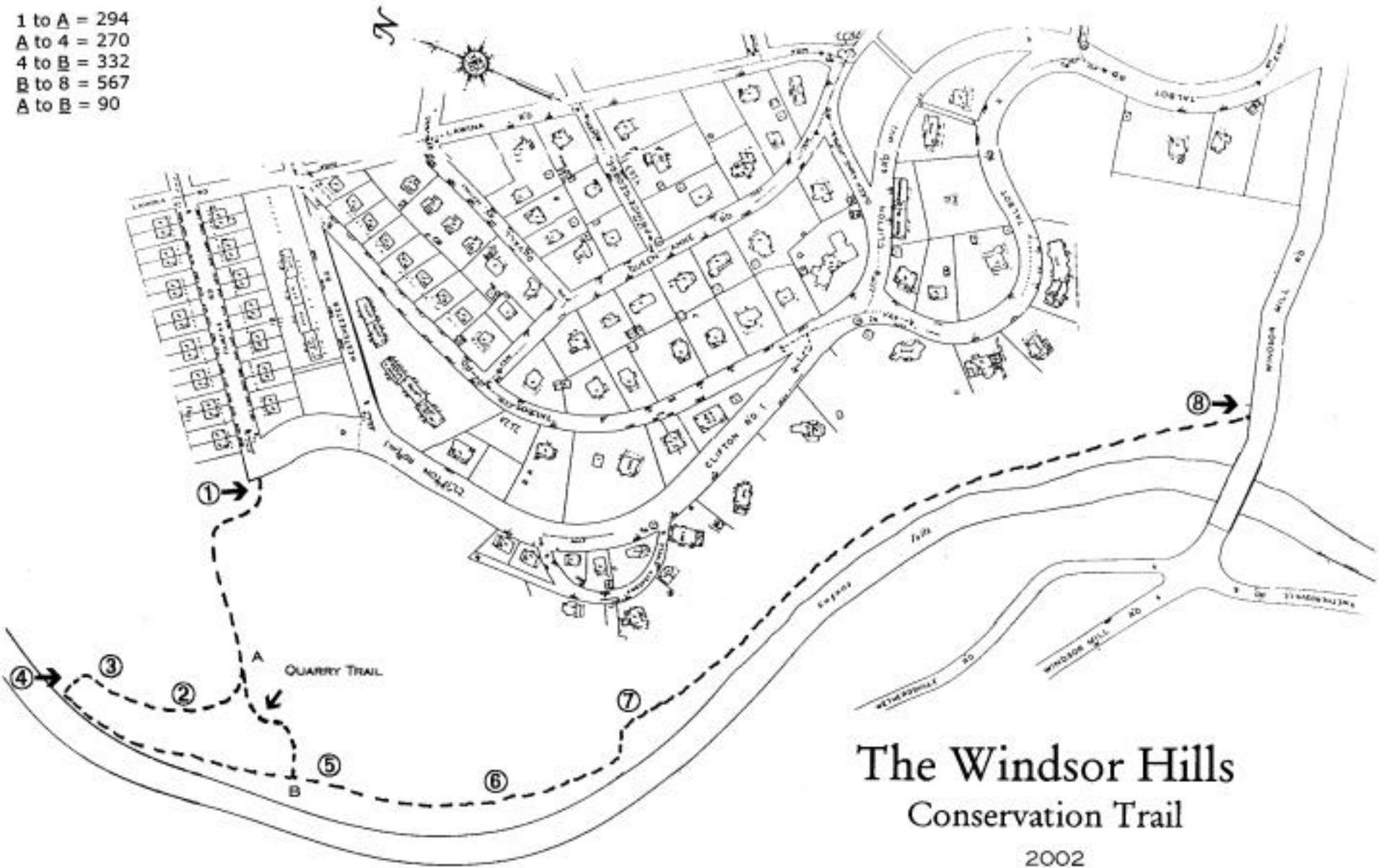


Distances in Meters

Total: 1 to A to 4 to 8 = 1463 [or 0.9 Miles]

Total: 1 to A to B to 8 = 951 [or 0.6 Miles]

- 1 to A = 294
- A to 4 = 270
- 4 to B = 332
- B to 8 = 567
- A to B = 90



The Windsor Hills Conservation Trail

2002

A GUIDE TO THE WINDSOR HILLS CONSERVATION TRAIL

There are a number of interesting features you may encounter as you walk the Windsor Hills Conservation Trail [WHCT]. This is the Trail Committee's effort to provide educational information about the trail, the Gwynns Falls, the associated vegetation and wildlife, and your role in helping to protect and enhance this unique resource. If you are interested in working with the Trail Committee please contact the chairperson, Elaine Yamada [410.664.2031].

① Trail entrance - at Clifton and Fairfax Roads. Enter the trail along the old trolley alignment. The trolley ran along Clifton Road and a bed was cut from the side of the hill, crossing the Gwynns Falls and into Dickeyville. Note the "curtains" of green. This is the plant Kudzu, brought into the U.S. in the 1930s to help control erosion. Unfortunately it also takes over other plants.

NOTE: Between locations **A** and **B** on the map, a slightly easier 'Quarry Trail' follows a gully down to the Gwynns Falls - consider using this route if you feel that climbing down some steep rocks [location ④] may be too difficult. You can easily walk back toward location ④ from location **B** to see this section of the trail.

② Mill overlook - just off to the left of the trail look down the hill to see the stone foundations of one of the mid -18th century mills.

③ Mill race - the trail drops down a few feet into the bed of the old mill race. Notice the stone side walls cut from the hill. The race carried water to mills along the Gwynns Falls.

④ Gwynns Falls - the trail drops steeply to the Gwynns Falls. PLEASE BE CAREFUL!! Turn to your left and walk along the concrete structure. This is actually a sewer line, one of many that follow the stream valley.

⑤ Meadow - proceed to an open meadow area. This was created to build another sewer line. Meadow areas offer habitat for a wide variety of animals and plants. Eventually the meadow will be taken over by trees. Also note the debris along the streambank. You are walking in the floodplain, an area covered by rushing water during storms. The debris, including trash, comes from storm drains that empty into the Gwynns Falls. You can see that trash in our neighborhoods and along streets ends up in the Gwynns Falls and eventually in the Inner Harbor and Chesapeake Bay.

⑥ Mill Race Trail - cross the meadow and a small, rock filled creek. You will walk up a small hill and onto the Mill Race. This part of the trail ends at Windsor Mill Road. It is a continuation of the earlier mill race and was filled in for an earlier trail after the turn of the century. You can see the remnants of plantings that still exist along the trail -- ivy, daylilies, barberry, etc.

⑦ The Trail - as you walk along listen carefully to the changes in sounds. Along one section you can hear the rushing of the stream, along another the quiet of the woods as the stream pools. Be careful not to go to the edge of the bank in the area marked by yellow tape. The stream has eroded away the soil along the edge. Look up the hill at the houses along Clifton and Talbot Roads. Also notice the large outcropping of quartz on the hill - a milky white stone.

⑧ Windsor Mill Road - the WHCT ends and we suggest you turn left and walk along the sidewalk to the crosswalk across Windsor Mill Road. Cross carefully and walk into the parking area directly ahead for information about the Gwynns Falls Trail [also see Trust For Public Land under Maryland -- www.tpl.org] which you can take in either direction. Otherwise, retrace the WHCT the way you came or walk up the hill on the sidewalk along Windsor Mill Road toward the Clifton Road Bridge to return to Windsor Hills.