

## Greenbelt Park

Greenbelt Park is an 1,100 acre woodland maintained by the National Park Service. It is not to be confused with the much smaller Buddy Attie Park and Greenbelt Lake in Old Greenbelt. It is situated between Old Greenbelt and College Park. The Prince Georges Running Club meets there regularly on Saturday mornings at 8:00AM. The park brochure fittingly dubs it “An Urban Oasis.” It’s a straightforward nature park that preserves the kind of woods once prevalent in the area. Not spectacular for any one reason, it is a nice departure from the stream valley and *athletic playground* regional parks more common to the area. It’s a great place to run or hike through the trees, and the loop portion of the Park Central Road is a regular training and time trail location for area road cyclists. The loop portion of the Park Central Road is 1.4 miles around. Mountain bike cycling is not allowed on the trails. The park is somewhat hilly, though larger hills are to be found in the Washington D.C. area. It’s almost entirely wooded.

### Getting There

From the Capital Beltway (I-95), take Kenilworth Avenue (Rte. 201) south and inside the Capital Beltway for 0.5 mile. Turn left on Greenbelt Road (Rte. 193) following it only 0.25 miles. Turn right into the park, then park in the Park Headquarters lot on the left.

### Area Routes

#### Greenbelt Park Perimeter Trail (5.85 or 2.9 miles, VI or III)

Yellow blazed, and categorized as a horse and hiking trail, few horses are actually seen on this loop trail. Except for getting to the trail head from the parking lot and a park road crossing, the route is entirely unpaved. The loop trail is 5.43 miles around. Tree roots must be watched carefully in some places. Relatively few rocks are on the trails except for the downhill on the shorter route after it breaks away from the longer loop. Hills average around 50 feet vertically at a time, but some are over 100 feet. Most are gradual but short portions are steep. Anytime of year is a good time to experience the park. The trees keep the temperatures cool in the summer and block the winds in the winter. In late May you are likely to be impressed with the many mountain laurel blooms.

#### Blueberries and Azaleas (3.65 or 3.9 miles, III)

For an eclectic loop of modest distance, try this route through the woods. Warm-up with a half mile on the park’s road. At the Dogwood parking area (there are few actual dogwoods here) follow the trail into the woods, going counter-clockwise on the red blazed loop. Not far after starting the loop (the Dogwood Trail loop round-trip from the Dogwood parking area and back is 1.35 miles), take a spur down a short steep hill to the Perimeter Trail, continuing down on it to Still Creek. After crossing the creek begin a half mile stair step-like climb on the Blueberry Trail to the campground. A short stretch on the road brings you back to the Perimeter Trail for a fast winding downhill back across Still Creek, near the Baltimore and Washington Parkway. A climb to the park loop road and the Laurel Picnic area lets you take your choice of ways back. The most direct is the hilliest. It’s going counter-clockwise on the gravel surfaced Azalea Trail. At the top of the hill, you’ll see large mountain laurel bushes, nice pine trees and holly trees. Going

clockwise around the Azalea Trail, descend to the North Branch of Still Creek, then go along it on a flat stretch until a little hill just before reaching the parking lot. The turns on this route are not hard to follow but some previous familiarity with the trails will help you not get lost.

#### Edmonston Road (5.65 or 5.65 miles, VI)

If you like being in the park but wish to be more on the roads; or perhaps if it's too wet for the trails, making a loop with Edmonston Road is a good alternative. The route roughly runs the outer perimeter on the western side of Greenbelt Park. Start by leaving out the park entrance on the grassy border of Greenbelt Rd., Rte. 193 for one-quarter a mile. Edmonston Rd. was once the main road through the area. Kenilworth Ave., Rte. 201, now takes the through traffic and Edmonston Rd. is quiet in comparison. After Edmonston Rd, pass through Calvert Community Park, then head up the Paint Branch Parkway. On the other side of Kenilworth Ave. the road changes it's name to Good Luck Rd. You have the option to skip the big hill in front of you by turning left, into the park on an unpaved trail and passing through the campground road. Otherwise climb the big hill (100 vertical feet over about a half a mile). Going up it makes the route one-hundredth of a mile shorter (about 50ft.). Turning back into the park after the climb, at first, the Park Central Road is closed to auto traffic and serves as a bike trail for a half mile. It's down and up to the camp road intersection, then the rest is open to traffic. Don't worry about the traffic. It is usually very light after this point but one of the two hills left isn't.

