

# Mount Vernon Trail

George Washington Memorial Parkway

National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior

Virginia/District of Columbia



Boardwalk near Fort Hunt Park

## Welcome to the Mount Vernon Trail

The National Park Service built the Mount Vernon Trail in 1973 so visitors could better enjoy the diverse natural and historic areas along the Potomac River. Today, this foresight is appreciated by thousands who enjoy the trail for its many recreational opportunities. Please help us care for this park—for your pleasure and for future generations.

With the Potomac River as your companion, you can walk, ride your bike, or jog the 18.5-mile Mount Vernon Trail. The trail runs from Mount Vernon, George Washington's home (southern end), to Theodore Roosevelt Island in the Potomac River (northern end). Along the way you can enjoy a view of the Potomac at Riverside Park, visit fortifications at Fort Hunt Park, and take side trips to Dyke Marsh Preserve or to Jones Point Light-

house, which features a 19th-century light-station. If you have worked up an appetite, you can dine in Alexandria amidst the 18th-century homes and shops occupied since the city was a tobacco and shipping port.

Beyond Alexandria you can see sailboats off Daingerfield Island and view the Washington skyline from Gravelly Point. Once over the Columbia Island Bridge, you pass the Navy and Marine Memorial, with its sculpture of gulls in flight above a wave. Next, you can rest in the greenery of Lady Bird Johnson Park. The Mount Vernon Trail also connects to other recreational trails that await your exploration. If you enjoy vigorous activities or just relaxing—the Mount Vernon Trail is for you.



Heading for a picnic spot



Jogging along the Potomac River

Photos: NPS

## For a Safe Visit

**Trail Courtesy** The trail is shared by many people, including bikers, runners, skaters, and casual explorers. Watch out for others who may be traveling faster or slower than you.

**Safety and Regulations** •Stay on the main trail or designated side trails. •Stay on the right side of the trail. Move left only to pass—give ample warning to the trail user in front of you before passing.

- Watch out for uneven pavement. Use caution on wet boardwalks—they can be slippery.
- Be careful when crossing streets or if traveling with vehicle traffic.
- Firearms and metal detectors are prohibited.
- Lock your bikes in the racks provided.
- Pets must be on a leash at all times.
- Be alert for poison ivy and ticks.
- Respect the privacy of property owners along the trail.
- Do not damage, remove, or destroy any natural or cultural objects in the park—all are protected by federal law.

## For More Information

Mount Vernon Trail  
George Washington Memorial Pkwy  
Turkey Run Park  
McLean, VA 22101  
703-289-2500  
[www.nps.gov/gwmp/mvt.html](http://www.nps.gov/gwmp/mvt.html)  
National Park Service: [www.nps.gov](http://www.nps.gov)

**Emergencies: call 911**  
**Park Police: 202-619-7300**

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Stopping for a rest in Riverside Park



# Enjoying the Trail



Gravelly Point



Jones Point Lighthouse



Bike riding near Dyke Marsh

## Theodore Roosevelt Island

Leave your bicycles at the racks and explore 2½ miles of trails and memorial plaza. Restrooms are ¼ mile from the plaza.

## Lyndon Baines Johnson (LBJ) Memorial Grove

You have a clear view of the Washington, D.C., skyline from this living memorial to the 36th President.

## Navy and Marine Memorial

This statue designed by Ernest Begni del Piatta, dedicated in 1934, honors Americans who served at sea.

## Gravelly Point

From here you can see a panoramic view of Washington, the Potomac River, and Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport. It is a good place to begin a bike trip or watch the airplanes.

## Daingerfield Island

No longer an island, this 107-acre area at the junction of the Potomac River and Four Mile Run has sailing, fishing, field sports, and bike rentals.

## Alexandria, Virginia

The trail follows 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. Stop for a visit at Lee's childhood home, Christ Church, Gadsby's Tavern, and the Black History Resource Center.

## Jones Point Lighthouse

This inland lighthouse warned vessels of the nearby sandbars from 1836-1925. The point was named for Cadwalader Jones, a beaver trader who built a cabin here in 1692. Jones Point was once the southernmost corner of the District of Columbia. Look for the cornerstone commemorating this boundary in an alcove along the seawall. This area is popular for fishing and picnicking.

## Belle Haven Park

Once a settlement of Scottish merchants, Belle Haven grew up around a tobacco warehouse in the 1730s. It is a good place to picnic or join the trail.

## Dyke Marsh Preserve

The largest freshwater tidal wetland in the metropolitan area is home to a diversity of animals and plants, including beaver, cattails, and wild rice. More than 250 species of birds have been sighted here.

## Fort Hunt Park

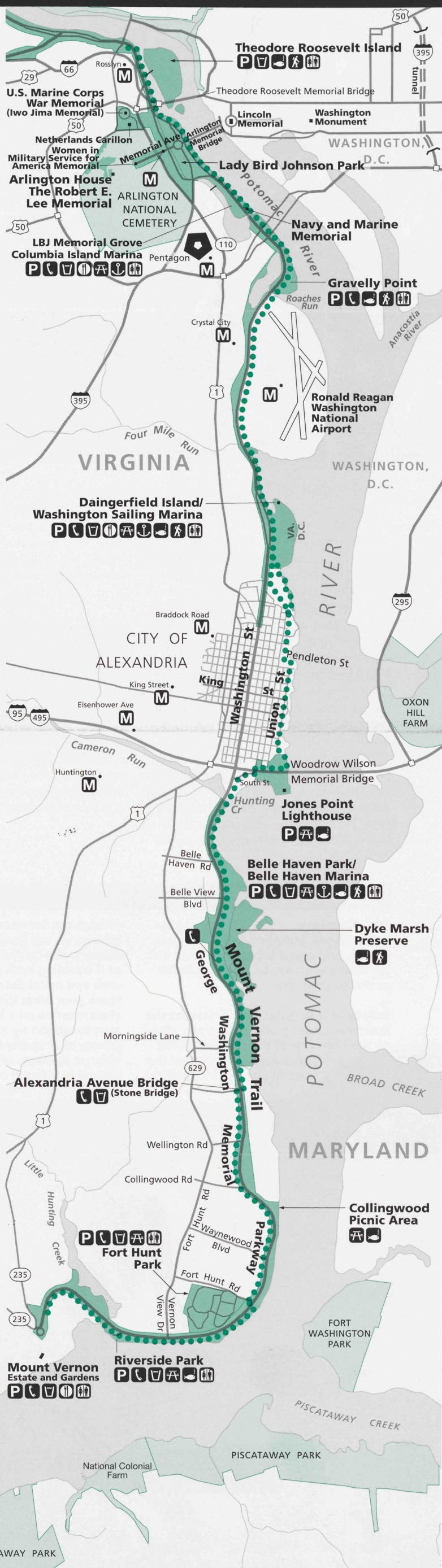
Here are 156 acres for picnicking and playing ball. It is a great place to start a bike trip or a walk on the trail.

## Riverside Park

Here you can enjoy fishing, picnicking, and viewing the river.

## Mount Vernon

George Washington's home on the Potomac River is administered by the Mount Vernon Ladies' Association (fee).



### Map Legend

- Parking
- Telephone
- Metro station
- Water fountain
- Food service
- Picnic area
- Water recreation
- Fishing
- Hiking
- Restrooms
- Mount Vernon Trail
- George Washington Memorial Parkway property

North



0 1 Kilometer 3  
0 1 Mile 3