

# Gwynns Falls Trail



## Gwynns Falls Trail

## Locator Map

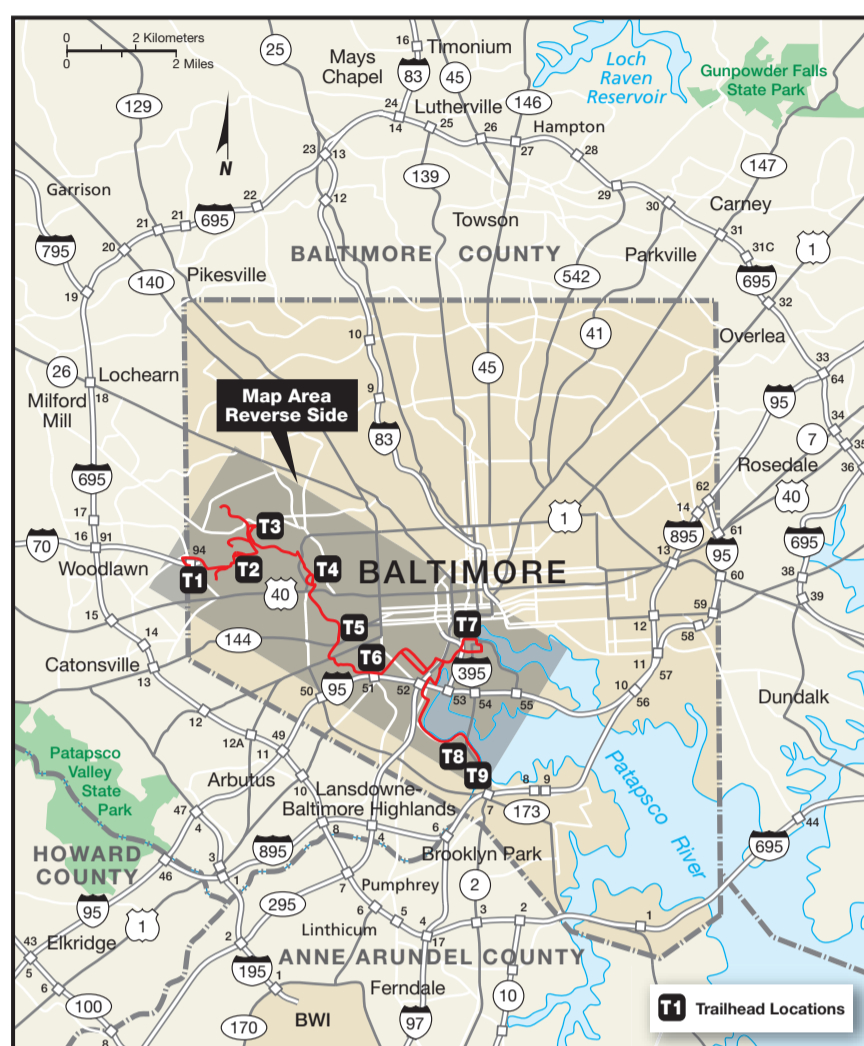
The Gwynns Falls Trail is a 15-mile linear greenway trail connecting over 30 unique neighborhoods and 2,000 scenic acres of parkland located in the west and southwest of Baltimore City. The Trail provides access to recreational opportunities, environmental education, parks, cultural resources, and historic landmarks. The Trail offers users the opportunity to hike, bike, run, walk, skate, fish, picnic, enjoy nature, and learn about the history of the stream valley and the Chesapeake Bay. The Trail also provides an alternate commuting route between neighborhoods and places of employment along its route. Beginning at the Interstate 70 eastern terminus and park & ride facility near Historic Franklinton, the Trail follows the Gwynns Falls stream valley through Gwynns Falls Park, Leakin Park, Leon Day Park, Carroll Park, and Solo Gibbs Park to the Inner Harbor and the Middle Branch of the Patapsco River.

The Baltimore City Department of Recreation and Parks is responsible for the operation and maintenance of the Trail. The Department also provides programs for residents and visitors to learn about the urban environment, wildlife, and plants along the Trail and conducts canoe, kayak, and bike trips. The Benjamin Cardin Picnic Grove and Pavilion as well as facilities in the other parks along the Trail are available by city permit for special events.

