



2025

TrailLink Unlimited 

Guides



Anacostia River Trail

*District of
Columbia,
Maryland*



Anacostia River Trail

District of Columbia, Maryland

Winding along its namesake river, from Maryland into southeast D.C., the Anacostia River Trail (also known as the Anacostia



Winding along its namesake river, from Maryland into southeast D.C., the Anacostia River Trail (also known as the Anacostia Riverwalk Trail) provides an outstanding recreation and active-transportation amenity for residents and tourists alike. On a fully paved surface (in addition to some short segments of boardwalk), the trail roves the area's natural exurban riverside for 21.5 miles, along wooded areas and marshlands, on its way into the rapidly developing southeastern waterfront of the nation's capital, providing access to parks, sports fields, and landmarks throughout the route.

About the Route

Roughly two miles north of the DC-Maryland line, the trail leaves off from Bladensburg, Maryland at Charles

Armentrout Dr. and Baltimore Avenue (US-1), and heads south from here.

Just south of the northern endpoint, at Colmar Manor Community Park, the trail offers access to several sporting facilities (Note: access between the main trail and Colmar Manor Community Park involves a steep incline.) Here, a bridge takes the trail to the eastern bank of the Anacostia, where it continues south through Anacostia River Park and into the District of Columbia.

Passing under US Route 50 and the Northeast Rail Corridor, the trail reaches the beautiful Kenilworth Park & Aquatic Gardens. Operated by the National Park Service, this outdoor gem is free and open year-round, and the trail links directly to the park's winding boardwalks.

Beginning at Benning Road NE, the trail spans both sides of the Anacostia.

On the western bank, the trail skirts the abandoned RFK Stadium, a longtime DC sporting landmark until 2019, when it was slated to be demolished. Here, trail users can also access the Kingman and Heritage Island State Conservation Area, a man-made, forested island within the river, on connecting spur trails.

On the eastern bank, the trail continues south through a forested segment, crosses a CSX railyard, and proceeds through the Anacostia Park waterfront, passing several amenities including two recreation centers; multiple playgrounds, including a pirate ship-themed playground with an adult fitness station; a roller-skating pavilion; and numerous sports fields.

Two more intermediary river crossings connect the eastward Anacostia Park with the parallel trail on the western bank of the river: John Phillip Sousa Bridge at Pennsylvania Avenue SE, and the 11th Street Bridge.



TrailLink
by Rails-to-Trails Conservancy

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Anacostia River Trail

District of Columbia, Maryland

States: District of Columbia, Maryland

Counties: Prince Georges, Washington

Length: 21.5 miles

Trail end points: Trailhead for the Northwest Branch Trail and Northeast Branch Trail (Hyattsville, MD) to The Wharf, 760 Maine Ave. SW (D.C.)

Trail surfaces: Asphalt, Boardwalk, Brick, Concrete

Trail category: Greenway/Non-RT

Trail activities: Bike, Fishing, Inline

Parking & Trail Access

The Anacostia River Trail runs between the trailhead for the Northwest Branch Trail and Northeast Branch Trail (Hyattsville, MD) and The Wharf DC, 760 Maine Ave. SW (Washington, D.C.).

Nearby Public Transit

The region's Metro provides convenient rapid transit service to the trail. If taking your bike aboard a train, please observe the transit system's rules. Several train stops are close to the trail:

- Deanwood (4720 Minnesota Ave. NE)
- Minnesota Avenue (4000 Minnesota Ave. NE)
- Stadium-Armory (192 19th St. SE)
- Potomac Avenue (700 14th St. SE)
- Anacostia (1101 Howard Road SE)
- Navy Yard-Ballpark (200 M St. SE)

The trail can also be accessed via the DC Streetcar, at the Benning Rd & Oklahoma Ave NE stop.

