



2026

TrailLink Unlimited 

Guides



**Washington
and Old
Dominion
Railroad
Regional Park
(W&OD)**

Virginia



Washington and Old Dominion Railroad Regional Park (W&OD) Virginia

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The 44.4-mile Washington and Old Dominion Trail (W&OD), one of suburban Washington, D.C.'s most popular rail-trails, is a fantastic link between the state's rural and historical past and the nation's capital.

About the Route

A crushed-stone trail parallels the paved W&OD for 32 miles and is favored by mountain bikers, equestrians, and joggers. Horses are restricted to this gravel trail, though trail users will rarely see one east of Vienna. The trail is exceptionally well marked, with mileposts every 0.5 mile and interpretive signs telling the story of the people and places along the rail line.

The first 10 miles of the W&OD trail, stretching from

Purcellville to Leesburg, travel through the rolling hills of Virginia Piedmont farmland. Horses graze, cornfields flourish, and trail crowds thin out somewhat. The eastern endpoint is at the Purcellville Train Depot, which features restaurants and a bike shop.

The western portion of the trail maintains a rural tone, passing through a nice park as it heads toward the historic town of Leesburg. Leesburg is a popular spot for lunch and antiquing. As the trail continues, it passes through Sterling and Ashburn, which features a year-round trailside barbecue restaurant. The town of Herndon features an old caboose, as well as a trailside train depot, used as a visitor center.

The wooded trail surroundings feel a bit more suburban as the path continues through to the communities of Reston and Vienna. In Vienna, there is yet another caboose and train depot. As trail users make their way towards the I-495 Beltway, they should exercise caution at all road crossings, especially during rush hour. 5 miles before reaching its eastern endpoint, the trail provides access to Washington's Metro system on the Orange and Silver Lines via the East Falls Church Station.

Moving east, trail users will come across Bluemont Park which is one of many picnic areas and parks within the trail's first 10 miles. Trail users will find water, restrooms, and a third old caboose here. From west to east, the elevation gradually declines. The leafier suburbs quickly become more urban, as the W&OD Trail makes its way towards its eastern terminus in the unincorporated community of Shirlington in Arlington.

Trail History

The W&OD Railroad was built in 1859, shortly before the Civil War, and went into disuse in 1968. NOVA Parks opened the first few miles of paved trail in Falls Church in 1974 through an agreement with Virginia Electric and Power Company,



Washington and Old Dominion Railroad Regional Park (W&OD) Virginia

States: Virginia

Counties: Arlington, Fairfax, Loudoun

Length: 44.4 miles

Trail end points: Shirlington Rd. (Shirlington)
to N 21st St. (Purcellville)

Trail surfaces: Asphalt, Crushed Stone

Trail category: Rail-Trail

Trail activities: Bike, Horseback Riding, Inline
Skating, Walking, Wheelchair Accessible, Cross
Country Skiing

Parking & Trail Access

The Washington and Old Dominion Trail (W&OD) trail runs between N 21st St. (Purcellville) and Shirlington Rd. (Shirlington).

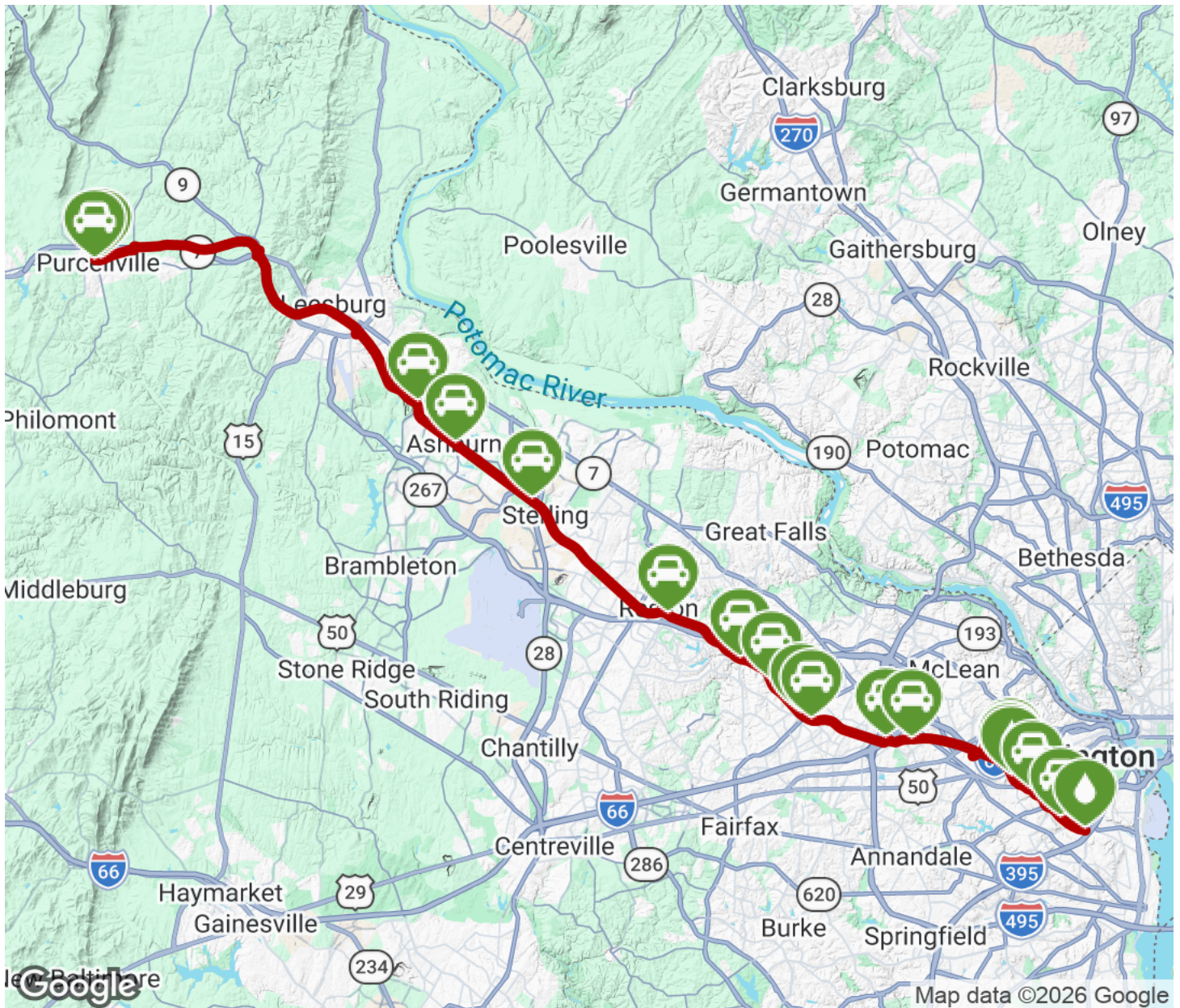
Parking is available at:

- 120 N 23rd St. (Purcellville)
- 1891 Old Reston Ave. (Reston)
- 4200 S Four Mile Run Dr. (Arlington)

There are numerous parking options along the route, please see [TrailLink Map](#) for all parking options and detailed directions.



Washington and Old Dominion Railroad Regional Park (W&OD) Virginia



Trailhead



Restroom



Parking



Water Fountain



Tunnel



TrailLink
by Rails-to-Trails Conservancy

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