

Washington, Baltimore & Annapolis Trail, Glenn Dale

Over the course of 1999 and 2000, Prince Georges County added another asset for its citizens to enjoy. The Washington, Baltimore & Annapolis Trail (WB&A) was created after a requests by citizens. It's not the first time people traveled this pleasant corridor. Electric trains once took Washingtonians to and from Baltimore over this route. Bridges and tunnels for the 10 foot wide paved trail keep encounters with auto traffic minimal. This trail is much smaller, but similar in nature to its more well known predecessor, the Washington & Old Dominion Trail in Virginia. Glenn Dale is near the western end of the currently 5.6 mile long WB&A. The trail stops just after Race Track road for now but is one day expected to continue on across the Patuxent River, east into Anne Arundel County. The eastern ends of the current trail are the most scenic and bucolic.

Getting There

From the Capital Beltway (I-95), take Rte. 450 north. Stay to the right after the first light (it's within a quarter mile of the beltway) and turn right at the next onto Lanham Severn Road (Rte. 564). Approximately 2.75 miles after getting on Lanham Severn Road, turn right at the light onto Glenn Dale Blvd., Rte. 193. After approximately 1.3 miles, turn right into the Glenn Dale Community Center and Splash Park. The trail head is to the left, between the pond and the Splash Park.

Area Routes

Horsepen Branch (7.9, 5.1 or 5.45 miles, VII or IV)

There are many options for running northeast on the WB&A Trail. Go out and back as far as Race Track Road or leave the trail for a loop through the community park at Northridge. Staying on the WB&A for an out and back route is the most pleasant way to go. After tunneling under Glenn Dale Blvd. the trail skirts along the back yards of several housing developments. Mostly however, trees obscure the houses. The long straight trail is generally downhill going out toward Bowie. Besides crossing some fields and farms, it crosses Horsepen Branch, a tributary to the Patuxent River, several times. It's also mostly sunny, except for the last mile to Race Track Rd. A few bridges, tunnels, and power lines serve as landmarks and get you across roads and railroads. The nicest parts are at the farthest end, both near Laurel Bowie Rd., Rte. 197, and Race Track Rd. From the Bowie end of the trail, some rougher running on the unimproved Race Track Spur railroad grade will connect you to the Fran Uhler parks.

The loop off the WB&A Trail through the Northridge community requires the use of some road shoulders. A very short section on High Bridge Rd. is the worst of these, combining traffic and a limited sight distance curve. Use caution if you choose this loop. Other road shoulders on the loop are wide and paved. In Northridge, the Maryland National Capital Park and Planning Commission has created a small lake and a network of paved trails. Go clockwise around the lake for the shortest way back to the WB&A and Glenn Dale, or go counter-clockwise for a slightly longer paved trail going the woods. The loop trail in the community park is 1.13 miles long. Combining the out and back to Race Track Rd. with the most direct extension through

Northridge lengthens the run to 9.3 miles.

Electric Avenue (3.6, 4.25 or 4.35 miles, III)

When going southeast on the WB&A Trail toward Lanham, the way is also pleasant. Short sections however are either on a paved road or are closely parallel to one. About one mile out, you'll pass a small wetland and parking area. After crossing over a creek named Folly Branch, you'll soon reach Annapolis Rd., Rte. 450. Decide if you want if you want to go back the most pleasant way, which is back the way you came, or if you want to extend the route by using paved trail along Annapolis Rd. One of the ways back from Annapolis Rd. passes the abandoned and now dilapidated Glenn Dale Hospital campus. The other passes Marietta Mansion, former home of Gabriel Duvall, Associate Justice on the U.S. Supreme Court in 1811. The home was once a 650 acre plantation estate.

Nearby and Connecting Zones

Fran Uhler Natural Area/Race Track Spur
Foxhill Park, Bowie, Maryland
Beltsville Agricultural Research Center

What to do Afterward

Food and Drink

La Hacienda (301) 262-8800

Entertainment and Edification

Marietta - plantation home of Gabriel Duval, Associate Justice on the Supreme Court in 1811;
301 464-5291, TTY 301 277-8456

National Aeronautical Space Administration (N.A.S.A.) Goddard Space Flight Visitor Center -
9AM - 4PM daily - 301 286-2000

Dorsey Chapel - rural African American community church from circa 1900 - 301 352-5544,
TTY 301 669-2544

Horsepen Branch

Distance: 7.9, 5.1 or 5.45 miles

Rating: VII, IV or IV; mostly sunny, paved railroad grade trail; some hills in Northridge

