

**TWIN STATE VOLKSSPORT ASSOCIATION**  
**5 km/8 km/10 km Stowe Year Round Walk**  
**EVENT ID: 2020/Y1074**

**TRAIL DESCRIPTION, VILLAGE WALK:**

This trail explores Stowe, in the heart of Vermont's Green Mountains. The walk is along town sidewalks with many shops and eateries, along the Stowe Rec Path with its views of Mt. Mansfield and the meandering Little River, and through the heart of downtown. Alternate routes are available for winter use, whether you want to cross-country ski, snowshoe, or stay on town sidewalks with good footing. New this year, for those who like a more strenuous walk, is a walk/snowshoe in Stowe's Wiessner Woods. There are more details later which describe it. Please stay off it during mud season (early April to mid-May), and it's not advisable if trails are wet or icy.

**TRAIL RATING:**

Both village trails are rated 2B. There are only a few gradual hills, and footing is good in most places. The trail is stroller friendly, but not wheelchairs would have difficulty with curbs and short areas on natural terrain. The Weissner Woods trails is rated 3C, with moderate hills and natural trail crossing with some rocks and roots.

**AWARDS & FEES:**

Registration takes place online using the AVA Online Start Box, on [my.ava.org](http://my.ava.org). Follow the instructions provided to create a user account and sign the AVA waiver (one time). Instructions for payment are also included. Download the directions and print as needed. The POC does not provide event directions or accept alternate payment methods.

**WALK COMPLETION AND WALK CREDIT:**

Once you have physically completed the walk, please login to your Online Start Box account click on the "My Start Box" tab, then the "Finish Table" tab, then click on "Go to Finish Table" button for the event you have completed. Use the displayed entry form to submit the date and distance of your walk as well as select applicable AVA Special Programs to generate stamped "virtual" insert cards that you may choose to print out.

**AMENITIES:**

Stowe offers year-round recreational activities including walking, hiking, skiing (downhill and nordic), biking, golfing. It is home to the Stowe Mountain resort, with downhill ski runs on Mt. Mansfield and Spruce Peak. There are two Nordic centers: the famed Trapp Family Lodge ("Sound of Music" fame), and the Mt. Mansfield nordic center. Stowe has recently become a nationally known mountain bike destination with a huge network of interconnected trails between Waterbury and Stowe. Vermont's #1 tourist attraction, Ben & Jerry's, is not far from here.

The Stowe Visitor Center, 51 Main Street, near the suggested parking for this walk, offers information about the many lodging and eating establishments in town. It is open from 9 AM to 6 PM all days except Sunday, when the hours are 11 AM to 5 PM.

## OTHER DETAILS

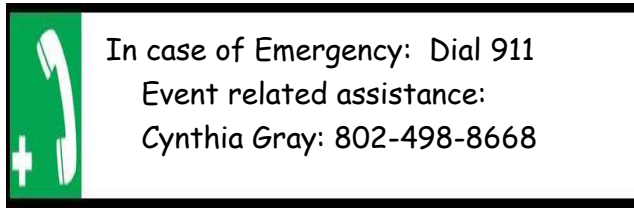
The Stowe Visitor Center has restrooms. Other restrooms are found just across the street on the side of the Depot Building on Depot St, at Depot & Main. The village walks have places where you can buy snacks and beverages. If you do the Wiessner Woods walk, we recommend carrying your own water and a snack.

Leashed pets are welcome along all of the trails. You must clean up after them. On the Wiessner Woods walk, you are likely to meet unleashed dogs. Well-behaved dogs under good voice control are allowed to be unleashed here. But remember the wildlife hazards here: porcupines, skunks, as well squirrels and deer to chase.

## AVA SPECIAL PROGRAMS

- Rockin' Around the clock (on Stowe Community Church tower)
- Mayflower (Cape Cod Rd.)

