



2024

TrailLink Unlimited



Guides



Sligo Creek Trail

Maryland



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The bustling D.C. metro area seems light-years away from the parklands bordering the Sligo Creek Trail in the Maryland suburbs



The bustling D.C. metro area seems light-years away from the parklands bordering the Sligo Creek Trail in the Maryland suburbs northeast of the city. The paved stream-valley trail follows the meandering creek for about 10 miles from its junction with the [Northwest Branch Trail](#) in Hyattsville in Prince George's County to the town of Wheaton in Montgomery County.

Named for the creek it follows, the Sligo Creek Trail is just one arm of the 40-mile [Anacostia Tributary Trail System](#). That trail network starts in Hyattsville where the tidal Anacostia River splits into the Northwest and Northeast Branches, each with its corresponding creekside trail. The trail corridors run through parkland that the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission started acquiring in the 1930s.

The Sligo Creek Trail begins where it splits off from the Northwest Branch Trail at the confluence of Sligo Creek and Northwest Branch of Anacostia River in Hyattsville. The playing fields at Green Meadows Park are the first of many you'll pass as you head northwest.

Throughout the trail, be aware of side trails that can carry you off the main trail and into nearby neighborhoods. Also, activate the flashing lights for pedestrian crosswalks at the Riggs Road and East-West Highway crossings.

The trail enters Montgomery County just before New Hampshire Avenue and begins long passages through woodland, where occasional small bridges cross the creek. Heading north, you may notice low dams crossing the creek. Some mark the locations of old gristmills, and one was part of Takoma Park's public drinking-water system until the 1930s.

Commuters can use the winding 8-foot-wide trail from 5 a.m. to mid-night, although general hours are sunrise to sunset. Dozens of picnic tables and benches allow recreational users to relax and watch deer browsing in the woody sections or herons stealthily fishing in the creek.

The two-lane Sligo Creek Parkway runs alongside the trail most of the way through Montgomery County until the trail crosses University Boulevard/MD 193. The narrow trail gets crowded on the weekends with walkers, joggers, and bicyclists, so two sections of the parkway are closed to motor vehicles from 9 a.m. Friday to 6 p.m. Sunday. One stretches from Old Carroll Avenue to Piney Branch Road in Takoma Park; the other is from Forest Glen Road in Forest Glen to University Boulevard West in Wheaton.

The trail ends in a residential area about 0.4 mile from a pedestrian entrance to the 530-acre Wheaton Regional Park, a popular family destination featuring a large playground, an ice rink, a fishing lake, picnic shelters, and even a merry-go-round and miniature train for the kids.



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States: Maryland

Counties: Montgomery, Prince Georges

Length: 10.2 miles

Trail end points: Arcola Local Park (11501 Channing Dr, Silver Spring) to Northwest Branch Trail at Nicholson St (Hyattsville)

Trail surfaces: Asphalt

Trail category: Greenway/Non-RT

Trail activities: Bike, Inline

Skating, Fishing, Wheelchair

Accessible, Walking

Parking & Trail Access

Montgomery County's public transit system provides access to the trail. Visit the [MCDOT website](#) for more information.

Parking for the Sligo Creek Trail can be found at numerous points along the trail. Visit the [TrailLink map](#) for all options and detailed directions. Parking locations include:

Green Meadows Park (6301 Sligo Pkwy) in Hyattsville

The Parklawn Recreation Building (1601 East-West Hwy) in Adelphi.

