



## Volkssport Club at West Point – West Point YRE #37

These walk directions and maps may only be used in conjunction with a signed American Volkssport Association athletic waiver. All other uses are prohibited



For emergencies, dial 911. Event only related assistance, contact the Point of Contact, Joan Vorbach at 845-386-3709.

### Security Information:

You need to stop by the Access Control Center at the Visitor's Center before walking to get your Local Area Clearance badge before the walk. You'll need an acceptable government-issued ID photo and will need to complete a security form, See:

<https://www.westpoint.edu/about/public-affairs/visitors-center> for details.

### Restrooms:

Public Restrooms are available inside the Visitor's Center as well as (seasonally) at several locations on the Post.

### Abbreviations used:

ns – No Sign. There is no street sign.  
C&P – Cross and/or Pass.  
(e.g. C&P: 1st St and Main St.)

### Special Programs:

Centurion Challenge, IVV-Americas, , Walking USA States, Walking the USA A-Z, Walking with America's Veterans

### About the Walk:

There are two walks, an 10k route and a shorter 6k route that does not go through the Cemetery. Both routes are rated 2B due to some medium-sized hills and a portion that is on packed gravel surface near the reservoir at Step 6.

*Text in italics are historical and informational comments.* **Boldface** in the directions indicate walking actions you must heed. **Underline** indicates a safety reminder.

### Directions and Parking:

The West Point Visitor's Center & parking (2107 New South Post Road) is located in the Village of Highland Falls, NY, contained within the Town of Highlands.

From the north: cross west over the Bear Mountain Bridge over the Hudson River. Take NY State Route 9W north. Exit at NY-218 N/Main St, one mile, merge slightly right to the West Point Highway/New South Post Rd.

From the south: From Newburgh, NY, drive 12 miles south on NY Route 9W. Exit on NY-218 S/Mountain Ave in the Town of Highlands. Continue on NY-218 S/Mountain Ave. Drive to New South Post Rd in the village Highland Falls.

The Visitor's Center Parking is located on the right side of New South Post Rd. {GPS: 41.3714, -73.9640}



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### History of West Point:

*From Wikipedia:*

*West Point is the oldest continuously occupied military post in the United States.*

*Located on the Hudson River in New York, West Point was identified by General George Washington as the most important strategic position in America during the American Revolution.*

*Until January 1778, West Point was not occupied by the military. On January 27, 1778, Brigadier General Samuel Holden Parsons and his brigade crossed the ice on the Hudson River and climbed to the plain on West Point and from that day to the present, West Point has been occupied by the United States Army.*

*It comprises approximately 16,000 acres (6,500 ha) including the campus of the United States Military Academy, which is commonly called "West Point".*

*Volkssport Club at West Point note: It is important to realize that "West Point" and "The US Military Academy" are two different entities. West Point is an active US Army Post, and the Academy is a part of the overall property.*

*At West Point, for example, is one of the four US Mints (the other three being in Philadelphia, Denver, and San Francisco), and is the primary US mint producing gold and silver bullion coins in the US. It was a former US Gold Bullion Depository before becoming a mint in 1937. Not open to the public.*

*Other facilities on the West Point post are a golf course, a ski area, the Round Pond Recreation Center (on the other side of US Route 9W), and so on.*

**Note:** *Behind the Visitor's Center in a separate building slightly up the footpath is the "West Point Museum" that contains galleries showcasing the history of the U.S. Army, warfare & weapons, along with a gift shop. Definitely worth a visit!*



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### Let's Walk!

1. **Leave** West Point Visitor's Center parking lot and **turn right** on New South Post Road, passing McDonald's. **Walk to guard** at Thayer Gate and show your Local Area Clearance pass.

2. **Immediately turn left** and proceed onto Knox Road. Buffalo Soldier Athletic Field will be on the right.

*This honors the 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> Cavalry Regiments who served on the western frontier and were called Buffalo Soldiers by the Indians. These African American soldiers were assigned to West Point in 1907 and taught riding and mounted drill to cadets until 1946*

3. **Proceed past** Military Police Headquarters and turn right onto Swift Road walking past the Bowling Center on left. After passing building 626 on left, **turn right** through the parking lot. **Climb the stairs** on the far left about ½ way through the parking lot (near bus stand) to front of Post Office, **turning right at top**. Continue on sidewalk to the right of the Post Office. **Cross and turn left** onto Mills Road.

4. C&P Wilson Road and Smith Place

5. **Walk up the hill** past Alumni Center on right. (Gift shop and rest rooms inside.)