7.9 Mile Route

		3.35	Mile Mark 5			
	0.0	trail head at the parking lot		U	3.95	trail ends at parking after bridge under Race Track Rd.
BL	0.0	go between the pond and the pool			4.6	Mile Mark 5
					4.95	end of the bridge over Rte 197
L	0.05	trail X at T; WB&A Trail			5.45	power line crossing; Rd X
	0.1	tunnel for Glenn Dale Blvd, Rte 193			5.6	Mile Mark 4
	0.3	trail X on R to Guinevere Pl; Mile Mark 2			5.85	trail X on L to Old Chapel Rd
	0.65	trail X to Hillmeade Rd (bridge ahead)			6.0	begin the bridge over High Bridge Rd
	1.35	Mile Mark 3			6.05	trail X on R to High Bridge Rd
	1.6	trail and road are split by fence			6.6	Mile Mark 3
	1.7	trail bears L up a small hill at Cedar Rd			7.25	trail X on R to Hillmeade Rd
<*				>*		
	1.85	trail X to High Bridge Rd (the wooden bridge over High Bridge Rd is ahead)			7.6	trail X on L to Guinevere Pl; Mile Mark 2
	2.0	at end of bridge over RR			7.8	tunnel Glenn Dale Blvd, Rte 193
	2.05	trail on R to Old Chapel Rd		R	7.85	trail X on R; Glenn Dale Comm Ctr
	2.35	Mile Mark 4				
	2.5	power line crossing; Rd X		R	7.9	trail X at T; to parking
	3.0	begin the bridge over Rte 197				

