

# Alexandria Bikeways

## Phone Numbers & Resources

**Trail Maintenance Questions**  
 Dept. of Recreation, Parks & Cultural Activities 703.638.4340  
 Problems on the Mount Vernon Trail outside City Limits (NPS) 703.415.6110  
 Woodrow Wilson Bridge Trail (Prince George's County) 301.265.7000  
 Online: alexandriava.gov/contactus

**Street & Sidewalk Maintenance and Problem Reporting**  
 Report potholes, debris in bike lanes, bridge issues, broken sidewalks 703.638.4888  
 Downed tree limbs and sidewalk overgrowth 703.638.9999  
 Damaged or missing street lights, signs or traffic & pedestrian signals 703.638.4747  
 Litter on sidewalk 703.513.3486  
 Graffiti on streets and bridges 703.638.4888  
 Graffiti on buildings - Police (non-emergency) 703.638.4444  
 Online reporting form: www.alexandriava.gov/es/problem\_reporting/report

**Pedestrian & Bicycle Program**  
 Bicycle Maps, Bicycle Parking, Pedestrian Safety 703.746.0086  
 Safe Routes to School, Sidewalk Requests  
 Online: alexandriava.gov/localmotion

**Visitor and Special Events Info**  
 Alexandria Convention and Visitors Association 703.746.3001  
 Online: www.visitalexandriava.com

Department of Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities  
 Department of Transportation & Environmental Services  
 Department of Planning and Zoning, GIS Division  
 Steve Spindler Cartography | steve@bakemap.com  
 Peter Volz Design  
 Photo of Mayor Euille by Ernest E. Clark/clarkbrothersphotography@gmail.com  
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## Alexandria Bikeways



## Dear Friends,

Bicycling is a great way to get around Alexandria. It's fast, healthy and good for the environment. In 2009 Alexandria was named a Bicycle Friendly Community by the League of American Bicyclists. This award was a result of citizen-inspired, City Council-led initiatives to become a city where people feel comfortable riding their bicycles for fitness and transportation.

Now—with the new Woodrow Wilson Bridge Trail to Maryland, better on-street bikeways, more bicycle parking and improved connections to Metro and to our neighbors in Arlington and Fairfax counties—we have made great progress. But we're already looking ahead to new projects!

This map identifies the City's existing on-street and off-road bicycle routes. Whether you're looking for access to the Mount Vernon Trail or a quick way to work, this map will help you get where you are going. It also provides a peek at a few planned improvements.

Please do your part to improve bicycling in Alexandria by riding responsibly, following the Rules of the Road and sharing the trails. Feel free to contact us if you have suggestions for how to improve bicycling conditions. Let's work together to keep Alexandria safe and bicycle-friendly.

William D. Euille  
 Mayor



## Community Initiatives



In partnership with VDOT, the city works closely with parents and local schools on our **Safe Routes to School** initiative. Using a mix of local and federal funds, we can make improvements near schools to address safety and encourage more students to walk or bike. Recent improvements include new sidewalks, bicycle lanes, bicycle racks and crosswalks. Funding also exists to enable schools and PTAs to educate and encourage students about walking and bicycling.

To get involved, contact your school administration or PTA. The schools will contact the City to collaborate on your ideas and address safety concerns.

The City, in partnership with the Washington Area Bicyclist Association, supports a **Bicycle Ambassadors** program of middle school students who help champion bicycling in Alexandria. The Ambassadors attend festivals and events during the summer months to encourage bicycling for transportation and promote safety.

Visit [alexandriava.gov/localmotion](http://alexandriava.gov/localmotion) for more information about **Safe Routes to School** and the **Bicycle Ambassadors** program.

## Off-road Paths and Bikeways



Alexandria has a popular and growing bikeways network that includes streets with bicycle lanes, signed bicycle routes and off-road, shared-use paths. Our primary trails are:

**Mount Vernon Trail: 18.5 miles (paved)**  
 More than one million people a year use this asphalt path along the Potomac River that runs from Rosslyn to George Washington's estate at Mount Vernon. Commuting cyclists love it because the trail connects to other important bikeways such as the Custis Trail and Four Mile Run Trail.

**Woodrow Wilson Bridge Trail: 3 miles (paved)**  
 Major regional connection from Old Town to Prince George's County, Md. and National Harbor. Many interconnecting trails; see inset map.

**Holmes Run Trail: 5 miles (paved)**  
 This scenic, 3-mile asphalt trail in the west end connects to a shared-use path on Eisenhower Avenue and continues another two miles to the Eisenhower Avenue Metro Station.