6. **Turn right** at top of the hill, and **cross the bridge** at the beginning of Lusk Reservoir. At end of bridge, **turn left** onto gravel road. Keeping the reservoir on your left, the gravel road will become paved. **Continue to end** at reservoir's end. **Turn left** for short distance onto Schofield Place and **walk downhill** to Stoney Lonesome Road (NS) and **turn right**.

*Across the street, the American Soldier memorial honors the nation's enlisted personnel and was sculpted by Felix de Weldon who also did the Iwo Jima Statue at Arlington National Cemetery.*

7. Proceed downhill on Stoney Lonesome Road and turn right at Cadet Chapel sign. Enter the Chapel and see the largest church organ in the world with over 23,000 pipes.

*The carpet in front of the altar was a gift from Haile Selassie when he was Emperor of Ethiopia. The limestone altar was a gift from the family of Ulysses S. Grant. Graduating classes purchased the beautiful stained glass windows. The first pew on the right is reserved for Superintendents and displays brass plates bearing the facsimile of their signatures. The candle at left center aisle is lit each day for POW's and MIA's. It will only be extinguished when all have been returned.*



**If you are walking the 10K route, skip the next instruction and jump to the next page. See map 3.**

**→ 6k Walkers only!**

8. Exit the Chapel and turn right going downhill.

You will **pass** the Cadet Gymnasium on right. **Keep** the Catholic Chapel on your left as you **continue downhill** to end of Stoney Lonesome Road (the main road). (Go inside the Catholic Chapel if you like.) At stop sign, **turn right** onto Washington Road.

**Jump to the "ROUTES MERGE POINT" on the next page below.**



## Volkssport Club at West Point – West Point YRE #37

### → 11k Walkers only!

9. **Exit** Cadet Chapel and **retrace steps** back up hill to Stony Lonesome Road and **turn right**.
10. **Walk down** hill and **turn left** onto Merritt Road at cross walk. **Continue** past Jewish Chapel, **past** stop sign at Delafield Road and **continue** through next stop sign at Connor Road. **Continue** past brick quarters on left to next stop sign, **turning right** on Buckner Hill (NS). **Walk down** hill passing IHG hotel sign on right.
11. At bottom of hill **cross** Washington Road. **Continue straight** keeping the large parking lot on your left as you **walk** to back entrance of Cemetery on the right.
12. **Enter** the West Point Cemetery.

*The West Post Cemetery is the nation's oldest military post (1817) cemetery and is a national landmark. Prior to its designation as a military cemetery, it was used by local residents and graves as far back as Revolutionary War soldiers may be found within.*

13. **Walk ahead** and **turn left** at the path marked with "Section XXXV, Rows A-K" sign.
14. **Continue walking** toward largest and tallest monuments of BG Egbert Viele (a large pyramid monument), the chief engineer of Central Park in NYC and MG Daniel Butterfield (across from Viele's) who composed "Taps". **Following on this path** (towards the "Section XX" sign) will lead you to monument / grave of BG George Custer (on right at "Section XXVII Rows AA-B" sign). **Continue** on the path to the "Section XXVIII, Rows A-D" sign as it proceeds into the oldest part of the cemetery **keeping** the stone wall on your left.

*At the edge of the path as it turns 90 degrees to the right at the far end of the cemetery are the*

*graves of Anna and Susan Warner (composed the hymn "Jesus Loves Me" and owned Constitution Island.)*

15. **Continuing on** by the large tree (by the "Section XVIII, Rows AA-H" sign) pass graves of MG George W. Goethals (builder of Panama Canal); COL Edward White II (first American astronaut to walk in space); GEN Lucius Clay (Commander in Chief, European Command in WWII).
  16. **Pass** fountain, Memorial Affairs cottage, and **continue on** road stopping to see the Old Cadet Chapel if you choose.
- Chapel built in 1837 and moved to this site in 1910. Above the altar is a Robert Weir painting of "Peace and War".*
17. **Exit** the cemetery **turning left** along Washington Road.

### ROUTES MERGE POINT: 6K and 10K Routes rejoin here!

18. **Continue** on Washington Road, **passing** professor's quarters on right, to stop sign at Washington Road and Brewerton Road. **Cross** Brewerton and Jefferson Roads (at crosswalks). **Continue** on Washington Road to end of the stone wall on your right.

