2025

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Guides

TrailLink
by Rails-to-Trails Conservancy

Mount Vernon Trail

Virginia

Hugging Arlington's Potomac River waterfront, the Mount Vernon Trail links Gateway Park in Rosslyn with George Washington's

Hugging Arlington's Potomac River waterfront, the Mount Vernon Trail links Gateway Park in Rosslyn with George Washington's Mount Vernon estate in Northern Virginia. Just across the river from central Washington D.C., the trail weaves past park sites, yacht clubs, wetlands, the airport, neighborhoods, towns, and wooded acres, making this trail one of the D.C. metropolitan area's most popular.

About the Route

The Mount Vernon Trail's northern endpoint is at US-29 & Lynn St at the NW corner of Gateway Park in Rosslyn. Heading south, the trail crosses over the George Washington Memorial Parkway, which it parallels for almost all of the route. As the trail makes its way down the

Potomac riverbank, views of the Kennedy Center and the Washington and Lincoln Memorials are readily available on the other side.

2 miles south of Rosslyn is Gravelly Point, an open recreational park space with stunning views of aircraft taking off and landing a short distance away at Reagan National Airport. South of Gravelly Point, the trail skirts the western edge of the airport. With bike racks and bike-share facilities, trail users can actually catch a flight from DCA on foot or by bike. South of the airport, the trail finds the riverbank again before passing through Daingerfield Island. An island in name only, this forested public space is home to a sailing marina.

Continuing south, the trail comes to Old Town Alexandria, the midpoint of the Mount Vernon Trail. The trail follows Union St. south through Old Town's dense streets where several dining, shopping, and entertainment options can be found. The off-road trail resumes at Jones Point Park, where it crosses I-495. After crossing underneath, the path runs adjacent to the highway for 1,000 feet, until it turns to head south again, adjacent to S. Washington St.

Proceeding south, the trail quickly re-finds the riverbank, where forested stretches offer shade through Belle Haven Park and Dyke Marsh Wildlife Preserve. In Fort Hunt, the trail weaves through several miles of residential areas until it comes to Fort Hunt Park, offering expansive public spaces and historic war batteries once part of Mt. Vernon. Here, the trail curves westward along the riverbank, still following the George Washington Parkway. After crossing a small stone bridge, the trail begins a steep incline to enter the Mount Vernon estate. The Mount Vernon Trail comes to its southern endpoint at the entrance to George Washington's Mount Vernon, the historic home of the first American president.

Connections

At the northern endpoint, the trail connects to the Custis

Mount Vernon Trail
Virginia

States: Virginia

Counties: Alexandria,Arlington,Fairfax

Length: 18miles

Trail end points: US-29 & Lynn St. (Rosslyn) to George Washington's Mount Vernon (Mount Vernon)

Trail surfaces: Asphalt,Boardwalk,Brick, Concrete

Trail category: Greenway/Non-RT

Trail activities: Bike,Inline Skating,Fishing,Wheelchair

Parking & Trail Access

The Mount Vernon Trail runs between US-29 & Lynn St at the NW corner of Gateway Park in Rosslyn and George Washington's Mount Vernon, in Mount Vernon, Virginia. Parking is available in Mount Vernon.

The region's Metro and commuter rail provide convenient transit access to the trail. If taking your bike aboard a train, please observe the transit agency's rules. Several train stops are close to the trail:

