Many people in the Anacostia Trails Heritage Area 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 horse racing farms in the United States.

The University of Maryland has roots in the local agriculture and began as the Maryland Agricultural College in 1856 through the efforts of Charles Calvert of Riversdale. Calvert was passionate about crop experiments on his 428-acre Rossburg Farm, which forms much of the current campus land. 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 university-owned cows, available at the Stamp Student Union.

Over time, plantations have given way to neighborhoods and towns. Few tobacco fields remain, but new urban farming techniques have taken root 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.

Come and explore unique agricultural heritage!

**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

**MARYLAND MILESTONES HERITAGE CENTER**

4318 Gallatin Street, Hyattsville, MD

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

**MARYLAND MILESTONES**

FARMS & FIELDS: AGRICULTURAL HERITAGE
MARYLAND MILESTONES
FARMS & FIELDS: AGRICULTURAL HERITAGE

301-864-0420 / history.pgparks.com
Operating Hours: Mon-Fri, 9-5; Sun, 12-3:30
4601 Riverdale Road, Bladensburg, MD

301-377-7817 / history.pgparks.com
Operating Hours: M-F, 9-5; Sa/Su, 11-4
9650 Muirkirk Road, Laurel, MD

Bladensburg Waterfront Park
4601 Annapolis Road, Bladensburg, MD
Operating Hours: Daily, Sunrise - Sunset
301-779-0371 / www.pgparks.com
Operating Hours: Daily, Sunrise - Sunset
4601 Annapolis Road, Bladensburg, MD

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

Montpelier Mansion Historic Site
9650 Muirkirk Road, Laurel, MD
Operating Hours: M-F, 9-5; Sa/Su, 11-4
301-377-7817 / history.pgparks.com
Operating Hours: Tu-Sat, 10-5; Sun 12-5
301-809-3089 / www.cityofbowie.org

Paxton Wildlife Research Refuge
(2311 Redwood Road, Laurel, MD)
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
Operating Hours: Mon-Wed, 9-4:30; Fri-Sun, 9-4:30
10901 Scarlet Tanager Loop, Laurel, MD

Maryland Milestones Heritage Center
(Located near Rhodes Island Avenue Trolley Trail)
4318 Gallatin Street, Hyattsville, MD
301-573-0777 / info@marylandmilestones.org
Operating Hours: Tue-Sat, 10-5; Sun 12-5
301-573-0777 / info@marylandmilestones.org

Other Referenced Stopping Points:
Many of the other points referenced in this Heritage Route are residential and commercial areas. We encourage you to
walk and visit 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.

This Project has been financed in part with State Funds from the Maryland Heritage Areas Authority, an instrumentality of
the State of Maryland and through funding provided by the Maryland National Capital Park and Planning Commission.
Department of Parks and Recreation, Prince George’s County. However, the contents and opinions do not necessarily reflect
the views or policies of the Maryland Heritage Areas Authority or Maryland National Capital Park and Planning Commission.

Photos: Twitter, carots, gfl; Rogers, Scientists at BARC, Department of Agriculture; Campus Farm, Farmers Market, A. Murdock, Hopp House, BCO City Farms.