

## Freestate Happy Wanderers Wheaton Brookside Gardens 5K, 6K and 10K Year-Round Event Woods (Y0144), an AVA Sanctioned Year-Round Event

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**Note:** The Wheaton Brookside Gardens Residential event (Y1619) Physical Start Box is at the same location.

### **Trail Description:**

The Woods event (Y0144) has three different trail options that can be walked for this event credit. This is to allow variety and allow for differing trail conditions. Please take time to enjoy the seasonal displays within Brookside Gardens.

1. Woods trail 10KM: This trail is on a mixture of paved and mostly natural surfaces. This trail starts within Brookside gardens for about the first ½ KM. It then exits the gardens towards the Wheaton Regional Nature Center. The trail then is on natural surface paths making a small loop back to the Nature Center. From The Nature Center the trail then goes up a hill to the Acorn Woods trail. You will continue to make a complete loop on the Acorn Woods trail. There are some hills on these loops. You then continue on the Arcola Trail and down to Pine Lake. After passing Pine Lake, you'll go into Wheaton Regional Park, by the Train Station and Carousel passing through a picnic area and by a playground before re-entering Brookside Gardens. Within the Gardens, you will visit the Conservatory, Japanese Tea House and various gardens.
2. Woods 6KM trail: This trail is on a mixture of paved and mostly natural surfaces. This trail starts within Brookside gardens for about the first ½ KM. It then exits the gardens towards the Wheaton Regional Nature Center. The trail then is on natural surface paths making a small loop back to the Nature Center. From The Nature Center the trail then goes up a hill to the Acorn Woods trail. You will continue to make a complete loop on the Acorn Woods trail and return by the Nature Center. There are some hills on these loops. You will re-enter Brookside Gardens and walk through the gardens for about 1 KM before finishing at the Visitor Center.
3. Optional 5KM / 10KM Stay in the Gardens: This trail stays entirely within Brookside Gardens making 6 loops around and through the gardens and should be suitable for muddy conditions or inclement weather. The route makes 3 full loops and 3 figure eights going in both directions to break any monotony. This trail takes you through the Japanese Tea House garden and other areas of the gardens not on the traditional routes.

### **Special Programs:**

Par for the Course is on the 10KM Trail. A-MAZE-ing Labyrinths is on the 10KM and 6KM trails plus the Stay in the Gardens (Optional) trail. The labyrinth is near the Japanese Tea House.

**Freestate Happy Wanderers Website:** <https://sites.google.com/svsvc.org/fsw/home>

**Start Point:**

Brookside Gardens Visitor Center 1800 Glenallan Ave. Wheaton, MD 20902 (301) 962-1400

Hours are 9 AM-5 PM daily closed New Years, MLK Day, Presidents Day, Veterans Day, Thanksgiving and day after Thanksgiving, and Christmas. Pets are not allowed in Brookside Gardens. The gardens are open every day. (GPS: Lat: 39.03983, Long: -77.05526)

**Amenities:**

Restrooms and water are located in the Start Point and also in the Conservatory within Brookside Gardens.

**Driving Directions:**

Washington DC Capital Beltway (I-495) exit 31A follow Georgia/Rt 97 N to Wheaton about 3.1 miles. At Randolph Road turn RIGHT. At 2nd traffic light, turn RIGHT onto Glenallan Ave. to Brookside Gardens on right. Park in 1st lot for Visitor Center and if full return to Glenallan Ave. turn right, park in 2nd lot off Glenallan by Conservatory or in lot near Nature Center.

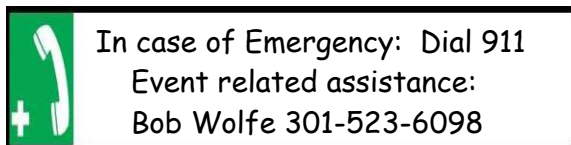
**Walk Registration:**

Registration takes place online using that AVA Online Start Box, on my.ava.org. Follow the instructions provided to create a user account and sign the AVA waiver (one time). Instructions for payment are also included. Download the directions and print as needed. The POC does not provide event directions or accept alternate payment methods.

