

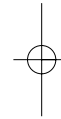
necessarily an up-to-date photo), and **Mapquest.com** generates detailed, easy-to-read street maps.

LOCAL LINGO

- ANC:** Advisory Neighborhood Commission, an elected panel in D.C. that has a formal but nonbinding role in decisions about building permits, liquor licenses, and other neighborhood concerns
- Beltway bandits:** defense contractors with corporate headquarters in the suburbs (not as common a term as it was in the 1980s)
- BID:** Business Improvement District, a commercial zone in which businesses agree to pay higher taxes in exchange for extra street cleaning, security patrols, and other services
- Black Broadway:** nickname for the U Street NW theater scene during the 1940s and '50s
- Blue Plains:** the D.C. sewage treatment plant near the southern tip of the District
- Boot:** a device used by parking enforcement agents to immobilize cars with unpaid fines; also known as a wheel clamp
- BWI:** Thurgood Marshall Airport, formerly Baltimore-Washington International Airport
- B-W Parkway:** Baltimore-Washington Parkway
- CFC:** Combined Federal Campaign, charitable payroll deduction program for federal employees
- D.C. Delegate:** nonvoting elected observer in the House of Representatives
- Diplomatic immunity:** the doctrine of international law and protocol under which embassy officials and their families are generally not prosecuted for crimes they commit on U.S. soil; as a practical matter, in D.C., this means cars with diplomatic tags can park anywhere
- District Building:** name of the John A. Wilson Building (city hall) prior to 2001, still heard occasionally
- Downtown:** to suburbanites, the District; to District residents, the area between Florida Avenue NW and Constitution Avenue NW
- East Front:** side of the Capitol facing the Supreme Court; by tradition, the Capitol is not considered to have a "front" and "rear" entrance, but an East Front and West Front
- East of the river:** the section of D.C. between the Anacostia River and Maryland
- The Ellipse:** oval-shaped lawn between the White House and the Washington Monument grounds
- Embassy Row:** neighborhood where dozens of major embassies are concentrated along Massachusetts Avenue NW



- Facadectomy:** a construction project that incorporates the empty shell of an older building at the same site (an attempt to please historic preservationists and developers at the same time, often pleasing neither)
- Federal Triangle:** government office complex bounded by Pennsylvania Avenue, Constitution Avenue, and 15th Street NW
- Fort Circle:** ring of defensive earthworks built to protect the capital during the Civil War; now a series of neighborhood-based National Park Service sites
- FOSE:** annual technology trade show for government agencies; rhymes with "bossy" and originally stood for "Federal Office Solutions Expo"
- Foundry:** a mixed-use complex on the Georgetown waterfront in a converted 19th-century iron foundry
- Height limit:** statute restricting the height of buildings in D.C., generally to 20 feet more than the width of the street in front
- Homestead exemption (homestead deduction):** a tax break for D.C. homeowners in residence (see **Finding a Place to Live**)
- HOT lane:** high-occupancy/toll lane (on a major highway) reserved for carpools and cars bearing prepaid decals or electronic tags
- HOV lane:** high-occupancy vehicle (carpool) lane on major commuter highways such as I-66 and I-270
- HR-57:** nonprofit jazz club and conservatory named after the congressional resolution declaring jazz a national treasure (see **Cultural Life**)
- ICC:** Intercounty Connector, a planned superhighway from Gaithersburg to Laurel in the Maryland suburbs
- Inner Loop:** the clockwise lanes of the Capital Beltway
- Juneteenth:** June 19 holiday commemorating the announcement of the Emancipation Proclamation
- K Street:** nickname for the lobbying industry, a reference to the high concentration of lobbying firms along K Street NW between Georgetown and Penn Quarter
- L'Enfant Plan:** the 18th-century design for the capital city, still governing street names and many aspects of urban design in the District
- Liberal leave:** a severe weather plan in which federal employees may elect to stay home, taking personal leave without prior approval
- Malcolm X Park:** local name of the walled gardens and fields officially known as Meridian Hill Park
- The Mall:** ceremonial plaza stretching from the Capitol to the Lincoln Memorial
- Metro:** short for Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority, the agency in charge of the Metrorail subway system, Metrobus local buses, and MetroAccess transportation services for persons with disabilities; "the Metro" refers to Metrorail, as in, "I'll take the Metro to work."



Metropolitan: slang for Metropolitan Police Department, the regular D.C. police (as opposed to any of the other 30-plus uniformed law enforcement agencies that have some jurisdiction in D.C.)

Mixing Bowl: the complicated and congested junction of I-95, I-395, and the Capital Beltway in Springfield, Va.

National: Reagan National Airport, formerly Washington National Airport; "National" is the only name locals have ever called it

One Judiciary Square: District government office building at 4th and D streets NW

Outer Loop: the counterclockwise lanes of the Capital Beltway

Reeves Center: D.C. government office building (officially the Frank D. Reeves Center of Municipal Affairs) at 14th and U streets NW

Retrocession: the 1846 deal to return to Virginia the part of the original District of Columbia west of the Potomac River (land which had been donated by Virginia to the federal government)

Shadow Representative, Shadow Senators: elected members of Congress from the hypothetical state of New Columbia, established by a constitutional convention after D.C. voters chose in 1980 to become a state; not recognized by the federal government, the shadow delegation serves as the District government's official lobbyists for statehood

Slug line: an unofficial gathering place for commuters to organize impromptu carpools in order to qualify for HOV lanes (see **Transportation**)

270 Spur: a branch of Interstate 270 north of the Capital Beltway that provides a shortcut to and from Northern Virginia

John A. Wilson Building: city hall (1350 Pennsylvania Avenue NW)

Wintry mix: snow, sleet, and freezing rain falling simultaneously, a hallmark of Washington winters

WASHINGTON D.C. NEIGHBORHOODS



NEIGHBORHOODS IN THE WASHINGTON AREA ARE KNOWN LESS for distinctive housing styles or geography and more for the profile of their residents. You'll have about 4 million new neighbors—554,000 of them in the District and more than three million around the Beltway—and they tend to settle in clusters based on culture and lifestyle.

In workaholic Washington, a lot of accurate guesses can be made about a neighborhood by looking at the major employers nearby. Active and retired military officers gravitate toward Northern Virginia neighborhoods, near the Pentagon; congressional aides and lobbyists tend to be in Capitol Hill; diplomats cluster in Embassy Row; and nonprofit staffers trying to change the world are usually within biking distance of Dupont Circle. The inner suburbs, especially to the north of D.C., attract civil service workers in search of affordable homes and good public schools. In the outer suburbs, it's more complicated—in the land of sprawling subdivisions and office parks, employees of America Online in Dulles or the USDA in Beltsville might not find housing close to the office and therefore may have a long commute.

If you move here with a job lined up, it's a good idea to find a home near your job. It will save you a lot of time and frustration, not to mention money, and it's easier on the environment. In this city where many work 50 or 60 hours a week, where the unwritten rule at some firms is "if you don't come in on Sunday, don't come in on Monday," the most common complaint about the quality of life in the Washington area has to do with traffic congestion and long commutes. Mass transit is such an attractive alternative to clogged commuter thoroughfares that many Washingtonians rate Metrorail access among their main considerations when looking for housing—and a house within a quarter-mile of a Metro station can cost 30% to 40% more than an identical house a mile away.