*Look right and see the Thayer Statue. Colonel Thayer, "Father of the Military Academy" and an 1808 graduate, was Superintendent from 1817 to 1833. During his administration the principles of academic and military training were established. He promoted the West Point Honor Code: "A cadet will not lie, steal, or cheat nor tolerate those who do."*

19. **Turn right** and **walk down** stairs and through the BEAT NAVY tunnel (under Washington Road).



## Volkssport Club at West Point – West Point YRE #37

20. **Continue** on sidewalk, **bearing left** on main sidewalk.

21. **Turn right** on Howard Road.

*At this intersection is a charming, Victorian "gingerbread" house built in 1858. It was featured in the 1954 movie "The Long Gray Line".*

22. **Turn right** on paved path leading past cannons. (Restrooms are available at building directly ahead of you.)

23. **Walk up** toward Washington Road to sidewalk and **turn left** towards the large flagpole.

24. At the "Welcome to Trophy Point" sign, **bear left** on footpath to "Battle Monument".

*Trophy Point, with Battle Monument, is the most prominent monument at West Point. It is dedicated to the 2,240 officers and soldiers of the Union Regular Army who were casualties during the Civil War. The figure at the top is "Lady Fame" or "Victory". According to legend the model was actress Evelyn Nesbitt whose jealous husband, Harry K. Thaw, murdered architect Stanford White.*

25. **Continue and bear right** to next set of cannons. **Turn left** on path before the fireplug **walking up the slope** to the large chain links exhibit on right.

26. **Walk** to the overlook for great views (looking north) of the Hudson River and Constitution Island.

27. **Return** to sidewalk and **turn left** walking past tennis court. Soccer field is across the street on right. **Continue** to Kosciuszko's Monument and river view on left. *George Washington selected Thaddeus Kosciuszko, one of the heroes of Saratoga, to*

*design the fortifications for West Point in 1778.*

28. **Continue** on sidewalk (you are now on Cullum Road) **walking ahead** toward an academic building, Lincoln Hall. **Pass** Cullum Hall and West Point Club on left. (Open to the public for lunch during the week; restrooms available)

29. Pass Jefferson Hall on your right.

*Jefferson Hall: This library, one of the newest buildings on the U.S. Military Academy campus, was completed in 2008. Special features include 8,000 amber-colored glass blocks on the north exterior wall of the ground floor and terracotta bricks on interior walls. Unfortunately, it is closed to the public.*

30. **Very cautiously, continue straight** single file on the narrow sidewalk keeping on left **walking** downhill. Ahead you will **walk through** a tunnel under Mahan Hall where engineering classes are taught. Cullum Road becomes Thayer Road.

31. **Continue** keeping the Hudson River on left. **C&P** Williams Road. **Pass** Hotel Thayer on left.

*Operating here since 1926, when it was established to accommodate U.S. Military Academy personnel and their guests. It is named in honor of Colonel Sylvanus Thayer, superintendent of the Academy from 1817 to 1833, and listed on the National Registry of Historic Places.*

32. **Continue through** the gate, **pass** McDonald's and **return to** the Visitor's Center.



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### You finished!

Thank you for walking with us! **Remember to use the “Finish Table” function of the Online Start Box to complete your walk.**

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PO Box 122  
West Point, NY 10996-0122