For another extension of this loop, see the Old Calvert Rd. route starting from Artemesia. That route shares Edmonston Rd for a stretch. When including the Old Calvert Rd route, it can be followed backwards somewhat to add additional miles and a water stop.

#### Good Luck, (8.2 miles, VII)

Goodluck Rd. is part of what was once the Telegraph Rd. Telegraph Rd. was a major transportation route between Baltimore and Washington D.C. that followed one of the earliest telegraph lines. In the Beltsville Agricultural Research Center and the Patuxent National Wildlife Refuge, Telegraph Road can still be seen as the dirt carriage road it once was. The portion of the road on this route has changed significantly. Though it still has some green space along it, but is mostly house lined now. The terrain is gently rolling and agreeable. In fact, the toughest hills of the route are inside Greenbelt Park. This route passes through and connects to Old Greenbelt. Along the way water and restrooms can be found in Schrom Hills Park.

## **Nearby and Connecting Zones**

Lake Artemesia  
College Park/Riverdale  
Buddy Attic Park/Old Greenbelt  
Beltsville Agricultural Research Center

## **What to do Afterward**

### Food and Drink

Chesapeake Bagel Bakery - 301 474-1114  
Jaspers' - 301 441-8030

Royal Jade - 301 441-8880  
Hunan Treasure - 301 982-2012

### Entertainment and Edification

College Park Airport Museum - the world's first airport - 10AM-5PM daily; 301 864-6029;  
TTY 301 864-4765