Note: This event also has a physical start box. Please use either the Online Start Box (OSB) or Physical Start Box (PSB) to register and complete this event. Do not mix and match. For example, if you register using the OSB do not complete your event by using the PSB (nor sign the PSB log sheet). The sponsoring club only receives credit for an OSB participation when an OSB registration has been completed online by entering your participation date, distance and any special program using the OSB. See below.

**Walk Completion and Walk Credit:**

Once you have physically completed the walk, please log in to your Online Start Box account, click on the “My Start Box” tab, then the “Finish Table” tab, and click on “Go to Finish Table” button for the event you have completed. Use the displayed entry form to submit the date and distance of your walk as well as select applicable AVA Special Programs to generate stamped “virtual” insert cards that you may choose to print out.

**Emergency Numbers:**

**These walk directions and maps may only be used in conjunction with a signed American Volkssport Association athletic waiver. All other uses are prohibited.**



**FREESTATE HAPPY WANDERERS**  
**WHEATON'S BROOKSIDE GARDEN TRAIL/WOODS – 10 KM (YR 0144)**

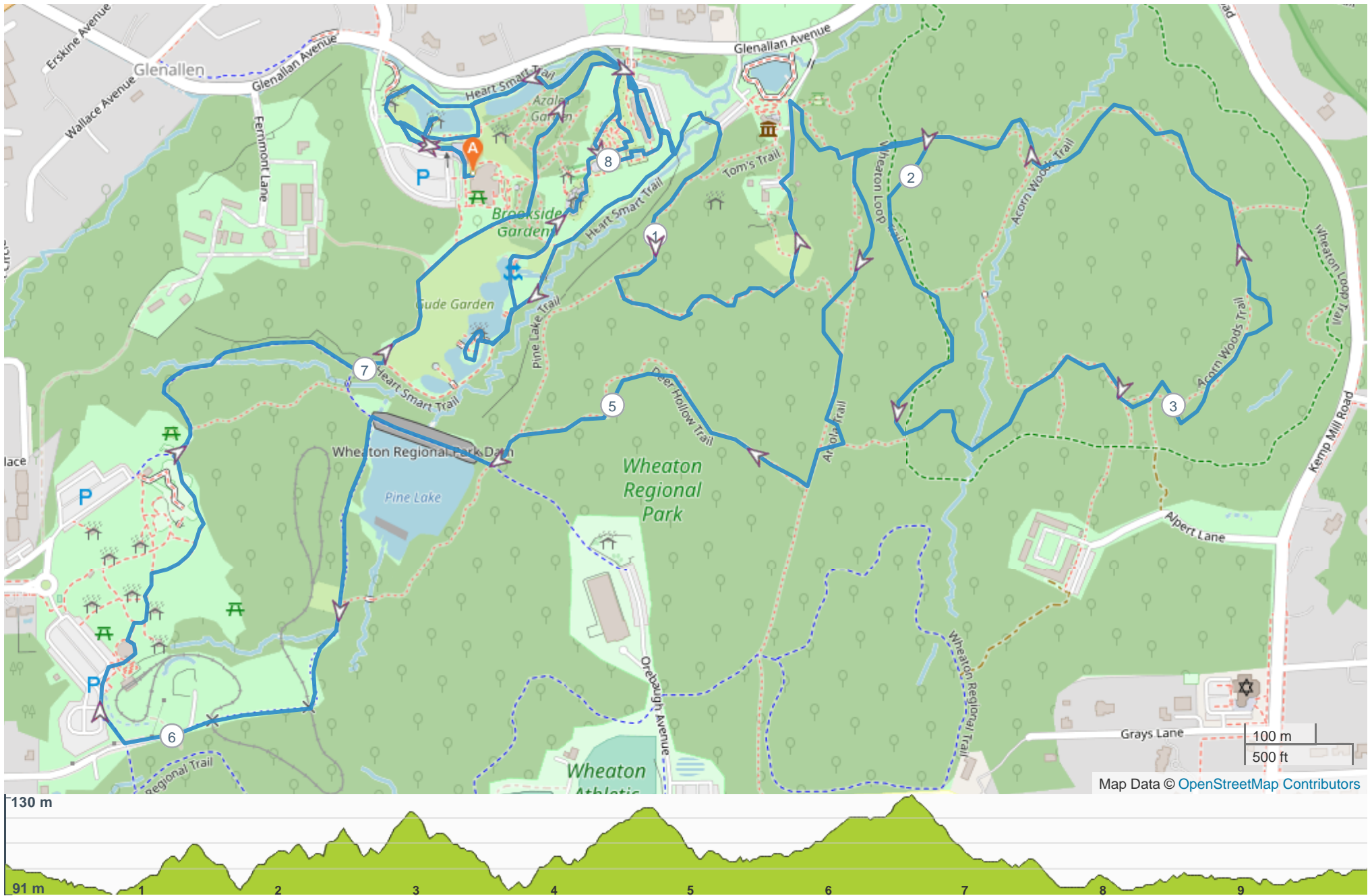
*[Note: Trails were rerouted and new in 2023. Trail signs are brown plaques on Park Posts.]*

