



Stephanie May
Cartographer

Status Report: Mapping Muddy Branch Trail

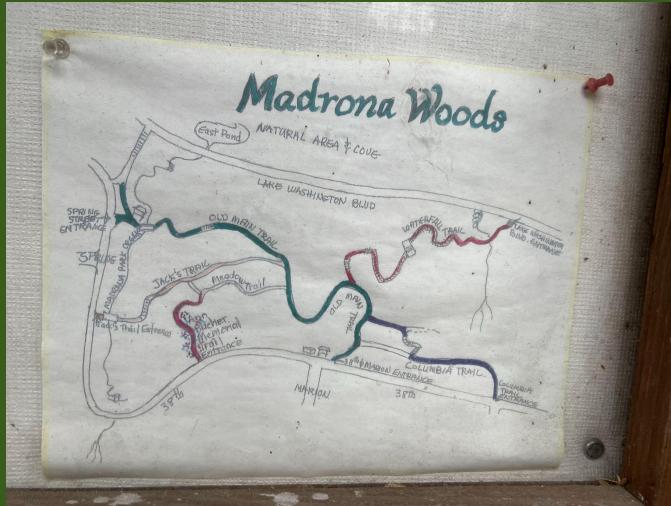
State of the Map US

Boston

06.20.2025

Driving Question

Can we make OpenStreetMap self-sustaining by making it relevant to people in our lives and communities?



“The Muddy Branch Alliance's vision is for the surrounding streams, lakes, forests and parks to be teeming with life, safe for families, pets and wildlife to enjoy and to have a community connected to preserving the area's intrinsic beauty.”



Janette Rosenbaum
President,
Muddy Branch
Alliance



Muddy Branch Trail Current Website

- Runs on Wordpress
- 8 Google Maps embeds!!!
- Detailed descriptions of each section of trail
- Hand-drawn map at the bottom of the page

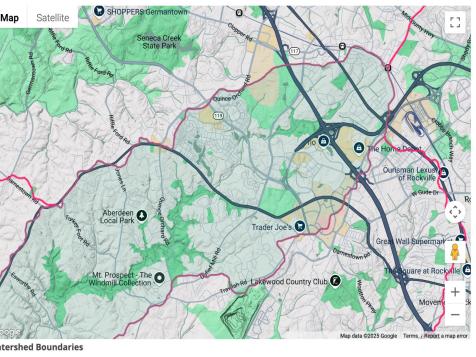


[link](#)

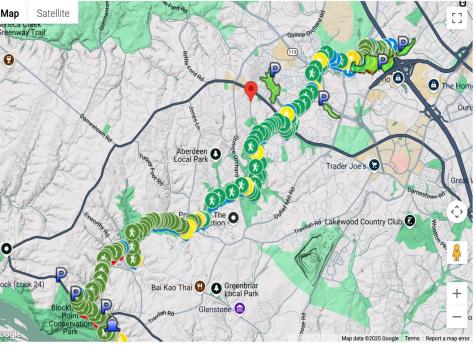
Get Involved | Heroes | Calendar | Subscribe

Muddy Branch Trail

The map below shows the boundaries of the Muddy Branch watershed, as well as the adjacent watersheds of Watts Branch and Seneca Creek. Click within the boundaries of these to identify the specific watershed you are interested in.



Muddy Branch Trail



Muddy Branch Trail Parts (north to south):

Part 1. Malcolm King Park

To hike the Muddy Branch Trail downstream, start at Malcolm King Park in Gaithersburg. This segment of the trail is completely different from all the others: an easy loop on a paved path. Park on West Side Drive, walk into the park at the bottom of the dead end, and head to the left. Behind the apartment

community you'll find the headwaters of the stream. (Technically the headwaters are beyond Morris Park, upstream of 270 and 355, near Deer Park Drive and Central Avenue, where two tiny streams combine to become the Muddy Branch. Because this stretch of the stream runs under a major road and behind some neighborhoods, we don't advise trying to hike it. From the top of Morris Park, follow the paved path down to the stream. It's a short walk, and there's a great view of the stream as you take it. If you're not an experienced hiker, Malcolm King Park makes for a great introduction to the Muddy Branch Trail. It's easy to navigate, and the forested stream valley offers a very pleasant stroll. On the other hand, if you're confident you can hike several miles without amenities like pavement and boardwalks, you may prefer to do so and go straight to the wider sections of the trail.)

