

## **Columbia, Maryland - Village of Owen Brown**

From the Village of Owen Brown, good trails stretch to other neighboring Columbia villages. Mostly following stream valleys, the trails go to and from schools as well. Jeffers Hill Elementary School, where routes in this section start, is just one of these. Owen Brown also is situated near many of Columbia's business parks. The Steven's Forest trails lead down from the high school to Lake Elkhorn which is near the business parks also. Going the other direction, the Talbot Springs trail system passes through the Village of Oakland Mills to the Columbia town center. Additional trails loop through the Village of Long Reach to the north.

Following some of the trails in the area can be daunting—even for those living in Columbia. Many spurs break-off from the main trails without signs. It's not always evident which one is the main trail. Where there are signs, they are often painted onto the pavement and get worn off. When you can read them, they indicate directions to roads at the ends of the spurs, not how to follow the main trail. However, occasional detailed maps at turns do make passing through easier. The trickiest parts of the routes described here are laid-out to go downhill. Thus when a turn comes up, you can usually be correct by following the one that goes down hill along the stream valley. If you plan to run the trails and are unfamiliar with them, consider going with a friend who knows them, or consider bicycling the route first so that you can get familiar with it. If you make a mistake on bicycle, you can correct it more easily. I found that going over a route once or twice was all it took to be comfortable following it without having to stop for directions.

### **Getting There**

From the Capital Beltway (I-95), take I-95 north toward Baltimore. After approximately 14 miles from the beltway, take Little Patuxent Pkwy. Rte. 175 west. After approximately 3 miles, turn left onto Tamar Dr. Turn left after one-quarter mile and park at Jeffers Hill Elementary School.

### **Area Routes**

#### Lake Kittamaqundi (5.15 or 7.4 miles, IV or VI)

Columbia's town center is located on the west edge of Lake Kittamaqundi. Just further west of the town center is The Mall in Columbia. Getting there from Jeffers Hill Elementary School, pass through open areas and the border of Oakland Mills High School. Dropping into the Talbot Springs trail system, arrive at the lake after crossing the foot bridge over Columbia Pike, Rte. 29. The paved trail at the lake does not fully circle the lake. To complete the circle, some dirt paths must be used which can be considerably muddy after rains. The dirt trail itself becomes grassy on the north side and is hard to discern briefly. At one point on the grassy section, it breaks away perpendicular to the shore of the lake, eventually becoming wood chip and gravel just before hitting a paved section just over 400ft. away from the lake. Another awkward part is at the town center. Bearing left at a trail split to stay near the shore again, you must go over wooden docks, and some sloping wide stairs. Bicycles are not allowed on this part. Watch for restaurants as you pass to come back to after you finish. An optional extension goes around the town center along the Little Patuxent Pkwy, on to Wilde Lake. See the description of the route around Wilde Lake

under Columbia, Maryland - Centennial Lake.

Lake Elkhorn (7.6 or 5.95 or 7.95 miles, VI, V, or VII)

Poised off the Broken Land Parkway, Lake Elkhorn achieves the picture-book setting that Columbia's developers had wanted to create. It's got the nicest lake trail in Columbia. People hang-out sunbathing on the dam as water rushes over it. The trail is on a wooden dock in one cove. Great Blue Heron's in the wetland on the east, seem un-bothered by the passers-by. Get there first by passing by Oakland Mills High School and picking-up the trail head at Kilamanjaro Rd. The Steven's Forest trail system gets you most of the rest of the way there. There are many spurs off it but until you cross Farewell Rd., you can follow the route without having to remember turns, just by going downhill. A T-intersection after Farewell Rd., under power lines will remind you to turn uphill for a brief stretch to the Owen Brown Community Center. Another unnamed trail afterward gradually drops you down to the lake.

The loop around the lake is 1.85 miles, just the same distance as that around Lake Kittamaqundi. The middle distance route described here does all but one-tenth of a mile of this before leaving, by following along the main creek feeding the lake. The short option only stays at the lake shores for the one-tenth mile. A portion of the mid and short routes is on a hilly dirt and gravel road, along power lines. The long route goes around the lake but adds-on a trail toward Brush Run. The long route requires climbing a bigger hill but is all paved. It also passes by the Christ Episcopal Church, a place of worship since 1711. All three options are united again at Oakland Mills Rd. There a very nice quiet trail crosses under the road and follows the main creek feeding Lake Elkhorn back to Jeffers Elementary. The way back is shady with few turns or road crossings to contend with. It's one of the nicest trails in Columbia.

