



# MARYLAND MILESTONES

## FARMS & FIELDS: AGRICULTURAL HERITAGE



Many people in northern Prince George's County, Maryland now make a living in the urbanized areas of metropolitan Washington, D.C. Historically, however, most made a living from the land. Explore and discover the deep ties to Maryland's agriculture milestones — past, present, and future.

Good soil along the Patuxent and Anacostia Rivers drew colonial farmers to the area by the 1700s. Enormous plantations, dependent on enslaved workers, were scattered across the landscape. The Stier and Calvert families owned a 700-acre plantation called **Riversdale** near the Anacostia River, while the Snowden family built **Snow Hill Manor** and **Montpelier** near the Patuxent River. Crops, especially tobacco, were grown for local use and regional trade. **Bladensburg** offered a deep-water shipping port on the Anacostia River and the oldest structures served an international mix of people who gathered there. **Belair Mansion**, along with **Belair Stables**, in modern Bowie was the home of Ogle and Woodward families and was one of the preeminent racing horse farms in the United States.



The Henry A. Wallace Beltsville Agricultural Research Center has led the way in innovations and developments for farming and food safety including development of the modern "Thanksgiving Turkey."

The **University of Maryland** has roots in the local agriculture. Begun as the Maryland Agricultural College in 1856 through the efforts of Charles Calvert of Riversdale, who was passionate about crop experiments on his 428-acre Rossburg Farm, the college has always had agriculture at the core of study. **Turner Hall** on Route 1 was built in 1924 as the Animal Husbandry and Dairy building and now serves as the present-day visitor center. There is still a **Campus Farm** and ice cream is still made from school-owned cows, available at the Stamp Student Union.



Today's agriculture takes a new spin with places like **ECO City Farm** in Edmonston and the **Heritage Area's** many farmer's markets - like **Greenbelt's** - bringing agriculture back to communities.

In the first half of the 20th century, the U.S. Department of Agriculture centralized their research facilities. At the USDA's **Henry A. Wallace Beltsville Agricultural Research Center**, researchers continue to pursue the innovations that help ensure a safe, steady, and affordable food supply. A piece of the original property has become the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service **Patuxent Wildlife Research Refuge**, the only such research center in the United States. The **National Wildlife Visitor Center** provides visitor access to the site. Nearby, the **National Agricultural Library** is the largest facility of its kind in the world, with more than 2.3 million volumes on forty-eight miles of shelves.

Over time, plantations have given way to neighborhoods and towns. Few tobacco fields remain, but new urban farming techniques are put to use at places like **ECO City Farms** in Edmonston. The agricultural tradition remains and today's **farmers markets** are an on-going source of healthy local produce, family fun, and community pride.

## MARYLAND MILESTONES HERITAGE CENTER

4318 Gallatin Street, Hyattsville, MD

One block from the Rhode Island Avenue Trolley Trail and located in the Pyramid Atlantic Arts Center

Start your exploration of the Anacostia Trails Heritage Area at the Maryland Milestones Heritage Center! With brochures, exhibits, and a rotating event schedule, the Heritage Center is a great starting place in historic Hyattsville. Our partners work to preserve and promote the history, art, culture, and natural resources of northern Prince George's County, Maryland, located just outside Washington, D.C. With a wide variety of historic sites, arts centers, trails and rivers, and nineteen participating local governments, the Anacostia Trails Heritage Area is a unique experience for visitors and residents. Our participating communities in Maryland are:

- Beltsville
- Berwyn Heights
- Bladensburg
- Bowie
- Brentwood
- Cheverly
- College Park
- Colmar Manor
- Cottage City
- Edmonston
- Glenn Dale
- Greenbelt
- Hyattsville
- Laurel
- Mount Rainier
- North Brentwood
- Riverdale Park
- University Park
- Prince George's County



