

Lewinsville Park

Lewinsville Park in McLean, Virginia is right off Chain Bridge Road; an old major throughway into Washington, D.C. The McLean/Langley area is like a younger, richer sibling to northern Arlington. Many of the houses are similar but a larger number of the lots were developed later. The area grew in the 1980's, while the businesses and residents were leaving Washington, D.C. Tysons Corner looms not far away. As the Potomac River curls north of the Washington, D.C., parts of several Virginia stream valleys were maintained as parks—Spout Run, Windy Run, Donaldson Run, Gulf Branch, Pimmit Run, Turkey Run, Dead Run, and Scotts Run are the main ones. Preservation efforts continue. Evan's Farm, once a popular restaurant, almost across the road from Lewinsville Park, with spacious undeveloped property, a pond, and livestock that was open to the public for walking and relaxing, went out of business in the late 1990's. Though it had already been re-zoned, a group trying to save it inspires its contributors by citing that the luscious Scotts Run Park was saved, even while bulldozers stood on that property ready to knock down the trees. From Lewinsville Park, routes described below use trails through and across the above stream valleys.

Getting There

Clockwise on the Beltway, I-495 (from the direction of Montgomery County)

Exit the Capitol Beltway, I-95, at Exit 12, from the left lane, going southbound toward I-66 on the Dulles Access and Toll Road (also called the Brault Expressway). Immediately after merging onto the expressway, take the second ramp at Exit 19, onto northbound Dolley Madison Blvd. Rte. 123. Next, take the next right onto Great Falls St. Turn left at the first traffic light onto Chain Bridge Rd. Turn right almost 0.4 miles later into Lewinsville Park. Park at the end of the road in the lot (do not go past the parking lot onto the service road). A trail head for the start is on the left.

Counterclockwise on the Beltway, I-495 (from Central or Southern Fairfax County)

Exit the Capitol Beltway, I-95, at Exit 11, onto northbound Dolley Madison Blvd. Rte. 123. Turn right after 1.1 miles onto Great Falls St. then follow the directions above from Great Falls St.

Area Routes

Pimmit Run (4.25 or 3.65 miles, III)

Pimmit Run is a long stream that starts near the Capital Beltway and Leesburg Pike, Rte. 7. It empties into the Potomac River at Chain Bridge. Unfortunately, not a lot of it is parkland. A major part of it that is parkland forms the bulk of this route. First descend gradually on suburban sidewalks. The long option passes through the smallish Bryn Mawr Park for a shaded $\frac{1}{3}$ of a mile. Both options join soon again after segments on suburban streets at the trail head in Kent Gardens Park. The trail through the park is unpaved, mostly shaded and thus can be muddy after rains. It starts through a powerline clearing then parallels Pimmit Run along the banks in the woods. Occasional faded white blazes will help you follow it, but it's hard to get lost on. In the middle, a dogleg to the right lets you use a bridge to get over a small tributary. After emerging at

Westmoreland St., go through more suburban streets while climbing back to Lewinsville Park.

Dead Run/Scotts Run (5.7 or 9.6 miles, VI or X)

Though some busier roads break-up the rhythm on these routes, you still go through some of the nicer parts of the area on this route. Begin by following the general downhill slope of the land into the Dead Run stream valley. After going down Pathfinder La., pick-up a small paved trail to continue downhill. The paved trails along Dead Run are narrow and a little bumpy. Cross Dolley Madison Blvd. and Old Dominion Dr. at their intersection, then continue on the paved trail paralleling the stream. Though you may get confused by splits and intersections in the trail, if you continue mostly downhill along the stream valley, they all join again. The paved trail ends at Churchill Rd. where the first loop begins. Continue straight on, using a grassy/dirt trail, then street sidewalks to reach Georgetown Pike. Turn left on a paved trail, in somewhat better maintenance than the trail through Dead Run, to go along Georgetown Pike; from Langley Fork Park to Cooper Middle School. There are some short but steep hills to go up and down when getting to the middle school. The shorter option breaks off at Dead Run Rd. to return to Churchill Rd.

