The communities in Anacostia Trails Heritage Area were built around roads and rail that cross the region, representing “Maryland’s Milestones.” Historic communities, filled with interesting buildings and neighborhoods, tell the story of the region’s growth. Unique architecture and landscapes are great for taking a walking tour of “Main Streets & Miracle Miles.”

The history of the region’s architecture starts at the river in Laurel, Bladensburg, or Bowie where the water met the road. These early roads began as a shipping routes connecting plantations at Riversdale, Montpelier, and Belair to the rivers. Bladensburg’s historic buildings, such as George Washington House and “Market Master” store served the river, but also served the travelers on the Baltimore-to-Washington Turnpike. Further north is the Rosborough Inn, a former tavern, on the University of Maryland campus. In Beltsville is one of the last remnants of a turnpike — a milestone marker — where a former tavern turned motel once stood.

Adapting to the automobile, neighborhoods developed along the region’s highways. Community developers in the 1920s targeted government employees with homes that featured built-in garages in communities like University Park and Cheverly. The planned community of Greenbelt attempted to reverse the automobile trend with a New Deal era project designed to minimize the impact of the automobile. The project included pathways and underpasses to avoid vehicles while connecting community buildings and housing.

In 1957, Bowie, the former railroad community, was again changed with a giant Levitt Brothers housing project built around the Defense Highway (US Route 450). From the 1960s to the 1980s the areas of Queens Chapel and Prince George’s Plaza in Hyattsville grew around superhighways and the Metro subway. The area includes many mid-century churches, institutional buildings, and homes.

Today, modern developments, such as the Hyattsville area Arts District and College Park have started a new life for the Main Streets and Miracle Miles of the Heritage Area. Come and explore the region’s architectural legacy around Main Streets and Miracle Miles.

**HERITAGE ROUTES**

- 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

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

**www.marylandmilestones.org**
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Gary Lavin, Director
Visit Maryland.gov mileage and more.

Laurel Historical Society Museum
817 Main Street, Laurel, MD
301-474-5000 / www.berwynheightsmd.gov
Operating Hours: Tue-Sat, 10-5; Sun 12-5
301-887-0777 / info@marylandmilestones.org
4318 Gallatin Street, Hyattsville, MD
(Located near Rhode Island Avenue Trolley Trail)

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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