

# HOW TO READ THE VALLEY FALLS TRAIL MAP

Many of those who use the Valley Falls Park trails are not familiar with trail maps. This primer is aimed at assisting those people to understand how trail maps in general and the Valley Falls trail map in particular can be used to increase your enjoyment of this wonderful facility. So, take one of the trail maps and let's begin.

## An Overview

There are seven trails in Valley Falls Park. Six of the seven are shown on the map picture. The seventh is a loop trail around the pond. All seven are identified in the trail descriptions by name and number. Addressed later in this brochure are Trail Alternatives that are shown on the back page of the trail map.

<u>Name</u>	<u>Marker or Blaze</u>	<u>Distance</u>	<u>Direction</u>
1. Valley Falls Loop Trail	Blue/Yellow (B/Y)	3.8 mile loop	CCW
2. Main Road Trail	Red (R)	1.6 miles	N to S
3. Railroad Brook Trail	Yellow (Y)	2.0 miles	N to S
4. Boulder Crest Inner	Yellow (Y)	0.4 mile loop	CW
5. Boulder Crest Outer	Orange (O)	0.9 mile loop	CW
6. Lookout Trail	White (W)	0.6 miles	N to S
7. Pond Loop Trail	Orange (O)	0.6 miles	CCW

Immediately after the number and name of each trail and before the miles/description is a brief statement providing marker colors, total distance and direction of the trail. There may also, be an italicized comment on terrain or wet weather usage, if appropriate. A blaze or marker is a 2"x 6" colored rectangle used as a sort of short hand to identify a specific trail. By following the colored markers you will be able cover that specific trail from beginning to end. If the trail is a loop trail total mileage of the loop is provided; if not, a loop trail total mileage assumes you will retrace your steps to the starting point. The direction of loop trails will be expressed as Clockwise (CW) or Counter Clockwise (CCW). Straight line trails will be given as direction from the starting point [e.g., North (N) to South (S)].

## Markers or Blazes

The 2" x 6" colored blazes or markers are also used on the trail to designate direction during the course of your hike.

### Straight Ahead

(single blaze)



### Left Turn



### Right Turn



Rely on the blazes!

## Shorthand

It was necessary to shorten some words to their first letter due to space limitations. Most of these will be self evident but here are some hints to forestall confusion. "R" could be "Red" Main Road Trail or be telling you to go right. If the "R" is preceded by a call to action such as "go" or "turn" it will be a direction. If an instruction such as "Turn L" is followed by a letter in parentheses, the latter is a direction such as North (N) or South (S).

## Trail Alternatives

**Trail Alternatives** are shown on the back page of the tri-fold map. These are identified by trail name and at what mileage indication on that trail you could choose to create your own hike path. Most side trails into the trail you are currently on are also indicated.

Enjoy your Hike!