Old Greenbelt Museum - historical exhibits - 301 507-6582

Herbert W. Wells Ice Rink - 301 227-3717

picnic or camp in the park

Calvert Rd Community Park Disc Golf

## Greenbelt Park Perimeter Trail

Distance: 5.85 or 2.85 miles

Rating: VI or III; unpaved blazed trails through parkland

### 5.85 Mile Route

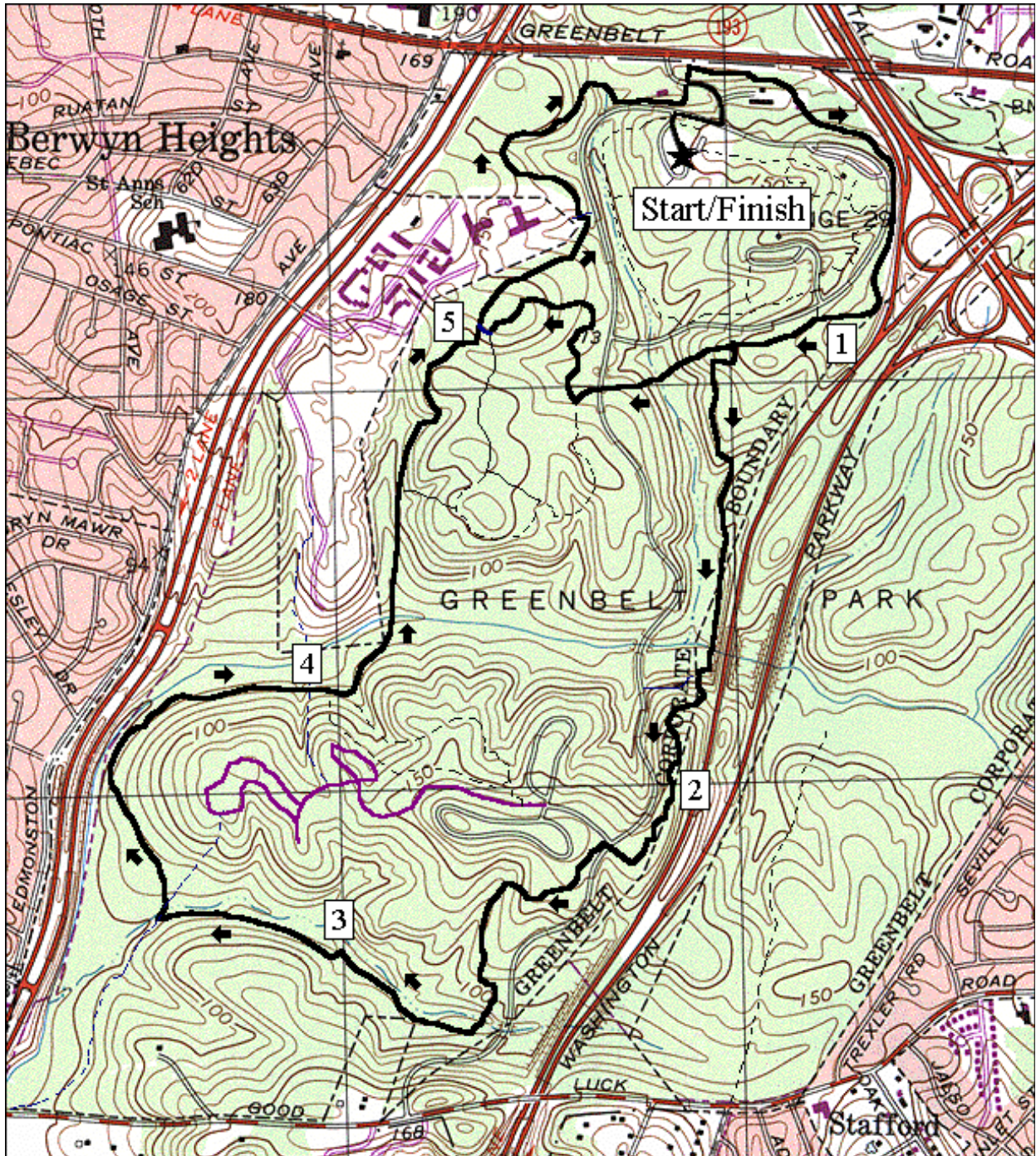
- |     |     |      |   |
|-----|-----|------|---|
|     | R   | 2.75 | at T after wooden bridge; follow blazes to stay on Perimeter Trail                  |
| 0.0 |     |      | from the parking lot, near the restroom out toward the loop road                    |
|     | R/L | 3.4  | at gravel road to stay on Perimeter Trail   |
| R   |     | 4.0  | Trail X; R goes to camping  |
|     |     | 4.05 | Blueberry Trail on R  |
| L   |     | 4.15 | Blueberry Trail on R  |
|     |     | 4.2  | wooden bridge over Still Creek  |
| R   |     | 4.35 | shortcut trail to Dogwood Trail on R  |
|     |     |      | Perimeter Trail (blazed yellow); at notice board; mile marker 0.0                   |
| <*  |     |      |   |
| L   |     | 4.8  | BL to stay on Perimeter Trail; trail to Dogwood Trail on R                          |
|     |     |      | before long downhill to stay on Perimeter Trail; see double blaze                   |
|     |     |      | >*  |
| BL  |     | 5.05 | L/R trail toward apartment building to stay on Perimeter Trail                      |
|     |     |      | on the uphill after stone & wood bridge over Still Creek to stay on Perimeter Trail |
|     | R   | 5.65 | park entrance access road   |
| R   |     | 5.75 | Park Central Rd (unmarked)  |
|     |     |      | at T to stay on Perimeter Trail   |
| BL  |     | 5.8  | L to Sweetgum Parking   |
|     |     | 5.85 | parking; near restrooms   |
|     |     |      | at the TR X after crossing Park Central Rd at the vehicle barrier; follow blazes    |

---

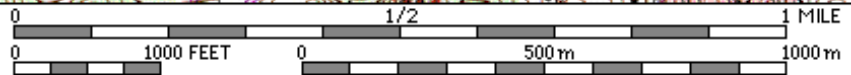
### \*2.85 Mile Route

- S 1.2 go straight and down the hill; leave the Perimeter Trail; (!) rocks & erosion gullies ahead on the downhill
- 1.4 cross Park Central road at Dogwood Nature Trail parking; enter woods on red blazed trail
- R 1.45 at T; start Dogwood Trail loop
- R 1.85 spur trail to Perimeter Trail
- R 1.85 Perimeter Trail; (pickup cues at mile 5.05 on 5.85 mile route; end 2.85 miles)