The longer option continues past Cooper middle school along Balls Hill Rd. for half a mile. Turning left on Live Oak Dr., you will reach an official Scotts Run Nature Preserve access point near the Langley Swim Club property. The loop made by using the Woodland Trail and River Trail is reminiscent to trails found across the river and upstream at Great Falls, Maryland. The generally wide and unpaved paths are wooded and can be easily run upon. Turns at several intersections are made clearer by posted maps that indicate your location. No drinking water is available in Scotts Run Nature Preserve and some of the hills are very steep. Mid-way up the worst hill, you can glimpse the Potomac River through the trees if it's fall or winter and the leaves have fallen. If you want to visit Scotts Run on a shorter route, park at one of the lots off Georgetown Pike. The loop portion indicated on this route is 1.83 miles long. On the return from Scotts Run, go back as you came except after Georgetown Pike, pass through Churchill Rd. Park to get back to Churchill Rd. and the Dead Run Trail.

Nearby and Connecting Zones

Difficult Run
Donaldson Run/Potomac Overlook Regional Park
Idylwood Park
C&O Canal, Lock 7
C&O Canal, Carderock Recreation Area

What to do Afterward

Food and Drink

Café Tatti - 703 790-5164
Corner Bakery 703 821-4224
Haagen-Dazs Ice Cream - 703 883-2090
Chesapeake Bagel Bakery - 703 506-0536

