

W&OD Trail, Past and Present

RN: I'm president of W&OD Trail. I was just re-elected last week for the third time. Do you know what the W&OD Trail is?

SA: I do, but I'd love it if you could talk about it.

RN: Okay. Well, it's the seventy-five mile trail that goes from the mountains to Mt. Vernon. Two million people use it a year. Washington Post did the survey, came up with the fact that two million people use it.

SA: How old is it?

RN: How old is it?

DS: I wish I knew the exact answer myself. I know that Walter Messer was involved with establishing the trail.

RN: Yeah, Walter Messer was involved to start out with.

DS: I think the railroad ran 'til the- around 1968, perhaps as late as that. So the train was running through Vienna until the mid- to late- sixties. And they actually shipped stuff for Dulles Airport; the construction materials for part of Dulles Airport came off the train. But then, it was - with Walter's help it was turned into a park.