

Northern Central Rail (NCR) Rail Trail – South

Y 0183

Baltimore County, Maryland

5k, 12k, 17k, 23k, 29k and 33k Walk Event

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YRE Description

The Northern Central Railroad (NCR) Trail, officially known as the [Torrey C. Brown Trail](#), covers nearly 20 miles in Maryland, stretching from Ashland Road in Hunt Valley to the Mason-Dixon Line. The trail is generally 10 feet wide with a stone dust surface; it features clear and accurate mile markers along the whole length. The most popular activities on the trail are hiking, running, bicycle riding and horseback riding. The trail also provides access for fishing and tubing along the Gunpowder River.

The NCR continues another 20 miles into Pennsylvania as the [York County Heritage Trail](#), ending in the city of York, PA. This section is also an American Volkssport Association (AVA) Year-Round Event (YRE) and is sanctioned by the York White Rose Wanderers. The surface changes somewhat in Pennsylvania. The rails are still in place and the trail occasionally crosses from one side of the tracks to the other. The trail in PA features a cool tunnel and historic Hanover Junction.

The NCR South (Y0183) event offers several distance options, from Ashland, MD, through Monkton, MD. Toilet options are limited. Shade is generally abundant. Carrying water is recommended. The trail is on natural surfaces. Rated 1B. Shade is generally abundant. Carrying water is recommended. The trail is on natural surfaces. Rated 1B.

AVA Special Programs

Rails – to – Trails

Par For The Course

Registering for the walk

When you register for the walk event you can download the PDF file with walk information. The PDF includes directions to the walk start and walk instructions. The fee for the download is \$2. You will be credited for this fee if you complete the walk event and pay the participant fee within 60 days.

After you have completed the walk event

Be sure to log back into the OSB system to finish/complete your online registration after doing the event. The OSB system does not deduct any event fee from a participant's Event Bank until they have submitted event completion info including the date the event was walked or biked, the distance walked or biked, and the selection of applicable special programs that person is participating in. Nevertheless, a fee of \$2 for a downloaded PDF is deducted from the Event Bank when the PDF is downloaded. Later, any PDF fees are credited back to a user's Event Bank when they submit the event completion info as a paying for credit participant. Note however that the \$2 coupon for the downloaded PDF expires in 60 days.

Driving Directions to trail start points

As noted above, the NCR Trail is popular among many types of users for various activities. Because of its popularity, parking lots often fill quickly, especially on weekends and holidays.

Per the ncrtrails.com web site, here are the major parking lots along the Maryland portion of trail, although there are many more small lots (including the [Ashland Rd](#) lot at Mile 0.0). GPS Coordinates are provided for use with vehicle navigation systems. The three suggested start points are shown in bold type below:

- Mile 0.5 Paper Mill/**Ashland** (GPS 39.50182, -76.63366): Take York Road (Route 45) to Cockeysville (Exit 18 off I-83). Turn right (east) on Ashland Road. Bear left onto Paper Mill Road. Go less than ½ mile, crossing the trail to the parking lot on the left. There are no spot-a-pots at this location, but a half mile north, just beyond mile marker 1, there are a couple.
- Mile 2.0 Phoenix: Take York Road north of Shawan Road in Hunt Valley (Exit 20 off I-83). Turn right (east) on Phoenix Road. Travel 1.7 miles and look for the parking lot.
- Mile 3.8 Sparks: Take York Road north of Shawan Road to Sparks (Exit 20 off I-83). Turn right (east) on Sparks Road. Go less than 1 mile to parking lot. This location features the Sparks Bank Nature Center, a water fountain, and a spot-a-pot.
- Mile 7.2 **Monkton** (GPS 39.57936, -76.61538): Take I-83 to Exit 27, go toward Hereford (east) 0.4 miles on MD-137/Mt Carmel Rd. Turn right on York Road then immediately turn left (east) on Monkton Road. Follow for 3 miles, and look for the parking lot and park office on the left. This location features restrooms, water, telephones and picnic tables. The parking lot at this location is small, but there's plenty of space along the shoulder of Monkton Rd.

Be aware of No Parking areas.

**Baltimore Walking Club (BWC) Northern Central Rail (NCR) Trail South
(YRE 0183)
5K/12K/17K/23K/29K/33K Trails Rated 1B**

This 33K event has been divided into three segments: Ashland (5K/12K), Monkton South (5K/11K), and Monkton North(6K/10K). You can choose to walk any of the segments, or all 3. Restrooms along the trail are limited.

NCR North, YRE 1454, continues on the rail trail to the Mason/Dixon line.

