

Mount Vernon Trail

George Washington Memorial Parkway

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior



Welcome to the Mount Vernon Trail

In 1973 the National Park Service constructed the Mount Vernon Trail along the Potomac River, paralleling the George Washington Memorial Parkway.

With the river as your companion, you can ride your bike, jog, or walk the 18.5-mile trail from Mount Vernon, the home of George Washington, to Theodore Roosevelt Island in the Potomac River near the Lincoln Memorial. Along the way enjoy a view of the Potomac at Riverside Park, visit the fortifications

at Fort Hunt Park, and take a side trip to the Dyke Marsh wildlife habitat or to Jones Point Park, which features a 19th-century lighthouse. You can then lunch on the wharf in Alexandria amid the 18th-century homes and shops occupied ever since the city was a tobacco and shipping port.

Beyond Alexandria, you can see the sailboats off Daingerfield Island, and view the Washington skyline from Gravelly Point, where you can also watch jet planes land and take off

from Washington National Airport. Once over the Columbia Island Bridge, you pass the Navy-Marine Memorial of gulls in flight above a wave. Next, you can rest in the greenery of the Lyndon Baines Johnson Memorial Grove in Lady Bird Johnson Park where you can view the Washington monuments from a distance. The trail passes Memorial Bridge that symbolizes the union of the North and South after the Civil War. Just past Theodore Roosevelt Island is the connection to the Arlington County trail system.



Mount Vernon Trail User Ethics

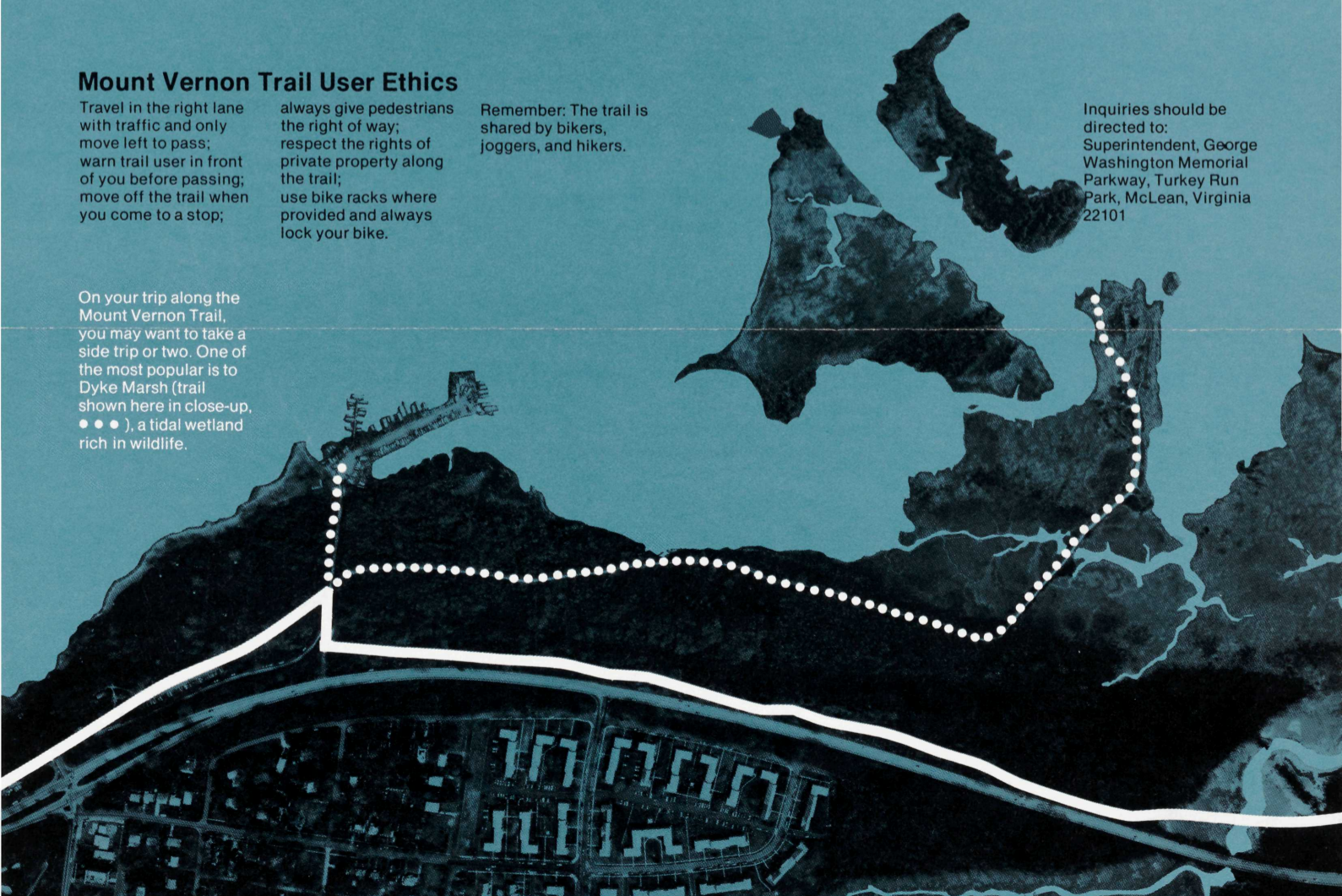
Travel in the right lane with traffic and only move left to pass; warn trail user in front of you before passing; move off the trail when you come to a stop;