## EMERGENCY CONTACT



## DRIVING DIRECTIONS

- From I-89, take Exit 10, and travel northbound towards Stowe. You will be on VT 100. Pass Shaw's Supermarket, and a little later Ben & Jerry's on the left. Continue on VT 100 another 9 miles to the village of Stowe.
- In Stowe, keep straight at a 4-way intersection with the Green Mountain Inn on the right. (Cars politely alternate here, as there is no traffic light.) Look for the Stowe Federated Church on the left. Pull in further driveway along the right side of the church. There is a sign here for Stowe Rec Path parking. Continue down the hill to a large parking lot. On one side, a set of stairs will take you up to the Visitor's Center (restrooms). On the other side a bridge leads you to the beginning of the Rec path.

## WALK DIRECTIONS

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

### STOWE 5 KM and 10K VILLAGE WALKS

1. From the parking area, cross a footbridge across the Little River and continue on the Stowe Recreation Path ("Rec Path"). Recent improvements have been made on the first half mile so it's not so vulnerable to seasonal flooding. You will shortly pass the Mayo Farm field. The Stowe Quiet Path goes along the side of the field, and it is a popular place for people to let unleashed dogs play, as they're required to be leashed on the Rec Path. Next you will pass the Mayo Farm event field, used for seasonal events and sports.
2. Cross Weeks Hill Rd, continuing on the path. Here it curves around following several meanders of the river before passing the parking lot for Sushi Yoshi and the West Branch Gallery & Sculpture Park. You might enjoy taking a break to look at the outdoor sculptures here.
3. Cross Town Farm Lane, towards pass Tres Amigos restaurant. **(5 km walkers: turn left on the sidewalk here to follow the road back into town. Jump to instruction #6).** Continue walking, now next to Mountain Road (VT 108). Cross a bridge over the river and head through a meadow towards Pinnacle Ski & Sports ("Pinnacle"). The Blue Donkey and Stowe Bowl are to your left.
4. After passing Pinnacle, **RIGHT** on Cape Cod Rd. You will go only a block on here before turning right into the driveway at the Jewish Community of Greater Stowe. Pass the building, and enter the parking lot for Pinnacle. Continue through the parking lot and return to the Rec Path.
5. **LEFT** on the Rec Path following it back to the Tres Amigos parking, and exit the driveway to the sidewalk on Mountain Road.
6. Follow the sidewalk along the road, passing a number of shops and eateries. Cross a cute pedestrian bridge over the river before reaching Stowe's Main St. (Green Mountain Inn on corner). **(5 km walkers, LEFT on Main, RIGHT on Park, LEFT on Pond passing the Helen Day Art Center and Library. Left on School to Main St. Cross Main, walking down the drive to the right of the church to the finish.)**
7. **(10k walkers continue here.)** **RIGHT** on Main, passing the Ski Museum on your left, Laughing Moon chocolates and Mac's Market on your right.
8. After passing the police station, cross onto the paved bike route with the river on your right. Enjoy the river which rushes through a small gorge here and passes over a waterfall.
9. The path rejoins the road near the Green Goddess Café. Cross

- VT100 carefully onto Thomas Lane. Walk up a short hill past the Copley Woodlands housing. Continue through the intersection onto Depot St.
10. RIGHT on Park Place towards the Stowe Elementary School. At the school, turn LEFT walking along the side of the Helen Day Art Center and Stowe Library. Feel free to go in and browse the art exhibits when they're open, as well as the library.
  11. Walk between the library and a the Stowe Historical society and Bloody Brook schoolhouse on your right. Pass the gazebo and exit on School St.
  12. LEFT on School St. and LEFT on Pond, passing in front of the art center.
  13. At the end of Pond St, right on Depot St. passing the Bear Pond shops on the left. Public restrooms are accessed from the street along the side of the building. Have fun browsing these shops: a country store, a bookstore, and a small café open for breakfast and lunch.
  14. RIGHT on Main St. The Stowe Visitor Center is across the street. Cross Main St. at one of several crosswalks and pass the Stowe Community Church on your left. Note the clock tower.
  15. LEFT on the driveway just past the church, and go downhill back to your car.