Village of Long Reach (5.9 miles, V)

This route crosses north of the Little Patuxent Pkwy. (Rte. 175) and rambles through the Village of Long Reach. Coming back, it crosses back under the parkway, to return through the Village of Oakland Mills. Most of the route is on quiet paved trails however a little over 1.5 miles are through suburban residential streets. The trails use tunnels to get past most of the major roads. The route is equally shady and open with no severe hills. Though there are many turns indicated, the route is on main trails that are usually not difficult to follow.

**Nearby and Connecting Zones**

Columbia Maryland, Centennial Park

River Walk, Laurel, Maryland

**What to do Afterward**

Food and Drink

Bob Evan's -  
Bertucci's Brick Oven Pizzeria - 410 312-4800  
Clyde's Of Columbia - 410 730-2828  
Romano's Macaroni Grill - 410 872-0626

Entertainment and Edification

Merriweather Post Pavilion - 301 982-1800  
African Art Museum of Maryland -  
410 730-7105

## Lake Kittamaquidi

Distance: 5.15 or 7.4 miles

Rating: IV or VI; mostly paved trails over rolling hills

### 5.15 Mile Route

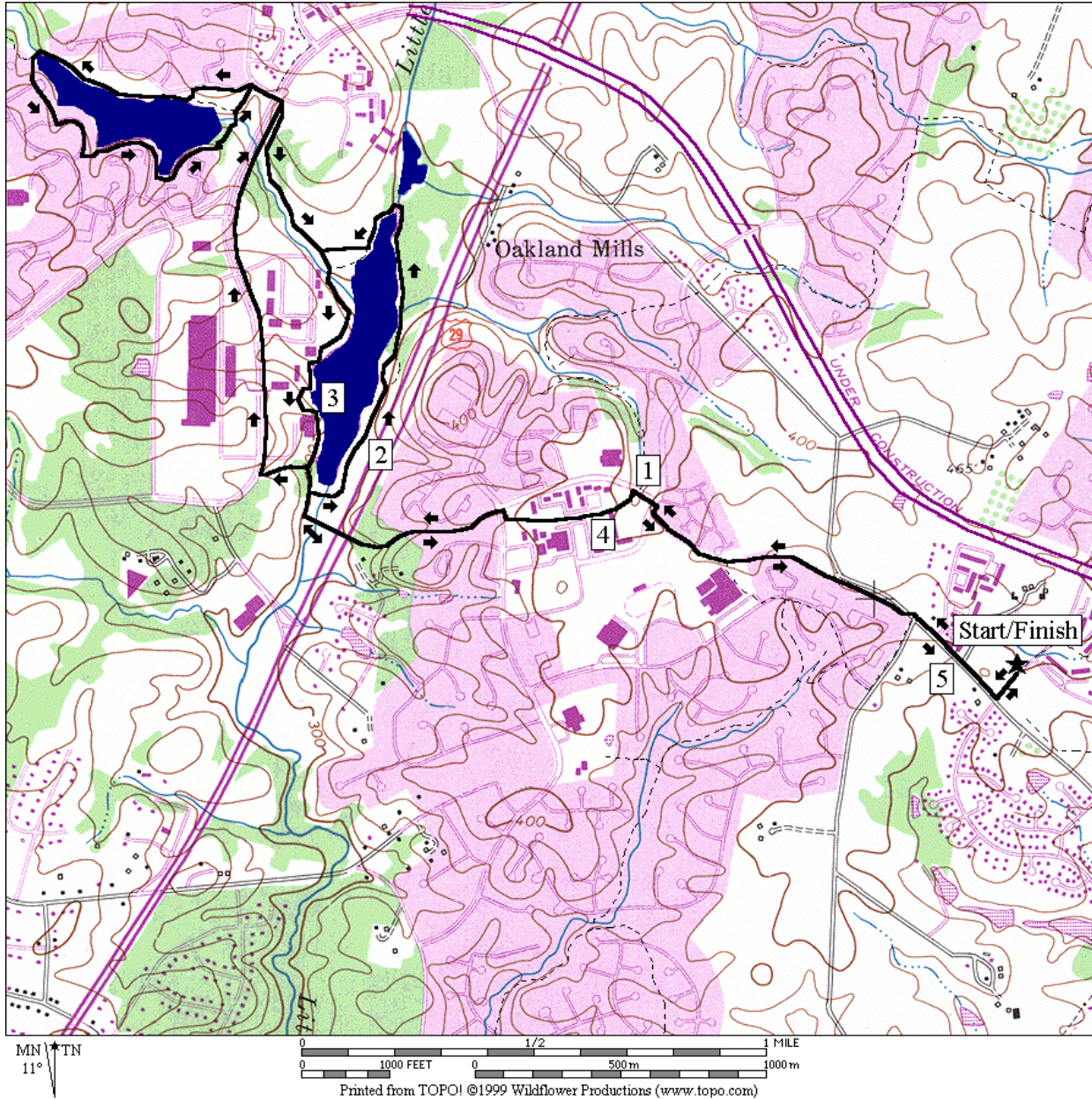
L	0.0	Tamar Dr from the school	L	2.7	at T on paved trail
R	0.05	Old Montgomery Rd	>*		
XS	0.3	Oakland Mills Rd; follow the paved trail	L	2.95	trail splits; stay near shore at town center;
	0.75	trail X on L to high school			follow the docks around the boat area
R/L	0.95	R on Thunderhill Rd; L on White Acre Rd		3.25	trail X on R; boat ramp on L
L/R	1.0	trail X on L after trail overpass; Talbot Springs trail system (unmarked)		3.3	trail X on L for lake loop at lake's south end
R/L	1.3	to cross Stevens Forest Rd		3.5	end of bridge over Rte 29
	1.65	begin bridge over Rte 29	R/L	3.8	to cross Stevens Forest Rd; trail continues
<*			L/R	4.1	trail X on L to White Acre Rd before tunnel (unmarked)
R	1.85	at the lake; trail X on R to bridge over creek	R/L	4.2	R on Thunderhill Rd/L on trail head to Oakland Mills High School
BL	2.15	trail splits at Kennedy Gardens		4.4	trail X on R to high school
S	2.2	onto unpaved trail	XS	4.85	Oakland Mills Rd
	2.55	cross stream at north end of lake	L	5.1	Tamar Dr
R	2.65	grassy trail; becomes wood chip/gravel	R	5.15	Jeffers Hill Elementary