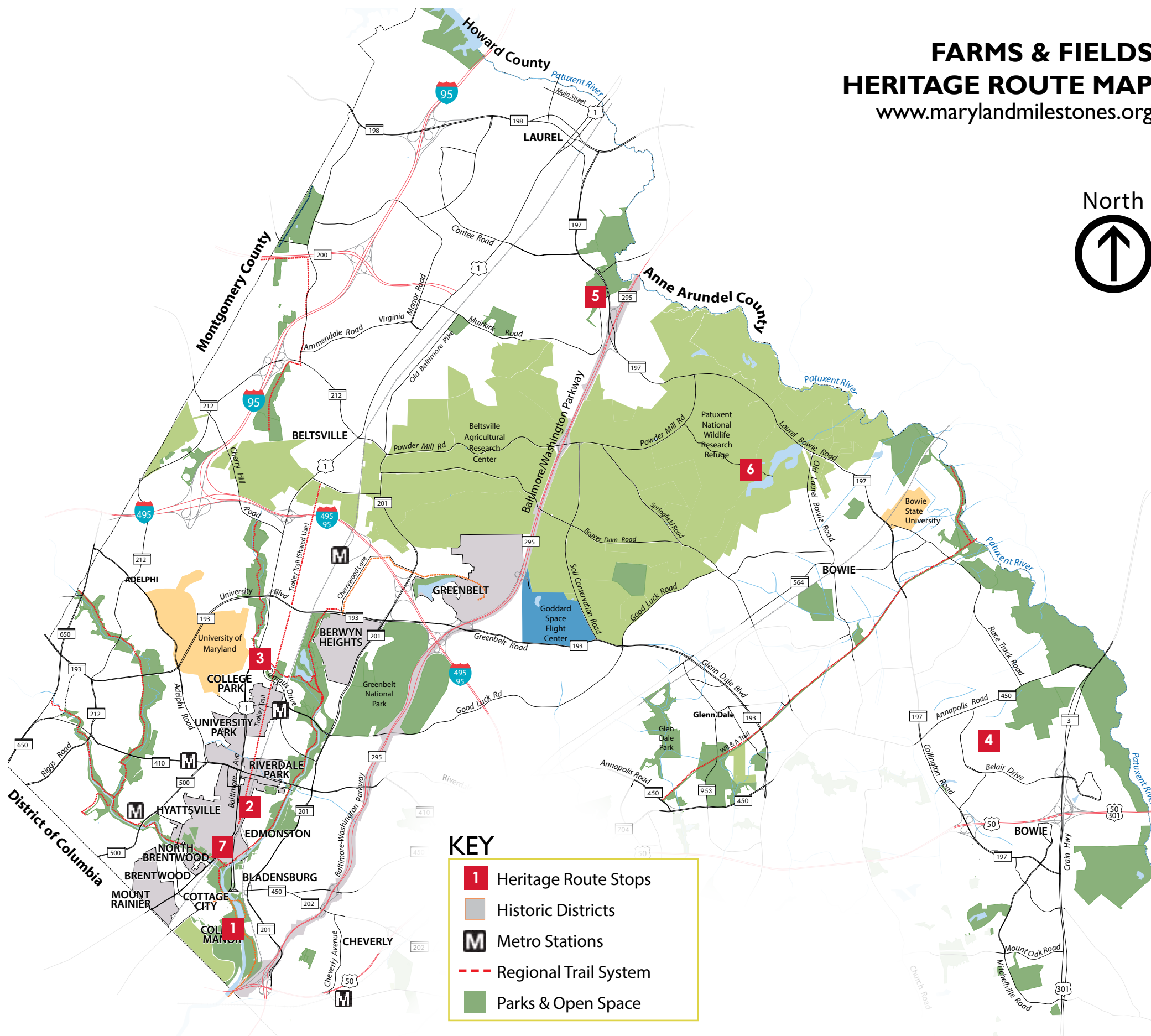
## HERITAGE ROUTES

The following Heritage Routes are tours which connect multiple sites and themes. They can be accessed by foot, bike, or vehicle. Brochures for select routes are available at the Maryland Milestones Visitors Center or find all of them at [www.marylandmilestones.org](http://www.marylandmilestones.org).

- **Linking the Nation: Transportation & Communication**
- **From Hot Air Balloons to Steps on the Moon**
- **Main Streets & Miracle Miles**
- **Farms & Fields: Agriculture Heritage**
- **Urban Outdoor Adventures**
- **Painting the Town: Arts & Humanities**
- **Festivals & Farmers Markets**
- **Battle of Bladensburg Walking Tour**



**FARMS & FIELDS  
HERITAGE ROUTE MAP**  
www.marylandmilestones.org



**1 Bladensburg Waterfront Park**  
4601 Annapolis Road, Bladensburg, MD  
Operating Hours: Daily 8:30-5  
301-779-0371 / www.pgparcs.com

**2 Riversdale House Museum**  
4811 Riverdale Road, Riverdale Park, MD  
Operating Hours: M-F, 9-5; Sun, 12-3:30  
301-864-0420 / history.pgparcs.com

**3 University of Maryland Visitor Center**  
1201 Turner Hall, College Park MD  
Operating Hours: Mon-Fri, 8-5; Sat, 9-3  
301-314-7777 / www.umd.edu

**4 Belair Stable Museum**  
2835 Belair Drive, Bowie, MD  
Operating Hours: Tu-Su, 12-4  
301-809-3089 / www.cityofbowie.org

**5 Montpelier Mansion Historic Site**  
9650 Muirkirk Road, Laurel, MD  
Operating Hours: M-F, 9-5; Sa/Su, 11-4  
301-377-7817 / history.pgparcs.com

**6 Patuxent Wildlife Research Refuge**  
(National Wildlife Visitors Center)  
10901 Scarlet Tanager Loop, Laurel, MD  
Operating Hours: Mon-Wed, 9-4:30; Fri-Sun, 9-4:30  
301-497-5760 / www.fws.gov/refuge/Patuxent

**7 Maryland Milestones Heritage Center**  
(Located near Rhode Island Avenue Trolley Trail)  
4318 Gallatin Street, Hyattsville, MD  
301-887-0777 / info@marylandmilestones.org  
Operating Hours: Tue-Sat, 10-5; Sun 12-5

Other Referenced Stopping Points:  
Many of the other points referenced in this Heritage Route are residential and commercial areas. We encourage you to park and walk these communities and experience their relationship to our history and culture. For more details on locations of town halls or parking, please contact Maryland Milestones.

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Photos: Tractor, carrots, girl, S.L. Rogers; Scientists at BARC, Department of Agriculture; Campus Farm, Farmers Market, A. Marcavitch; Hoop Houses, ECO City Farms