always give pedestrians the right of way; respect the rights of private property along the trail; use bike racks where provided and always lock your bike.

Remember: The trail is shared by bikers, joggers, and hikers.

Inquiries should be directed to: Superintendent, George Washington Memorial Parkway, Turkey Run Park, McLean, Virginia 22101

On your trip along the Mount Vernon Trail, you may want to take a side trip or two. One of the most popular is to Dyke Marsh (trail shown here in close-up, ●●●), a tidal wetland rich in wildlife.

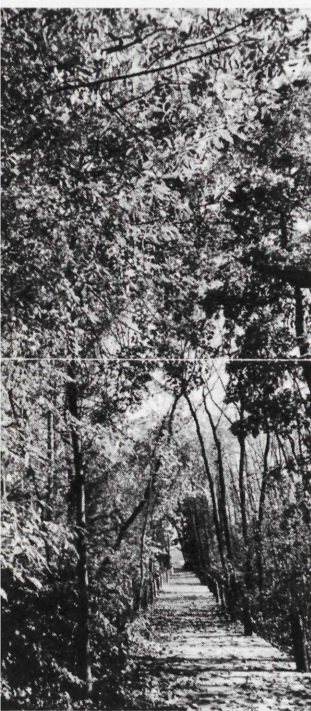


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An Important Message

A variety of people—bikers, hikers, and casual explorers—use the recreational opportunities provided by the Mount Vernon Trail. Be aware that others use the

trail. Look out for one another. In an emergency, phone the U.S. Park Police at 426-6600 or dial 911.



Theodore Roosevelt Island

Leave your bicycles at the racks and explore

the 2½ miles of trails and the memorial plaza.

Arlington Memorial Bridge

This bridge was dedicated in 1932 to symbolize the union of the

North and South following the Civil War.

Lyndon Baines Johnson Memorial Grove

From this living memorial to the 36th President in Lady Bird

Johnson Park, you have an unobstructed view of the Washington skyline.

Navy-Marine Memorial

This statue by Ernest Begni del Piatta, dedicated in 1934, honors

Americans who served at sea.

Gravelly Point

A fine panorama of Washington, the Potomac River, and Washington National Airport can be seen from this recreation area on the

river. It is a perfect place to launch your boat, begin a bike trip, or watch the planes landing and taking off from the airport.

Daingerfield Island

No longer geographically an island, this 107 acre area at the junction of the Potomac River and Four Mile Run has

sailing, fishing, and field sports facilities. The restaurant here has a fine view of Washington.

Mount Vernon Trail

Trail

Other Trails

Park

Boat Launch

Fishing

Parking

Phone

Picnicking

Restaurants

Restrooms

Water Fountain

0 1/2 1 2km

0 1/4 1/2 1 mile

Alexandria

The bike trail follows the city streets through Alexandria. The town, historically a center for tobacco trading and

shipbuilding, was frequented by George Washington, George Mason, and Robert E. Lee. Christ Church,

Lee's boyhood home, Gadsby's Tavern, and the George Washington Bicentennial Center are well worth visiting.

Jones Point Lighthouse

This inland lighthouse with its small beacon warned of nearby sandbars from 1836-1925. The point was named after a beaver trader, Cadwalader Jones,

who built his cabin here in 1692. Jones Point was once the southernmost corner of the District of Columbia. A cornerstone commemorating this fact

can be seen in an alcove along the seawall. This area is popular for fishing and picnicking.

Belle Haven

Once the name of a settlement of Scottish merchants, Belle Haven grew up around a tobacco warehouse in the 1730's. This is now

a popular picnic area adjacent to Dyke marsh on the Potomac River. A perfect place to begin a ride along the trail.

Dyke Marsh

Over 250 species of birds have been sighted in this lush 240 acre

wetland, typical of the Potomac estuary shoreline.

Alexandria Avenue

Fort Washington

An early 19th Century coastal defense fortification.

Fort Hunt Park

156 acres for picnicking, hiking, and ballplaying. A place to start a bike trip.

Riverside Park

Enjoy fishing, picnicking, and looking at the river.

Mount Vernon

George Washington's home on the Potomac River.