**Four Mile Run Trail: 1 mile (paved)**  
 This short, asphalt trail through Four Mile Run Park provides an important connection from the Mount Vernon Trail to Arlington, Del Ray and Rosemont via bicycle lanes along Commonwealth Avenue. A connection in Arlington provides direct access to the W & OD Trail.

**Washington, DC area has a first-rate network of shared-use paths and recreational trails. All the trails listed here are suitable for bicycling because they are paved or hard-packed "natural" surface.**

**Washington & Old Dominion Railroad Regional Park: 45 miles (paved)**  
 Built on a former railroad bed, this asphalt trail is owned and operated by the Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority of which Alexandria is a member and contributor. It is used by more than 2 million people every year and runs from Shirlington to Purcellville in Loudoun County.

**Chesapeake & Ohio Canal National Historical Park: 184.5 miles (crushed stone and clay)**  
 Running along the north bank of the Potomac River from Georgetown to Cumberland, MD, the C&O Canal trail is managed by the National Park Service.

**Capital Crescent Trail: 13 miles (paved and crushed stone)**  
 Running from Georgetown to Silver Spring, MD, mostly along a former rail bed, the CCT includes seven miles of asphalt path from Georgetown to Bethesda.

## Local Motion

Visit [alexandriava.gov/localmotion](http://alexandriava.gov/localmotion) today!

Local Motion is the City of Alexandria's program for promoting efficient and environmentally-friendly ways of getting to, from and through the City. Alexandria offers numerous transportation options that make it easy, convenient and affordable to get around without a vehicle.

### Get Involved & Stay Informed!

The City of Alexandria Pedestrian and Bicycle Program needs your help. Do you have ideas for improvements that would make it easier to walk or bicycle in your neighborhood? Do you want to find ways to encourage walking and bicycling?

Visit [alexandriava.gov/localmotion](http://alexandriava.gov/localmotion) and click on the Bike & Walk pages for a link to the **Alexandria Pedestrian and Bicycle Citizens Group**. While you're there, be sure to subscribe to eNews, Transportation Alternatives for our monthly eNewsletter.



Save Money. Be Healthy. Enjoy the Ride.

## Bicycles & Public Transportation

Bicycling is an easy and inexpensive way to move around Alexandria, especially when you incorporate your trip with public transportation.

**MetroRail & Bicycle Parking at Metro**  
 It is free and permissible to bring your bike on MetroRail weekdays except during rush hours: 7 am to 10 am and 4 pm to 7 pm. Bicycles are permitted on weekends as well as most holidays.

**Metrobus**  
 All Metrobuses are equipped with heavy-duty racks on the front. It's free and you are responsible for loading, securing and removing your bicycle by following instructions on the racks. The racks also have a locking mechanism to prevent bikes from coming loose. More info: [www.wmata.com](http://www.wmata.com)

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The complete Metro Bike-N-Ride Guidelines are available at all stations and online at [www.wmata.com](http://www.wmata.com). You can also check online for information about Metro rail station lockers and bicycle racks.

**Virginia Railway Express (VRE) Trains**  
 Full-sized bicycles cannot be accommodated on VRE trains. However, folding bicycles are permitted. More info: [www.vre.org](http://www.vre.org)



## On-road Bikeways

**Bike lanes:** A striped section on each side of the street reserved for bicycle use. Pavement marking identify the lanes.

**Shared lanes:** Cars and bicycles share the street. Special pavement markings encourage drivers to share the lane with bicyclists.

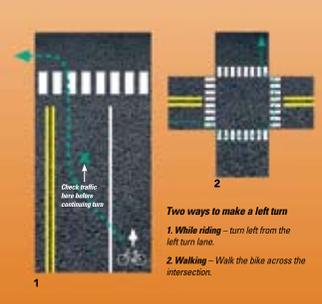
**Bike routes:** Signed bike routes are usually on streets that aren't wide enough for bike lanes but are good local streets for bicycling.

## Navigating the Road

**Ride in a straight line**  
 Avoid weaving between lanes. Drivers can't position themselves to pass if they can't predict your behavior.

**Two ways to make a left turn**  
 1. While riding - turn left from the left turn lane.  
 2. Walking - Walk the bike across the intersection.

**Check traffic flow before crossing lane**



## Safety

**Bicycling Rules of the Road**  
 The laws regulating bicycling on Virginia's roads define the rights and duties of bicyclists as well as the motorists with whom they share the roadway. Bicyclists and motorists have the same rights and duties, and the laws governing traffic regulation apply equally to both.

**The Street-Smart Cyclist**  
 Bicyclists must obey all regulatory signs. Bicyclists are permitted on all Alexandria streets unless otherwise indicated. Bicyclists must ride with the flow of traffic on the right side of the road. Bicycles cannot ride more than two abreast on roadways. Children under 14 must wear a helmet.