# Greenbelt Park Perimeter Trail



MN  $\nearrow$  TN  
11°



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

## Blueberries and Azaleas

Distance: 3.65 or 3.9 miles

Rating: III, hilly unpaved blazed trails and roads through wooded parkland

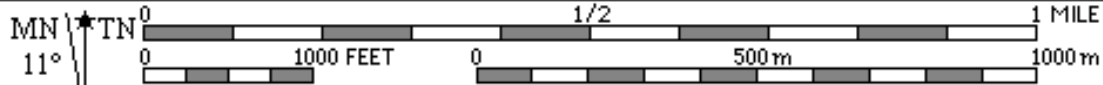
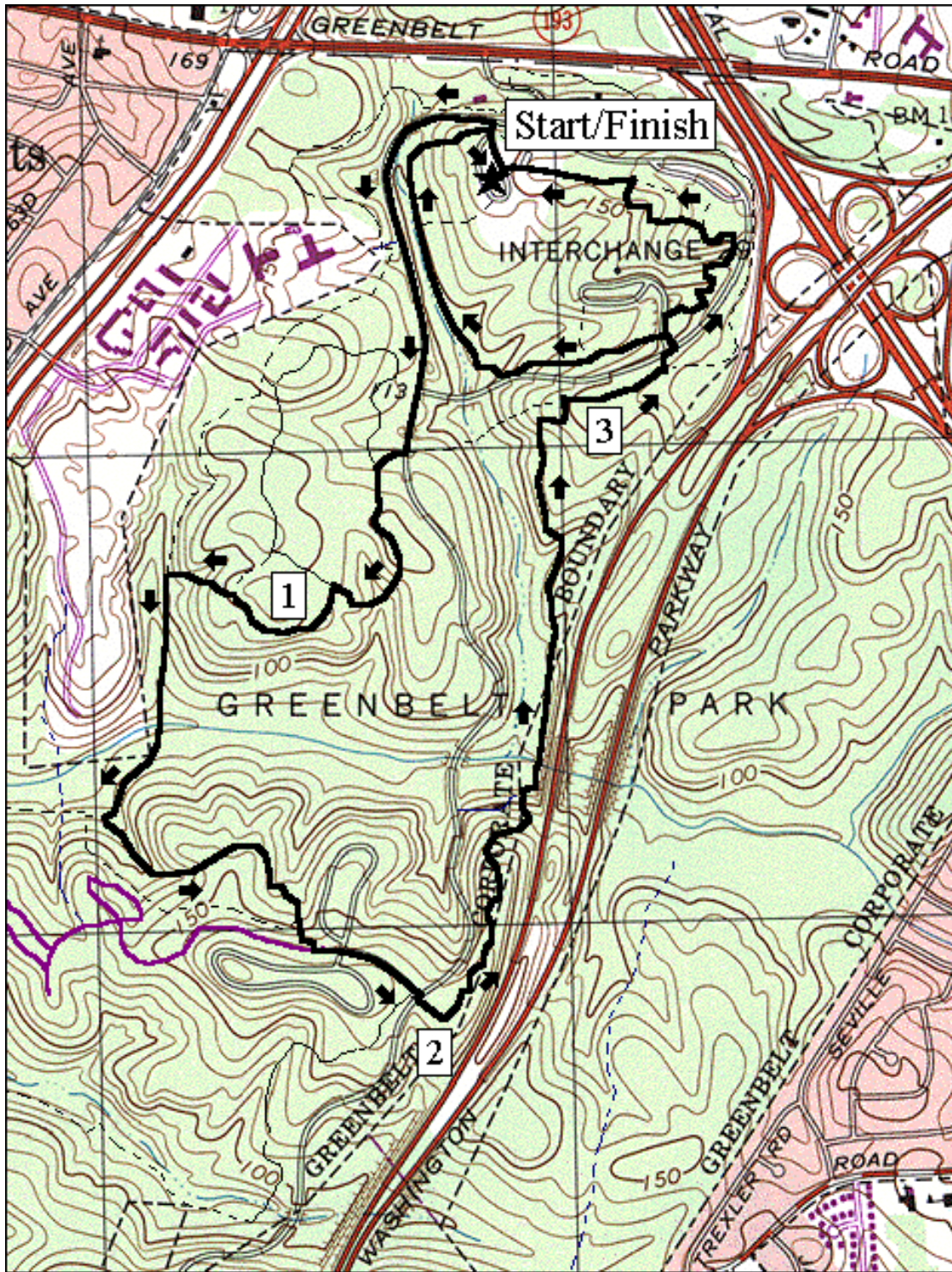
### 3.65 Mile Route