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### \*7.4 Mile Route

	1.85	trail X on R to bridge over creek	L	3.75	L Waterfowl Terr
L	1.9	trail X on L; boat ramp on R	L	3.85	trail X on L before Green Mtn Cir
R	2.0	Little Patuxent Pkwy	L	3.9	at T; follow shoreline over the wood chip trail & through the trellis
	2.25	pedestrian overpass for mall		4.3	dam on L; steep winding hill ahead (!)
	2.85	trail X on R merges from the lake	S	4.35	trail X triangle on L for Wilde Lake loop
L	2.9	Vantage Point Rd; becomes W Runningbrook Rd after crossing road	R	4.45	onto W. Runningbrook Rd
L	3.0	Hyla Brook Rd (also trail X on L for return)	CR	4.55	Little Patuxent Pkwy
L/R	3.15	L into parking and R onto dock/trail	BL	4.6	trail X on L (unmarked) to lake
L	3.55	trail X at map & lake after bridge over creek		4.85	trail X triangle on L
L	3.6	at trail X to stay on the lake loop		4.95	wood chip/gravel trail on L from lake loop (pickup cues at mile 2.95 on 5.15 mile route)
	3.65	Rivulet Row			

# Lake Kittamanqundi



## Lake Elkhorn

Distance: 7.6 or 5.95 or 7.95 miles

Rating: VI, V, or VII; paved trails, a short dirt and gravel road, mostly well graded hills

