

**Hartford 5 & 10K RIVER TRAIL**  
2022/Y0658 Connecticut Valley Volkssport Club AVA-784

**“PRE-AMBLE”:**

**Hartford - Capital - River in Hartford County** Beautiful capital city of Connecticut, with its gold-domed capital, adjacent Bushnell Park and Connecticut River.

**5k:1A/10k:1A - 1A OSB/PSB Year Round Walk (2022/Y0658) 01/15 - 12/31**

**Special Programs:** CAPTL, RCLOCK, VETS, MAYFLWR

**Award:** A Award

**Strollers:** Medium **WheelChairs:** Medium **Restrooms:** Yes **Pets:** Yes

**Sponsor:** AVA-0784 Connecticut Valley Volkssport Club Web: [www.avaclubs.org/cvvc/](http://www.avaclubs.org/cvvc/)

**Contact:** Lee West, LFWest@sbcglobal.net, (860) 721-1185

**Start Box Times:** 24/7

**Start Point:** REGISTRATION via OSB or PSB.

**Please use either the Online Start Box (OSB) or Physical Start Box (PSB) to register and complete the event. Do NOT mix and match. For example, if you register using the OSB, do not complete your event by using the PSB (nor sign the PSB log sheet). The sponsoring club only receives credit for an OSB participation when an OSB registration has been completed online by entering your participation date, distances, and any special programs using the OSB.**

Directions to the PSB follow: Capital Hotel, Ascend Hotel Collection - 440 Asylum St., Tel:959-888-3000 From I-84: Take Exit 48. At end of ramp westbound (I-84W) turn left and then left at first light at Spruce St. At end of ramp eastbound, go straight through light onto Spruce St. The Union Station will be on your right. Go to end of street and turn right onto Church St. (being careful to avoid bus lane on your right). Proceed 1 block to light at Union Place. Turn right. Go 2 blocks and turn left into Capital Hotel's pay parking lot. From I-91S or I-91N: Take I-84W (Waterbury), Exit 32A. Follow directions for I-84W. **GPS:** 41.767976, -72.681106

**Event Info:** Downtown/Riverfront walk includes Old State House (designed by Charles Bullfinch, in 1796), the gothic revival state capitol, plus Wadsworth Atheneum (one of oldest art museums in country). Two bridges over the CT River. The U.S.S. Hartford bell is located on Constitution Plaza.

**“POST-AMBLE”:**

Be sure to log back into the OSB system to “finish/complete” your online registration after doing the walk. The OSB system does not deduct any walking fee from a walker’s Event Bank until they have submitted walk completion info., including the date the event was walked, the distance walked, and the selection of applicable special programs that walker is participating in. (Nevertheless, a fee of \$2 for a downloaded PDF is deducted from the user’s Event Bank when the PDF is downloaded. Later, any PDF fees are credited back to a walker’s Event Bank when he/she submits the walk completion info as a paying for credit walker. Note, however, the \$2 coupon for the downloaded PDF will expire in 60 days.)