## Wiessner Woods trail walk/snowshoe/ski

The Wiessner Woods is a popular area for hiking, cross-country skiing, and snowshoeing, located about 3 miles up VT 108 from Stowe Village. It was donated to Stowe Land Trust in 1992 by Muriel S. Wiessner, who had wanted to preserve the land which she had owned with her husband. The area is mostly forested with a mix of hardwood and softwood trees. Stowe Land Trust maintains a network of trails in the woods. The Catamount Trail, a ski-touring trail which goes the length of Vermont, passes through this area. Beyond Wiessner Woods is a private network of trails, some of which the public may use. The walk consists of 4 km on this trail network, and then an optional 1 km along the road to a nice view of the mountains. The trails are nice to hike from mid-May to the first snows, usually early November. Snowshoeing is popular in the winter if the trails aren't too icy. If snow is abundant, this route can be done on touring skis with metal edges by someone with intermediate experience level. In this area, from early April to mid-May is usually mud season. During this time period, when trails are wet from melting snowpack, it is best not to walk on them and use this route.

### Driving Directions to Wiessner Woods.

From Stowe Village, take Route 108 (the Mountain Road) 3.5 miles to Edson Hill Road. Turn right onto Edson Hill Road, pass the entrance to Stowehof Inn and take the next drive on your right. Park in the Wiessner Woods parking lot if there is room. If the lot is full, park as far off to the side as possible, downhill from the entrance to the trail, so as not to park the private driveway above the parking area.