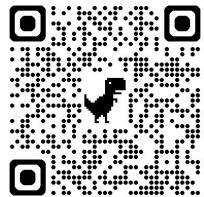


Janette likes this map the best :-)

Muddy Branch Trail in OSM

OSM BEFORE

- Trail data exists, comprehensive and reliable
- Reflects **trail users**, not stewardship goals



[link](#)

Relation: Muddy Branch Mtb Route (17786403)
Version #6
Small fixes to Muddy Branch Trail.
Edited 23 days ago by Janette Rosenbaum
Changeset #164285093

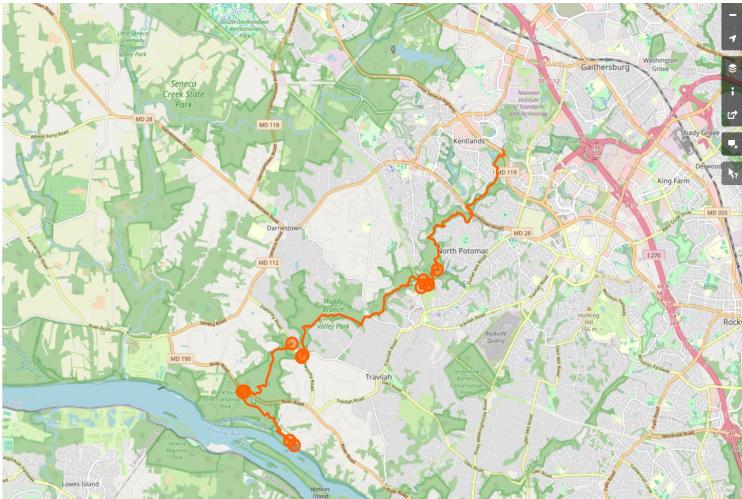
Tags

name	Muddy Branch Mtb Route
network	lcn
route	mtb
type	route

Members
43 members

[Download XML](#)

« Version #1 · View History · Version #6 »



Relation: Muddy Branch Horse Trail (18260867)
Version #5
Small fixes to Muddy Branch Trail.
Edited 23 days ago by Janette Rosenbaum
Changeset #164285093

Tags

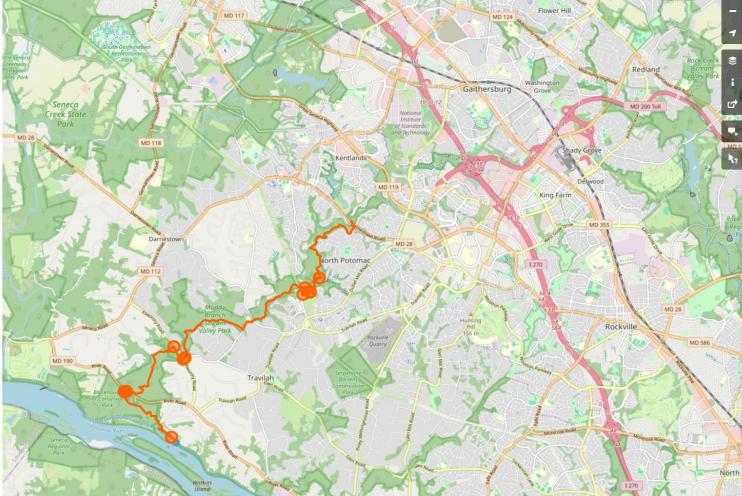
name	Muddy Branch Horse Trail
network	lcn
operator	Montgomery County MD
route	horse
type	route
website	https://montgomeryparks.org/parks-and-trails/muddy-branch-horse-trail/

