

**Freestate Happy Wanderers Colesville, Maryland 5K & 10K Year-Round Event
(Y3417), an AVA Sanctioned Year-Round Event**

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Walk to Martin Luther King Jr. Recreation Park and learn about the history of mills in the area while walking on the Paint Branch Trail.

Trail Description:

This event consists of two 5KM routes starting from the Valley Mill Special Park parking lot. For 10KM walk both routes. The routes go in opposite directions, and are on paved hiker/biker trails and sidewalks.

1. MLK Jr. Recreation Park 5KM route: This route follows the Paint Branch hiker/biker trail to Martin Luther King Jr. Recreation Park. It passes Pilgrim Hills park and follows the Paint Branch creek ending at Martin Luther King Jr. Recreation Park. There is one hill on this part, so the trail is rated 2A. The route then does a loop within Martin Luther King Jr. Recreation park. There are two short areas where you cross grass that could be navigated by a stroller, but not a wheelchair. The route then returns via the Paint Branch Trail back to the start/finish point.

2. Serpentine 5KM route: **NOTE: Due to construction starting March 2026 for about 6 months, the Paint Branch Trail will be closed between an access path to Serpentine Way and Fairland Road. Use the detour route in #3 below.** This route follows the Paint Branch hiker/biker trail to Fairland Road in Paint Branch Stream Valley Park. Along the route storyboards explain mills in the area. The route then goes along Fairland Road to Serpentine Way. Here it is along sidewalks in a residential area. The route then goes on a paved trail to meet back up with the Paint Branch Trail and return to the start/finish. This route is also rated 2A and suitable for strollers, but not wheelchairs.

3. Serpentine 5KM Alternate Detour route: This route detours away from the closed off path through neighborhoods. The route follows the Paint Branch hiker/biker trail to Serpentine Way. The route then goes through the local neighborhoods along sidewalks. The route goes along Old Columbia Pike and Randolph Road returning to Valley Mill Special Park and the start/finish. This route is also rated 2A and suitable for strollers, but not wheelchairs.

Special Programs:

Par for the Course is on both the 5KM routes.

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

Start Point:

Valley Mill Special Park 1620 East Randolph Road, Colesville MD 20904.

Hours are sunrise to sunset. Walk only during daylight hours. Pets are not allowed in Valley Mill Special Park. (GPS: Lat: 39.06603, Long: -76.9799)

Amenities:

Restrooms (a porta-potty) is located by the parking lot of the start point at least from April thru October.

Driving Directions:

From MD Route 200 Intercounty Connector: Take the MD RT-650/New Hampshire Ave exit and proceed south on MD RT-650 for about 0.8 miles to Randolph Road. Turn Left onto Randolph Road and proceed about 1.6 miles to Valley Mill Special Park on your Left.

From the DC Beltway I-495: Take Exit 30 MD-29 Colesville Road North. Continue on MD-29 Colesville Road for about 4.4 miles to the East Randolph Road exit. Turn Left and continue on Randolph Road for about 0.9 miles. Valley Mill Special Park will be on your right.

From I-70 and Columbia, MD via MD-29 Colesville Road. Exit at Cherry Hill/Randolph Road. Turn Right on Randolph Road for about 0.9 miles. Valley Mill Special Park will be on your right.

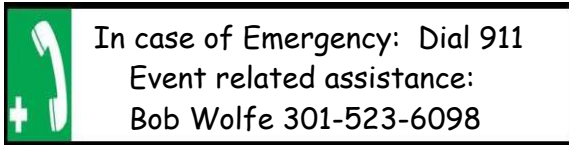
Walk Registration:

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: 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.