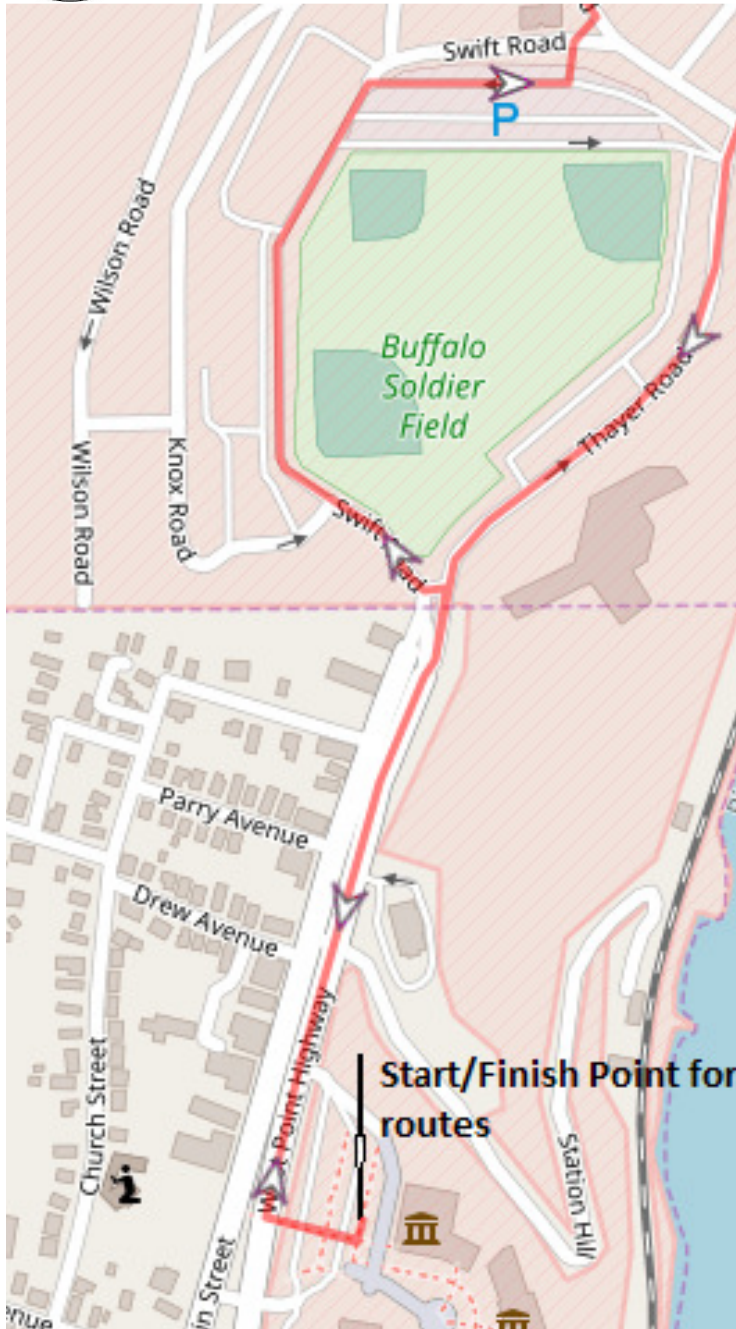
Our website (<http://nodegreen.com/westpoint/>)  
has all the details! E-mail us at  
[vcwpava@gmail.com](mailto:vcwpava@gmail.com)



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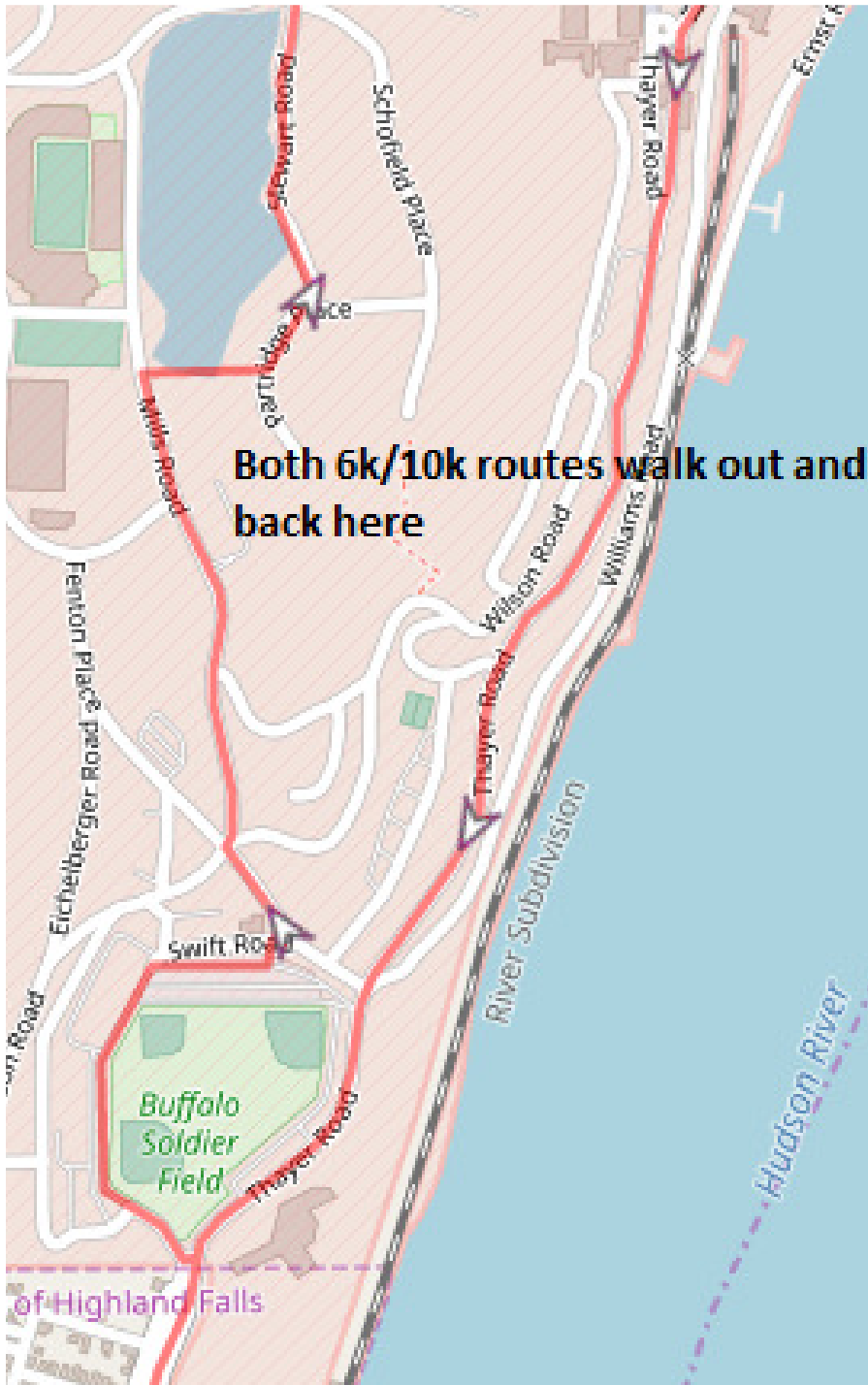
Map 1 of 3. Both 6k/10k routes leave and return from/to the Visitor's Center towards Thayer Gate and the West Point post.