1. EXIT Visitor's Center towards parking lot and **TURN RIGHT** on sidewalk following the sidewalk along and then away from the parking lot. At "Y" **TURN RIGHT**. Pass the first pond on your left continuing between two ponds to a "T". **TURN RIGHT** keeping second pond on your right.
2. Just before reaching parking area, the path comes to a "T" at an asphalt path. **TURN LEFT** to the Conservatories following the sidewalk. Follow the sidewalk keeping the Conservatories on your right. At the end of the parking lot **TURN AWAY** from the conservatories and take the paved path exiting the paved circle (fencing on your left).
3. After 20m **TURN LEFT** onto boardwalk to Nature Center and exit through the gate.
4. Cross bridge, keep split rail fence to your right for about 25m and **TURN RIGHT** onto the natural trail toward Pine Lake and Playground.
5. Go straight past next Park Post. (Note FHW bench you pass on right.) At next intersection (a "T"), **TURN LEFT**, to continue uphill on Spicebush Trail (Do NOT go towards Pine Lake).
6. At next Park Post, **TURN LEFT** toward Nature Center (Harper's Cabin Trail). Cross open clearing and pick up wood chip/dirt trail on other side. After passing two log cabins, **TURN RIGHT** on asphalt road.
7. After passing Nature Center on your left (exhibits, water, restrooms), and before reaching the pond, **TURN RIGHT** on wood chip trail (by rope fence). At "Y" (by message board), **TURN RIGHT**. In a few meters at "Y" and Park Post **BEAR RIGHT** (to Wheaton Way).
8. As you reach the crest of the hill, with Park Post and benches, **TURN LEFT** on Wheaton Way.
9. Ignore path to your left at Park Post and continue uphill to Little Bit Loop Trail. At next Park Post and path on right. **TURN RIGHT** on Little Bit Loop Trail to begin a counter clockwise loop (ignoring any side trails). After crossing two footbridges (about 1km apart), at Park Post and "Y" **BEAR LEFT** towards Nature Center (to Wheaton Way).
10. At Park Post, you will pass the point you started the loop on the left, continue **STRAIGHT** going downhill (to Wheaton Way). At next Park Post, ignore path to your right, and continue **STRAIGHT**. At next intersecting trail, with Park Post and benches, **TURN LEFT** on Wheaton Way.
11. At "T" with Park Post **TURN LEFT** to stay on Wheaton Way. At "T" with Park Post, **TURN RIGHT** onto Timberdoodle Trail.
12. At next Park Post **TURN RIGHT** on Raven's Run towards Pine Lake (0.4 mile). Cross a small bridge and **VEER LEFT** at "Y" and Park Post to stay on Raven's Run. Exit woods onto paved road at the Pine Lake dam. (5 Km)
13. **TURN RIGHT** and cross the Pine Lake dam. At the end of dam, **TURN LEFT** onto gravel path keeping Pine Lake on your left.
14. Continue on gravel/natural surface path beyond the lake. Cross a bridge, 2 sets of railroad tracks. (Ignore short paved path on the right and gravel path on the left.) The trail is now asphalt.

