



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.



WASHINGTON
AREA
BICYCLIST
ASSOCIATION

Funded by a generous grant from the District Department of Transportation.

Metropolitan Branch Trail

Connecting Union Station
to Silver Spring



Trail Highlights

As an urban trail, the MBT connects a wide variety of destinations and sights - coffee shops, monasteries, the Capitol Building, and many more.



The corridor from R St to Franklin St is covered in many fantastic murals including this one by Cita Sadeli as part of a multi artist installation “Crossroads” at 4th and St St.

The plantings at Rhode Island Ave are home to many fruit & native trees as well as the tulip garden dedicated to Paul Meijer.



Four bike shops are along the trail - Bike and Roll at Union Station, REI at M St, Gearin’ Up at Randolph St and The Bike Rack at Monroe St.

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 Riverwalk, Marvin Gaye and Suitland Parkway trails.



Events

2nd Friday Coffee Hour: On the second Friday of every month, leave for work a bit early and join us for a cup of coffee and a chat with MBT regulars at the pocket park at 4th and S St NE.

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 x208.

Trail History

Now primarily following the Red Line, the corridor was originally built in 1873 as the Metropolitan Branch rail line connecting DC with the main line of the Baltimore & Ohio Railroad. In addition to carrying freight, the train served to connect city with country and enabled city workers to live in the newly developed suburbs. Rail began to suffer in the 1920s as people began to drive more but the corridor never stopped serving as a transportation route and still carries commuter traffic - on the trail and tracks (Soderberg 1998).



Originally proposed as a trail concept in 1988 and championed by Paul Meijer and other trailside neighbors, the Metropolitan Branch Trail construction started in 1998 with the construction of the John McCormack Dr section. The main core of the trail from New York Ave to Franklin St opened in 2010. Plans to complete the trail from Ft. Totten up to Silver Spring are still ongoing - construction of the last DC section is currently expected to finish in 2019.