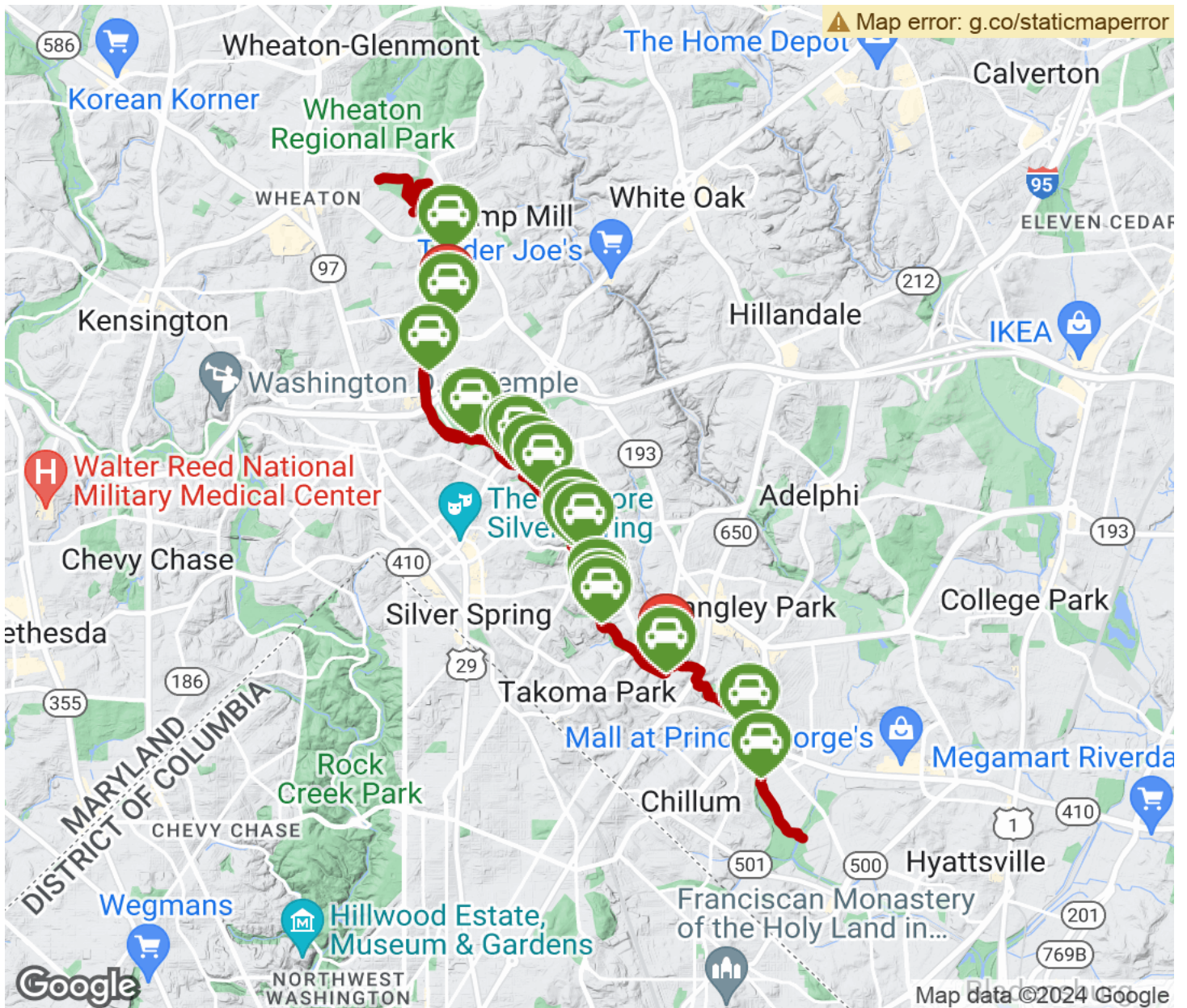
Sligo Creek Stream Valley Park (8101 Sligo Creek Pkwy) and Sligo Creek North Neighborhood Park (Sligo Creek Pkwy & Heather Ave) in Takoma Park.

Dale Drive Neighborhood Park (125 Dale Dr), Sligo-Dennis Avenue Local Park (10200 Sligo Creek Pkwy), Sligo-Dennis Avenue Local Park (10200 Sligo Creek Pkwy), and several Sligo Creek parking locations (201 Hilltop Rd, Silver Spring), (9210 Sligo Creek Pkwy), and (9300 Sligo Creek Pkwy) in Silver Spring.



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- Trailhead
- Restroom
- Parking
- Water Fountain
- Tunnel