15. **TURN RIGHT** at next intersecting paved path. At gravel parking area **TURN RIGHT** towards Wheaton Station train station and continue to the octagon shaped Carousel building.
16. Circle Carousel building on the Right, then **TURN RIGHT** on first concrete/asphalt path away from the building. **TURN RIGHT** and quickly **LEFT** onto asphalt path.
17. Pass Pavilion E. **TURN RIGHT** at “Y” and quickly **VEER RIGHT** at next “Y”. A large playground will be on your left. Continue around playground keeping it on your left.
18. Just past the playground, **TURN RIGHT** on intersecting paved path.
19. Proceed downhill. **BEAR LEFT** at “T” along fence line and enter Brookside Gardens. (7 Km)
20. Inside garden, **BEAR LEFT** at first “Y” on asphalt trail. Continue ignore three paths on left (to service area, parking lot and visitor’s center). Just past the third path **BEAR LEFT** at the “Y”. Continue on the paved path down the hill toward the Conservatories. At the bottom of the hill **TURN RIGHT** on sidewalk to front of Conservatories (water and restrooms).
21. Enter the Conservatories and enjoy the exhibits. Exit using same door you entered. **TURN LEFT** on the sidewalk (ignore path going behind Conservatories) walk about 20m, then **TURN HARD LEFT** on paver and concrete sidewalk. You will pass a large Acorn statue on your right.
22. **BEAR RIGHT** on the sidewalk to pass under rose trellis. Pass intersecting path at the end of rose trellis, then **TURN LEFT** to go through 2 formal rectangular gardens. At end of second garden continue on path behind Conservatories to parking lot.
23. **TURN HARD RIGHT** on to paved path. Ignore side paths. At “Y” with water fountain on left, **BEAR LEFT**. Cross a bridge, pass two paths on right. At small gravel area on right, **TURN RIGHT** cross stone bridge to Japanese Tea House. Follow the stone path around the island garden clockwise, back to the Japanese Tea House, and exit the island where you entered. **TURN LEFT** on the paved perimeter path. **TURN LEFT** on stone-lined asphalt pathway. Follow path across stone spillway to Reflection Terrace honoring the 2002 sniper victims. Leave Reflection Terrace following the paving stone trail to intersection with asphalt path.
24. Cross asphalt path and continue straight on flag stone path to Fragrance Garden. Walk through the garden to benches under a trellis. **TURN LEFT** to circular walkway. **TURN LEFT** on circular walkway, continue straight past rose trellis on left into Rose Garden. At the end of walkway, **TURN LEFT**, walk back to trellis. **TURN RIGHT** and follow path exiting on the sidewalk by Acorn statue.
25. Continue to asphalt path. **VEER LEFT** crossing asphalt path onto path leading down to ponds (don’t go uphill). Pass both ponds on your left. At the end of the second pond, continue straight on boardwalk then paved path. Ignore paths leading to exit and parking lot.
26. **TURN LEFT** and visit the Gazebo over the pond. Exit the Gazebo and **TURN RIGHT** then **TURN HARD LEFT** on sidewalk to parking lot and then to the Visitor Center and the Start/Finish.