Part of
relation
Blockhouse Point Trails (16362960)

Members
41 members

[Download XML](#)

« Version #1 · View History · Version #5 »



Muddy Branch Trail in OSM

OSM AFTER

- Created **relation** with operator= “Muddy Branch Alliance”
 - Added parking and crosswalks
- Retagged for consistency



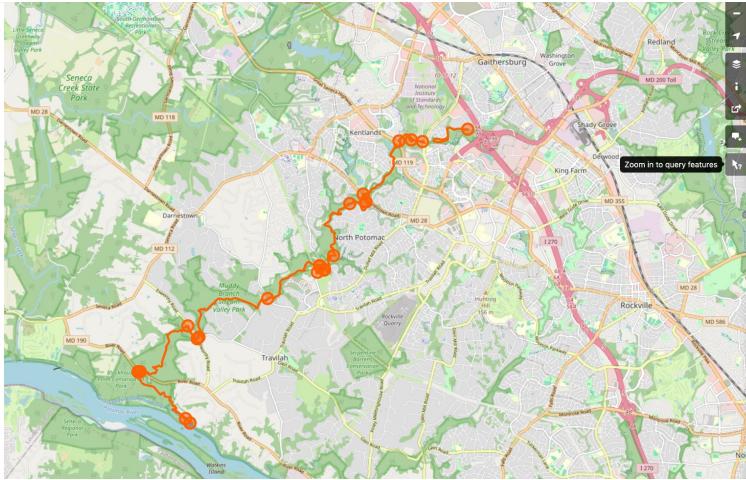
Relation: Muddy Branch Greenway Trail (18728360)
Version #16
Small fixes to Muddy Branch Trail.
Edited 23 days ago by Janette Rosenbaum
Changeset #164285093

Tags

name	Muddy Branch Greenway Trail
network	lwn
operator	Muddy Branch Alliance
route	hiking
type	route
website	https://muddybranch.org/maps/

Members
▶ 72 members

Download XML
◀ Version #1 - View History - Version #16 ▶



With guidance from the [Trail Stewardship Initiative](#):

1. Added a **source=** tag to relation that links to the Muddy Branch Alliance website
2. Named all **ways** consistently (i.e. “Muddy Branch Greenway Trail”)
3. Added **operator** tag to each **way** (one of Montgomery County, City of Gaithersburg, Izaak Walton League)
4. Make sure the **surface** tag is present and correct (unpaved or paved)
5. Add or adjust **access** tags **foot=**, **horse=**, **bicycle=** as designated (if intended for that use), **yes** (if allowed) or **permissive** (if private)
6. Change **highway=cycleway** and **highway=bridleway** to **highway=path**

