



Want to learn more?

Become involved with the Trail Ranger Program

Questions about trails or our trail outreach program? Email our DC Trail Ranger Coordinator at trailranger@waba.org or give us a call at (202) 518-0524 x 208.

Want to make biking better?

Join your local bike advocacy group, WABA, as we work to make the DC region a fantastic place to bike. Our mission is to create a healthy, more livable region by promoting bicycling for fun, fitness, and affordable transportation; advocating for better bicycling conditions and transportation choices for a healthier environment; and educating children, adults, and motorists about safe bicycling.

Join us at waba.org.



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Funded by a generous grant from the District Department of Transportation with additional support from National Park Service

Anacostia River Trail

Connecting the riverbanks with DC's longest trail



Trail Highlights

Circling both banks of the Anacostia River from near its confluence with the Potomac River at South Capitol St upstream to Maryland's Anacostia Tributary Trail system the trail connects two national parks - Kenilworth Aquatic Gardens and Anacostia Park. The Anacostia River Trail offers terrific views of city and river and easy connections between the parks, stadiums, restaurants and neighborhoods along and across the river.

Hérons, egrets and cormorants are commonly spotted but keep an eye out for box turtles, muskrats, turkeys and foxes as well.



Anacostia Park is home to the only roller rink in the National Park Service system, built during the urban park movement in the '70s.



The wading pool and waterfall at Yards Park near 3rd and Water St are popular attractions in the summer.



DC Trail Rangers

Trail Rangers are a consistent and helpful presence on DC's mixed use, paved trails, charged with assisting trail users, improving trail conditions, and working with city agencies to keep the trails clean, bright, and clear of obstacles. We have a regular trail presence, events and smaller outreach to encourage and support trail use along the Metropolitan Branch, Anacostia River, Marvin Gaye and Suitland Parkway trails.



Photo credit: 501Pix Photography

Events

Pitch in Cleaning Up: Throughout the spring and summer, neighbors and trail users are invited to lend a hand in keeping our urban bikeways looking good.

More info at waba.org/trailranger or give us a call at (202) 518-0524 x 208.



Trail History

The riverbanks were a popular trading place for the Anacostan people. After the initial settlement of Washington City, one bridge served as the sole connection for many decades near the site of the current 11th St bridge. The area was sparsely populated for the first century, only beginning to gain density with the development of one of DC's first suburbs Uniontown (now approximately the Anacostia Historic District) in the 1850s.

The river has seen heavy abuse from urban development - with acres of wetlands filled in and the river serving as the drain for sewage system. Massive efforts are underway to reduce overflow and make the river once again swimmable & fishable.



Currently spanning more than 12.5 miles, the trail is connects with the Anacostia Tributary Trails of Prince George's County - Northwest Branch, Sligo Creek, Northeast Branch, and Paint Branch Trails.