Hope you enjoyed the walk, and thanks for walking with the Freestate Happy Wanderers!  
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# Wheaton10



**FREESTATE HAPPY WANDERERS**  
**WHEATON'S BROOKSIDE GARDEN TRAIL/WOODS – 6 KM (YR 0144)**

*[Note: Trails were rerouted and new in 2023. Trail signs are brown plaques on Park Posts.]*

1. EXIT Visitor's Center towards parking lot and **TURN RIGHT** on sidewalk following the sidewalk along and then away from the parking lot. At "Y" **TURN RIGHT**. Pass the first pond on your left continuing between two ponds to a "T". **TURN RIGHT** keeping second pond on your right.
2. Just before reaching parking area, the path comes to a "T" at an asphalt path. **TURN LEFT** to the Conservatories following the sidewalk. Follow the sidewalk keeping the Conservatories on your right. At the end of the parking lot **TURN AWAY** from the conservatories and take the paved path exiting the paved circle (fencing on your left).
3. After 20m **TURN LEFT** onto boardwalk to the Nature Center and exit through gate.
4. Cross bridge, keep split rail fence to your right for about 25m and **TURN RIGHT** onto the natural trail toward Pine Lake and Playground.
5. Go straight past next Park Post. (Note FHW bench you pass on right.) At next intersection (a "T"), **TURN LEFT**, to continue uphill on Spicebush Trail (Do NOT go towards Pine Lake).
6. At next Park Post, **TURN LEFT** toward Nature Center (Harper's Cabin Trail). Cross open clearing and pick up wood chip/dirt trail on other side. After passing two log cabins, **TURN RIGHT** on asphalt road.
7. After passing Nature Center on your left (exhibits, water, restrooms), and before reaching the pond, **TURN RIGHT** on wood chip trail (by rope fence). At "Y" (by message board), **TURN RIGHT**. In a few meters at "Y" and Park Post **BEAR RIGHT** (to Wheaton Way).
8. As you reach the crest of the hill, with Park Post and benches, **TURN LEFT** on Wheaton Way.
9. Ignore path to your left at Park Post and continue uphill to Little Bit Loop Trail. At next Park Post and path on right. **TURN RIGHT** on Little Bit Loop Trail to begin a counter clockwise loop (ignoring any side trails). After crossing two footbridges (about 1km apart), at Park Post and "Y" **BEAR LEFT** towards Nature Center (to Wheaton Way).
10. At Park Post, you will pass the point you started the loop on the left, continue **STRAIGHT** going downhill (to Wheaton Way). At next Park Post, ignore path to your right, and continue **STRAIGHT**. At next intersecting trail, with Park Post and benches, **TURN RIGHT** (to Nature Center).
11. At next trail on left with Park Post, **TURN LEFT** (towards the Nature Center), passing rope fence on right to the asphalt road.
12. Continue straight across the asphalt road to a parking lot. **TURN LEFT** to cross the parking lot (Nature Center on left) to a wooden fence at end of parking lot.
13. **TURN RIGHT**, cross a bridge, enter gate to Brookside Gardens and continue on boardwalk to asphalt path.
14. **TURN LEFT** on asphalt path. At "Y" with water fountain on left, **BEAR LEFT**. Cross a bridge, pass two paths on right. At small gravel area on right, **TURN RIGHT** cross stone bridge to Japanese Tea House. Follow the stone path around the island garden clockwise, back to the Japanese Tea House, and exit the island where you entered. **TURN LEFT** on the paved perimeter path.

15. **TURN LEFT** on stone-lined asphalt pathway. Follow path across stone spillway to Reflection Terrace honoring the 2002 sniper victims. Leave Reflection Terrace following the paving stone trail to intersection with asphalt path.

