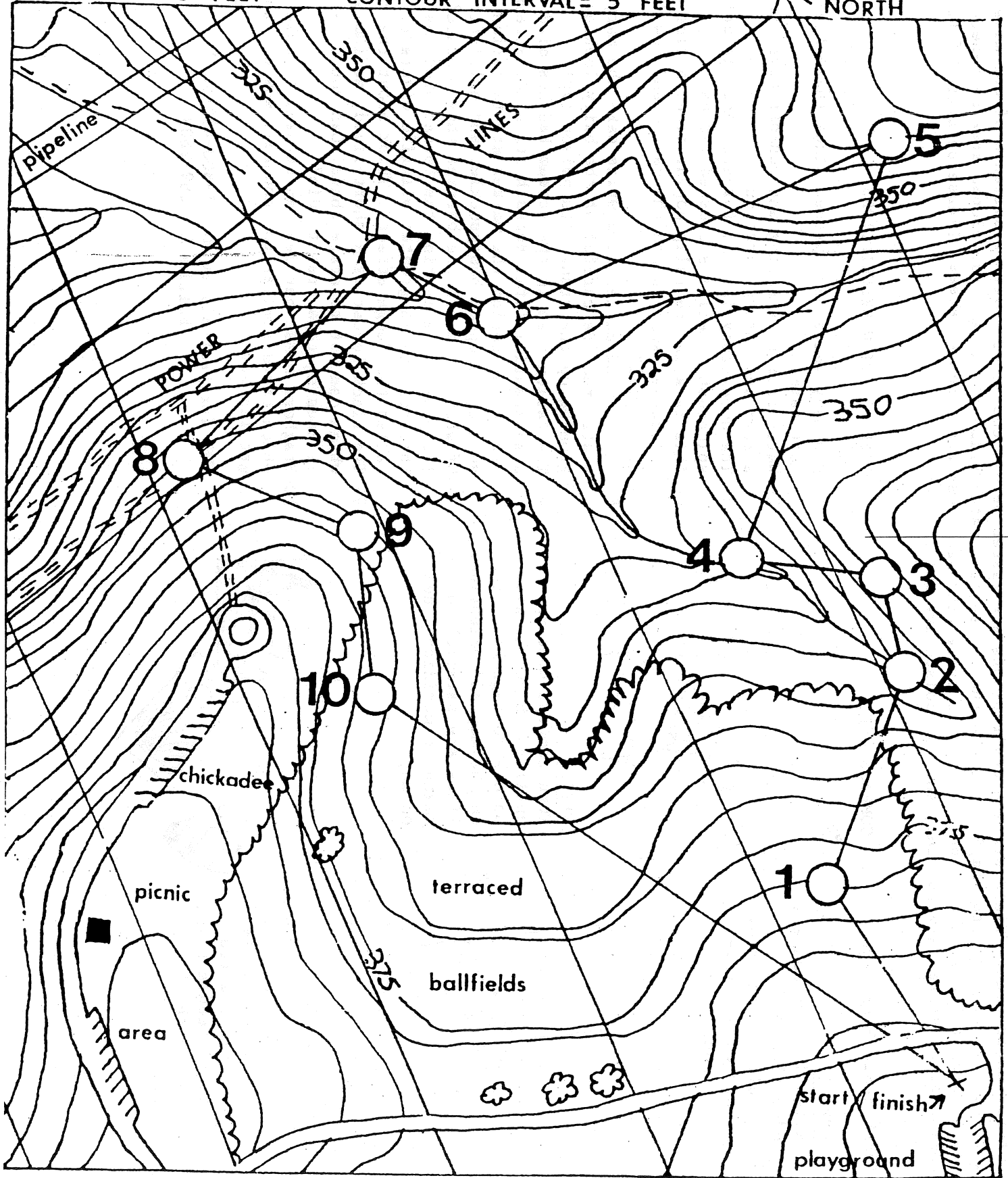


ORIENTEERING COURSE #2

SCALE 1"=200 FEET

CONTOUR INTERVAL= 5 FEET

NORTH



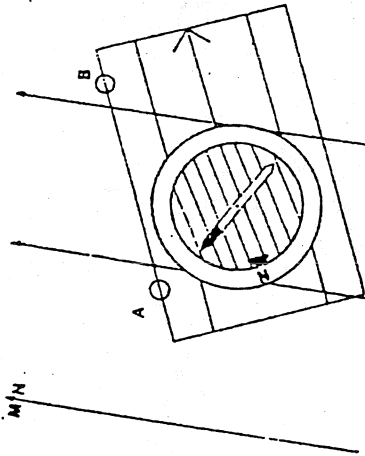
ORIENTEERING COURSE #2 - INTERMEDIATE SKILL RATING

Orienteering course #2 starts and ends at this point and encompasses ten field stations. Each station is designated by a 5"x5" gray wood marker with an orange number. The stations have been located to foster an understanding of our natural environment. Field station descriptions are listed below. Course #2 covers a distance of one mile and will take one to two hours to complete. Since the course is located primarily in an undeveloped area of Seneca Creek State Park, the user should be prepared to travel through brush and forested areas. Please be aware of hazards common to a natural environment, such as poison ivy and insects.

