

Route

- Leave Columbia Town Center via path and continue to Vantage Point Road. Turn right on Vantage Point Road to Oakland.
- Return to Little Patuxent Parkway (LPP) and cross onto West Running Brook. Bear left onto Hyla Brook Road.
- Follow Hyla Brook to Pasture Gate and then pick up path. Follow along Wilde Lake, crossing bridge and proceeding straight on path to Green Mountain Circle. Cross Green Mountain Circle to Morning Wind Lane and pick up path on left at end of Morning Wind. Follow path to Bleak House tot lot on Rain Dream Hill.
- Take Rain Dream Hill to Green Mountain Circle. Turn right and pick up path on left to Faulkner Ridge Circle. Turn left on Faulkner Ridge Circle to Twin Rivers. Turn left on Twin Rivers to first underpass leading to Wilde Lake Village Center.
- Follow path behind Slayton House and past Interfaith Center. Cross Trumpeter Road to Wilde Lake HS and follow sidewalk to path proceeding through Governor Warfield underpass. Then follow path and sidewalk to LPP at Broken Land Parkway (BLP.) Cross LPP, use sidewalk to Symphony Woods.
- Continue on sidewalk, cross South Entrance Road and pick up path beyond the Library. Follow path across Route 29 to Steven's Forest Road. Cross Steven's Forest into Oakland Mills Village Center
- Continue on path to Cooke Family Cemetery. Then continue on path proceeding through Whiteacre underpass to Thunder Hill Road. Cross Thunder Hill and follow path to Old Montgomery Road. Cross Old Montgomery at Oakland Mills Road and continue on sidewalk to Tamar Drive.
- Cross Tamar, pick up path and follow a distance crossing Old Montgomery Road and Tamar Drive to Oakland Mills Road. Follow sidewalk to Dasher Court. Turn left on Dasher Court. Continue on path to Lake Elkhorn.
- Follow path to Owen Brown Village Center. Follow through the Center and pick up path. Continue on path to Cradlerock Way. Cross Cradlerock, then cross Youngheart, and pick up path to Steven's Forest Elementary School. Follow sidewalk on Steven's Forest Road crossing Kilimanjaro and Santiago to Whiteacre. Cross Steven's Forest Road to pick up path and return to Lakefront Town Center.



May 8, 2010

- **Oakland** Columbia's premier event venue has a vivid history. It was built in 1811 by Charles Sterrett Ridgely, Speaker of the Maryland House of Delegates; owned by a Confederate Colonel who trained troops there; purchased by The Rouse Company and used as field offices; and served as the campus of two colleges and the local American Red Cross before being renovated by Columbia Association (CA).
- **Wilde Lake Architecture** Some of Columbia's most unique residential architecture is found in the small area called The Birches. The stone houses along Hyla Brook Road that were part of Oakland date to the early 1800s. The contemporary homes that make up most of the neighborhood represent the mid-20th century modern style including the designs of pioneers in the field of prefabricated custom building.
- **Bleak House** Remnants of the stone walls are all that remain of Bleak House. If the walls could talk they would have tales to tell of Rebecca Gaither hiding out during the Civil War when Union troops ransacked Oakland while her husband Colonel George Gaither was in Europe rallying support for the Confederate cause. Since its conversion to a tot lot for Columbia children have made up their own tales in this unique play area.
- **Wilde Lake Village Center** Columbia's first village center opened in July 1967 and was the only place in Columbia to shop. In 1968, Walter Cronkite and his CBS crew used the center as a backdrop as they filmed a show on the future of cities. Times change and the center is now in the throes of the challenge of redevelopment. Slayton House was the site of many firsts including religious events before Wilde Lake Interfaith Center was built. It continues to be a vibrant center of performing and visual arts.
- **Symphony Woods** Named for the symphonic music that first played in Merriweather Post Pavilion, Columbia's "central park" is due for a facelift this year. CA plans call for a woodland garden, a walkway system, a fountain and a small café.
- **Oakland Mills Village Center** History and art mix at Oakland Mills. The modern sculpture titled Celestial Serenade is flanked by the early 20th century barns that were saved from demolition and converted to community use to preserve a link to Howard County's agrarian past. History is still being made in Oakland Mills as Howard County completes a new street enhancement to create a gathering space for community events.
- **Cooke Family Cemetery** George Cooke, a local farmer, recorded the details of his daily life in a diary. The diary is housed at the National Agricultural Library in Beltsville, and is perhaps the best surviving description of life in Howard County from 1826 to 1849.
- **Footed Ridge Reforestation Project** This riparian buffer plays a key role in increasing water quality in the nearby streams, rivers, and lakes. With the decline of many aquatic ecosystems due to land development, riparian buffers have become a very common conservation practice. The area is planted with native trees such as maple, hickory, beech, oak and elm and native shrubs that form the understory.
- **Environmental Sustainability** Baltimore Gas & Electric (BGE) implemented an Integrated Vegetation Management (IVM) pilot program in cooperation with Citizens for Lake Elkhorn's Environmental Restoration (CLEER), CA and Howard County. Over the years, mowing the right of way has allowed many invasive species to overtake beneficial native plants. The BGE IVM strategy is to manage vegetation by selecting low growing, compatible plant species.
- **Lake Elkhorn Dredging Project** CA began the dredging of Lake Elkhorn earlier this year. Thousands of cubic yards of accumulated sediment are being removed from the lake. The hydraulic dredge "vacuums" the sediment from the lake bottom and pumps the materials to "dewatering" equipment which extracts the water. The dried material is then hauled away. Lake Elkhorn will generally be returned to the original 1973 depths.

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