Map Data © OpenStreetMap Contributors





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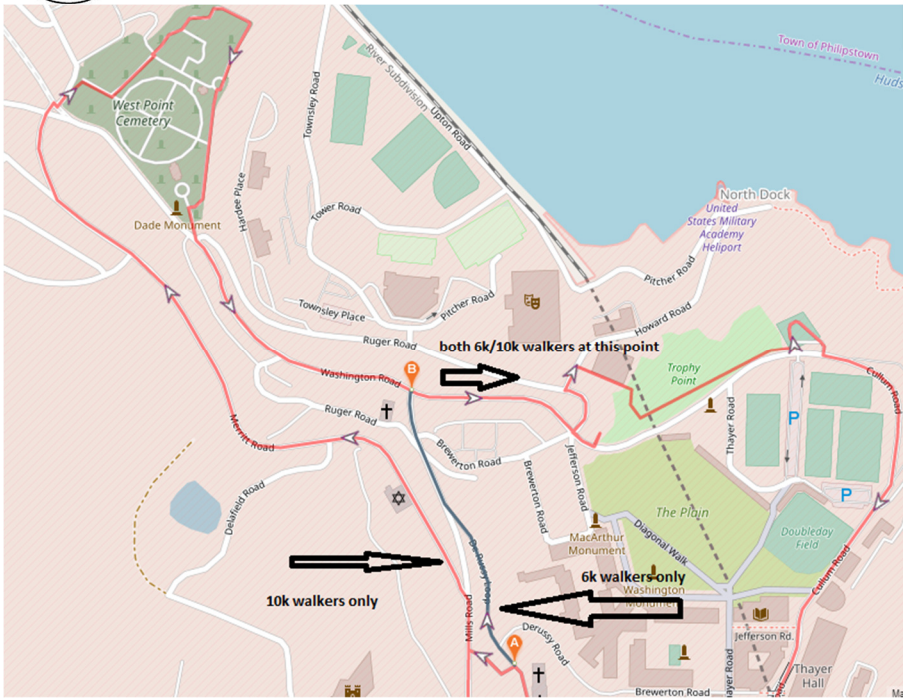


Map 2 of 3. Both 6k/10k routes out and back on this portion.

Map Data © OpenStreetMap Contributors



## Volkssport Club at West Point – West Point YRE #37



Map 3 of 3. The split of 6k and 10k routes takes place on this section. The 6k walkers do instruction 8 and then jumps to instruction 17, bypassing the cemetery route.

The 10k route continues south at step 9 and walks through the cemetery and rejoins the 6k walkers at instruction 17.

Both routes rejoin at the intersection of Washington and Stoney Lonesome Road and continue to Trophy Point and back to the Start/Finish point at the Visitor's Center.