THREE BASIC STEPS FOR MAP AND COMPASS USE

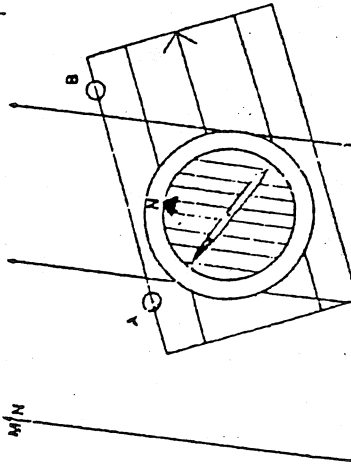
STEP 1

Align longest compass edge along line of travel. Ensure arrow points along travel direction.



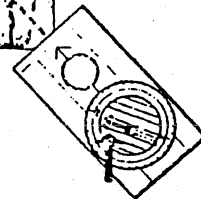
STEP 2

Turn compass housing until north on the dial points to magnetic north on the map and orienting lines are parallel to magnetic meridian lines on map.



STEP 3

Place the compass in the palm of your hand and turn your whole body until the red magnetic needle points to the north of the housing.

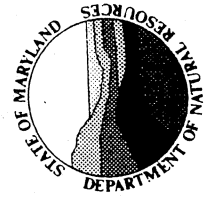


FIELD STATION DESCRIPTIONS

- 1- How many years have passed since these fields were last farmed?
- 2- Water from this spring and run-off have carved this stream bed through erosion.
- 3- The understory in this forested area is primarily spicebush. Smell its crushed leaves.
- 4- This is a mature tulip poplar tree. Notice man's influence. What caused the cavity and how is it beneficial?
- 5- Next to the marker is a white oak- the Maryland state tree. Be careful of the hairy looking vine growing up the trunk. It's poison ivy!
- 6- The fallen tree in the stream bed has died after a substantial life. Beneath it, a new stream begins.
- 7- The shrubs behind the marker are tartarian honeysuckle, european honeysuckle, and multi-flora rose. Of what value are the berries they produce?
- 8- The power-line meeting the forest produces an edge. This results in greater wildlife diversity. This is called the "edge effect". Think about the causes.
- 9- The black locust is a short-lived, medium sized tree which can not tolerate shade. Can you determine what is causing this tree to die?
- 10- Staghorn sumac berries can be used to make a drink which taste similar to lemonade. How did this tree get its name?

TTY for Deaf-Statewide- 1-800-492-5062
Baltimore- 269-2609

TRAILS OF SENECA CREEK STATE PARK



11950 Clopper Road
Gaithersburg, MD 20878
301-924-2127
TTD 410-260-8835

TRAIL DESCRIPTIONS

This trail system has been designed to help make your visit enjoyable. It provides access into undeveloped and natural areas of the park. Through fields, forests, and along streams, the past has left its traces. Old fences, overgrown roads, and abandoned farms and mills are evidence of times past. Many sections follow trails made and still used by white-tailed deer. Wildlife can often be seen by the quiet, observing hiker. Efforts have been made to leave these trails in a natural state.

Hike safely, and be aware of hazards common to the natural environment. Each trail is assigned a color which will appear at intervals to guide you. In order to return to your starting point, you must use a combination of trails and park roads. If you have any questions, contact a park employee.

MOUNTAIN BIKERS Please yield the right of way to other trail users, exhibit care for the land, and do not go off marked trails. Great Seneca (orange) and Old Pond (red) trails are CLOSED to bicycles. Other trails may be closed periodically due to weather conditions. Signs posted at trail heads inform users of trail closures.

VOLKSMARCH TRAIL The Seneca Valley Sugarloafers maintain three trails in the park which partially follow the park trails. These trails are marked with the letters "AVA" on brown wood blocks.

LONG DRAUGHT TRAIL (2.5 miles) - MODERATELY DIFFICULT - This beautiful trail follows the Long Draught Branch with its reflective glades and sunny openings in wooded areas. This trail connects the dam to the Bluejay and Nuthatch picnic shelters, then continues under Great Seneca Highway to a wetland area with an observation deck. After following a gravel road to Riffle Ford Road along Seneca Creek, the trail makes a loop on a hillside covered with ferns and mountain laurel.

GREAT SENECA TRAIL (1.25 miles) - MODERATELY DIFFICULT - This trail follows the Great Seneca Creek, with its rock outcroppings and forested slopes. The section from the Visitor Center to the creek follows the Old Clopper Road roadbed. At the creek, the old stone bridge abutment are still visible. This trail connects the Visitor Center with the dam. There are several steep and rocky areas.

MINK HOLLOW TRAIL (1.25 miles) - MODERATELY EASY - Mink Hollow crosses many diverse habitats, including successional fields, pine plantations, forest, and a boardwalk through a marsh area. The trail connects the lakeshore and several picnic areas.

