



MARYLAND MILESTONES

LINKING THE NATION: TRANSPORTATION & COMMUNICATION



From roads and railways to telegraphs and airplanes, the Anacostia Trails Heritage Area has long been the source of inventions and major “Maryland Milestones” that have linked together a growing nation.

In the early 1700s, **Bladensburg** was established as a colonial port town, connecting inland tobacco farms to the Chesapeake Bay and Europe. In 1783, the Post Road, now U.S. Route 1 in Bladensburg, ran between Baltimore and Georgetown, becoming one of the first stage coach lines, a federally funded mail route, and one of the nation’s early turnpikes. A few buildings from the period, **George Washington House**, **Bostwick**, and **Magruder House**, still remain in Bladensburg.



Communication innovation was also a major part of the region with the first air mail routes at College Park Airport and the telegraph tests between Bladensburg and Beltsville.

In 1835, the Baltimore & Ohio Railroad chose a route to Washington that paralleled the old turnpike. By the 1850’s, the B&O route was paralleled by the Pennsylvania Railroad, running to Washington D.C. through Bowie. Communities and trading centers, like Laurel, Hyattsville, and **Bowie**, blossomed along rail stops creating new communities and development.

Streetcars began to appear in the region by the turn of the 20th Century, fueling the growth of neighborhoods with convenient access to Washington, D.C. The former City & Suburban or DC Transit #83 line has been converted into a bike trail through **College Park**, **Riverdale Park**, and **Hyattsville**, while the Washington, Baltimore, and Annapolis line was converted to a trail through **Glenn Dale** and **Bowie**. These old streetcar trails, along with the Anacostia Tributary Trail System, creates a new network of bikeable routes.



From boats to trains or from rivers to rockets, this region has been a crossroads of travel. Today, this history is evident at the Bowie Railroad Museum or Bladensburg Waterfront Park.

With the arrival of the automobile at the turn of the Twentieth Century, automobile suburbs such as **University Park**, **Cheverly**, and **Berwyn Heights** sprung up. In **Edmonston**, the Carter Motor Car Company was an early innovator in automobile development. Later, the region would continue to be a crossroads with the Baltimore-Washington Parkway and US Interstate 95/495.

In communications heritage, Samuel Morse and Ezra Cornell transmitted the first unofficial experimental telegraph message from a spot near modern **Beltsville** in 1844. In 1918, air mail started at **College Park Airport**. Today, the **National Capital Radio & Television Museum** provides a chance to explore the history of communication here in the Heritage Area.

From the tests of hot air balloons, to the legacy of flight at **College Park Aviation Museum**, to the trips to the moon and to space with the **NASA Goddard Space Flight Center**, aviation heritage is above and around us. See our “From Hot Air Balloons to Steps on the Moon” brochure.

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:

