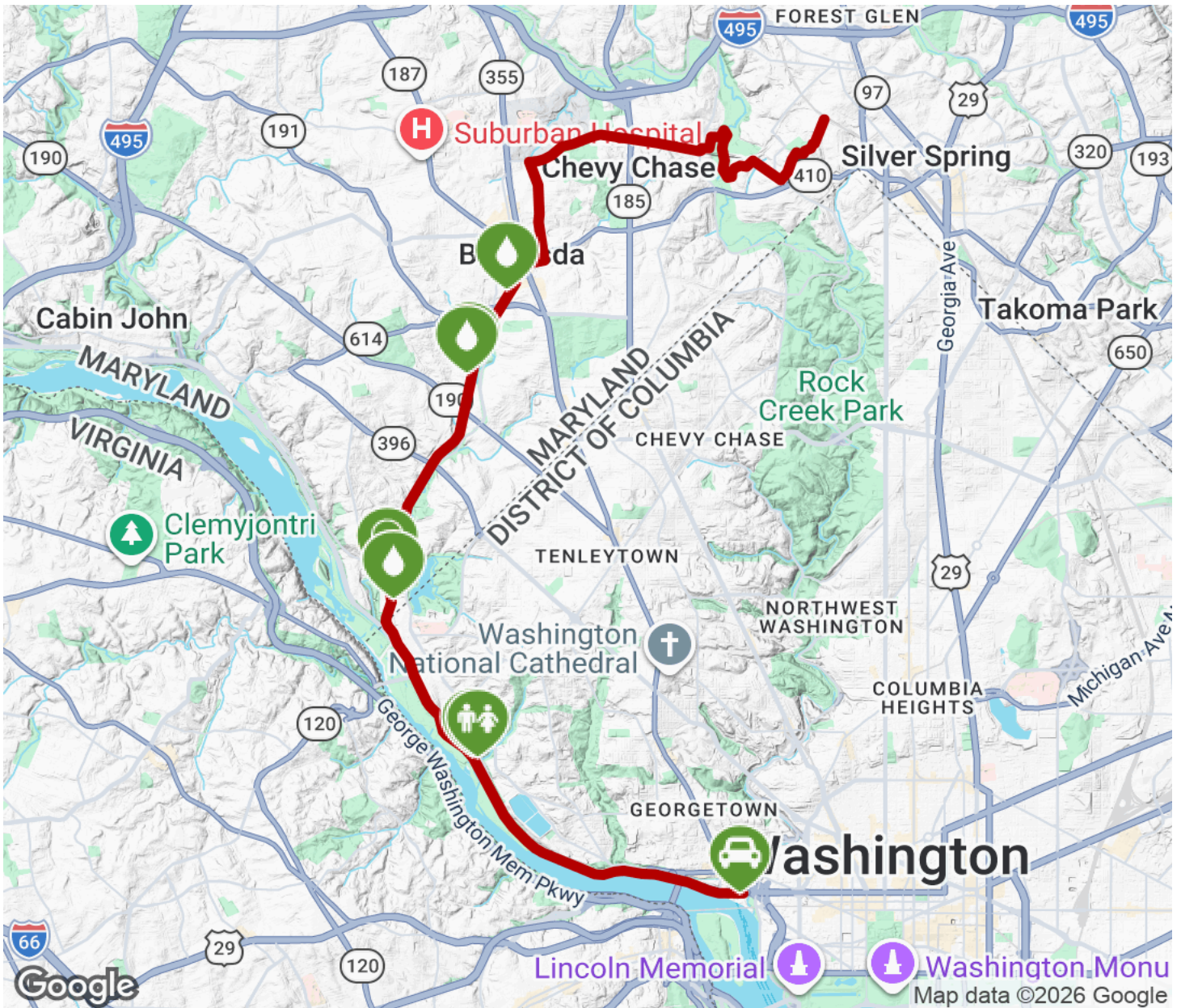
- Fletcher's Cove, 4940 Canal Rd NW (Washington, D.C.)
- Little Falls Stream Valley Park, 6300 Little Falls Pkwy (Bethesda)

See TrailLink Map for all parking options and detailed directions.



Capital Crescent Trail

District of Columbia, Maryland



Trailhead



Restroom



Parking



Water Fountain



Tunnel



TrailLink
by Rails-to-Trails Conservancy

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