### 7.6 Mile Route

L	0.0	on Tamar Dr from the school	BR	3.05	after wood bridge at trail X to continue going downhill; L is to Wrestling Sun
				3.1	trail X on R to Smooth Path
			<*		
R	0.05	Old Montgomery Rd	R	3.25	at T; Lake Elkhorn trail
				4.1	trail X on R to tunnel under Broken Land Pkwy (west end of lake)
XS	0.3	Oakland Mills Rd; follow the paved trail		4.25	trail X on L to dam; restroom/water
			<***		
L	0.75	trail X on L to high school; pass basketball and tennis courts to the road	BL	4.9	trail X triangle; R to Brush Run
L/R	0.9	CL on Kilimanjaro Rd, R on trail head; follow the stream downhill	R	5.0	at T after bridge; leave the lake
			>*		
BR	1.5	at trail X on L to the follow creek	BR	5.15	on grass/dirt road that follows the power lines as the paved trail bears L to the houses
BL	1.55	at trail X to follow the creek (2 <sup>nd</sup> map)	CR	5.3	trail along Dasher Ct (unmarked)
	1.9	Farewell Rd (unmarked)			
			R	5.4	Oakland Mills Rd
L	1.95	at T after creek (power lines); begin uphill			
	2.0	Windharp Way (unmarked)	BR	5.45	trail head on R before creek
			>***		
R	2.2	trail X triangle at Cradlerock Way	BL	6.2	toward creek; trail X on R
				6.5	Tamar Dr at dead end (unmarked)
CL	2.25	at Younghart La toward Owen Brown CC		6.65	Old Montgomery Rd (unmarked)
	2.4	trail X on L as trail bends sharp to R in field			
			BL	7.1	at trail X on R toward tunnel
L	2.55	at trail X; school is on the R			
			L	7.4	at trail X toward road after bridge
CL	2.7	Cradlerock Way			
			L	7.45	Tamar Dr
R	2.8	trail X on R (unmarked); downhill to lake		7.6	Jeffers Hill Elementary
L	2.9	at trail X (downhill); R is to Smooth Path			

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### \*5.95 Mile Route

L 3.25 at T; Lake Elkhorn trail (pickup cues at mile 5.15 on 7.6 mile route)

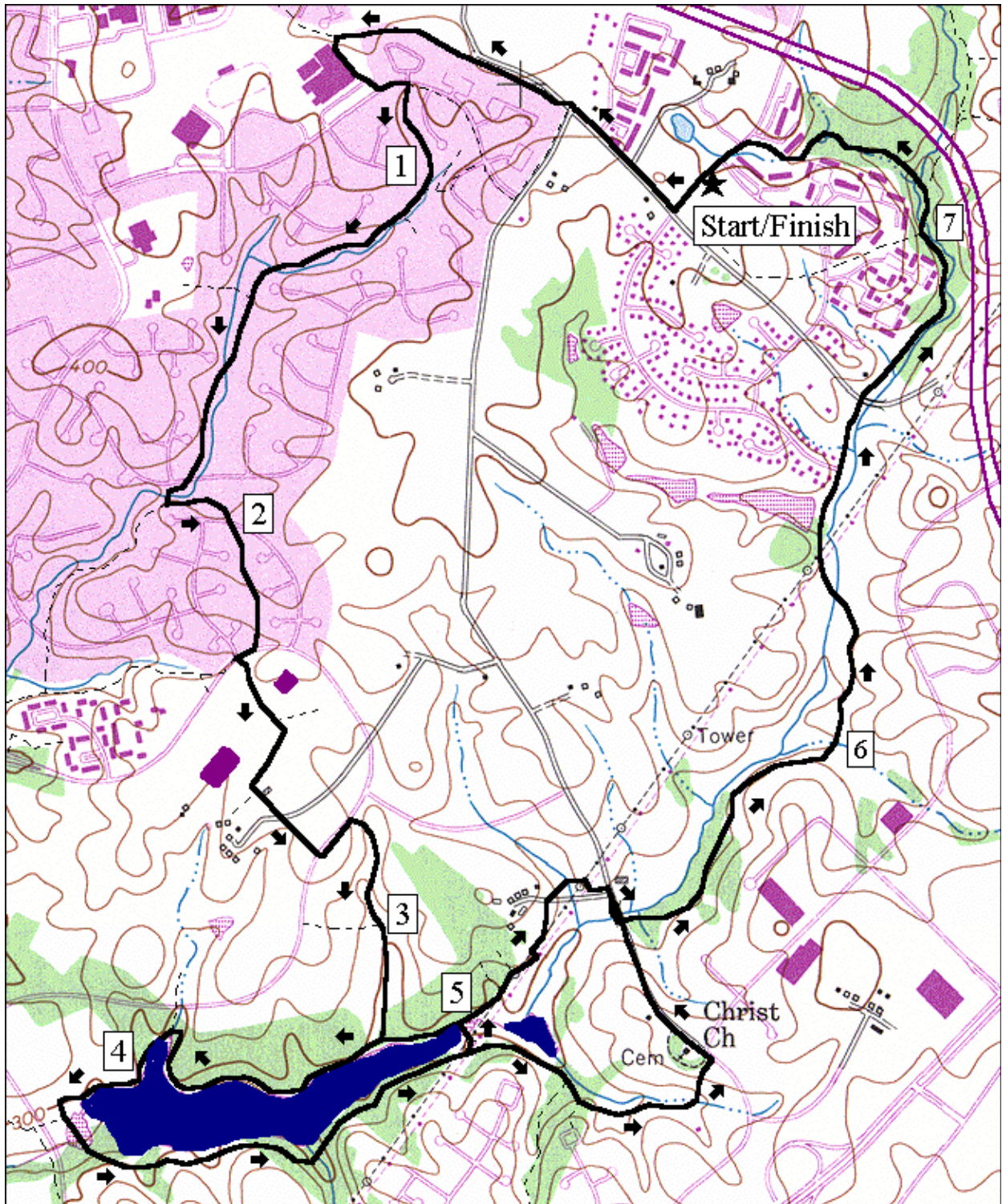
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### \*\* 7.95 Mile Route