- |   |  |
|---|--|
|   | R/L 1.95 at Park Central Road at T, go R through gate & immediate L onto Perimeter Trail (blazed yellow) |
| 0.0 from the parking lot, near the restroom out toward the loop road              |  |
| L 0.05 Park Central Rd (unmarked) at T  | BL 2.0 to stay on Perimeter Trail  |
| 0.55 Park Central Rd X on L   | 2.35 trail X on L merges   |
|   | 2.4 stone bride over Still Creek   |
| R 0.6 Dogwood Trail (blazed Red)  | R 2.95 at trail X at top of hill to stay on Perimeter Trail  |
| L 0.65 at T trail X (loop portion)  |  |
| L 0.9 trail X (short & long Dogwood Trail)  | L 3.1 gravel road to Park Central Rd loop  |
| L 1.1 trail X at bench and Nature 13 down hill; to Perimeter Trail (unmarked) (!) | R/L 3.15 R at Park Central Loop Road; L into Laurel Picnic area on paved road                            |
|   | <*   |
| L 1.15 Perimeter Trail (yellow blazes)  | R 3.2 Azalea Trail; white blaze and sign   |
| 1.25 wooden bridge over Still Creek   | 3.35 trail X on R (unmarked)   |
|   | BL 3.45 to stay on Azalea Trail  |
| L 1.35 Blueberry Trail (blue blaze) at wooden bridge                              | L 3.5 sharp L at T to stay on Azalea Trail   |
| BL 1.65 Blueberry Trail merges  | BL 3.6 across field to bathroom & parking  |
|   | 3.65 bathroom and Sweetgum Parking   |
| L 1.75 campground road  |  |
- 

### \*3.9 Mile Route

- L 3.2 Azalea Trail; white blaze
  - 3.3 trail X on R to Laurel Picnic area
  - 3.4 trail X's on L (unmarked) before wooden bridge over stream
  - 3.65 Fitness Trail on R
- 
- R 3.85 Sweetgum Parking road
  - 3.9 Sweetgum Parking at bathroom

# Blueberries and Azaleas



## Edmonston Road

Distance: 5.65 miles

Rating: VI; roads and paved trails

### 5.65 Mile Route

0.0	from the parking lot; near the restroom, toward the loop road	S	2.5	after disc golf toward stream; leave Old Calvert (portable toilet)	
R	0.05	Park Central Rd (unmarked)	L	2.55	grassy trail toward bridge & paved walkway under Paint Branch Pkwy
L	0.15	park entrance/exit road	S	2.65	merge onto Paint Branch Pkwy sidewalk
L	0.3	Greenbelt Rd (Rte. 193); on the grass	2.9	Kenilworth Ave (Rte. 201)	
	0.55	Kenilworth Ave overpass & X, (!)	L	3.6	Greenbelt Park; after school on R
L	0.65	Edmonston Rd; after Kenilworth Ave & before gas station	3.7	pass through vehicle barrier	
	1.1	Pontiac St	4.25	pass through second vehicle barrier; campground road on L	
	1.35	Berwyn Rd	>*		
	1.55	City of College Park limits	5.1	Park Central Rd, loop X	
R	2.3	Old Calvert Rd	R	5.6	Sweetgum parking driveway
<*			5.65	parking lot near restrooms	