16. Cross asphalt path and continue straight on flag stone path to Fragrance Garden.

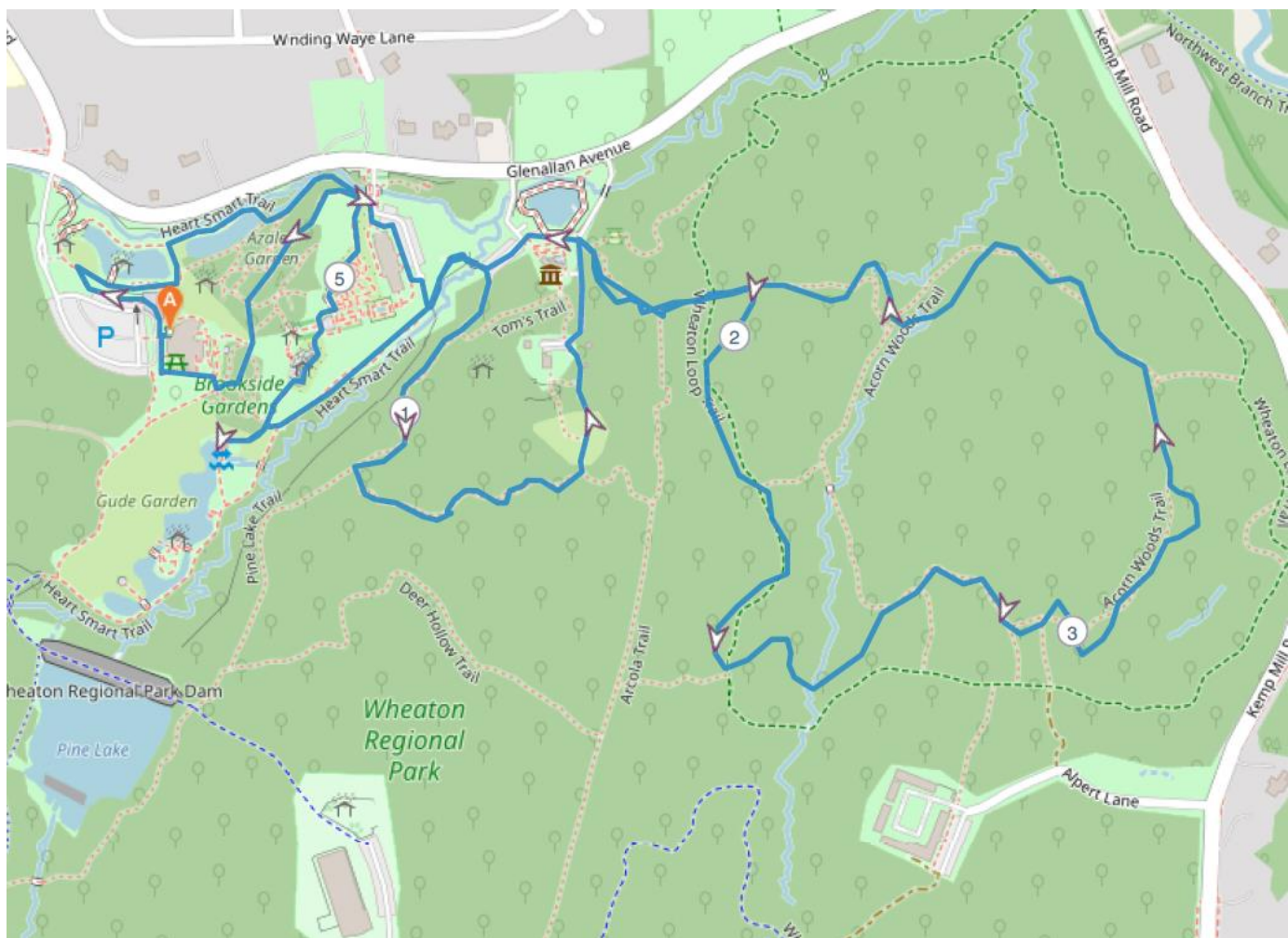
17. Walk through the garden to benches under a trellis. **TURN LEFT** to circular walkway.

