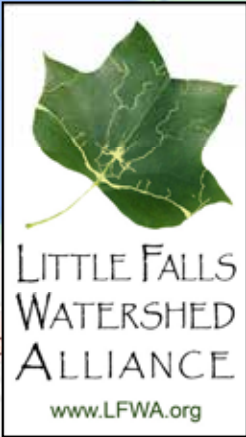
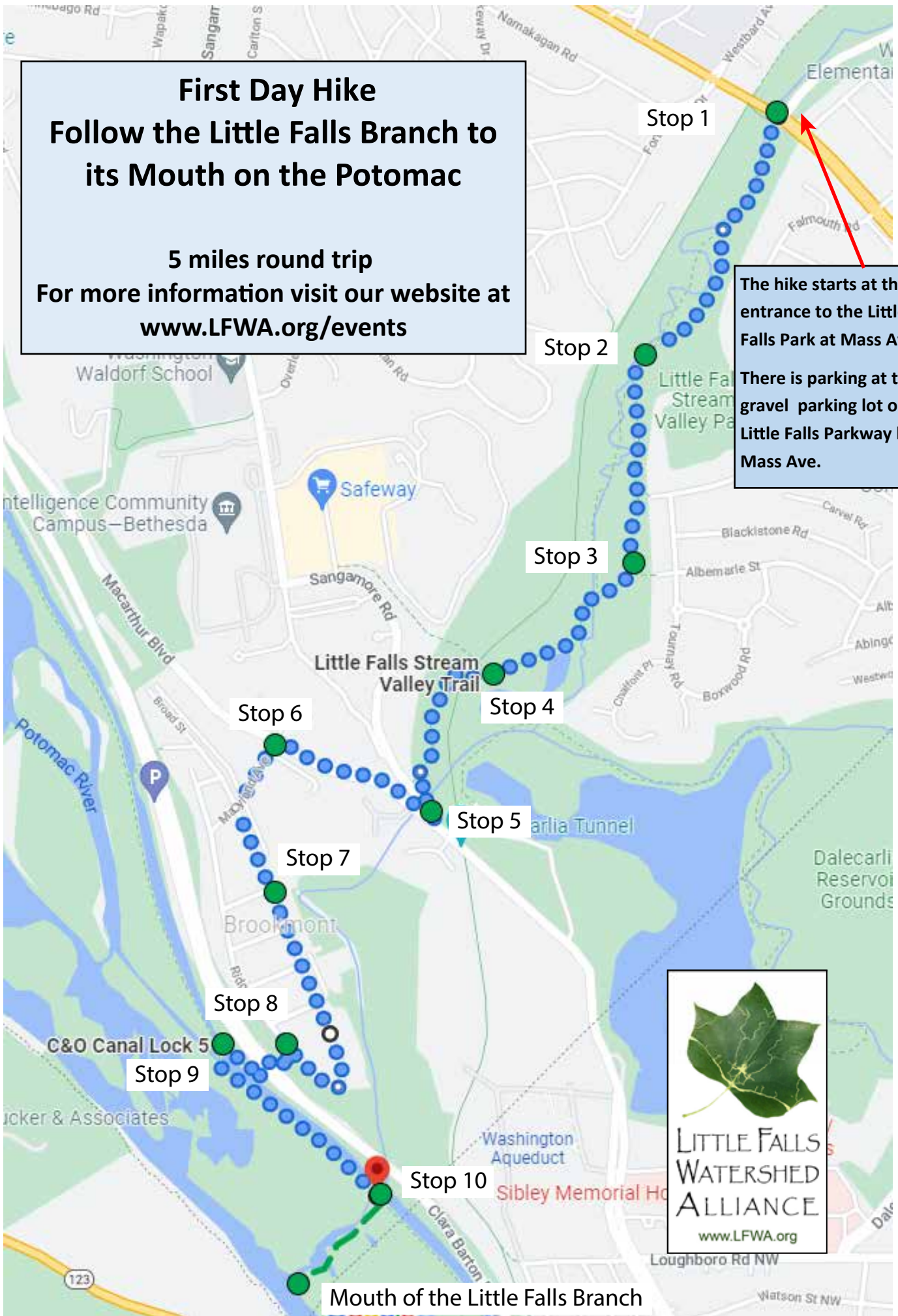


First Day Hike

Follow the Little Falls Branch to its Mouth on the Potomac

5 miles round trip
For more information visit our website at www.LFWA.org/events

The hike starts at the entrance to the Little Falls Park at Mass Ave.
There is parking at the gravel parking lot on Little Falls Parkway by Mass Ave.



