

The walk starts at the gravel parking area on the south side of the building furthest from the South Run RECenter Park entrance at the Fairfax County Parkway.

- 1. Take the asphalt trail from the gravel parking area into the woods.
- 2. A dirt trail intersects from the left. Continue straight on the asphalt trail down the hill.
- 3. An asphalt trail intersects from the left. Turn left to follow South Run downstream.
- 4. A gravel trail intersects from the left at the point where the asphalt trail turns to the right. (This is part of a loop trail for those people starting from the Hooes Road parking area.) Continue on the asphalt trail across the narrow bridge and turn left after crossing the bridge.
- 5. A side asphalt trail intersects from the right. Continue to the left on the main asphalt trail.
- 6. A side asphalt trail intersects from the right. Continue to the left on the main asphalt trail.
- 7. Lake Mercer can be seen on the left in this section of trail.
- A side asphalt trail intersects from the right. Continue to the left on the asphalt trail as it leaves Lake Mercer temporarily to cross a side stream.
- 9. A side asphalt trail intersects from the right to form a triangle. Continue left on the main asphalt trail as it continues to circle the lake.
- 10. The trail crosses the Lake Mercer dam.
- 11. A vehicle barrier appears on the other side of the dam. People starting their walk from Hooes Road should turn right here to follow the natural surface trail down the hill. People starting from the South Run RECenter should pass through the barrier and follow the asphalt trail to the left.
- 12. A short asphalt trail intersects from the cluster on the right. Continue straight on the main asphalt trail.
- 13. An asphalt trail intersects from between the houses on the right. Keep to the left to follow the main trail behind the houses.
- 14. The trail makes a U-turn as it crosses a culvert.
- 15. The asphalt trail ends. Take the dirt and gravel trail to the left to pass through a gate in a nearby fence. Do not take the dirt trail that continues in the same direction as the asphalt trail that ended.
- 16. The trail intersects with a dirt and gravel service road. Turn right to follow the service road with the lake on your left. You will notice trail markers along the service road.
- 17. The service road intersects with a cul-de-sac at the end of Wagon Trail Lane. Take the narrow trail into the woods on the opposite side of the cul-de-sac. A sign marks the trail.

- 18. This bridge was an Eagle Scout project. Notice the plaque on the side of the trail.
- 19. The trail intersects with an asphalt trail. If you started from the South Run RECenter go straight onto the asphalt trail. If you started from Hooes Road turn left and follow the asphalt trail over the bridge. After crossing the bridge turn left onto the asphalt trail. Follow the instructions from point 5 until reaching point 11 in the instructions.
- 20. Turn right at the next asphalt trail intersection and follow that trail up the hill
- 21. The walk ends back at the parking area.

Directions from the Hooes Road Parking Area

There is only a narrow strip of land providing for parking along Hooes Road next to the Lake Mercer service road.

- H1. Walk along the service road after passing the vehicle barrier on that road.
- H2. An asphalt trail intersects from the right. Follow that trail up the hill. It will change to gravel and dirt along the way.
- H3. At the top of the hill go straight to join the asphalt trail as it passes through the barrier. Follow instructions for points 12 through 19 and 5 through 11 to return to this access trail.