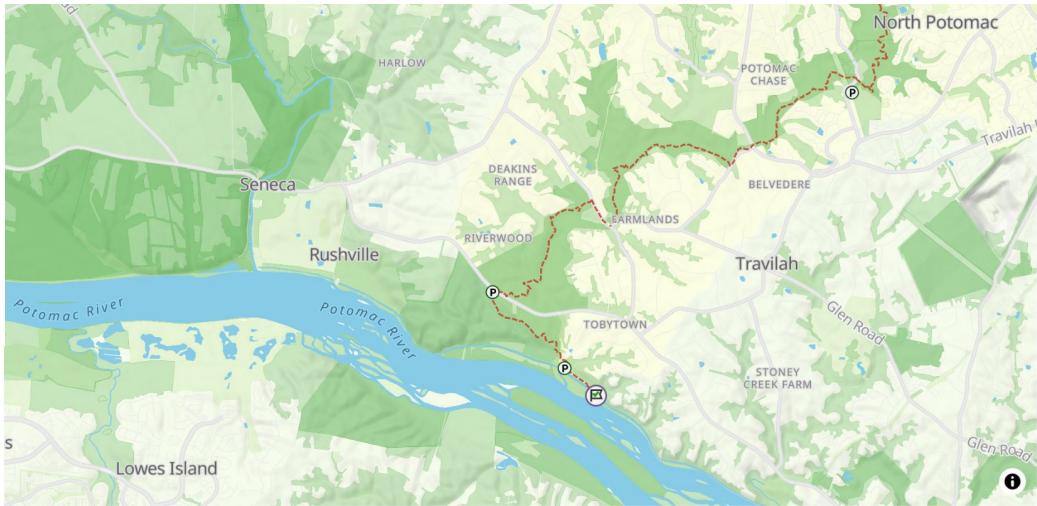
Muddy Branch Trail (Future) Map

REQUIREMENTS

- Connect locals with the watershed & trail
- Match the organization
- Work with Wordpress



[link](#)



A student from Gaithersburg High School created this wonderful map of the Muddy Branch watershed, including the location of the Muddy Branch Trail, both within the City of Gaithersburg and to the Potomac through the County park land.



Extract from OSM

& Render a trail map

✓ assets

- ✓ Muddy_Branch_Greenway_Trail_Map
 - muddy_branch_greenway_trail_relation.geojson
 - muddy_branch_reference_data.pmtiles
 - muddy_branch_watershed.geojson
- ✓ style.json
- ✓ terrarium-extract-z12.pmtiles

✓ fonts

✓ icons

✓ sprites



Run Share Export Wizard Style Save Load Settings Help overpass turbo Map Data

```
1 /* Muddy Branch Greenway Trail */
2 [out:json] [timeout:25];
3
4 // Store the relation
5 rel(18728360)->.rel;
6
7 // Get member ways and their nodes
8 (
9   way(r.rel);
10  node(w); // nodes of the ways
11 )->.ways_and_nodes;
12
13 // Get member nodes that are *direct* members of the
14 // relation
15 node(r.rel)->.standalone_nodes;
16
17 // Combine all
18 (
19   .ways_and_nodes;
20   .standalone_nodes;
21 );
out body;
```

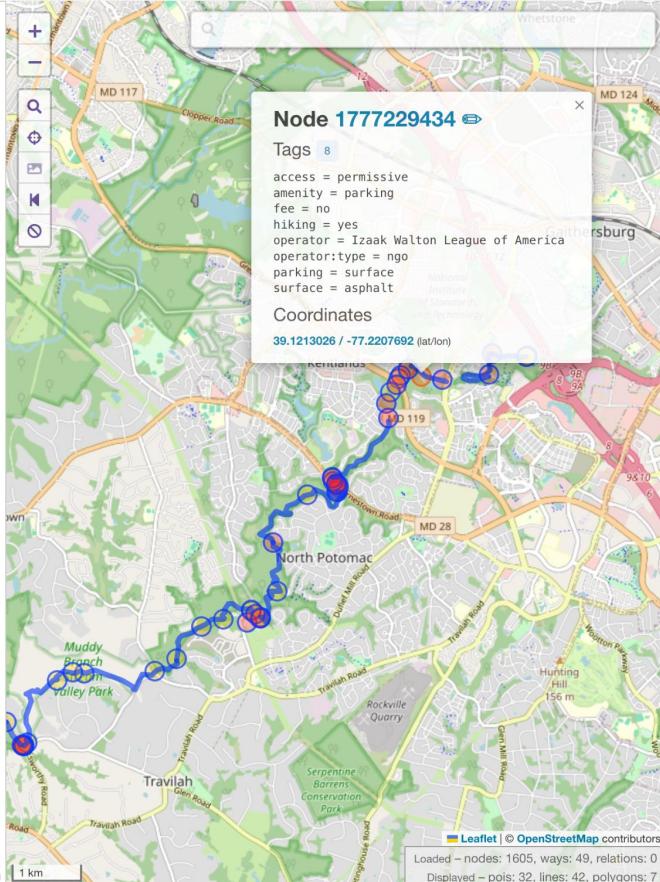
Reference layers (Protonmaps)