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**AVA NORTHEAST REGIONAL DIRECTOR: WAYNE KNAPP (518) 469-7298**

DIRECTIONS	COMMENTARY
1. From Start Point at Capitol Hotel, turn right and go to first light (before RR overpass). Cross Asylum at crosswalk and turn left for a few steps.	Union Station-1889, is Hartford's railroad and bus transportation center.
2. Take walkway through left-most set of brownstone pillars, leading left of Corning Fountain. Continue to Trinity St.	The Corning Fountain-1899 was a rare 19th century tribute to Native Americans. J. Massey Rhind was the sculptor.
3. Cross Trinity St. and turn left, walking on the sidewalk along Bushnell Park, with the Carousel and pond on your right. Turn right on Jewell St., continuing along Bushnell Park.	The Soldiers and Sailors Memorial Arch (1885) honors Connecticut's Civil War veterans. It was the first triumphal arch in America. The 1914 Bushnell Park Carousel is open Sat. 12-5, Sun. 12-4.
4. At the traffic light at Jewell and Trumbull, cross Jewell carefully at the crosswalk. Turn right and cross Lewis St. Turn left on Gold St.	The pond in Bushnell Park is all that remains of the Park River, which was piped underground to control periodic flooding.
5. Proceed up Gold St. past Stone Field Sculpture (a controversial art "gift" in 1977) on your right. Continue past Ancient Burying Ground on your left.	The plaque in the Ancient Burying Ground on Main St. explains the early history of Connecticut, when there were two capitals: Hartford and New Haven (until 1875)
6. At <b>Main Street</b> , turn left. <b>CHECKPOINT #1: Note the Center Church sign - Who was the first minister of Center Church (who was also instrumental in framing the Fundamental Orders, a precursor of the U.S. Constitution)?</b>	The <b>Center Church</b> , if open, is worth a visit, with its beautiful Tiffany stained glass windows. At Main St. you'll be in front of the Travelers Tower (1919), for many years the tallest building between New York and Boston. To the right is the Wadsworth Atheneum (1842), a major art museum.
7. Continue on Main St., crossing at Pearl St./Central Row and continue another block. At Asylum Ave., turn right toward State House Square, with the Old State House on your right. Proceed down the bricked pedestrian way. Cross Market St. and climb stairs to Constitution Plaza.	The Old State House-1796 designed by Charles Bullfinch, was beautifully restored with a clocktower, period rooms upstairs, a multimedia interactive exhibit "History is All Around Us" below grade, and a gift shop of Connecticut items and <u>restrooms</u> . Open Tues.-Sat, 12-5. Admission is charged.
8. Left on Constitution Plaza to circle completely around clock tower, and then begin heading back toward the green glass, 2-sided "boat building." In about 50 feet from the clock, you'll see an alcove on your left, obscured by a cement wall and shrubbery. Walk into this area to see the bell of the <i>U.S.S. Hartford</i> , featured on the A award. Leave the alcove and continue on toward the boat building.	Constitution Plaza is an example of 1960's urban renewal, replacing an immigrant neighborhood of multi-family homes and small shops. The "boat building" is the Phoenix Mutual Life Insurance Building-1963, the world's first two-sided office building. The U.S.S. Hartford was made famous by the Civil War Admiral David Farragut's order in Aug. 1864, "Damn the torpedoes ... full speed ahead," enabling Union victory at the Battle of Mobile bay, off the Alabama coast.
9. Left at boat building, take steel suspension bridge across Columbus Blvd. to Riverfront Plaza.	Just before the suspension bridge-2001 is the plaza-level entrance to the Connecticut Science Center, open 10-5 Weds.-Sun. Closed Mon.-Tues. - with exhibits, films, restrooms.
10. Walk across the plaza, crossing above I-91 to top of steps descending to Connecticut River. Don't go down, but circle to left around Quenticut fiber optic sculpture and bear left to take Founders Bridge (steel bridge) across Connecticut River to East Hartford. Good views of the Hartford skyline can be had from this vantage point, as well as the Colt building's "blue onion dome" down river to the right.	Note the sculpture of Abraham Lincoln and Harriet Beecher Stowe, one of several works in the Lincoln Financial Sculpture Walk at Riverfront that you will pass. The blue onion dome marks Samuel Colt's original factory-1865, where the famous Colt 45, "the gun that won the West," was made. The former factory, now a school, offices and brewpub will soon include Coltsville National Historic Park. For now, a 2 mile historic walking tour is available at the ColtsvilleNHP ap.
11. Take a right at end of walkway on East Hartford side, at end of brick paving and gold-domed street lights. Descend to river, by taking ramp down to first landing, left up 5 stairs, then right down staircase to asphalt riverside walk. If time permits, walk along river in either direction.	Note the flood dikes on both sides of the river, built about 1940 after the devastating 1936 flood. Hartford was cut off from its river front until the construction of Riverfront Plaza in the last few years.