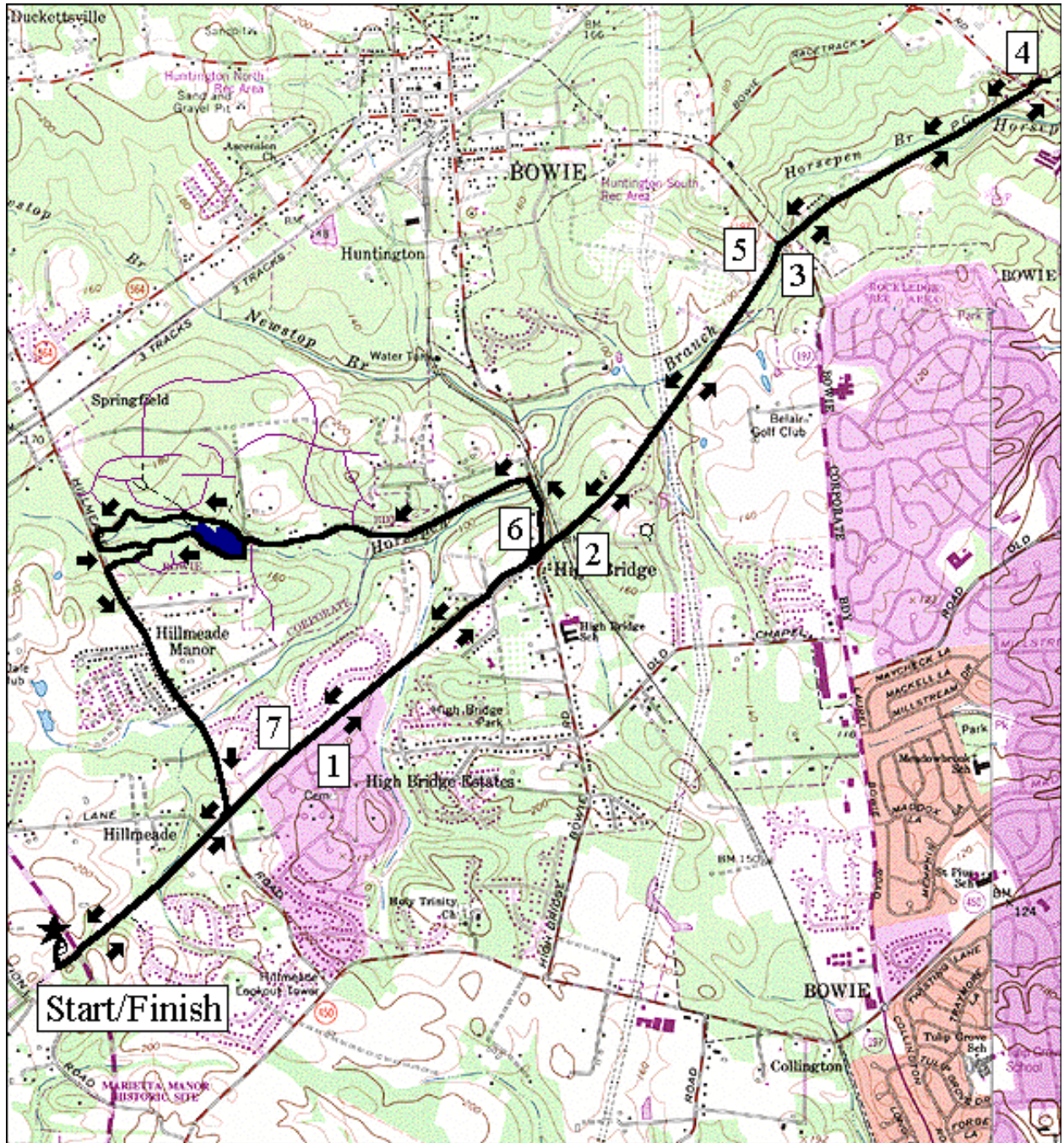
*5.1 Mile Route

					3.25	trail X on R goes toward gazebo
					3.3	trail X on L (unmarked)
L	1.85	trail X to High Bridge Rd			3.35	trail X on L (unmarked)
CL	1.9	High Bridge Rd; (! blind curve & narrow shoulder)		L	3.4	trail X on L (unmarked) to Quantum Leap Lane
				>***		
L	2.15	Fletchertown Rd (use L shoulder)		R	3.45	Quick Fox Lane
	2.7	Quetzal Rd on R				
				L	3.55	Hillmeade Rd
CL	3.0	cross Quinsberry Rd, L on paved trail through the gate to the lake; Northridge Community Park		CR	4.4	Daisy Lane
<***				L/R	4.45	L to WB&A trail; R on WB&A trail (pickup cues at mile 7.6 on 7.9 mile route)
L	3.0	trail X; go around the lake				

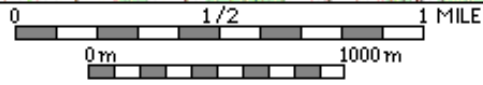
**5.45 Mile Route

				R	3.25	trail X on R leaves the lake area
					3.55	trail X on R (unmarked)
R	3.0	trail X; go around the lake				
	3.1	trail X's on R go up hill to parking		R	3.75	trail X on R to (unmarked) to Quantum Leap Lane (pickup cues at mile 3.45 on 5.1 mile route)
	3.25	trail X on R toward Quintette La (unmarked)				

Horsepen Branch



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Electric Avenue

Distance: 3.6, 4.25 or 4.35 miles

Rating: II, III or III ; mostly paved railroad grade trails; mostly flat and sunny

3.6 Mile Route

	1.5	wooden bridge over Folly Branch		
	0.0	trail head at the parking lot	BR	1.7 bear R on driveway to stay on trail <*
BL	0.0	go between the pond and the pool	U	1.8 Old Annapolis Rd
R	0.05	trail X at T; WB&A Trail	BL	1.85 bear R off driveway to stay on trail
	0.2	Bell Station Rd (! blind X)		2.05 wooden bridge over Folly Branch
BR	0.3	paved trail ends; use shoulder of Old Pond Dr (unmarked)		2.3 cross Electric Ave; trail now parallels it
BR	0.6	at Rd X to stay on Old Pond Dr; pond on L	BR	2.6 WB&A trail crosses Electric Ave to wetland/parking area
BR	0.75	onto paved WB&A Trail; Glenn Dale Rd ahead		2.8 Mile Mark 1; Glenn Dale Rd
	0.8	Mile Mark 1	BL	2.85 onto Old Pond Rd; paved trail ends >*
	0.9	parking on R; wetland ahead	BL	3.0 at Rd X to stay on Old Pond Rd
CL	1.0	to stay on WB&A Trail at Electric Ave	BL	3.3 paved WB&A Trail continues
S	1.3	cross Electric Ave to stay on WB&A Trail		3.4 Bell Station Rd (blind X) >**
			L	3.5 trail X on L; Glenn Dale Comm Ctr
			R	3.6 trail X at T; to parking