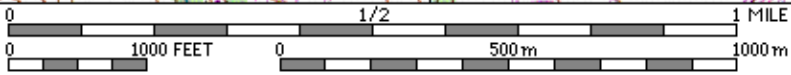
			BL	5.3	trail X on R to Kilrain Ct
BR	4.9	trail X triangle; R to Brush Run			
	5.0	trail X, triangle merges under power lines	L	5.5	Oakland Mills Rd (Episcopal Church 5.65)
	5.1	trail X on R to Rustling Leaf			
	5.15	trail X on L to Farbell Row	UL	5.8	trail X on L after creek (sharp turn) (pickup cues at mile 6.2 on 7.6 mile route)
BL	5.2	trail splits (unmarked)			



# Lake Elkhorn



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## Village of Long Reach

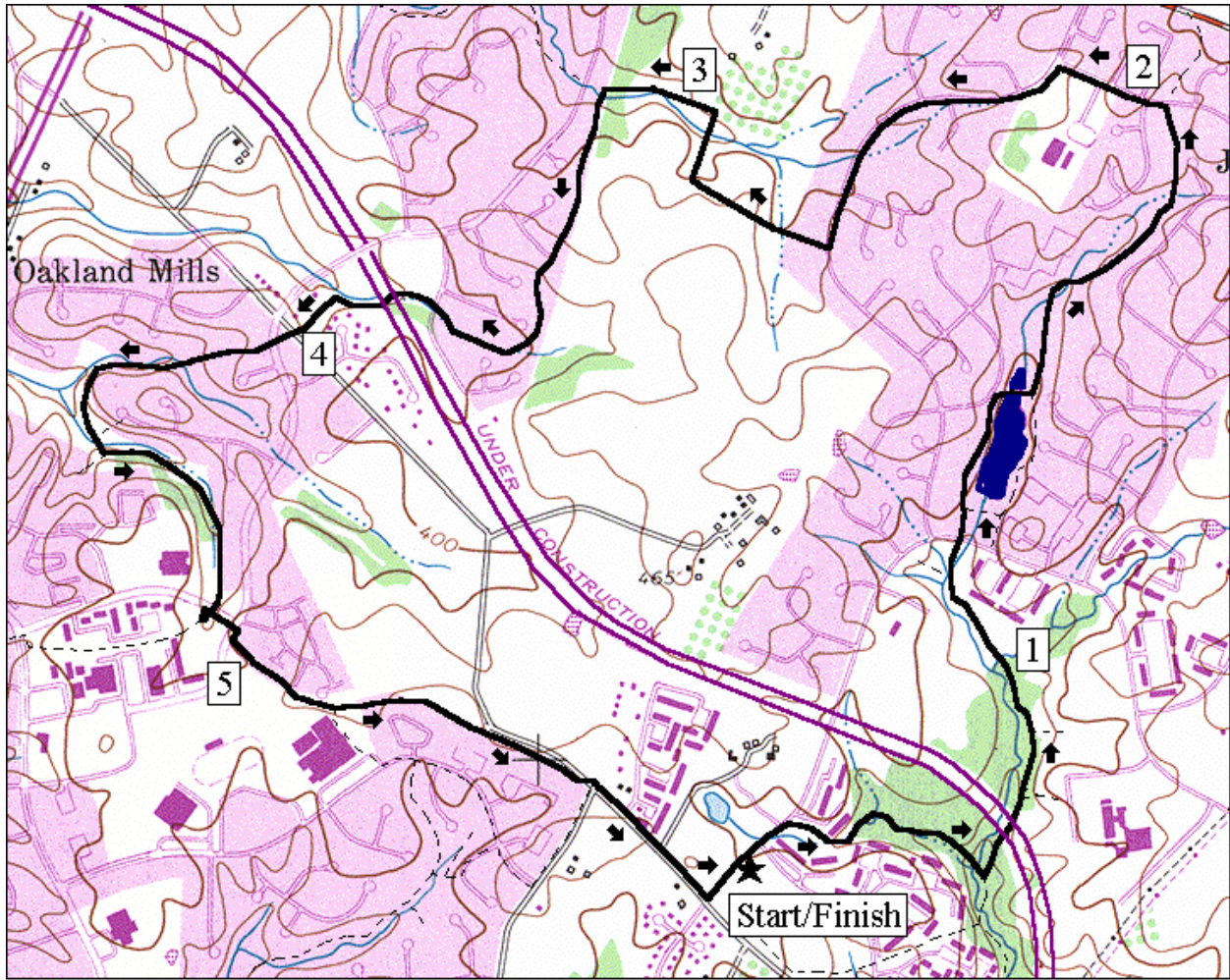
Distance: 5.9 miles

Rating: V; rolling paved trails and sidewalks

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|---------|--|---------|--|
| R 0.0   | Tamar Dr from the school   | L 3.05  | trail head on L (Talbot Springs trail system, unmarked)          |
| R 0.1   | trail head on R after Majors Lane                                | L 3.15  | at trail X to go over bridge & up hill                           |
| R 0.15  | trail X on R to wood bridge to follow creek (many bridges ahead) | 3.45    | Soaring Hill Rd (at dead end)                                    |
| L 0.5   | toward tunnel at trail X   | R 3.6   | trail X on R to wooden bridge to stay on main trail              |
| 0.55    | tunnel under Rte 175   | 3.75    | Sleeping Dog La (unmarked)                                       |