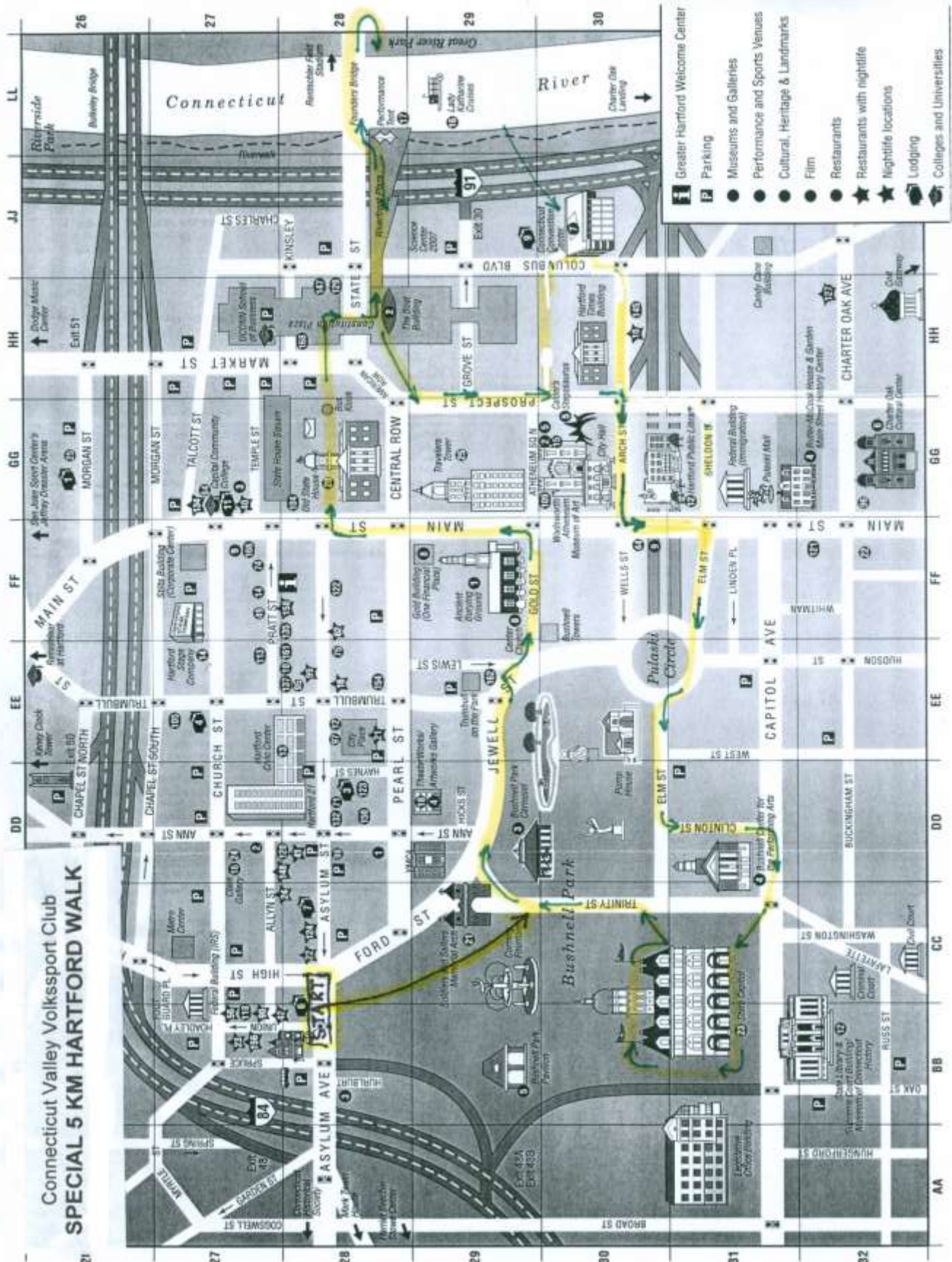
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12. Admire the view of Hartford and then return across bridge. At boat building, go down stairs straight ahead and proceed to Prospect St. Turn left, cross Grove St. and continue a few blocks (past a road leading left toward the Convention Center) to Arch St.	Note the historic buildings on the left (The Hartford Club and The Elks Club), and the Travelers Tower on the right. The Connecticut Convention, the largest meeting space between New York and Boston, opened in 2005.
13. Turn right on Arch St. and proceed to Main St. Cross Main.	Note the bronze plaque at the corner of Arch St. and Prospect St., marking the site of the homes of some of Hartford's founders in the early 1600s (who came from the Cambridge area of Massachusetts). This is the back of City Hall.
14. Turn left and walk over highway a block to Elm St. (no sign) at Dunkin' Donuts. Cross Elm and turn right. Proceed down to Pulaski Circle. Proceed right across two crosswalks on Hudson.	
15. Bear left and walk up Elm St. for two blocks, with Bushnell Park to your right. Turn left at Clinton St. and walk up a block to Capitol Ave. (no sign).	
16. At the First Presbyterian Church (1851) on Capitol Avenue, turn right and pass the Bushnell Center for the Performing Arts.	
17. At the light, take the two crosswalks (carefully) across to the State Capitol. Note the granite pedestal with a 13" mortar. <b>CHECKPOINT #2: This seacoast mortar was used by the First Connecticut Heavy Artillery during a Civil War campaign in what town (of Virginia)?</b>	The Connecticut <b>State Capitol</b> -1876 is the only Victorian Gothic state house in the country. The State Capitol is open to the public Mon.-Fri., 8-5 for self-guided tours, or call 860-240-0222 for guided tour times.