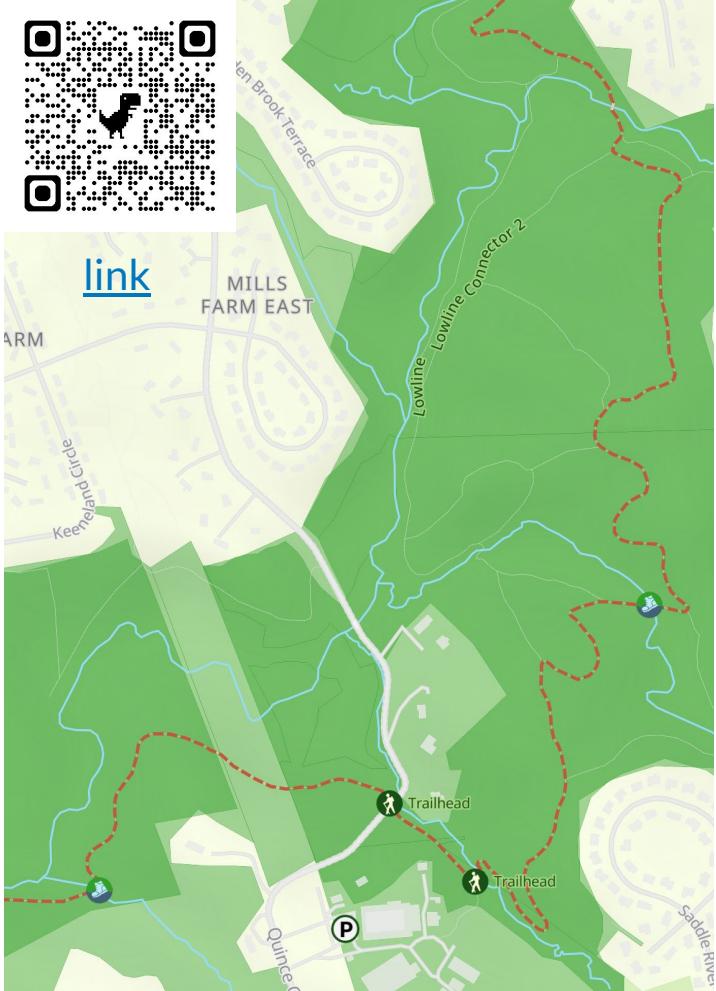
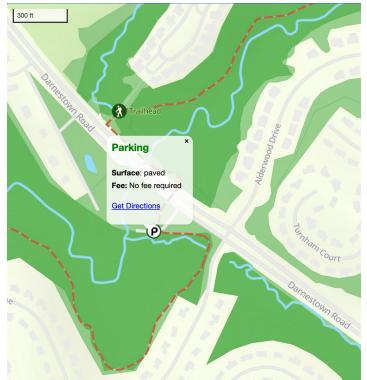
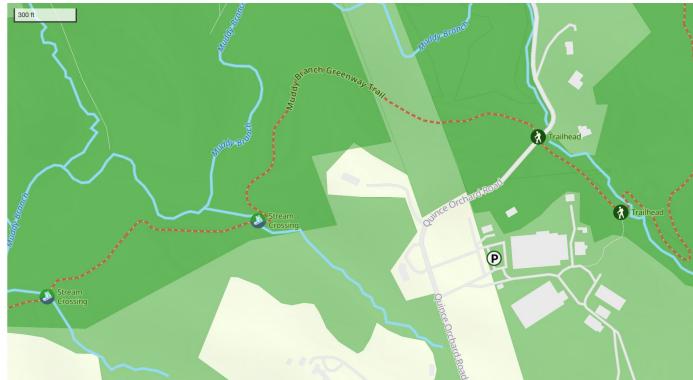
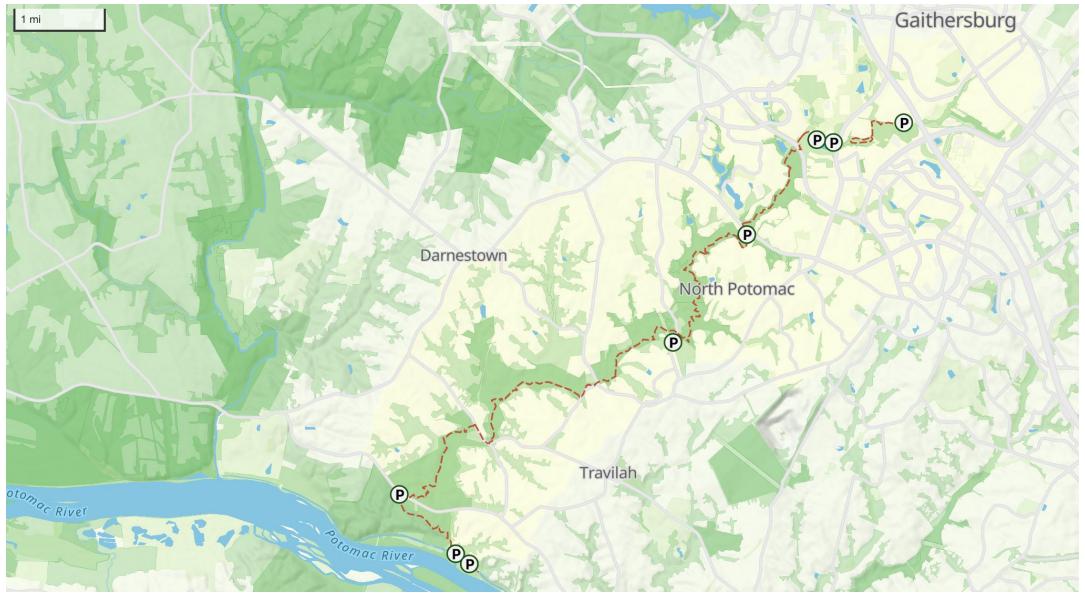
Watershed Boundary
(USGS)