Parking

Parking is available:

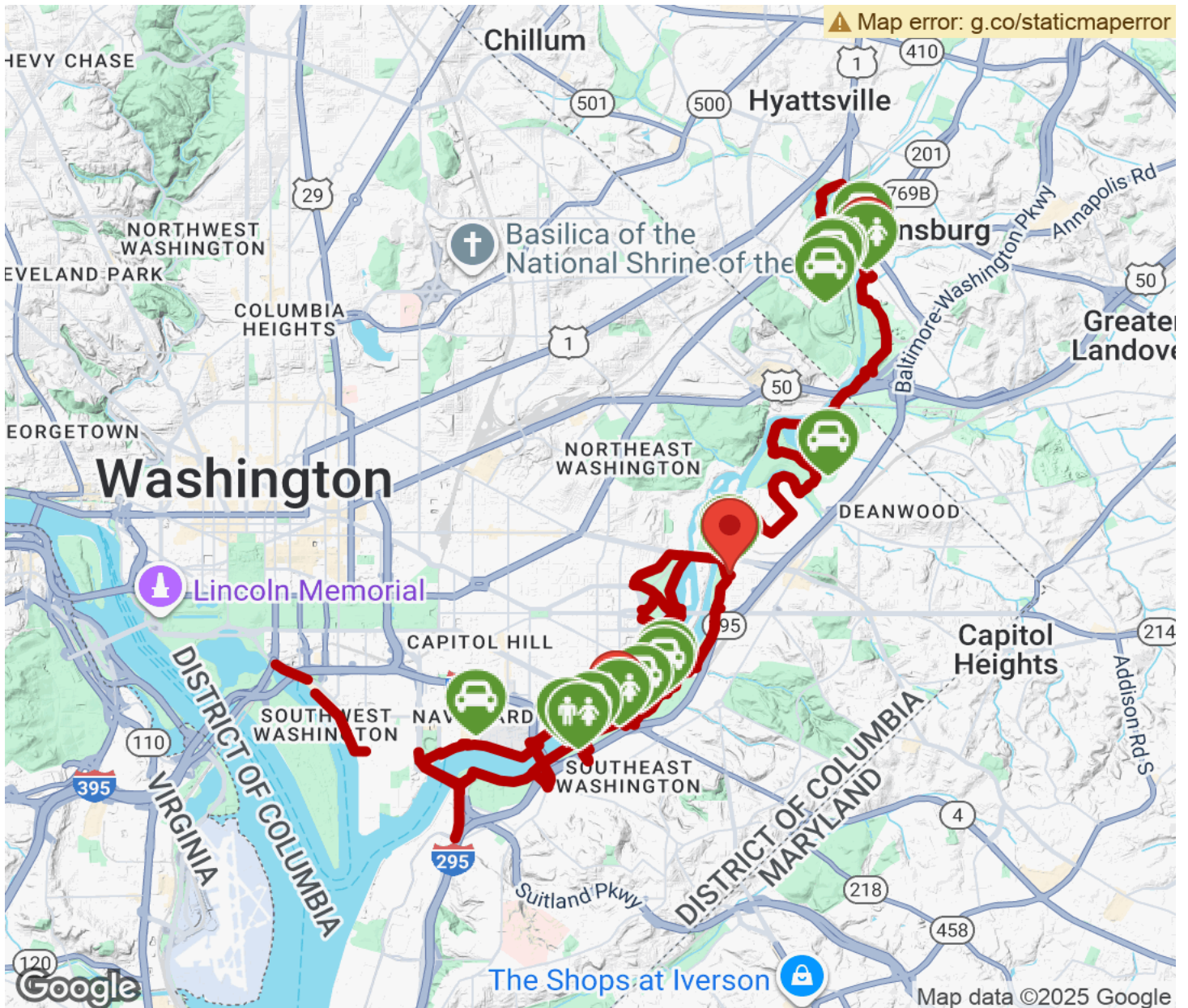
- 4601 Annapolis Rd (Bladensburg, MD)
- 1800 Anacostia Dr (Washington, D.C.)
- 425 Tingley St SE (Washington, D.C.)

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



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