LAKE SHORE TRAIL (3.7 miles) - MODERATELY EASY TO DIFFICULT - This popular trail, which encircles the lake, crosses farm fields full of wildflowers in the spring and summer, and golden sagegrass in the fall. This trail connects the front section of the park with the boat center, the dam, and Longdraft Road.

OLD POND TRAIL (.33 miles) - EASY - This short section of trail follows a small spring-fed tributary of the Great Seneca Creek and passes an old pond in its last stages of succession. The trail connects the Visitor Center with Great Seneca Trail.

**PETS ARE PROHIBITED
PLEASE DO NOT FEED THE WILDLIFE**

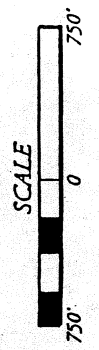
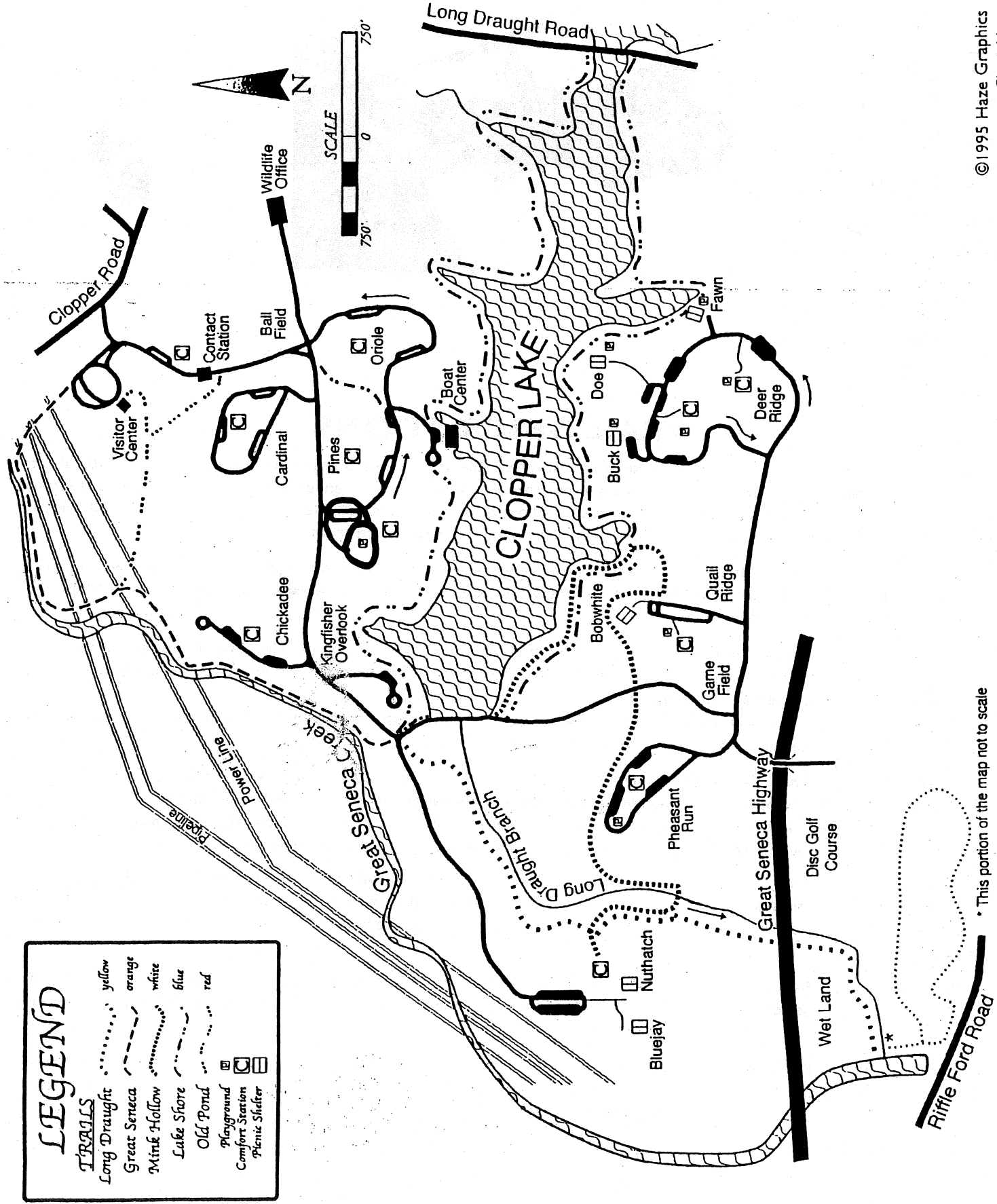
Trash Free Parks: Reduce, Reuse & Recycle. Then take your trash home. Thank you.

LEGEND

TRAILS

- Long Draught (yellow dashed line)
- Great Seneca (orange dashed line)
- Mink Hollow (white dashed line)
- Lake Shore (blue dashed line)
- Old Pond (red dashed line)

- Playground (square with diagonal lines)
- Comfort Station (square with horizontal lines)
- Picnic Shelter (square with vertical lines)



* This portion of the map not to scale