Rules of the Trail: Walkers and bicyclists yield to horses. Bicyclists yield to horses and walkers.

Directions for the Ashland 5K walk: At the end of the ramp from the parking lot, **TURN RIGHT** (North) and walk to the two mile marker post on your right. Turn around at the post and return to the start/finish point.

Directions for the Ashland 12K walk: At the end of the ramp from the parking lot, **TURN LEFT** (South) and walk to the Ashland parking area at the end of the rail trail. Turn around and walk north, passing the start/finish point, and walk to Sparks. Turn around at the highway crossing, and return to the start/finish point.

Directions for the Monkton South 5K walk: From the rail station, **TURN RIGHT**, cross the highway, and continue on the trail heading south. Cross Corbett Road, pass the 6 mile marker on your left, and cross the bridge over Gunpowder Falls. At the pipeline signs, turn around and walk north to return to the start/finish point.

Directions for the Monkton South 11K walk: From the rail station, **TURN RIGHT**, cross the highway, and continue on the trail to Sparks. At Sparks, turn around at the highway crossing and return to the start/finish point.

Directions for the Monkton North 6K walk: From the rail station, **TURN LEFT** and walk north to the mile marker 9 (nine) post. At the post, turn around and walk south to return to the start/finish point.

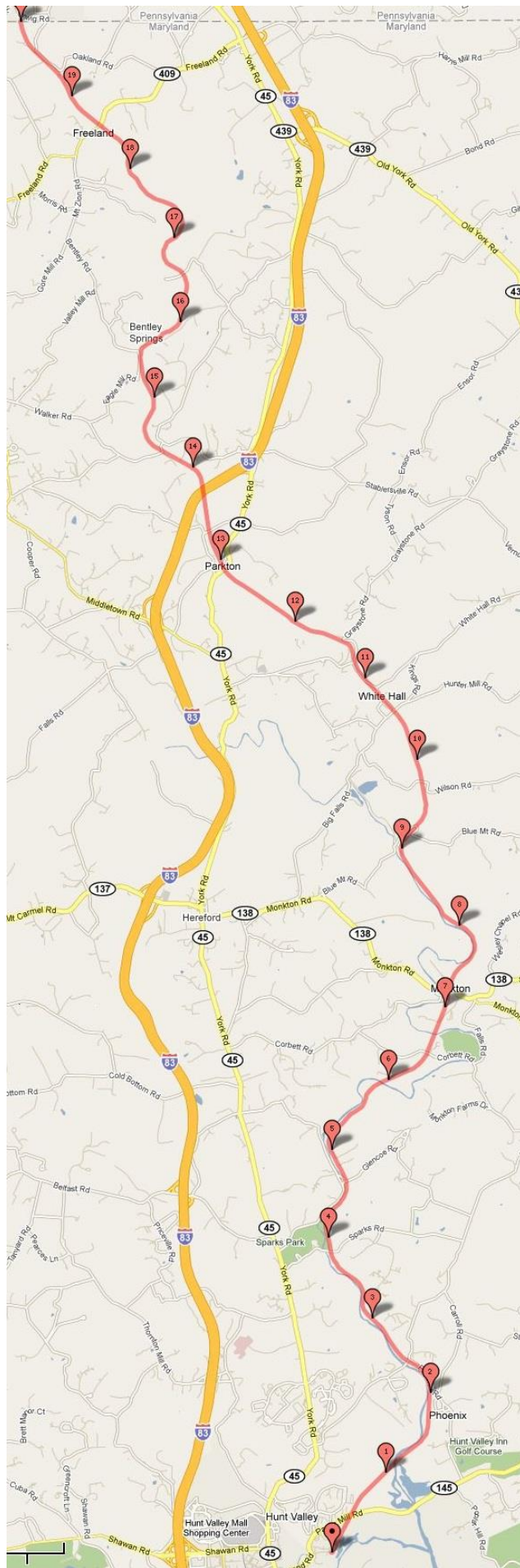
Directions for the Monkton North 10K walk: From the rail station, **TURN LEFT** and walk past mile markers 8, 9, and 10. At the white post with the black number 112, turn around and return to the start/finish point.

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In case of Emergency, call 911

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

Event Assistance, call Jim at 443 504 5552



Internet Resources

State of Maryland: <https://maryland.gov>

<https://dnr.maryland.gov/publiclands/pages/central/tcb.aspx>

York White Rose Wanderers:

<https://sites.google.com/site/yorkwhiterosewanderers/home>

Baltimore Walking Club: <https://www.baltimorewalkingclub.com>