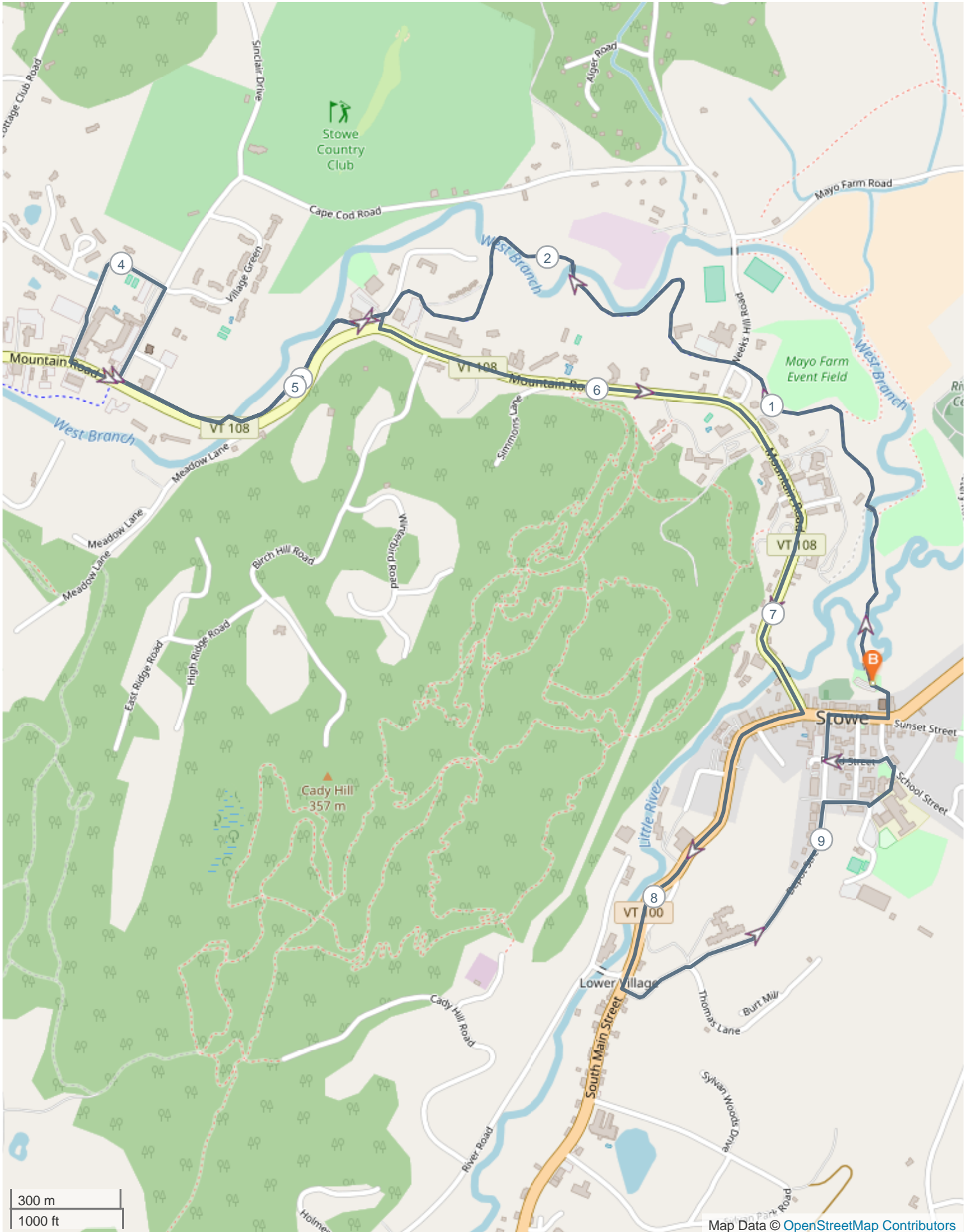
### Trail Directions

1. From the parking area, continue at the far side, cross a private driveway, and continue on the trail across a small meadow to a kiosk. Information and maps are usually available here.
2. Cross a small bridge and head uphill to a 4-way junction. RIGHT on the Hardwood Ridge Trail, following the blue blazes, which mark the route of the Catamount Trail through the area.
3. Pass the "Gnome Home", a big old stump which is adorned with a nice collection of gnomes which like to hang out in the forest.
4. Look for the Sugarhouse Loop on your right. There should be a blue trail marker on the tree nearby. RIGHT on the Sugarhouse Loop, descending, crossing a bridge, and rising up to a trail junction and stone wall.
5. LEFT at the junction, following a wider trail now.
6. LEFT at the Sugarshack Lane while a private trail continues ahead. Follow this wide trail slightly downhill, across a footbridge, then up to the Sugarhouse. It has occasionally been used for group events. If you have a 4-legged walking partner, check the mailbox to the

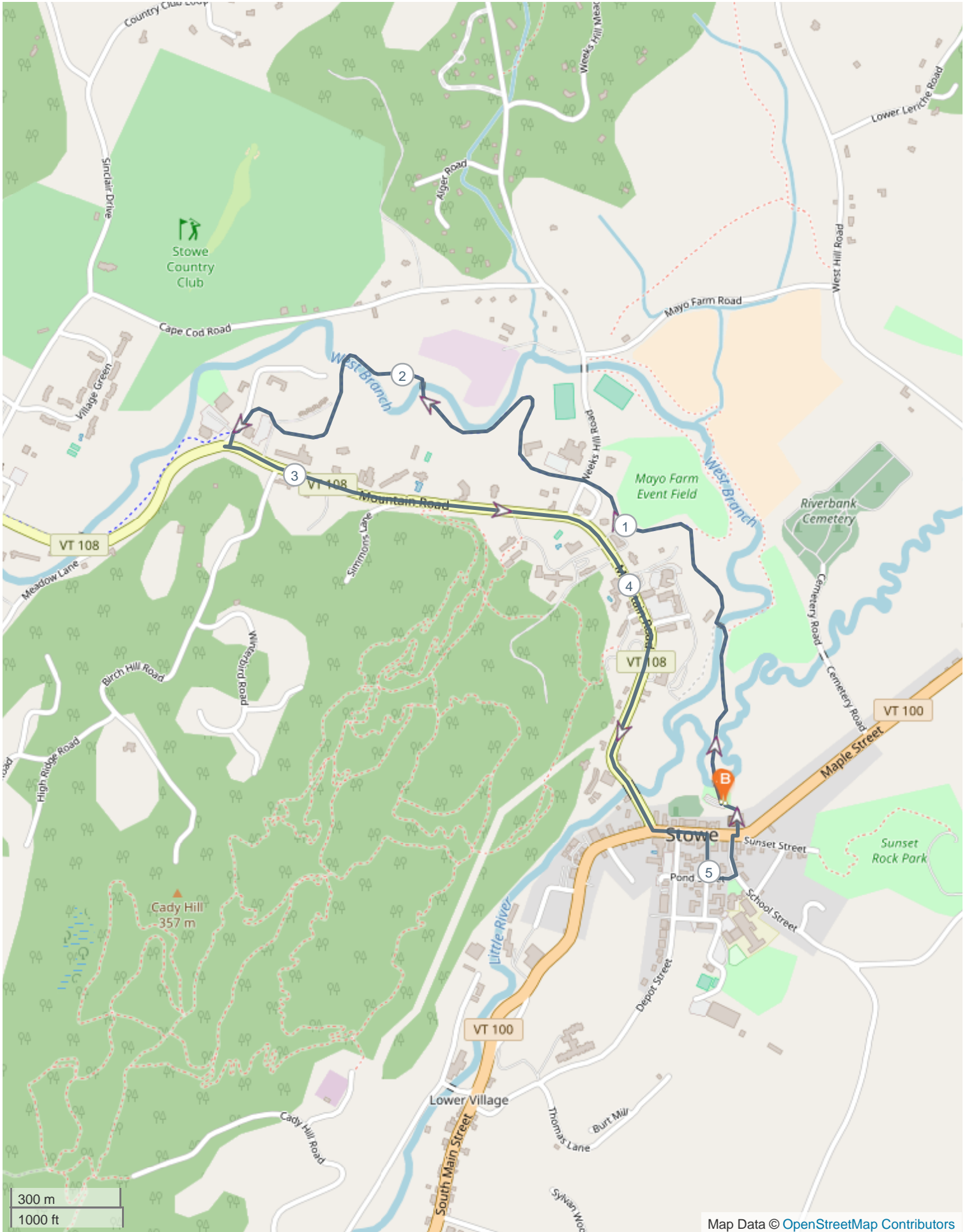
Ignore the trail leading to the right, and continue straight.

