

Little Bennett Regional Park

Those who like visiting the Manassas National Battlefield Park in Virginia for its open space and unpaved trails will enjoy visiting Little Bennett Regional Park in Montgomery County. Both parks have nice trails for hikers and horses. Neither allow cyclists on the trails. Neither has the usual attractions found in other regional parks such as man-made lakes or ball fields. Both preserve much history. The history of Little Bennett Regional Park is not like that of the Civil War nor of that war's wrenching significance. Instead, the historical sites in Little Bennett Regional Park preserve the memories of the early rural lifestyles in Montgomery County dating back to the late 1700's when and where mills, chapels, agriculture and one-room school houses were the predominant structures that people gathered around. The park is under management of the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission (MNCPPC).

Getting There

From the Capital Beltway (I-495), take I-270 headed west and go 17.5 miles. Take Exit 18, Clarksburg Rd., Rte. 121, headed east. After 2.6 miles, at the bottom of the hill, turn right at Hyattstown Mill Rd. and park.

Area Routes

Hyattstown Mill Road (6.4 or 5.4 miles, VI or IV)

The many trails of Little Bennett Regional Park are well marked. This looping collection of unpaved trails, gives you a good sampling of the park. It passes several historical areas including the Kingsley School House built in 1893. The one-room school, now kept behind fences that close it off from the public, has been left unchanged since it closed in 1935. Further on, as the name implies, an old Tobacco Barn is in a field near the Tobacco Barn Trail. The route passes Zeigler's Saw and Bone Mill site where instead of milling flour, water power was used to crush bones and the resulting bone meal was used for fertilizer. Not much however is left visible of this mill.

The route is largely tree covered as is most of the park. Occasionally hills can be short and steep, however most on this route, are gradual. The short route uses more of the gravel Hyattstown Mill Road than does the regular loop. A *natural* feature to be seen on the Bennett Ridge and Moundbuilder Trails are the 1-2 ft. high ant hills.

Froggy Hollow School House Trail (2.65 miles, II)

Froggy Hollow is another name for the location of the Kingsley School House. This route goes a short way out the Hyattstown Mill Road, then loops back counter-clockwise on the Stoney Brook Trail. There's only one major hill to be encountered which is located just before reaching Clarksburg Road. After steeply ascending it, crossing the road, then descending it, the trail passes right next to the schoolhouse and returns to parking on the flat Hyattstown Mill Road. Most of this route is shady.

Nearby and Connecting Zones

Black Hill Regional Park, Little Seneca Lake
Black Hill Regional Park, Ten Mile Creek
Historic Frederick Maryland

What to do Afterward

Food and Drink

picnic

Clarksburg Restaurant

Campanaro's Deli - (301) 607-4596

Entertainment and Edification

Sugarloaf Mountain

Montgomery County Fairgrounds - 301 963-3247

Hyattstown Mill Road

Distance: 6.4 or 5.4 miles

Rating: VI or IV; dirt trails in woods & fields, gravel rd; short steep & long gradual hills

