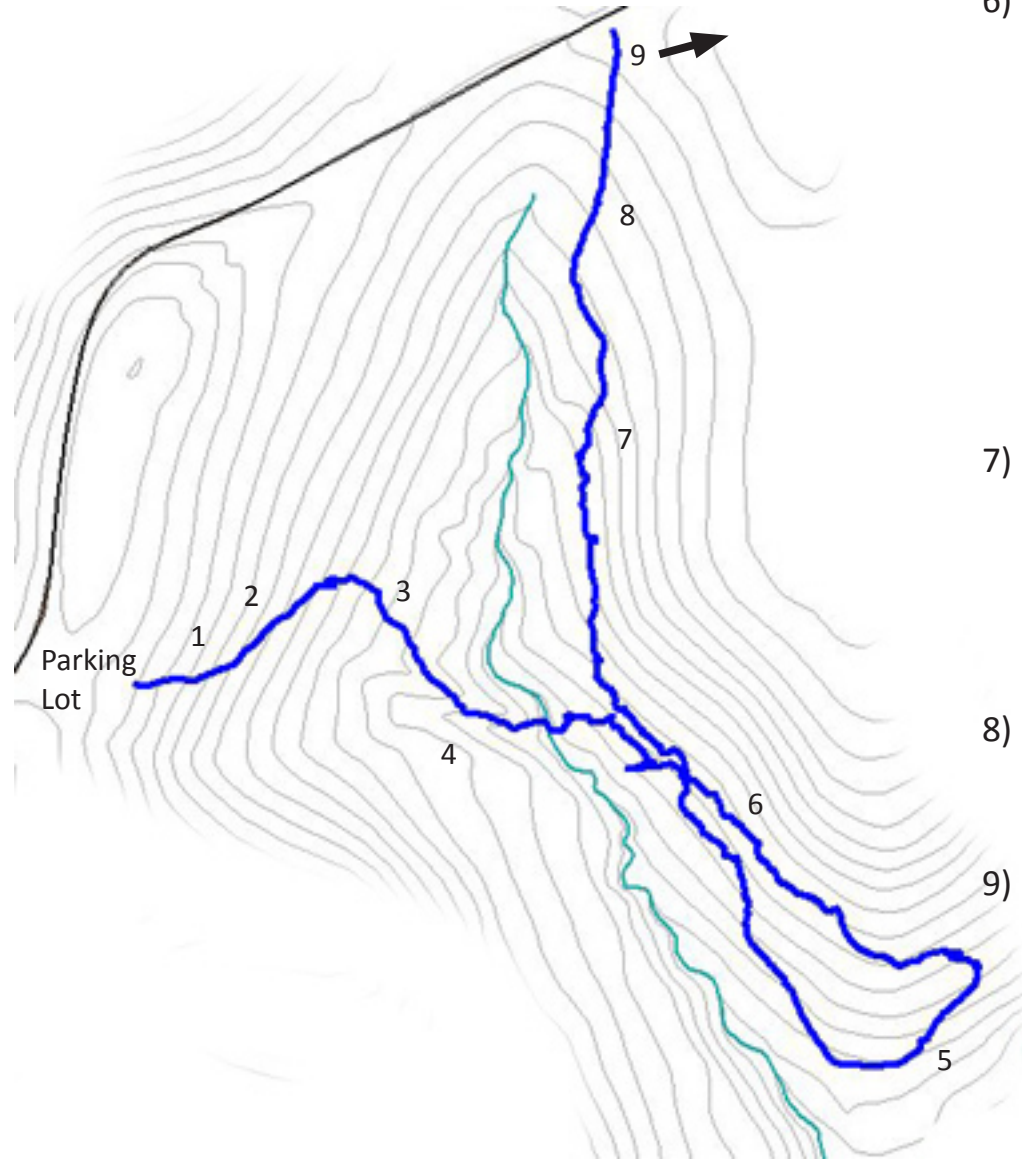


# BLUE TRAIL

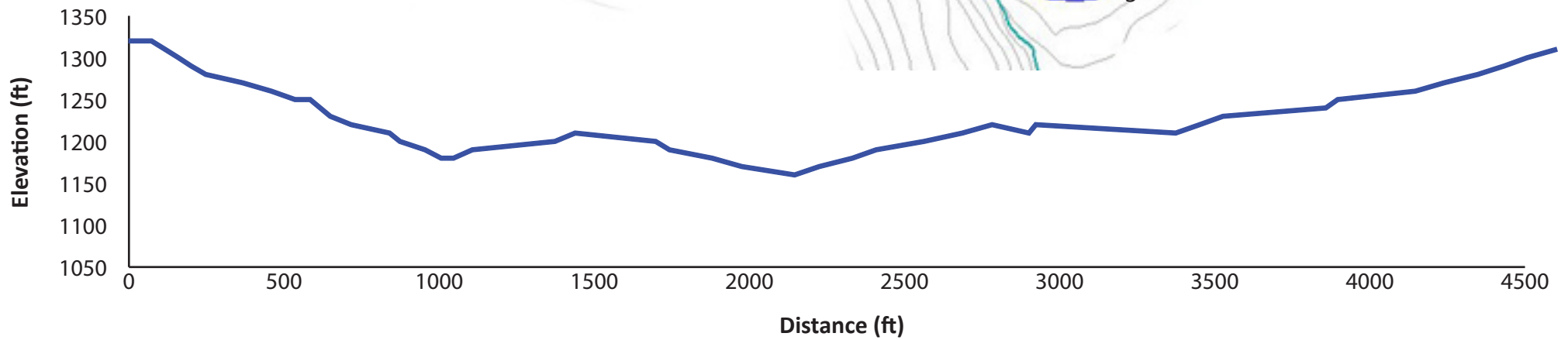
Distance: 0.9 miles  
Difficulty: moderate