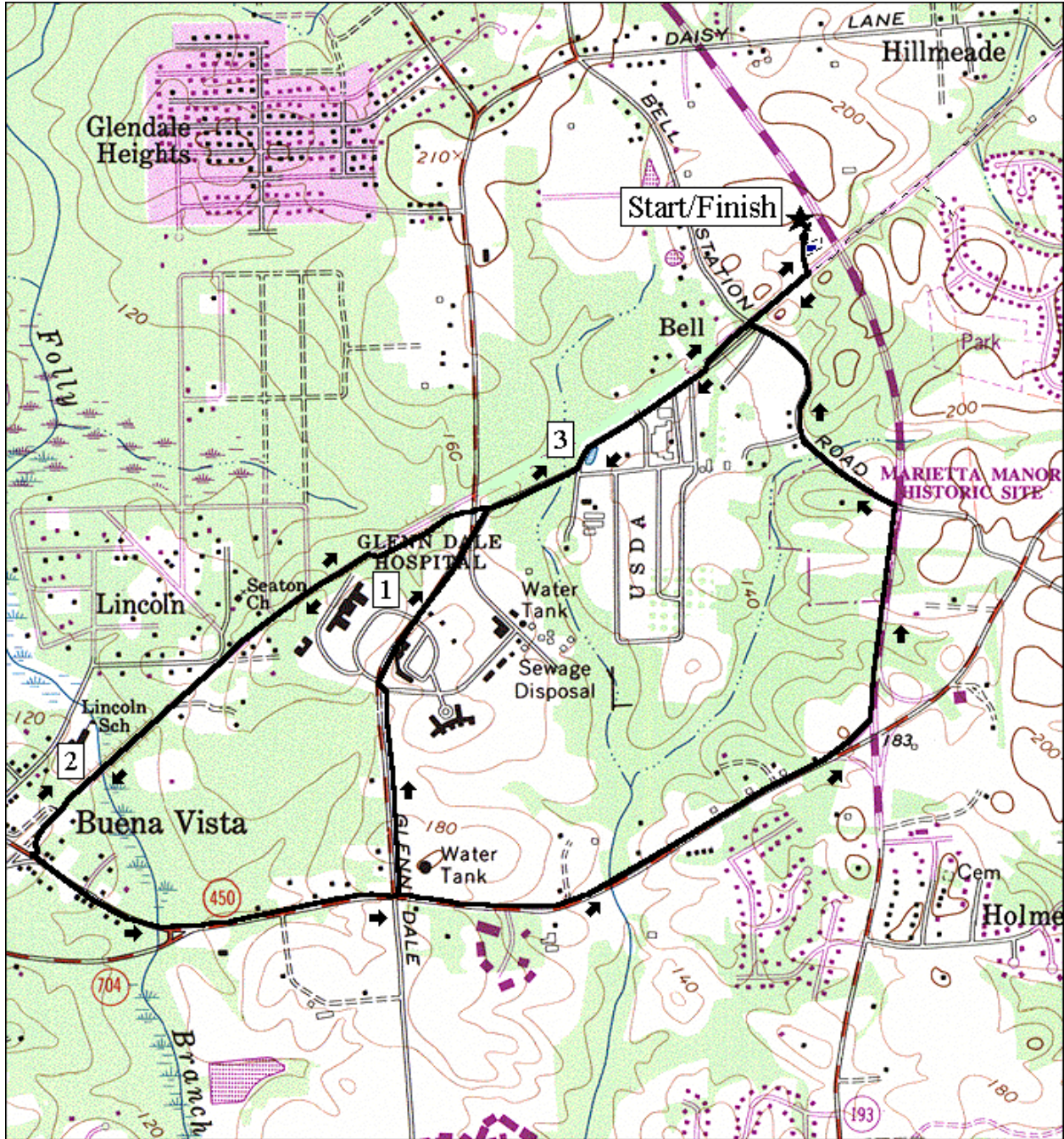
*4.25 Mile Route

	CL	2.45 Glenn Dale Rd		
R/L	1.8	paved trail along Old Annapolis Rd, Rte 450	BR	3.1 Old Pond Rd
	2.0	concrete bridge over Folly Branch		3.15 WB&A Trail merges from L (pickup cues at mile 3.0 on 3.6 mile route)
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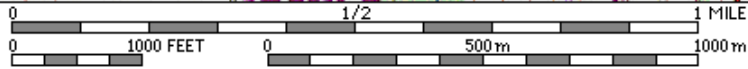
**4.35 Mile Route

				use shoulder
	2.45	Glenn Dale Rd	L	3.7 Bell Station Rd (! blind curve ahead)
L	3.35	Glenn Dale Blvd Rte 193; trail ends;	R	4.15 WB&A Trail (pickup cues at mile 3.5 on 3.6 mile route)

Electric Avenue



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