Valley Mill Special Park 5K MLK Park

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1. Start at the "Paint Branch Trail" sign, straight in from park entrance road and near one set of handicap parking. Take the paved trail passing information sign on your left.
2. **TURN RIGHT** on first paved path. Pass under the overpass for Randolph Road. Cross a bridge.
3. Continue on paved path passing the Pilgrim Hills Rec Center and tennis courts.
4. At "T" at top of hill, **TURN LEFT** to stay on Paint Branch Trail. Cross a bridge. Ignore paved path to your left leading to a bridge. Continue towards Jackson Road and MLK Park.
5. Trail ends at Jackson Road (with parking semi-circle on your right). After Willow Wood Dr. **VEER RIGHT** to the end of the semi-circle and **TURN LEFT** onto paved path.
6. At "Triangle" **VEER LEFT** and then **TURN LEFT** to cross Jackson Road at crosswalk. Continue on paved path (tennis courts on your right). Pass a small parking lot.
7. Just past large parking lot, **TURN RIGHT** onto paved path, which becomes a sidewalk along the side of the parking lot (note Martin Luther King Jr, Outdoor Pool building uphill on your left). Cross entrance to pool building at crosswalk and pick up paved path/sidewalk
8. At "Y" **TURN RIGHT** and cross road at crosswalk. Pass a parking area on your right. Sidewalk becomes a paved path.
9. At "T" **TURN RIGHT** on paved path. Continue past parking area ignoring path to your left. Pass a tot lot. With lake on your left at fenced in Windmill, **TURN RIGHT**, cross grass and carefully cross road. **TURN RIGHT** on paved path beside road. After path veers away from the road **STAY LEFT** at the "Triangle."
10. At path end, **TURN RIGHT** to Jackson Road and then **TURN LEFT** on Jackson Road to its end. Pick up Paint Branch Trail paved path.
11. Ignore path to your right leading to a bridge and continue on Paint Branch Trail. Cross a bridge. After going up a hill **TURN RIGHT** at "T" to stay on Paint Branch Trail.
12. At Pilgrim Hill Rec Center **VEER RIGHT** to stay on paved path by creek. Proceed under overpass. At "T" **TURN LEFT** to parking lot and 5Km finish.

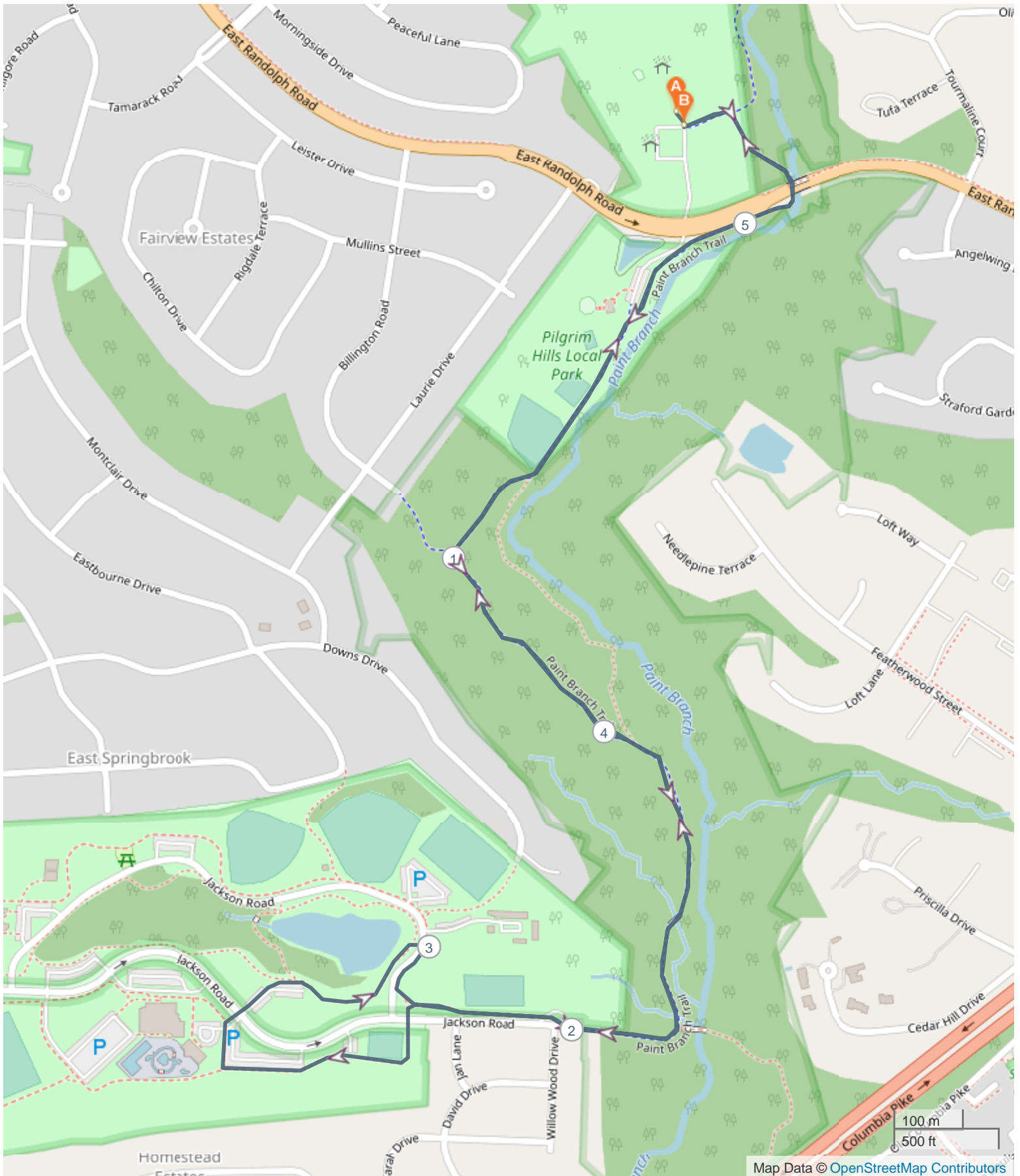
(If walking 10Km walk both trails.)