- Rosslyn (Orange, Silver, and Blue Lines)
- Arlington Cemetery (Blue Line)
- Crystal City (VRE)
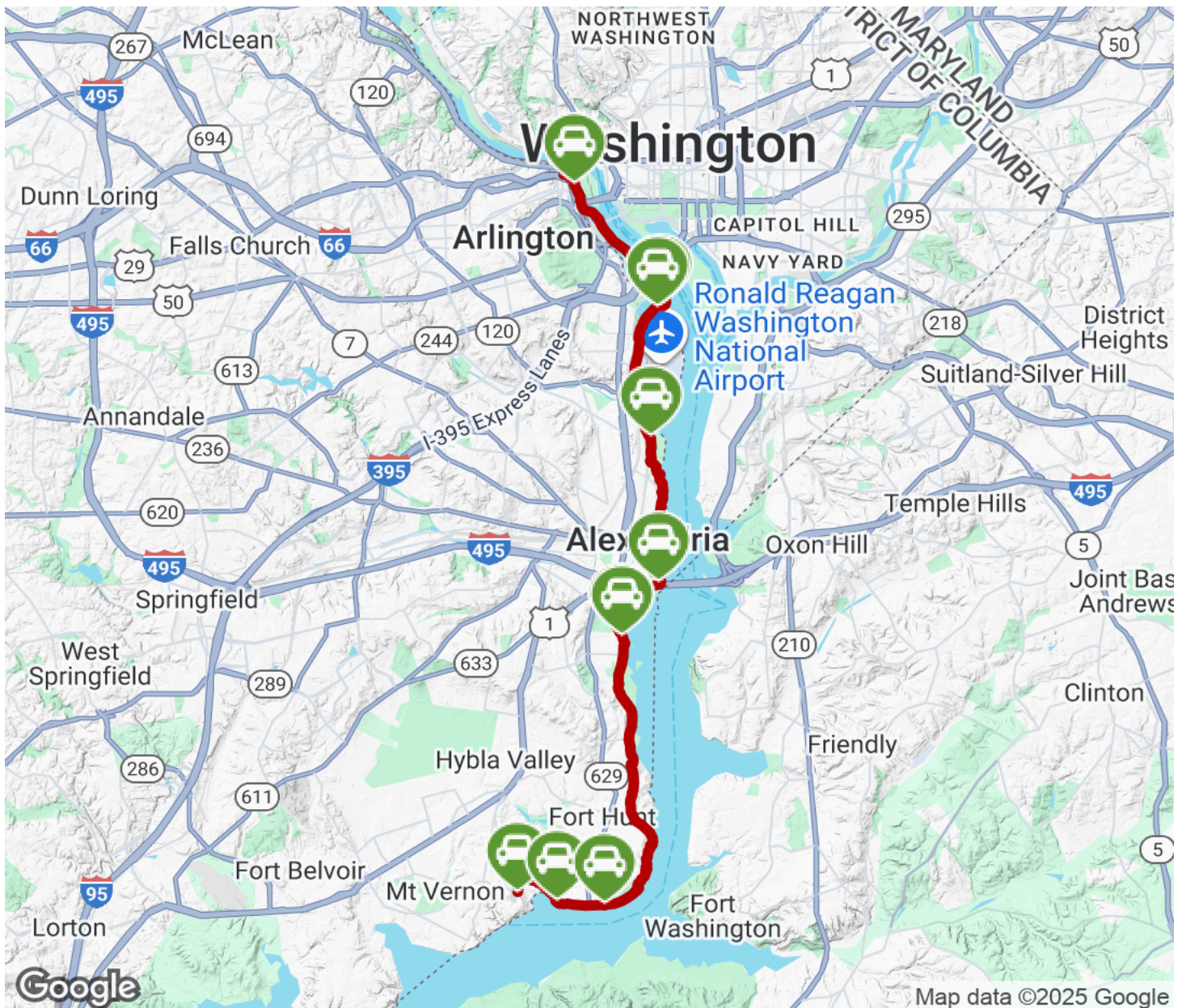- Crystal City (Yellow and Blue Lines)

Parking is also available at:

- Gravelly Point (Arlington)
- Belle Haven Park (Alexandria)
- George Washington Memorial Pkwy and River Farm Dr (Fort Hunt)

There are numerous parking options along this route, see TrailLink Map for all parking options and detailed directions.

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Trailhead **Restroom** **Parking** **Water Fountain** **Tunnel**