| L 0.7   | trail X triangle   | 3.8     | tunnel under Rte 175   |
| R 1.05  | trail X triangle before road                                     | 4.05    | tunnel under Thunder Hill Rd (map)                               |
| 1.1     | underpass Tamar Dr   | R 4.2   | trail X on R to stay on main trail                               |
| 1.15    | trail X on R (pond loop)   | 4.35    | trail X on R (map)   |
| L 1.4   | at T after wooden bridge over pond                               | L 4.5   | trail X triangle after wooden bridge to follow main trail uphill |
| 1.5     | trail X triangle; trail X on R                                   | R 4.9   | trail X on R to White Acre Rd after tunnel, R on White Acre Rd   |
| 1.7     | trail X  | R/L 5.0 | CR Thunder Hill Rd; L on trail head to Oakland Mills High School |
| L 1.95  | High Tor Hill (unmarked road)                                    | 5.15    | trail X on R to high school                                      |
| L 2.15  | Phelps Luck Rd (store)   | XS 5.6  | Oakland Mills Rd   |
| CR 2.6  | Billow Row   | L 5.85  | Tamar Dr   |
| CR 2.85 | Summer Hollow La   | R 5.9   | Jeffers Hill Elementary  |
| L 2.95  | Broken Timber Way  |         |  |



# Village of Long Reach



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