The Gwynns Falls Trail was created by a unique public/private partnership of Baltimore City, the Maryland State Departments of Transportation and Natural Resources, the Trust for Public Land, the Parks & People Foundation, and the Gwynns Falls Trail Council.

The Gwynns Falls Trail Council is a membership-based organization composed of community and government partners who promote, support, and improve the Trail. The Council organizes programs and volunteer activities, sponsors events, and conducts fundraisers. The goal of the Council is to ensure the Gwynns Falls Trail is a premier attraction in Baltimore City. Become a member of the Trail Council and a Trail steward today. For additional information see <http://www.gwynnsfallstrail.org>.

The Gwynns Falls Trail, a Chesapeake Bay Gateway, is one of your entry points to enjoy and learn about the places and stories of the Chesapeake and its watershed. The 64,000 square mile Bay watershed is a complex ecosystem. Home to over 15 million people, it has supported human occupation for 13,000 years. The Bay's natural abundance has fed multitudes, fueled rich economies and nurtured diverse cultures. Explore this and other places in the Gateways Network to experience the Bay's stories, spirit and mystery. Learn about the Chesapeake Bay restoration effort and how you can contribute. Our well-being and the Bay's health are interdependent. Visit [www.baygateways.net](http://www.baygateways.net) for more information.



Financial support provided by:



## Gwynns Falls Trail Distances

Trail Segment	Approximate Distances
<b>T1</b> I-70 Park & Ride to <b>T2</b> Winans Meadow	1.6 mi / 2.6 km
<b>T2</b> Winans Meadow to <b>T3</b> Windsor Mill Road	1.1 mi / 1.8 km
<b>T3</b> Windsor Mill Road to <b>T4</b> Leon Day Park	2.0 mi / 3.2 km
<b>T4</b> Leon Day Park to <b>T5</b> Frederick Avenue	1.8 mi / 2.9 km
<b>T5</b> Frederick Avenue to <b>T6</b> Carroll Park Golf Course	1.3 mi / 2.1 km
<b>T6</b> Carroll Park Golf Course to <b>T7</b> Inner Harbor	2.8 mi / 4.5 km
<b>T6</b> Carroll Park Golf Course to <b>T8</b> Waterview Avenue	4.3 mi / 6.9 km
<b>T7</b> Inner Harbor to <b>T8</b> Waterview Avenue	6.2 mi / 10.0 km
<b>T8</b> Waterview Avenue to <b>T9</b> Hanover Street	1.0 mi / 1.6 km

## Trail Rules

Trail is open dawn to dusk.

Cyclists and skaters should always:

- Yield to all other Trail users.
- Warn those ahead of you when passing.
- Pass with care on the left.
- Avoid speeding.
- Wear a helmet (under 16 years-required by law).

Stay on marked Trail and paths and obey road rules.

No motor vehicles permitted on Trail.

Keep dogs on a leash no longer than 8 feet and under control.

Clean up after your dog.

Put all your trash in approved receptacles or take it with you when you leave.

Observe all posted health department warnings about water safety.

The Trail is patrolled by Baltimore City Police. Call 911 for emergencies and call 410-396-0440 or 311 to report dangerous Trail conditions.

East Coast



Greenway

## Trail Guide to Points of Interest from Trailheads

**T1 Gwynns Falls Park at I-70 / Franklinton, Park & Ride at Security Boulevard**  
Start at the I-70 Park & Ride and proceed on Trail along historic Franklin Turnpike through Franklinton Historic District. Enter Leakin Park to view Dead Run and upland Piedmont forest with tree species such as tulip poplar, red oak, sycamore, and beech, and see the historic waterwheel which pumped water uphill to the Crimea Estate in Leakin Park.

**T2 Leakin Park at Winans Meadow, 4500 North Franklinton Road**  
View open meadow, wetland, stream, and Piedmont forest. Use side trails for hiking, picnicking, and visit nearby Trail headquarters, Carrie Murray Nature Center, Miniature Railroad, and Russian-style Crimea Estate on top of ridge. Travel on former Wetheredsville Road to view Dead Run as it feeds into the Gwynns Falls. Leakin Park is part of the Crimea Estate established in 1856 by industrialist Thomas Winans and purchased by the city in the 1940s with bequest from attorney John Wilson Leakin.