**TURN LEFT** on circular walkway, continue to the rose trellis on the left.

18. **TURN LEFT** passing under the rose trellis till it ends. **BEAR LEFT** at concrete sidewalk passing an Acorn Statue on the left to the next intersection. **TURN HARD LEFT** (uphill) on asphalt trail. At "Y" on asphalt path **VEER RIGHT**. Almost immediately **TURN RIGHT** on a concrete sidewalk then **TURN LEFT** beside building.

19. Just past the orange bench on left, **TURN RIGHT** on sidewalk to return to Start/Finish.

Hope you enjoyed the walk, and thanks for walking with the Freestate Happy Wanderers!  
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## FREESTATE HAPPY WANDERERS

### WHEATON BROOKSIDE GARDEN TRAIL (Woods YR 0144/Residential YR 1619) – 5 KM / 10 KM

This trail stays entirely in Brookside Gardens making multiple (6) loops (one complete loop is 1 mile), but is mostly on paved paths and should be suitable for inclement weather.

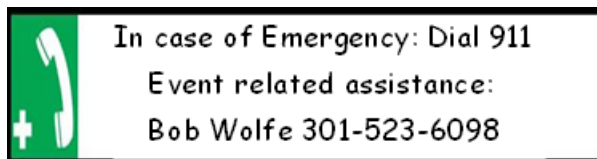
1. EXIT Visitor's Center towards parking lot and **TURN RIGHT** on sidewalk following the sidewalk along and away from the parking lot. At "Y" **TURN RIGHT**. Pass the first pond on your left continuing between two ponds to a "T" – **TURN RIGHT** (keeping second pond on your right.)
2. As you approach the Conservatories, the path comes to a "T" at an asphalt path – **TURN HARD RIGHT** (uphill) on asphalt trail. (Do not continue towards the Conservatories.)
3. At top of hill, **BEAR LEFT** at "Y" on asphalt trail (down hill), passing the Viburnum Garden on your right.
4. **BEAR RIGHT** at next "T". Continue Clockwise around the gardens ignoring four paths to the left (to exit, to service area, parking lot and to visitor's center). Just past the turn to the visitor's center **BEAR LEFT** at the "Y". (1.25 Km)
5. Continue on the paved path down the hill (same as in step 2) toward the Conservatories. At the bottom of the hill **TURN RIGHT** on sidewalk in front of Conservatories (water and restrooms).
6. Follow the sidewalk keeping the Conservatories on your right. At the end of the circular parking lot **TURN LEFT** and **THEN RIGHT** onto the paved path. Fencing will be on your left.
7. At the next "Y" **TURN RIGHT** uphill passing the Viburnum Garden on your left. At the top of the hill **TURN LEFT** at the "Y".
8. Continue counterclockwise around grassy area ignoring four paths to the right (to visitor's center, parking lot, to service area and to exit). At wood chip path on your left, **TURN LEFT** to the Japanese Tea House. (Not suitable for strollers or wheelchairs.) (2.5 Km)
9. Follow the stone path around the island garden and exit where you entered. **TURN LEFT** at the paved perimeter path. **TURN LEFT** on next paved pathway (Not suitable for strollers or wheelchairs). (Take time to pause at the Reflection Terrace honoring the 2002 sniper victims.) Continue, passing asphalt trail, and straight through the Fragrance Garden to circular walkway.
10. **TURN LEFT** on circular walkway to rose trellis. **TURN LEFT** at rose trellis. Passing under trellis, **BEAR LEFT** at concrete sidewalk. Sidewalk will curve around until it reaches an asphalt path.
11. **TURN LEFT** (uphill) on asphalt trail (same as step 2). At top of hill, **BEAR LEFT** at "Y" on asphalt trail (down hill), passing the Viburnum Garden on your right. **BEAR RIGHT** at next "T". Continue Clockwise around the gardens ignoring four paths to the left.
12. Just past the turn to the visitor's center **BEAR RIGHT** at the "Y". Continue on the paved path down the hill to the "T". At the bottom of the hill **TURN LEFT** on paved path to the Conservatories (water and restrooms). Continue through parking lot with Conservatories on you left. In front of Conservatories, enter the sidewalk and continue to the asphalt path. **TURN LEFT** and then immediately take first path to the **RIGHT**.
13. Pass the first pond and follow to a "Y" – **TURN LEFT** on path (keeping second pond on your right). At the end of the second pond, **TURN RIGHT** and visit the Gazebo. Exit the Gazebo and continue on sidewalk to parking lot and **LEFT** to Visitor Center. **(5 KM finish)**