Blue trailhead located in parking lot

- 1) Notice the large Grapevines. While grape is important for wildlife, it often presents a problem for forest regeneration
- 2) Large black cherry tree.
- 3) Observe the red oak with extensive buttressing at the base of the tree. Buttressing is a common adaptation for support of large trees growing on slopes
- 4) This large cucumber magnolia (2 feet diameter) is an important diagnostic species of a "mixed mesophytic forest" of which Dysart Woods is the best example in Ohio.
- 5) Large dead white oak tree estimated at 400 years old. Died suddenly a couple of months after mining began in the area. Notice that there are no white oak seedlings or saplings in the woods. Old trees do not produce seed in the latter years of life.



- 6) Around the trails you will notice a number of large uprooted trees. The root systems rarely go below 3 feet and most of a tree's roots are in the top one foot of soil. Notice that the fallen large white oaks leave pits, that result in a classic "pit and mound" topography. The downed trees also leave canopy gaps that let light, water and nutrients into the area resulting in extensive new seedling growth over the following years.
- 7) About 40 years ago this area was a field. Over time a young second growth forest has developed dominated by cherry, ash, maple and tulip tree. Such forests are characterized by a high density of small diameter trees and shady conditions.
- 8) The sassafras trees you can see here are actually a single genetic clone originating from one plant and connected by underground stems.
- 9) American Chestnut plantation. Devastated by chestnut blight during the 20th century, new disease resistant trees are being planted in an attempt to reestablish the species.

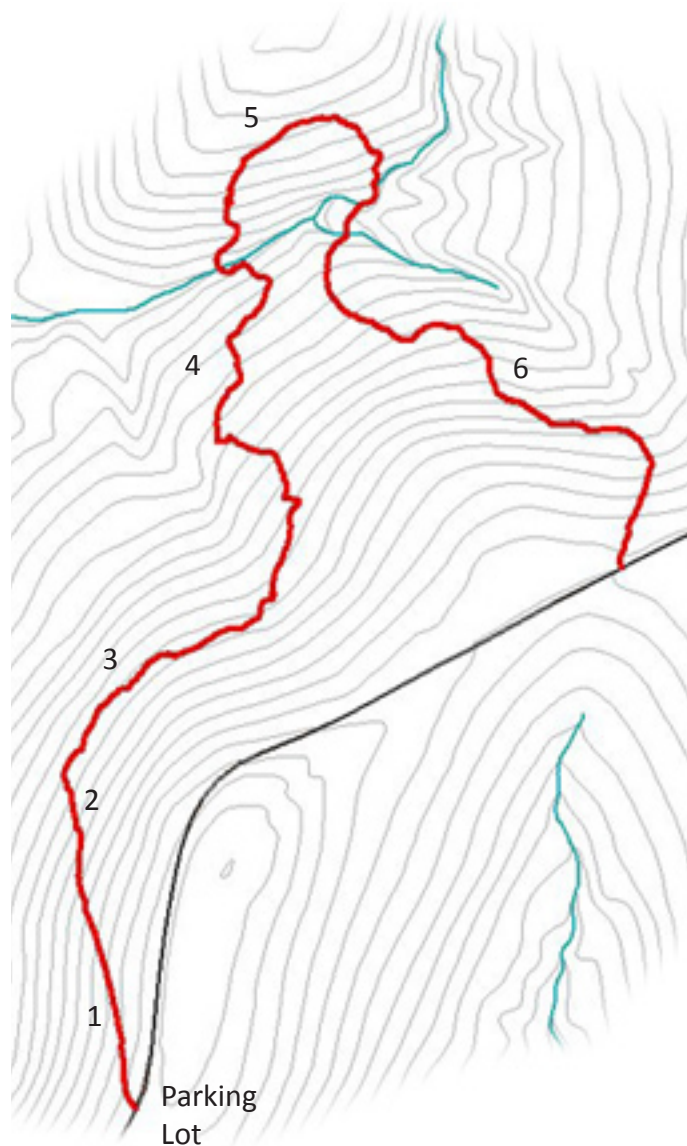


# RED TRAIL

Distance: 0.8 miles  
Difficulty: moderately strenuous

Red trailhead located across road from parking lot

- 1) Small 5 acre parcel of old-growth dominated by beech and maple trees in the overstory. Note the abundance of standing and downed timber which is typical of old-growth forests. Turn to view the second-growth maturing forest on the opposite side of the trail. Compare the structural differences between the two.
- 2) In contrast to old-growth, young woods are dominated by different species. Here, notice the dominance by maple, cherry, tulip, and remnants of an old apple orchard
- 3) Here the forest opens as you approach the edge and you can observe examples of previous land use (agriculture, strip mining, old field) -- the forest is actually an island sitting in a matrix of other past and present land uses. Note the difference in the form of the large oak growing on the edge of the field and the oaks in the forest.



- 4) In this area note the increase in the number of large trees and the old-growth conditions. Here the forest is oak-beech-maple. Many of the oaks in this location are in excess of 400 years old.
- 5) Here lies the remains of what was the most famous tree in Dysart Woods. This tulip tree stood for some 400 years before it died from being struck by lightning in 2001. The tree attained a diameter of almost 6 feet which was reported to be the state record.
- 6) From the creek bed to the road, the forest transitions from old-growth to young forest.

Red and Blue trailhead markers are located either side of the road. If you do not wish to complete the blue trail walk along the road to the parking lot.