18. Continue up the sidewalk toward the Capitol, bearing left at the fork in the sidewalk (passing bronze statue of 19 <sup>th</sup> century Connecticut statesman Richard Hubbard on left and sword-wielding Col. Thomas Knowlton on right). Walk through the south entryway and continue on the sidewalk until it turns right. Turn around and look back at the building to see the statue of Ella Grasso in the niche above.	Ella Grasso was Connecticut's 83 <sup>rd</sup> governor (1975-80) and the first female governor in both Connecticut and the US to be elected in her own right. A member of the Democratic Party, she was well respected by both parties.
19. Go around the Capitol using the parking lot. Turn right and walk up to the north façade, originally designed as the principle entrance to the building. Turn left and walk down the sidewalk. Turn right to note the east façade of the building, then proceed down to Trinity St.	The 6 statues, tympana and medallions on the north façade feature the early history of Connecticut leading up to the Revolutionary War. Note the center tympanum on the east façade featuring the famous charter oak in which the Connecticut charter was hidden from the English, who intended to revoke it.
20. Turn left on Trinity St., walking along Bushnell Park. Proceed past the brownstone Memorial Arch and bear left to return to the Start Point.	The Soldiers and Sailors Memorial Arch (1885), the first triumphal arch in America, commemorates Connecticut's Civil War veterans.
We hope you enjoyed your visit to Hartford. If you have any comments, please pass them on to Lee West, 860-721-1185.	