Stylesheet (Maplibre/Mapbox
compatible)

DEM tiles (render as hillshade)

Custom icons / sprite





mizmay / **muddy_branch_maps**

Type ⌘ to search

[Code](#) [Issues 15](#) [Pull requests](#) [Discussions](#) [Actions](#) [Projects 1](#) [Wiki](#) [Security](#) [Insights](#)

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muddy_branch_maps Public

main 1 Branch 0 Tags

Go to file

About

Create a map suitable for trip-planning and watershed conservation efforts along the Muddy Branch Greenway Trail

mizmay.github.io/muddy_branch_map...

Readme Activity 0 stars 1 watching 0 forks

Languages

HTML 72.7% JavaScript 27.3%

README

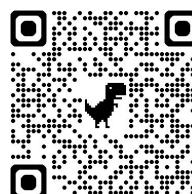
Welcome! This is a work-in-progress web map of the [Muddy Branch Greenway Trail](#).

- Click [here](#) to see a preview of the map.
- Click [here](#) for a preview of what the page this map is embedded in will look like.

Here is a brief explanation of all of the underlying components this map relies on to render and display an interactive map.

Data from OpenStreetMap

The trail geometry, along with associated parking lots, trailheads, and other waypoints are all



[link](#)

Built for free from (mostly) open source(s):

Including:
OpenStreetMap
Github Pages
Maplibre
Protomaps
Mapzen (Terrarium)
Google (Noto Sans)

And:
Overpass
PMTiles
Map GL Style Build
Spreet
Figma
QGIS

Wanna get involved?

Janette
president@muddybranch.org



Stephanie
stephanie@mizmay.com





- **Trail mapping**
 - Operator tag
 - (Route) relations
- **Extraction, Inspection & Visualization**
 - Overpass (Ultra)
 - OSMCha
- **Custom local maps**
 - Github Pages
 - PMTiles /
Customizing from
Protomaps
 - Sprites & Fonts
 - Maplibre

**END OF
TRAIL**