Entertainment and Edification

Claude Moore Colonial Farm
Turkey Run Recreation Area

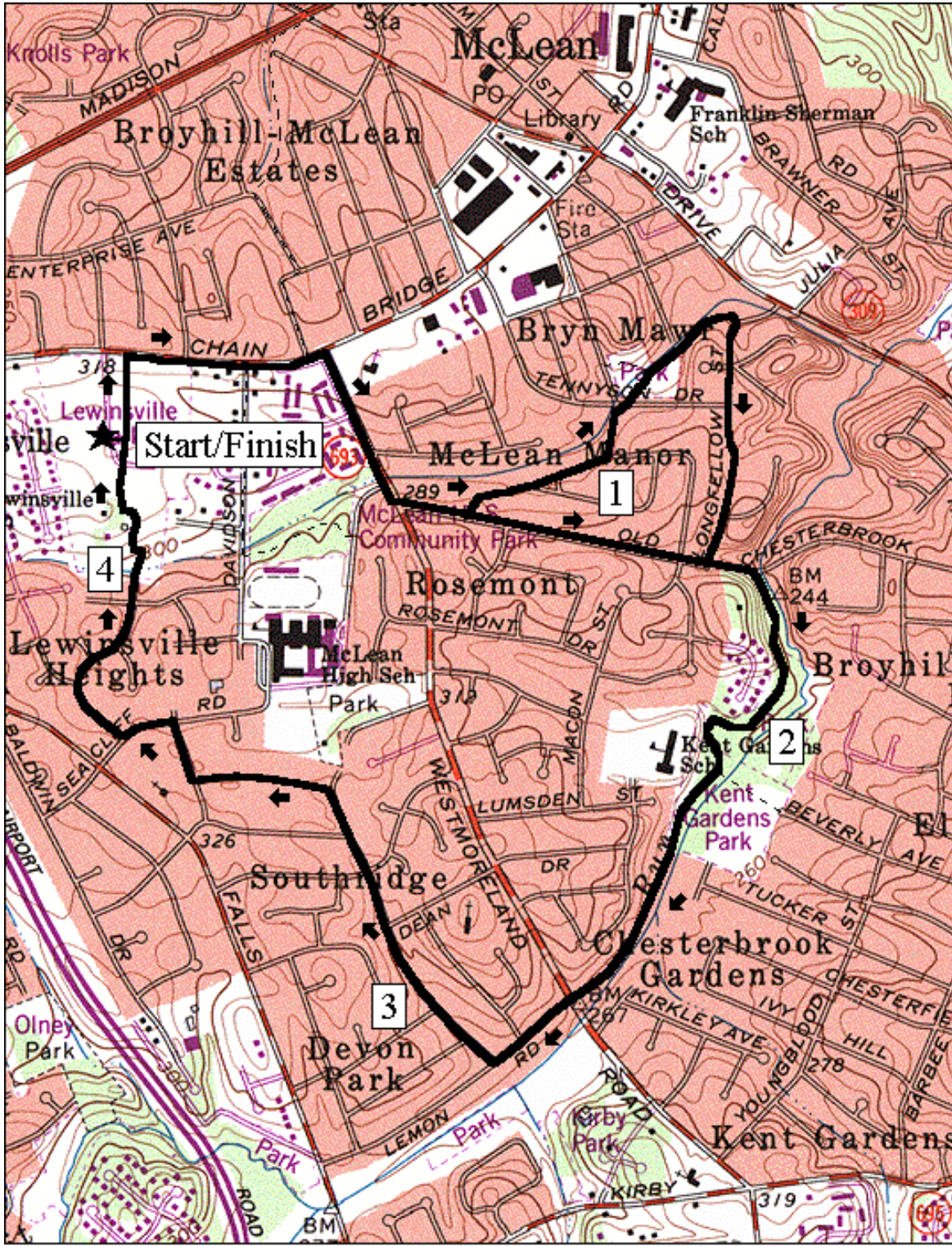
Pimmit Run

Distance: 4.25 or 3.65 miles

Rating: III; suburban sidewalks and streets with some hills; unpaved stream trails

L	0.0	on the paved trail from the parking lot toward Chain Bridge Rd	L	2.15	trail X to wooden bridge over gully (paved), then L again (unpaved)
R	0.1	Chain Bridge Rd (use sidewalk)		2.25	trail X on L from gully & wooden bridge on L over Pimmit Run; go S instead
R	0.4	Westmoreland St	S	2.7	Westmoreland St; go S onto Lemon Rd
	0.6	McLean HS on R			
L	0.65	Old Chesterbrook Rd	R	2.85	Rupert St
<*					
L	0.75	Weaver Ave	L	3.35	Girard St
				3.45	walkway on R to McLean HS
L	1.0	Laughlin Rd			
	1.05	at road end, continue S on trail across Tennyson Dr into Bryn Mawr Park	R	3.55	Margie Dr
	1.1	bridge on L over stream toward playground	L	3.6	Sea Cliff Rd
			R	3.7	Warner Ave
R	1.3	Longfellow St (go uphill)	S	4.0	trail head at end of Warner Ave into Lewinsville Park
CL	1.65	Old Chesterbrook Rd			
>*			L	4.0	gravel road goes around field
R	1.8	Pimmit Run Trail head; just past Aerie St on R		4.05	gravel road on R merges
	1.9	trail X on L follows creek; go S through grassy field	R	4.1	Resource Mgt House service road
	2.0	trail X on L joins from creek			
R	2.05	trail X on R; S goes through gully	L	4.25	parking