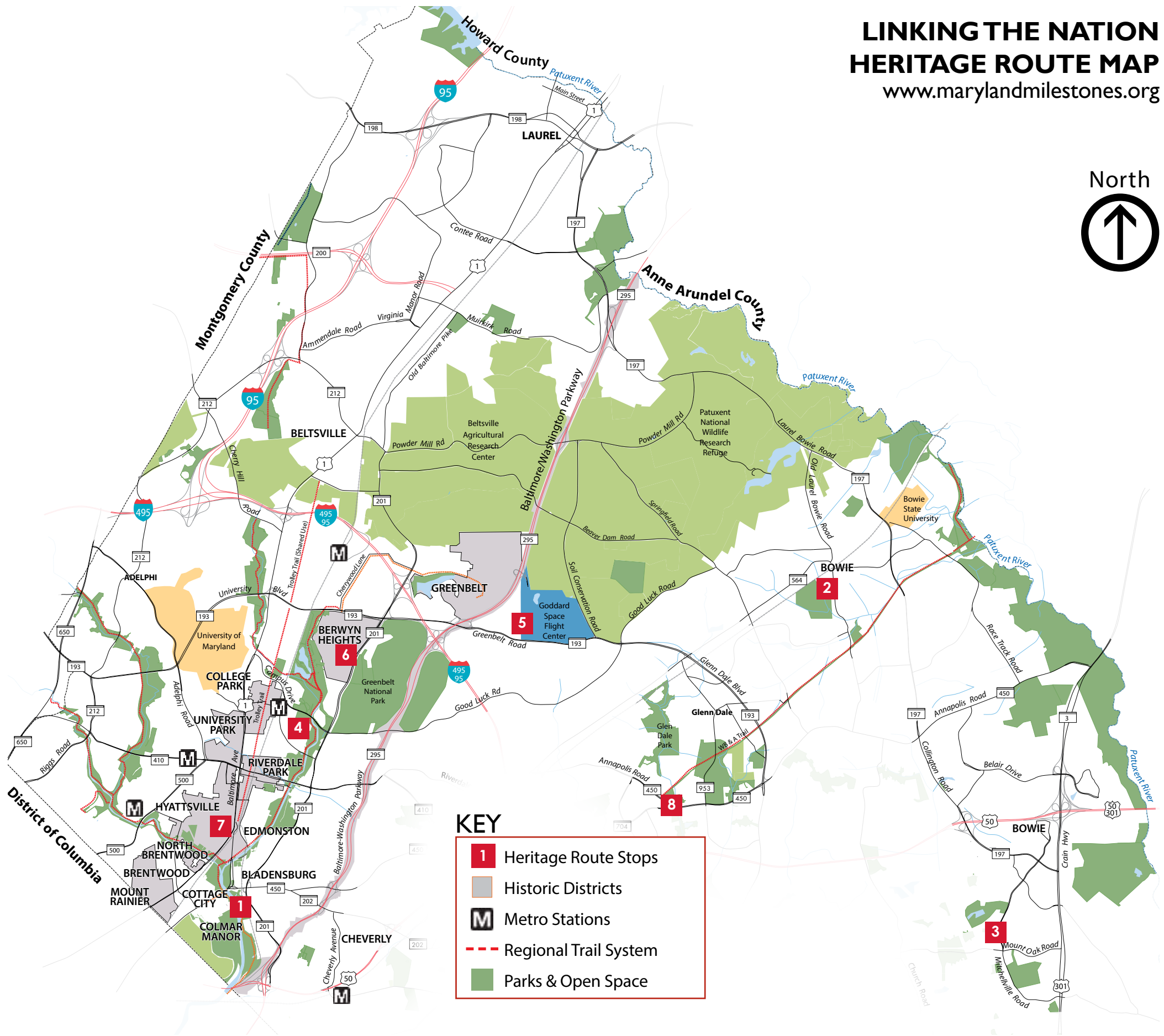
- Beltsville
- Berwyn Heights
- Bladensburg
- Bowie
- Brentwood
- Cheverly
- College Park
- Colmar Manor
- Cottage City
- Edmonston
- Glenn Dale
- Greenbelt
- Hyattsville
- Laurel
- Mount Rainier
- North Brentwood
- Riverdale Park
- University Park
- Prince George’s County



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.

- **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**



1 Bladensburg Waterfront Park
4601 Annapolis Road, Bladensburg, MD
Operating Hours: Daily 9-5
301-779-0371 / www.pgparcs.com

2 Bowie Railroad Museum
8614 Chestnut Avenue, Bowie, MD
Operating Hours: Sunrise to Sunset
301-699-2255 / www.pgparcs.com

3 National Capitol Radio & Television Museum
2608 Mitchellville Road, Bowie, MD
Operating Hours: Fri, 9-4; Sat/Sun, 12-4
301-390-1020 / www.ncrtv.org

4 College Park Aviation Museum
1985 Corporal Frank Scott Dr., College Park, MD
Operating Hours: Daily, 10-5
Admission: \$5/adults, \$4/seniors/\$2/ages 2-18
301-864-6029 / history.pgparcs.com

5 NASA Goddard Visitor Center
4601 Annapolis Road, Bladensburg, MD
Operating Hours: Tu-Fr 10-3; Sat/Sun, 12-4
301-286-8981 / www.nasa.gov

6 Berwyn Heights Historical Museum
5700 Berwyn Road, Berwyn Heights, MD
Operating Hours: M-F, 9-5
301-474-5000 / www.berwynheightsmd.gov

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

8 WB&A Trailhead
(Prince George's County Parks and Recreation)
10100 Annapolis Road, Lanham, MD 20706
Operating Hours: Sunrise to Sunset
301-699-2255/www.pgparcs.com

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: Mount Rainier Trolley - National Capital Trolley Museum; College Park Aviation Museum, S.L. Rogers; Bike Riders, Laurie Lemieux; Laurel Train Station, A. Marcavitch; Kayak, K. Ash; Bowie RR Museum, City of Bowie Museums; Bladensburg Waterfront Park, College Park Aviation Museum, Telegraph Key, S.L. Rogers