# Hartford 5K RIVER TRAIL MAP

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DIRECTIONS	COMMENTARY
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2. Take walkway through left-most set of brownstone pillars, which leads to the left of Corning Fountain. Continue to Trinity St., but don't cross it.	The Corning Fountain-1899 was a rare 19th century tribute to Native Americans. J. Massey Rhind was the sculptor.
3. Right at Trinity taking diagonal walk leading to State Capitol.	The Connecticut State Capitol-1876 is the only Victorian Gothic state house in the country.
4. Left around State Capitol to front, then take walk left out to Capitol Ave. and the front entrance of the State Library and Supreme Court.	The State Capitol is open to the public Mon.-Fri., 8-5 for self-guided tours, or call 860-240-0222 for guided tour times.
5. Right at Capitol Ave. to corner of Oak, cross Capitol, and proceed down Oak one block, alongside of State Library and Supreme Court.	The State Library and Supreme Court building will be on your left. The State Library houses the largest genealogical collection in the state and a museum with an extensive collection of Colt firearms.
6. Left on Russ St., left again on Lafayette, around back and other side of State Library.	The State Library-1910 was designed by Donn Barber, also the architect of the Travelers Tower (see below)
7. Right at Capitol Ave., crossing Washington St. at equestrian statue of Lafayette. Cross Capitol to entrance of Bushnell Auditorium, and continue down Capitol to Main St.	Bushnell Memorial Auditorium-1930, home of the Connecticut Opera, Hartford Ballet and Hartford Symphony Orchestra, will be to your left. A second auditorium opened in 2002.
8. Cross Main St. at Pulaski statue Turn left and go 2 blocks to Checkpoint (just after #550). <b>CHECKPOINT #1: What prehistoric animal does the giant orange steel sculpture by Alexander Calder between City Hall and the Wadsworth Atheneum remind you of?</b>	Next to the Pulaski statue is the Butler McCook Homestead, 1782, a museum open to the public. On your right you will pass Hartford Public Library-1957, City Hall-1915, Wadsworth Atheneum-1842, a major art museum, and the tower of Travelers Insurance Co.-1919, for many years the tallest building between New York and Boston.
9. Continue on Main St., crossing at Pearl St./Central Row and continue another block. At Asylum Ave., turn right toward State House Square, with the Old State House on your right. Proceed down the bricked pedestrian way. Cross Market St. and climb stairs to Constitution Plaza.	The Old State House-1796 designed by Charles Bullfinch, was beautifully restored with a clocktower, period rooms upstairs, a multimedia interactive exhibit "History is All Around Us" below grade, and a gift shop of Connecticut items and <u>restrooms</u> . Open Tues.-Sat, 12-5. Admission is charged.
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14. Left on riverside walk as far as boat launch (about 1/4 mile). Stop at parking lot, blue onion dome of Colt factory is across river.	The metal horse sculpture <i>The Circuit Rider</i> depicts Abraham Lincoln's time as a circuit court judge
15. Turn around and backtrack on riverside walk, pass under the steel bridge, and continue to Bulkeley Bridge (stone arch) bridge. As you approach bridge, keep to left along river and park benches.	Note the medallions in the park benches and cast in the iron fence. They depict the covered wooden bridge that preceded the Bulkeley Bridge, an old paper mill, and other scenes of East Hartford history.
16. Left at end of riverside walk and cross over Connecticut River on the Bulkeley Bridge.	Hold your ears – this is noisy. You are sharing the Bulkeley Bridge with I-84 traffic.
17. Take walkway to end, then left to Columbus Blvd. Cross Columbus Blvd. CAREFULLY. There is no cross walk here and this is a highway entrance ramp! Then left on Columbus.	A parking garage towers above you, an attempt to alleviate Hartford's chronic parking shortage.
18. Right on Talcott (next right), passing under Constitution Plaza. Walk up hill on Talcott to Main St.	
19. Turn left to crosswalk at the brown stone church.	Christ Church Cathedral on Main St. built in 1826 is an early example of gothic revival.
20 Cross Main at brown stone church, turn left on Main for one block, then turn right down brick-paved Pratt St.	Pratt St. is still lined with 19th century storefronts and was paved in brick in 1988 to create a pedestrian mall. Your trailmaster and his engineering colleagues at Travelers Insurance Co. contributed one of the bricks at #185.5, "TIC ENG'G SOC. OF PEONS"
21. At end of Pratt, left on Trumbull.	The Hartford Civic Center is on the west side of Trumbull St.
22. Take second left on Pearl.	At Trumbull and Asylum is City Place-1983, at 39 stories Hartford's tallest building.
23. Take next right on Lewis St., then left on Wells for a few yards, then right on crosswalk into Bushnell Park.	Lewis St. has a number of nineteenth century buildings, retaining the feel of the old city.
24. Enter Bushnell Park between brownstone pillars, go straight toward pond, then follow sidewalk around left side of pond.	This pond is all that remains of the Park River, which was piped underground to control periodic flooding.
25 Pass carousel, cross Trinity St., then right on Trinity through the arch, then left on Ford and follow to Asylum St. Left on Asylum and stay on Asylum which forks left into Farmington Ave. after railroad underpass. Continue to Broad St.	The 1914 Bushnell Park Carousel to your right is open Sat. 12-5, Sun. 12-4 You pass under the Soldiers and Sailors Memorial Arch–1885, commemorating Connecticut's Civil War veterans. It was the first triumphal arch in America.
26. Right at Broad St. for a block, then left on Asylum Ave. crossing Broad St., carefully watching traffic. Continue to Huntington St. to the <b>Asylum Hill Congregational Church</b> on your right. <b>CHECKPOINT #2: What color is door of the church?</b>	On the north side of Asylum is the home office of The Hartford Insurance Company- 1921.
27. Left on Sigourney to Farmington Ave. Turn left.	Trinity Episcopal Church-1892 is a brownstone gothic revival.
28. Continue back to Start Point, passing under the railroad overpass.	Large brick building on right is home office of Aetna, built in 1931 and largest colonial-style office building in world. Across street is Cathedral of St. Joseph – 1962.
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TRAIL #1 Page 3 – HARTFORD RIVERSIDE TRAIL  
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