FIRST DAY HIKE TO THE MOUTH OF THE LITTLE FALLS

Stop 1: Hike begins at the Massachusetts Ave Entrance to the Little Falls Park

Head into the park from Massachusetts Ave and down the Hiker/Biker trail.

Stop 2: First Pedestrian Bridge

1. About a ½ mile down the hiker/biker path, you will come to the first pedestrian bridge.
2. Read about the area and continue straight. DO NOT CROSS the bridge.

Stop 3: Albemarle entrance to the park

1. You are approaching the Albemarle entrance to the park. After the entrance, the trail curves to the right and crosses the creek on a small pedestrian bridge.
2. After the bridge, the trail curves to the left and passes the Dalecarlia Reservoir on the left.

Stop 4: Dalecarlia Reservoir

1. Keep going straight. The trail will curve to the right and pass under the Capital Crescent Trail.
2. Head to the left uphill as the trail takes a series of switchbacks.
3. After the switchbacks, and up a small hill, the trail ends at Sangamore Road/MacArthur Blvd.

Stop 5: Sangamore Road

The Little Falls Hiker/Biker Trail ends here. After crossing MacArthur Blvd, you'll head downhill into the Brookmont Neighborhood.

1. At the light, use the crosswalks to cross Sangamore Road and MacArthur Boulevard.
2. Turn right and follow the paved path as it dips down to the left, parallel to MacArthur Blvd, to Maryland Avenue.
3. Turn left on Maryland Ave to enter the neighborhood.

Stop 6: Brookmount

1. Follow the Maryland Avenue sidewalk to Broad Street and turn left. Take the first road. (The sign says "no outlet", but don't worry, you will continue on a foot path.)
2. Make your way through the village green, bedecked with festive lights, until you reach Stop 7 (between houses on your left) where you'll be able to catch a glimpse of the creek again.

Stop 7: Rest Stop to Admire the Creek!

1. Now, continue to follow Broad Street as it curves around to the right and then intersects with Ridge Drive.
2. Turn right on Ridge and continue about 100 yards until you see the entrance to the foot path on your left. (The entrance is across the street from 6039 Ridge Drive.)

Stop 8: Cross Clara Barton Parkway

1. Follow the footpath as it winds downhill and then crosses Clara Barton Parkway.
2. The spiral ramp will drop you onto a dirt (often muddy in the winter months) path, which you can follow toward a short bridge that crosses the canal at Lock 5.

Stop 9: Lock 5 to the Tow Path. You have now arrived at Lock Five. You're almost there. You can see the Potomac River now. The creek pass under the canal about a 1/4 mile downstream.

1. Take the short bridge across the canal and turn left onto the towpath.
2. Follow the towpath until you see a large concrete block to the left and a dirt pathway leading down to the river. You'll see the stream there coming out from under the parkway. Stay on the towpath until you see the sign for Stop 8 on the south side of the creek.

Stop 10: Tow Path to the Mouth of the Little Falls Branch

1. You made it. You found the Little Falls Branch! Cross the creek and find the dirt path on your right that takes you along the creek to the river. The path peters out, so be prepared to scramble over rocks if you want to go all the way to the Potomac.
2. When you get the Potomac, please take care on the rocks and stay far away from the river's edge - the current is treacherous.

The QR codes ends here. Retrace the route to return to the starting spot on Mass Avenue.

If you are feeling adventurous, visit our website at <https://www.lfwa.org/hike-to-the-mouth-of-the-little-falls-branch> (scroll down past Stop 10) for an alternative return route to the Capital Crescent Trail that takes you through the woods along a dirt path.

First Day Hike: Through the Woods

Follow this map to go off the paved trail and through the woods between Stop 4 (Capital Crescent Trail) and Stop 8 (Ridge Drive in Brookmont). You will be following a “social” trail that is steep at times, so hiking shoes are recommended.

While you can take the path either way, we recommend taking it on your way home as it’s a little tricky to find the entrance off the Capital Crescent Trail.

The attached instructions give details on taking the path from Ridge Road to the Capital Crescent Trail.