Pimmit Run



Dead Run/Scotts Run

Distance: 5.7 or 9.6 miles

Rating: VI or X; paved and unpaved trails, suburban sidewalks; hilly

5.7 Mile Route

- | | | | | | |
|-----|------|---|-----|------|---|
| L | 0.0 | on the paved trail from the parking lot toward Chain Bridge Rd | L | 2.35 | asphalt trail along Georgetown Pike |
| | | | | 3.0 | trail ends; use Georgetown Pike access road |
| | | | <* | | |
| R | 0.1 | Chain Bridge Rd (use sidewalk) | CL | 3.05 | Dead Run Rd |
| | | | | 3.25 | trail X on R into Churchill Rd Park |
| L | 0.4 | Pathfinder La; cross Chain Br Rd (!) | L | 3.9 | Churchill Rd |
| | | | >* | | |
| R/L | 0.5 | at Meadowbrook to stay on Pathfinder La | R | 3.95 | Dead Run Trail (paved/unmarked) |
| | | | | 4.25 | trail X on L |
| R | 0.65 | Dead Run Trail (unmarked/paved) | L | 4.3 | at T to stay on trail; road on R |
| | | | | 4.35 | trail X on L (triangle) |
| R | 0.9 | Dolley Madison Blvd, Rte 123 | | 4.45 | trail X on L (triangle) |
| CL | 1.0 | Old Dominion Dr | R | 4.45 | library; concrete path to Old Dominion Dr |
| R | 1.05 | over wooden bridge to the concrete walkway; go toward the library | L | 4.65 | Old Dominion Dr |
| | 1.15 | trail X on L (unpaved) to creek | CR | 4.7 | Dolley Madison Blvd, Rte 123 |
| L | 1.2 | library; asphalt trail toward tennis/playground/basketball courts | L | 4.75 | Dead Run Trail on L (unmarked) |
| | 1.25 | trail X (triangle) on R | L | 5.0 | Pathfinder La; end of Dead Run Trail |
| | 1.35 | trail X (triangle) on R; cross the creek on the wooden bridge | R/L | 5.15 | at Meadowbrook to stay on Pathfinder La |
| R | 1.4 | after crossing creek; to stay on trail | CR | 5.3 | Chain Bridge Rd (!) |
| | 1.45 | trail X on R | L | 5.55 | trail head (asphalt) into the park |
| S | 1.7 | Churchill Rd; grassy trail into woods | R | 5.7 | parking lot |
| | 1.85 | trail bears R; leave the creek | | | |
| L | 1.95 | Baron Rd (! limited sight) | | | |
| L | 2.0 | Douglas Rd (use sidewalk & trail) | | | |

(Continued on the next page)

Dead Run/Scotts Run (continued)

