



The Wood and Dale Wanderers Volksmarch Club
 Welcomes You to
The 2024 Leesylvania State Park Walk
 An AVA Sanctioned Year Round Event (Credit only)



This walk is composed of 5 km and 11 km trails. The 5 km loop visits sights along the Potomac River and the Lee's Woods Trail. The 11 km trail follows wooded trails, sometimes rugged, and sights along Powell's Creek and the Potomac River before venturing into Lee's Woods. Both trails are rated 2B, and stick(s)/sturdy shoes are highly recommended. In summer, consider insect repellent. Always carry adequate water.

Walk Registration:

Registration takes place online using that AVA Online Start Box, on 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.

Special Programs:

Border Crossings (2014-2023, redeem by 12/31/2024). Virginia/Maryland at fishing pier

Par for the Course (2023-2025)

Washington-Rochambeau (2022-2031). Leesylvania is birthplace of Harry Lighthorse Lee.

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Driving Directions and Walk Info

Starting Point Location:

Leesylvania State Park Visitor Center, 1225 Daniel K Ludwig Dr, Woodbridge, VA 22191.
GPS: 38.5897418,-77.2515875

From I-95: Exit 156 east (Rt 784, Dale Blvd), to US 1 (Richmond Hwy). Right on US 1 to 2nd traffic light, then left on Neabsco Rd. (Rt 610) - Wawa Station/Store on left. Neabsco Rd. to Leesylvania State Park entrance on right.

Consider stopping at the Administration Building (1st building on your right after the park entrance) for clean restrooms. Others in the park are seasonal and/or intermittent.

Continue on the main park road as it curves around under the railroad bridge to the Visitor Center (follow signs). The walk will start at the Visitor Center.

Fees: Check Virginia state parks website for fees (<https://www.dcr.virginia.gov/state-parks/parking-fees>). Expect an entry fee of \$10 (as of July 2023). Fee will be collected at entry, or you can put your fee in an envelope provided. If you plan to walk frequently or visit several state parks, consider buying a state parks pass, especially if you are a senior.

Restrooms:

- Inside Administration Building (first building on your right as you enter the park; foyer is open—best stop)

- Rear of Breakwater Store along drive to Visitor Center
- Visitor Center (intermittent)
- Other seasonal restrooms

Note:

This event also has a Physical Start Box. 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, by registering using the OSB then completing your event using the PSB nor signing 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.

Emergency Numbers:



In case of Emergency: Dial 911
Event related assistance:
Celia Miner: 571-212-0329

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

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2024 Leesylvania State Park 5/11K

There are restrooms in the lobby of the Administration Building; other restrooms are in or near the Visitor Center, at the Breakwater Store, and within the park (may be seasonal). The Breakwater Store is normally open on the weekends April, May, and October, and open weekdays/weekends June to September. Please carry water, and you may want to bring a camera and/or binoculars. Special programs: Border Crossings, Par for the Course, and Washington-Rochambeau (birthplace of Harry Lighthorse Lee – see display in Visitor Center).

Walk Instructions:

5K only: Start at the Visitor Center. Leave the Visitor Center and walk straight. Go down the steps and continue to the trail along the river's edge (Potomac Trail). Turn **← LEFT**, walking with the river on your right past a playground (***Par for the Course***) to the Freestone Fishing Pier and turn **→ RIGHT** onto the pier to view the Potomac River (camera/binocular opportunity and ***Border Crossing Maryland and Virginia***). Skip to #11.

11K:

1. Start at the Visitor Center. Facing the river in front of the Visitor Center, turn **→ RIGHT** and continue down the blacktop walk, passing restrooms (seasonal) on your left to the dirt road and bear **→ RIGHT** on the dirt road. Follow the road as it bends to the right and left to the first boat/trailer parking area.