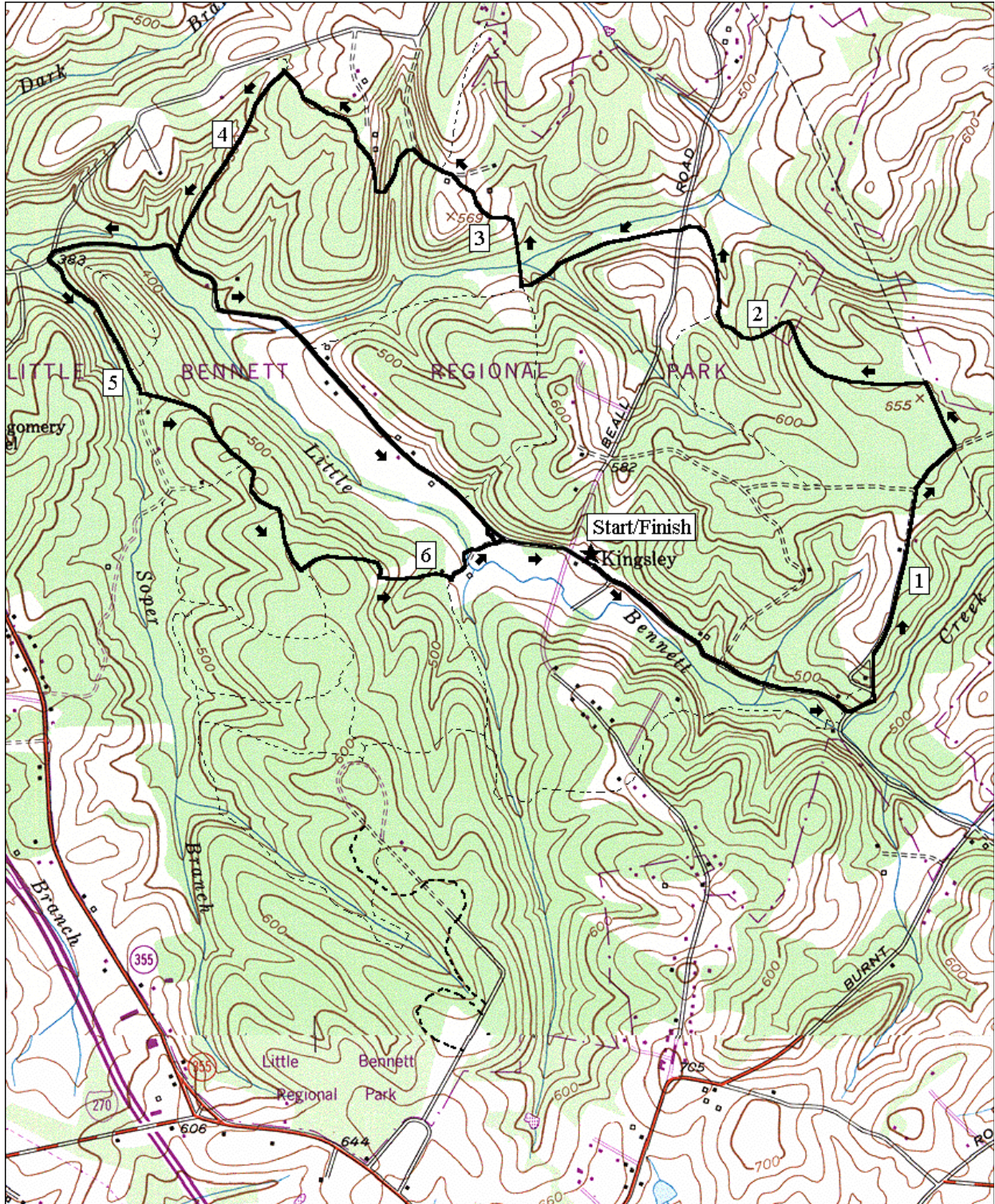
6.4 Mile Route

| | | | |
|-----|---|-----|---|
| 0.0 | Kingsley Trail through the gate past the parking lot on the gravel road | L | 3.25 to stay on Timber Ridge Trail; downhill and up again |
| 0.4 | Hard Cider Trail on L | | |
| 0.7 | Froggy Hollow School House Trail on R; road becomes Purdham Trail | L | 3.75 Pine Grove Trail at T |
| | | <* | |
| S | 0.75 Purdham Trail on L (begin steep hill) | R | 4.3 Hyattstown Mill Rd (unmarked and gravel) |
| | 0.9 Purdham Trail joins on L | | 4.45 cross Little Bennett Creek on stones |
| | 1.1 LB group camping sign (portable outhouse) | BL | 4.65 barricade at Rd X |
| | 1.2 gravel road ends; continue on trail | | |
| | 1.3 Loggers Trail on L | L/R | 4.7 Bennett Ridge Trail (unmarked); bear R at Owl Ridge Trail on L to stay on Bennett Ridge Trail |
| L | 1.4 Browning Run Trail | | |
| | 1.55 trail leaves pipeline | | 5.35 Woodcock Hollow Trail on R in open field |
| BR | 2.15 at Pine Knob Trail on L in field to stay on Browning Run Trail | L | 5.65 Moundbuilder Trail on L |
| BL | 2.35 at trail X to stay on Browning Run Trail | L | 6.05 Beaver Valley Trail |
| | 2.4 cross Clarksburg Rd | >* | |
| | | R | 6.2 Hyattstown Mill Rd (unmarked) |
| R | 2.8 Tobacco Barn Trail on R | | 6.35 cross Clarksburg Rd |
| | | | 6.4 gate at Kingsley Trail head |
| L | 3.15 Timber Ridge Trail on L | | |

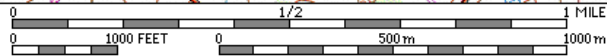
*5.4 Mile Route

| | | | |
|---|---|--|---|
| L | 4.3 Hyattstown Mill Rd (unmarked); go through the barricade | | 4.95 parking on R in field |
| | 4.35 Earl's Park parking on R | | 5.15 Tobacco Barn Trail on L |
| | 4.55 bridge over creek | | 5.25 Beaver Valley Trail on R (pickup cues at mile 6.2 on 6.4 mile route) |
| | 4.65 Browning Run Trail on L | | |

Hyattstown Mill Road



MN | TN
10 1/2°



Printed from TOPO! ©1999 Wildflower Productions (www.topo.com)

Froggy Hollow School House Trail

Distance: 2.65 miles

Rating: II; dirt trails in woods, flat gravel road; one steep hill

2.65 Mile Route

- 0.0 Kingsley Trail toward Clarksburg Road
- 0.05 Clarksburg Road

- L 0.2 Beaver Valley Trail
- 0.3 wooden bridge over Little Bennett Creek

- L 0.35 Stoney Creek Trail on L just past Mound Builder Trail on R
- 0.75 Acorn Hollow Trail on R

- L 0.95 Froggy Hollow School House Trail on L
- 1.0 wooden bridge over stream, then uphill
- 1.3 cross Clarksburg Road, then steep downhill

- BL 1.85 at Kingsley Schoolhouse, then over the suspension bridge for Little Bennett Creek

- L 1.9 Kingsley Trail (gravel road)
- 2.25 Hard Cider Trail on R
- 2.65 gate at parking