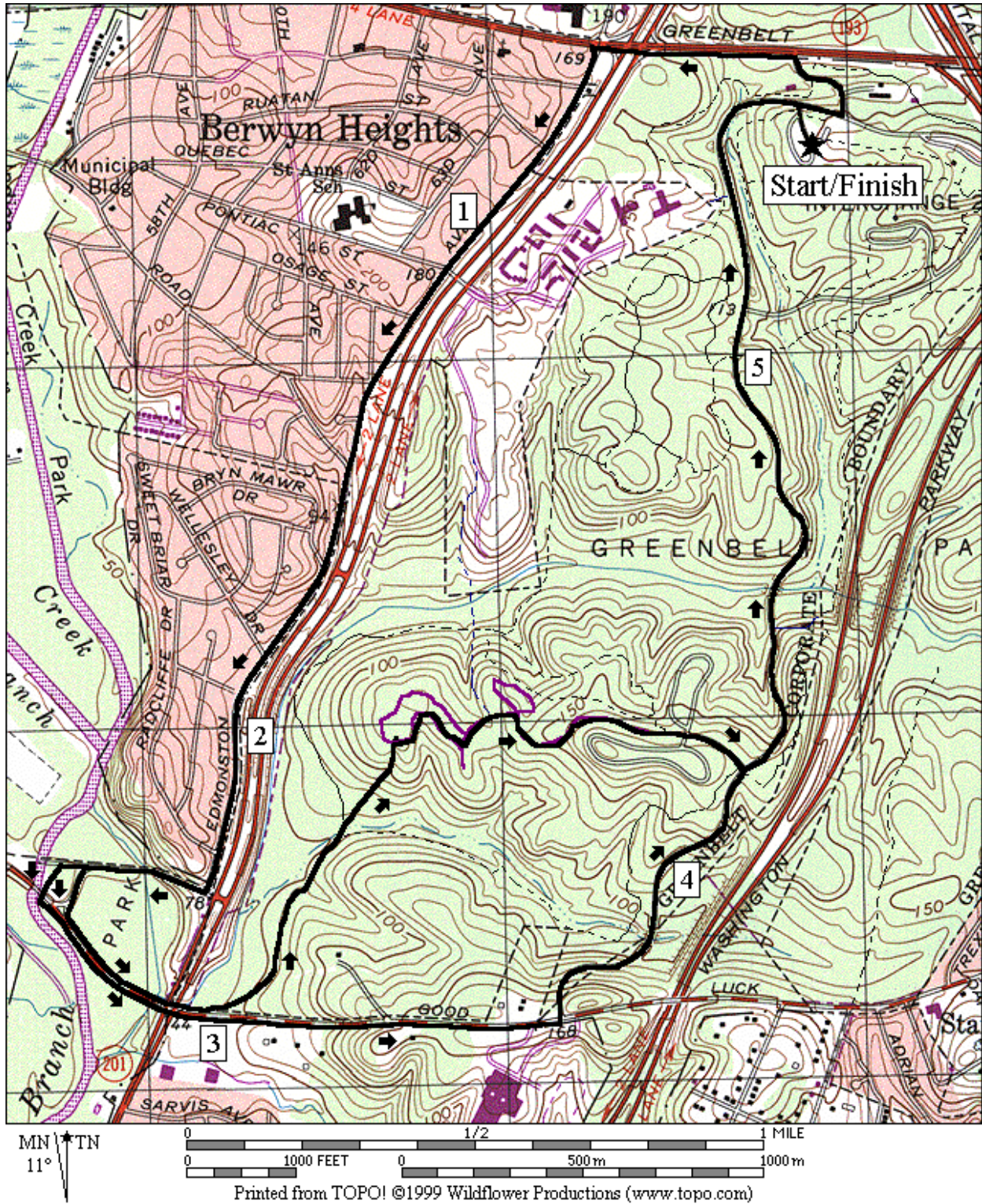
---

### \*5.65 Mile Route

L	2.5	after disc golf toward stream; to stay on Old Calvert (portable toilet is S)	BR	3.3	trail forks; yellow goes to L
L	2.6	Paint Branch Pkwy	R	3.5	campground loop D (unmarked)
			3.7	Group Camping on R	
S	2.8	at Kenilworth Rd; stay on L side of road; use sidewalk and grass (!)	R	3.6	road to campground entrance/exit
			4.1	Blueberry Trail on L	
L	2.9	trail head (unmarked); just after X	L	4.25	Park Central Road at T (unmarked); (pick-up cues at mile 5.1 on above route; end 5.65 miles)
	3.3	trail X; yellow blaze			



