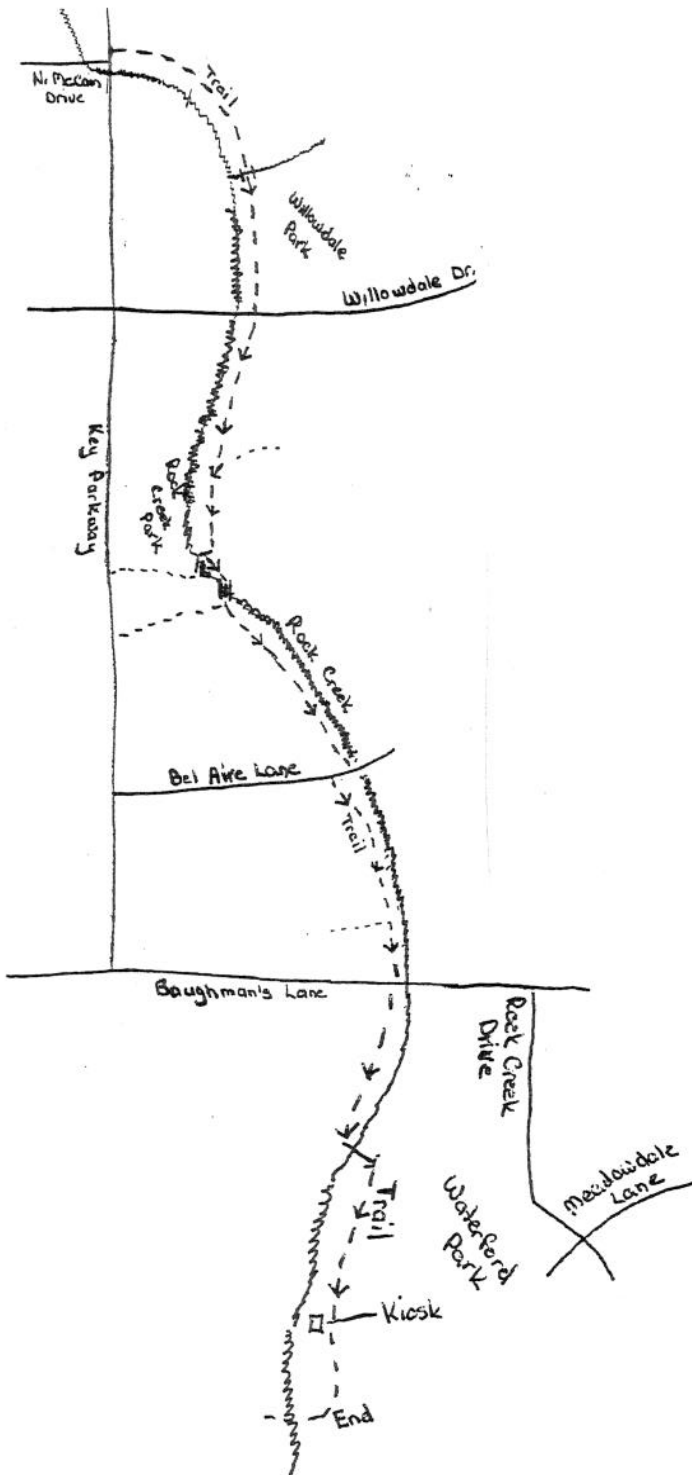


ROCK CREEK PATH

By Marylou Stone



This trail is an easy paved walk that is approximately 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ miles long. The path follows Rock Creek through Willowdale Park, Rock Creek Park and Waterford Park. Even though the path is surrounded by many different developments it provides a place to walk where you can get away. However, be careful as the trail does cross several busy streets.

You can start the trail at either end. If you start at Frederick Towne Mall, park around Home Depot. Walk down North McCain Drive and cross Key Parkway. The trail starts opposite North McCain Drive. To access the trail from the other end, park on Meadowdale Lane south of Shookstown Road. Cross the park, and head towards the kiosk. The trail goes right by the kiosk.

I recently walked this trail on a crisp winter afternoon and was thrilled to see that in the Waterford Park area a lot of the trees and plants have markers identifying them by name.

On this trail I spotted Northern Cardinals, Chickadees, Tufted Titmice, White Breasted Nuthatches, White Throated Sparrows, and Juncos. I even spotted a Great Blue Heron sitting on top of a roof. Keep watching this site as this trail is expected to eventually tag into Baker Park.