14. **10K walkers** Continue past Visitor Center and **TURN LEFT** on last sidewalk, passing the Visitor Center on your left. **VEER RIGHT** on sidewalk to asphalt path. **BEAR RIGHT** at the “T”. Continue counterclockwise around grassy area ignoring all paths to the right. Continue on the perimeter path until you reach the Conservatories. Follow the sidewalk past the front of the Conservatories to a paved path. (6 Km)
15. **TURN LEFT** (uphill) on asphalt trail (same as step 2). At top of hill, **BEAR LEFT** at “Y” on asphalt trail (down hill), again passing the Viburnum Garden on your right. **BEAR RIGHT** at “T”. Continue Clockwise around the gardens ignoring four paths to the left (to exit, to service area, parking lot and to visitor’s center).
16. Just past the turn to the visitor’s center **BEAR LEFT** at the “Y”. Continue on the paved path down the hill (same as in step 2) toward the Conservatories. At the bottom of the hill **TURN RIGHT** on sidewalk in front of Conservatories (water and restrooms).
17. Follow the sidewalk keeping the Conservatories on your right. At the end of the parking lot **TURN AWAY** from the conservatories and take paved path at the end of the circular parking area.
18. At the next “Y” **TURN RIGHT** uphill passing the Viburnum Garden on your left. At the top of the hill **TURN LEFT** at the “Y”. Continue counterclockwise around grassy area ignoring four paths to the right. Continue on the perimeter path. After passing Japanese Tea House on your left, **TURN LEFT** on the paved pathway (same as step 9, not suitable for strollers or wheelchairs). Cross asphalt trail, continue straight on stone slab path through Fragrance Garden to circular walkway.
19. **TURN LEFT** on circular walkway to rose trellis. **TURN LEFT** at rose trellis and rose garden.
20. Passing under trellis, **BEAR LEFT** at concrete sidewalk. Sidewalk will curve around until it reaches an asphalt path. (8.5 Km) **TURN RIGHT**, then **RIGHT** again on the sidewalk, and this time **ENTER** the Conservatories (restrooms, water, and seasonal exhibits inside).
21. Exiting through other end of building, **TURN RIGHT** going up steps through formal gardens to the gazebo visible ahead. (Note: If the rear exit is blocked, leave by the door you entered and **TURN RIGHT** going around the building to the rear. Then continue straight towards the gazebo.)
22. Walk through the first garden with a pool. Then **TURN RIGHT** between hedges to the Rose Garden. **TURN RIGHT** following perimeter of Rose Garden to brick path just beyond 4 benches. **TURN RIGHT** on brick path to end by back of the Conservatories. **TURN LEFT** and continue straight on sidewalk until it ends at a paved path.
23. **VEER LEFT** crossing asphalt path onto path to ponds (do not go uphill). Pass the first pond and follow to a “Y” – **TURN LEFT** on path (keeping second pond on your right). At “Y” **TURN LEFT** to parking lot and **LEFT** to Finish at Visitor’s Center.

Hope you enjoyed the walk, and thanks for walking with FHW! Reviewed/revised 4/4/2022.

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# FHW Brookside Gardens Stay In Gardens 10Km Route