# Edmonston Road



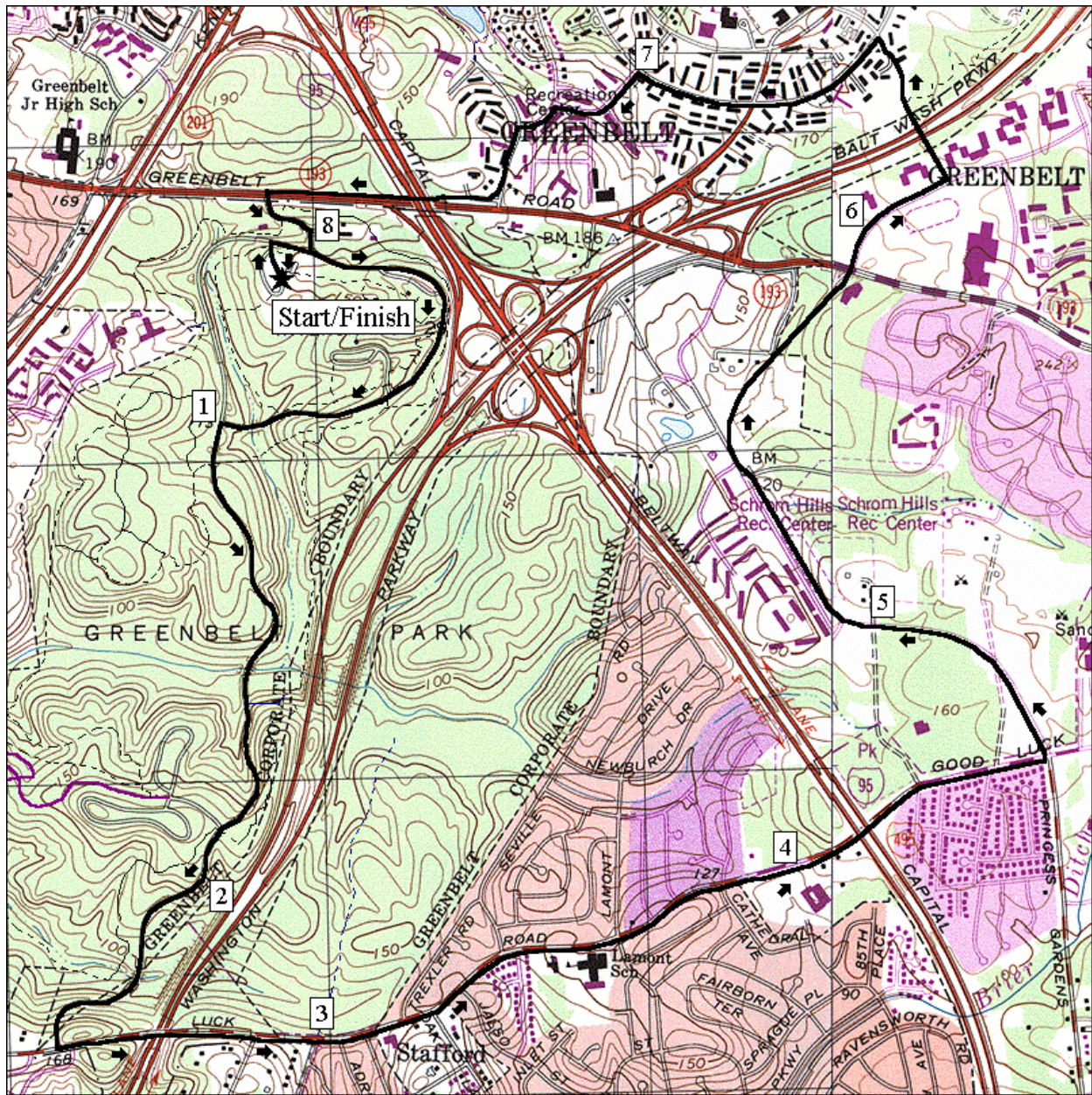
## Good Luck

Distance: 8.2 miles

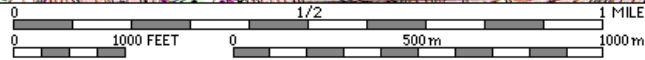
Rating: VII; roads and sidewalks, hills on 1<sup>st</sup> half

- 0.0 from parking lot; near the restrooms toward the park loop road
- R 0.05 Park Central Rd (unmarked)  
0.15 park entrance/exit road on L
- L 1.0 Park Central Road; leave loop portion
- S 1.9 proceed through vehicle barrier; campground road on R
- CL 2.5 Good Luck Rd (unmarked) at T  
2.7 B.W. Parkway overpass  
4.15 Capitol Beltway underpass (I95)
- L 4.55 Hanover Pkwy; at X w/Princess Garden Pkwy & Good Luck Rd  
4.85 Schrom Hills Community Park on R (water, restrooms)  
5.9 Greenbelt Rd, Rte. 193 (!)
- L 6.2 Gladys Noon Spellman Trail (sidewalk, unmarked); top of hill between 7716 and 7718  
Hanover Pkwy; B.W. Parkway overpass at 6.25
- L 6.5 Ridge Rd
- L 7.0 Westway
- L 7.2 Lakeside Dr.
- CL 7.3 Lakecrest Dr.
- BR 7.45 Lakecrest Circle
- BR 7.45 American Legion Dr.
- BL 7.6 onto sidewalk for Greenbelt Rd; underpass Capital Beltway (I-95)
- CL 7.9 Greenbelt Park entrance road (Walker Dr. on R)
- R 8.05 Park Central Rd (unmarked)
- L 8.1 Sweetgum parking area  
8.2 parking lot near restroom

Good Luck



MN ↑ TN  
11°



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