**T3 Gwynns Falls Park at Windsor Mill Road, 4300 block Windsor Mill Road**  
Travel west across bridge and north to Dickeyville Historic District, hike on Windsor Hills Conservation Trail to see historic mill site, or proceed south on a stone surface above an old millrace through Piedmont forest for views of the Gwynns Falls.

**T4 Leon Day Park at Franklinton Road, 1200 block North Franklinton Road**  
View meadow with playground, sports courts and fields, and picnicking near Gwynns Falls. Park honors Leon Day, west Baltimore resident and Negro League player elected to National Baseball Hall of Fame. Travel south on Ellicott Driveway to view bridge crossings and the waterfall described as Baltimore's "Niagara Falls" as you enter the Chesapeake Coastal Plain with tree species such as sweet gum, red maple, and hickory. Nearby are the historic sites of five flour mills at Calverton and the gateway to the greater Rosemont neighborhood.

**T5 Gwynns Falls Park at Frederick Avenue, 2700 block Frederick Avenue**  
At this narrow point, the Baltimore and Frederick Turnpike crossed the Gwynns Falls, connecting Baltimore to the National Road at Cumberland, gateway to the Ohio Valley. Proceed north along former mill race constructed for Ellicott Brothers' three flour mills and in 1917 rebuilt as Ellicott Driveway as envisioned by the Olmsted Brothers in a 1904 park plan. Travel south passing historic German butcher, leather and broom works, and brewing businesses on ridge above Trail along Franklinton Road. View Western Maryland Railroad built in early 1900s as link to former Union Stockyards and Port of Baltimore and further on to stream crossing used by Native Americans, site of Richard Gwinn's trading post in 1669, and in 1845 William Wilkens Curled Hair Factory.

**T6 Carroll Park at the Golf Course, 2100 Washington Boulevard**  
Travel north through wagon pass of Carrollton Viaduct, built of stone in 1829 as first bridge of the B&O Railroad. Proceed east, passing the recently renovated Montgomery Park Business Center (former Montgomery Ward Distribution Center) to Carroll Park with sports courts, fields, picnicking, and Mount Clare Mansion, built in 1760 by Charles Carroll, Barrister. The B&O Railroad Museum is a short distance from the Trail.

**T7 Inner Harbor at the Baltimore Visitor Center, 401 Light Street**  
Collect information at Visitors Center about the Trail, Baltimore Harbor, and the Chesapeake Bay. Visit Harbor attractions and proceed west through historic neighborhoods such as Federal Hill, Otterbein, and Sharp-Leadenhall, home to Baltimore's oldest African American congregation, and pass by Federal Hill Park and through Solo Gibbs Park.

**T8 Middle Branch Park at Waterview Avenue, 3301 Waterview Avenue**  
See estuary wildlife from observation boardwalk and Baltimore Rowing Club with picnicking, boating, fishing, and views of city skyline at this gateway to the Gwynns Falls flowing east to the Middle Branch of the Patapsco River. Proceed south under bridge crossing by the Maryland Vietnam Veterans Memorial and boat launch and fishing piers.

**T9 Middle Branch Park at Hanover Street, 3200 block South Hanover Street**  
See harbor views and use fishing piers and nearby Cherry Hill Aquatics Center. Cherry Hill was first noted by Captain John Smith in 1608 for its red clay and later was developed as an African American community during WWII. Future plans call for connecting Gwynns Falls Trail south to the BWI and B&A trails as part of the East Coast Greenway.

## Contact Information

**Gwynns Falls Trail Council**  
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**Gwynns Falls Trail Headquarters**  
Baltimore City Recreation & Parks  
1901 Eagle Drive in Leakin Park  
Baltimore, MD 21207-7353  
410-396-0440

**Carrie Murray Nature Center**  
1901 Ridgetop Road  
Baltimore, MD 21207-7300  
410-396-0808

The Trail is officially open from T2 to T6 and T8 to T9. The Trail will be open from T6 to T7 and T8 in late 2004 and from T1 to T2 in 2005.

Map prepared by the Gwynns Falls Trail Council with a grant from the National Park Service, Chesapeake Bay Gateways Network. August 2004