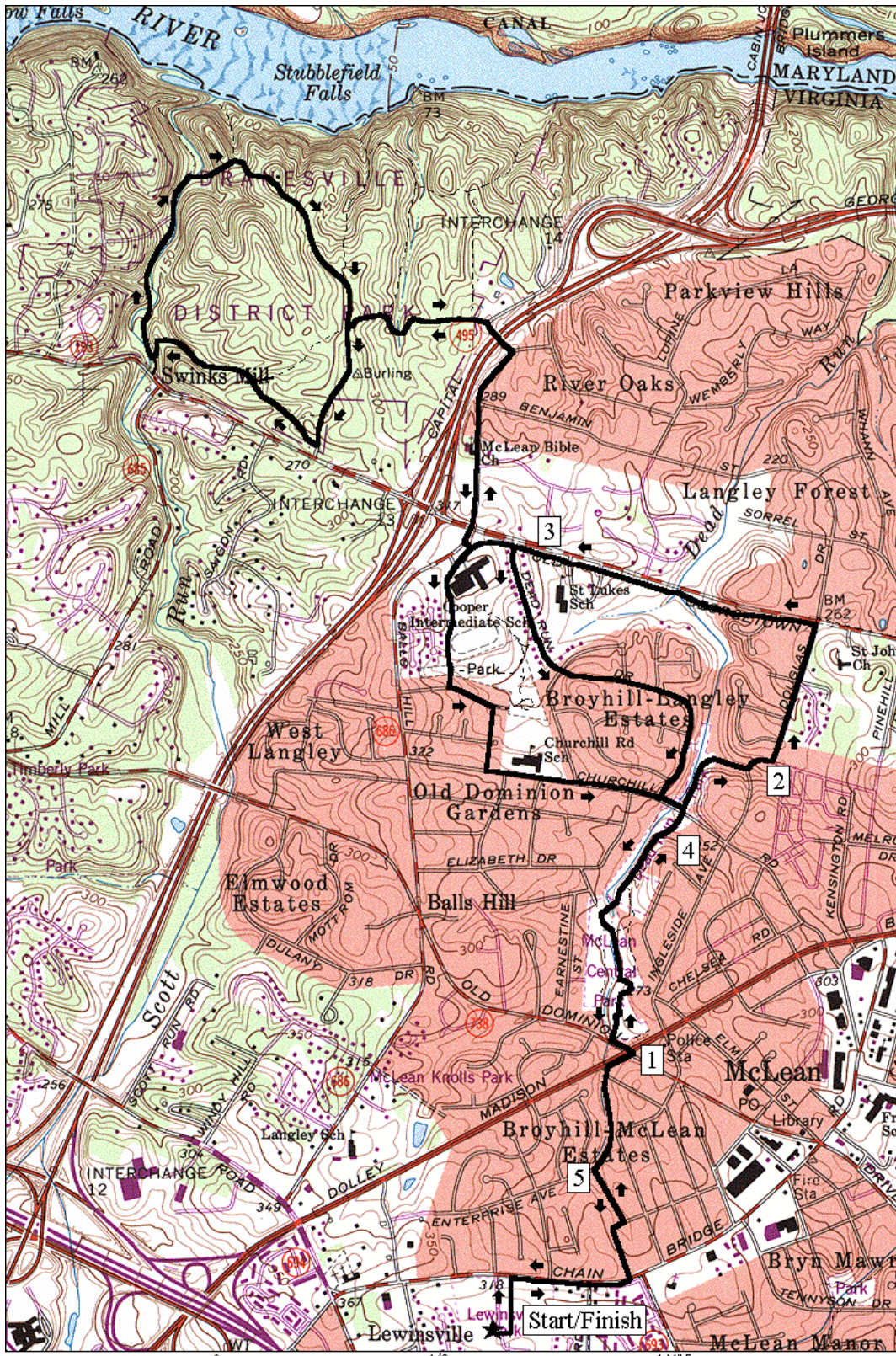
Distance: 5.7 or 9.6 miles

Rating: VI or X; paved and unpaved trails, suburban sidewalks; hilly

*9.6 Mile Route

- 3.05 Dead Run Dr on L
- R 3.15 exit the school grounds toward
Balls Hill Rd
- CR 3.15 Balls Hill Rd
3.2 Georgetown Pike (TL)
- L 3.65 Live Oak Dr; bridge over the
beltway; I-495
- L 3.75 Woodland Trail head (unpaved) into
Scotts Run Nature Preserve; near the
Do Not Enter Sign for the Langley
Swim Club driveway
3.75 trail X on R
3.8 trail X on R
4.0 trail X on R
- L 4.1 at trail X; R is return route
4.2 trail X on R
- R 4.35 at Scotts Run East Parking; trail is
less wide from here
4.5 gully
4.55 trail X on R
4.6 trail X on R
4.65 trail X on R
- R 4.85 after stairs; Scotts Run Parking
4.9 gate end of parking area is start of
the River Trail
5.1 cross Scotts Run creek on flat
concrete stones
- BR 5.3 cross Scotts Run creek on flat
concrete stones; begin steep uphill
- R 5.4 stairs on R begin the Woodland
Trail; climb higher
5.5 old chimney on L
5.8 trail X on L
- L 5.9 trail X; loop is complete; S is to
Scotts Run East Parking
6.0 trail X on L
6.15 trail X on L
6.25 trail X on L
- R 6.25 Live Oak Dr; bridge over beltway;
I-495
- R 6.35 Balls Hill Rd
6.75 Georgetown Pike (TL)
- L/R 6.8 L into James F Cooper MS; R
through the parking & around the
school
7.05 trail head at end of road; tennis
courts are on the L
7.1 trail X on L; go S up the stairs
- CL 7.15 Thrasher Pl
- CR 7.3 Thrasher Rd
- L 7.4 Churchill Rd
7.8 Dead Run Dr on L (pickup cues at
mile 3.95 on 5.7 mile route)

Dead Run/Scotts Run



MN TN
10°

0 1000 FEET 0 1/2 500 m 1000 m

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