In case of Emergency: Dial 911

Event related assistance: Robert Wolfe 301-523-6098

***Only use these directions with a volksmarch.

FHW Colesville - MLK Jr Park 5Km



Valley Mill Special Park 5K Serpentine Way

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Note the storyboards depicting the history of mills in the area.

1. Start at the "Paint Branch Trail" sign, straight in from park entrance road and near one set of handicap parking. Take the paved trail passing information sign on your left.

paved path to Serpentine Way at a traffic light.
2. Ignore the paved path to your right. The path will curve to the left and the creek will be on your right. Stay on the paved path and ignore all natural paths.
3. Ignore the next paved path to your right (do not cross the bridge). Continue towards Fairland Road. You will pass a tot lot. **TURN RIGHT** to continue towards Fairland Road (Do not go to Tamarack Road). Pass a second tot lot and path will go between two basketball courts. Ignore paved path to your left just before path ends at Fairland Road (no sign).
4. **TURN RIGHT** to walk on the shoulder of Fairland Road. Cross and bridge and pick up a paved path on the other side. Continue on the
5. **TURN RIGHT** on Serpentine Way. Pass Serpentine Ter and Serpentine Ct.
6. **CROSS and TURN RIGHT** on Alabaster Dr. **TURN LEFT** on Agate Dr. **TURN LEFT** on Chalkstone Way. Go down a hill to end at Mica Dr. **TURN LEFT** on Mica Dr to Serpentine Way.
7. **TURN RIGHT** on Serpentine Way. **TURN RIGHT** onto the next paved path (Note a tot lot will on the other side of Serpentine Way). Cross Four bridges.
8. At "T" **TURN LEFT** towards Valley Mill Special Park. Creek will be on your left. Ignore the paved path on your left. 5Km finish is straight ahead at the parking lot.