- right of the shack. Sometimes it's stocked with dog biscuits.
7. RIGHT at the Sugarhouse, then LEFT on the Catamount Trail, following blue blazes. Continue uphill passing an enormous glacial erratic. When you see a house ahead, turn LEFT with the trail, now the Founder's Trail. It goes gently uphill, passing Emily's Roost trail on the left. Shortly afterwards, look for a wooden trail sign nailed to a tree on the left. *This honors the founders of the Catamount Trail, Steve Bushey, Paul Jarris, and Ben Rose. Steve researched the route as part of a graduate thesis at U of Vermont. His friends Paul and Ben skied the route end-to-end with him in 1984, and the trail was born.*
  8. Turn around here, retracing your steps downhill. Don't forget to turn right when the Founders Trail ends. Continue back to the Sugar Shack, passing the front of it.
  9. Past the Sugar Shack, RIGHT on Sugarshack Lane, heading uphill. Ignore a few private trails on your right. At the junction of Main Street, continue straight, now on the Meadow Trail, passing a couple of other private trails. The trail winds around, briefly downhill passing a vernal pool where salamanders and frogs lay their eggs in the spring, then up another brief hill to the Meadow Overlook. Relax at the bench here, and look out at the view from the edge of the woods. Please don't go out into the meadow itself, as it is privately owned.
  10. From the overlook the trail goes alongside the meadow for a short distance, then goes steadily downhill through the woods to end at the 4-way junction you came through near the beginning of the walk.
  11. RIGHT at the junction, returning to the kiosk. Then continue across the meadow back to your car.
  12. **(You have finished 4 km of the walk here. If you want 5 km, continue with the following).** From parking, descend the driveway to its junction with Edson Hill Rd. RIGHT and walk uphill on Edson Hill Rd. (If you are on snowshoes or skis, you can follow the Catamount Trail with its blue blazes from the back of the parking area. In a short distance it will come out onto Edson Hill Rd. between the two driveways. But in the warmer months this option is usually too muddy to enjoy.) You will pass one driveway which goes into a large estate. This used to be Peterson Brook Farm, which offered guided horseback rides. Continue with the pasture on your left to the second driveway. From here, if the weather is clear, you will see a nice view of Mt. Mansfield and the other mountains surrounding Stowe. Turn around and return to your car.

# Stowe 10K 2020



# Stowe 5k 2020



# Wiessner Woods 5k