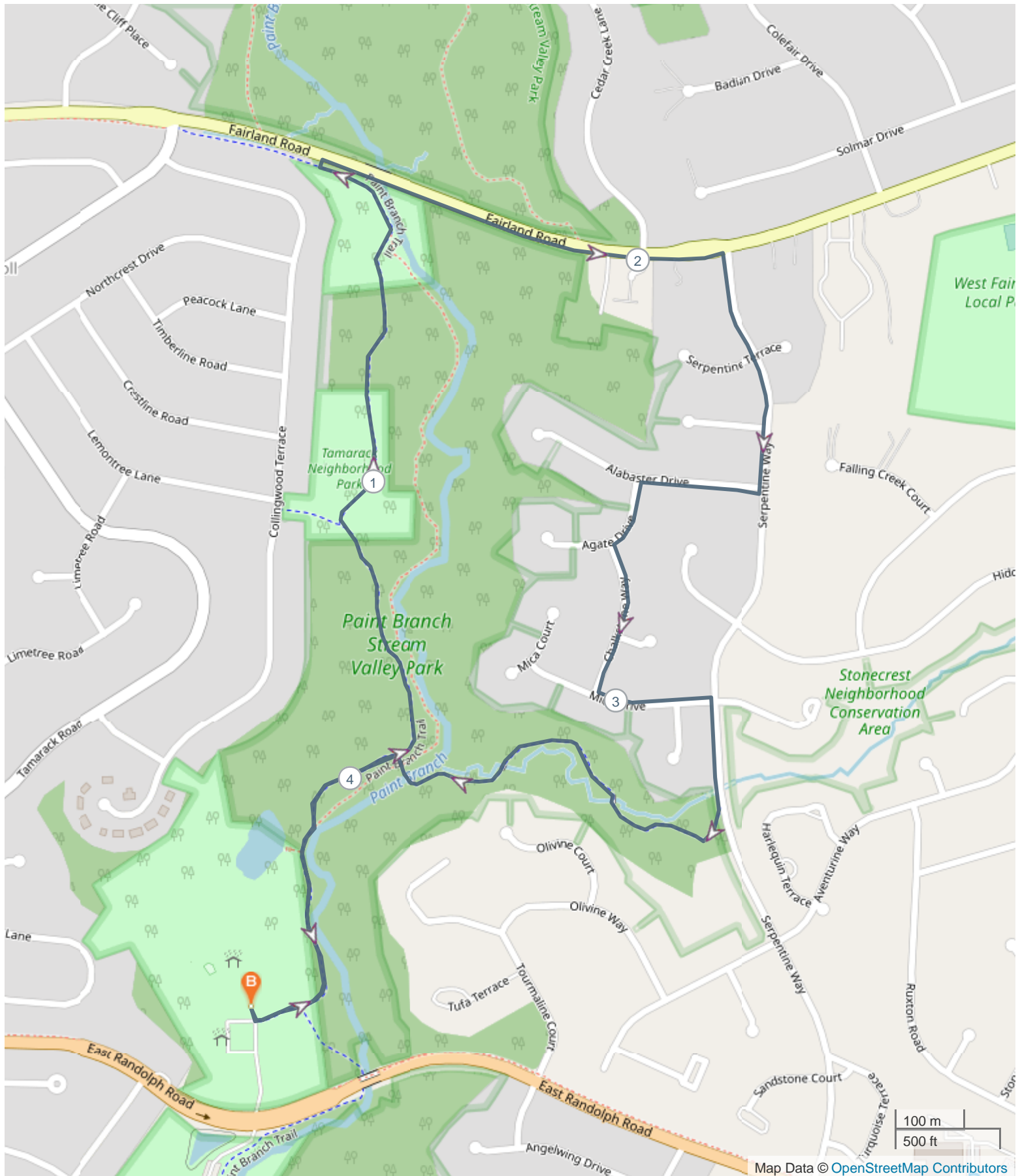
(If walking 10Km walk both trails.)

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FHW Colesville - Serpentine Rd 5Km Route



Valley Mill Special Park 2026 5K Detour Serpentine Way

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Note the storyboards depicting the history of mills in the area.

1. Start at the "Paint Branch Trail" sign, straight in from park entrance road and near one set of handicap parking. Take the paved trail passing information sign on your left.
2. Ignore the paved path to your right. The path will curve to the left and the creek will be on your right. Stay on the paved path and ignore all natural paths.
3. **TURN RIGHT** at the next paved path to your right and cross the bridge. Continue on path crossing three more bridges until to come out at a street (Serpentine Way).
4. **TURN RIGHT** and walk to the next street Aventurine Way. **CROSS** Aventurine Way and **TURN LEFT** crossing Serpentine Way. Continue on right side of Aventurine Way to Ruxton Road.
5. **TURN RIGHT** on Ruxton Road for a short distance to Musgrove Road (on left). **TURN LEFT** crossing Ruxton Road and continue on Musgrove Road to next street on right (Stonecrest Drive). **TURN RIGHT** on Stonecrest Drive and continue to end at Ruxton Road.
6. **TURN LEFT** on Ruxton Road and continue to Old Columbia Pike. **TURN RIGHT** and continue to Traffic light at Randolph Road.
7. **TURN RIGHT** at Randolph Road and staying on right side continue to next traffic light at Serpentine Way. **CROSS and TURN RIGHT** on Serpentine Way. Continue to Aventurine Way. **TURN LEFT** on Aventurine Way.
8. When sidewalk ends **TURN RIGHT** on Olivine Way. Cross Olivine Ct. Continue to end at Tourmaline Court. **TURN LEFT** onto Tourmaline Court. Continue on Tourmaline Court to Randolph Road.
9. **TURN RIGHT** on Randolph Road. Continue to entrance road to Valley Mill Special Park.
10. **TURN RIGHT** into Valley Mill Special Park. 5Km finish is straight ahead at the parking lot.

(If walking 10Km walk both trails.

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***Only use these directions with a volksmarch.

Colesville 5K Serpentine 2026 Detour