2. Walk along the edge of the parking lot (keeping the lot to your left) to the parking lot of the Breakwater Store (restrooms). Turn **← LEFT** into the parking lot, then **→ RIGHT** on the sidewalk to pass the building to your left (restrooms/food/water when open). Continue to the next boat/trailer parking lot, **angling LEFT** to the trailhead of Bushey Point Trail at the far end.

3. Enter Bushey Point Trail (*infrequent green blazes*), keeping Powell's Creek on your left and disregarding trails to your right. At water's edge (*bench, tree stump*), turn **→ RIGHT** to cross the elevated boardwalk. (*These elevated boardwalks are necessary, since Powell's Creek is affected by tides.*)

4. Pass the sign "The Chesapeake Bay and Its Rivers...Yours to Protect," across two more raised boardwalks, and onto the path going under the railroad overpass (keep the guard rail on your right). Continue on the path with the trees on your left and the park road on your right until the trail bends left across a short boardwalk. Turn **← LEFT** to go downhill on the Bushey Point Trail, crossing a wood bridge, to the junction with Powell's Creek Trail (blue post/purple blazes).

5. Continue straight past the Eagle Scout Project bench and CAREFULLY go down the steps on the Powell's Creek Trail and turn **← LEFT** (stream on your left). **Note: Take care. This part of the trail is narrow and not as well maintained as other trails.** Cross a wooden bridge to the overlook.

6. Turn around at the overlook and bear **← LEFT** past the Eagle Scout Project bench with the bench on your right. Ignore path to left at next bench and continue to follow purple blazes. At the next trail intersection, continue straight. *The blue-blazed Potomac Heritage trail enters here from the left, so the trail now has blue and purple blazes.*

7. At the T-intersection, turn **→ RIGHT** toward the single purple blaze and post #2. Pass the deer "exclosure" and sign posts #3-6.

8. At the major trail junction (with the steps you walked down earlier), turn **← LEFT** on Bushey Point Trail, crossing the bridge, back toward the park's

blacktop road. Turn → **RIGHT** to retrace your steps on Bushey Point Trail toward the railroad overpass.

9. Continue to retrace your steps under the railroad overpass, with Powell's Creek on your right. Stay right at trail junctions, crossing the 3 elevated boardwalks until you reach the bench near the tree stump. Turn ← **LEFT** on the main trail.

10. When you exit the woods at the parking lot, bear → **RIGHT** toward the river and follow the river's edge. You will pass parking lots and the park store (restrooms) before entering the Potomac Trail (Yellow sign) as you cross a wooden bridge. Continue with the river on your right to the Freestone Fishing Pier to view the Potomac River (camera/binocular opportunity and **Border Crossing Maryland and Virginia**).

11. Retrace your steps on the pier and continue straight to Lee's Woods Trail (Red blazes), keeping the woods on your right. Enter Lee's Woods up the steps to pass the amphitheater on your left (*Stop #1. Amphitheater is on the site where a hunting and fishing lodge stood from the 1920s to the 1940s.*)

12. Continue on the trail to the Freestone Point Civil War Battery Stop (#2: *In autumn of 1861, three cannons pointed toward the river; one of several Confederate batteries along the Potomac*). Continue around the gun embankments counterclockwise, pass around a wooden fence, and turn → **RIGHT** toward Stops 3 and 4 (signs may be missing).

13. Continue to where the trail meets a wooden barricade. Turn ← **LEFT** and go downhill to the T-intersection. Turn → **RIGHT** on the trail and go uphill, turning → **RIGHT** toward stop 5 at the top of the hill.

14. Continue on the trail, disregarding the fire road on your right. At the end of the road, the trail

turns right and leads to Lee's Mansion Site (Stop #8). Follow the trail to the middle of the clearing and then downhill (Stop #9 sign). You will pass the site of the Lee's Formal Garden (*Escaped Garden*). There is a short trail loop that goes off to your right and rejoins the main trail if you'd like a closer look.

15. Continue straight (or, if you were on the garden loop, turn right) on the main trail. The trail goes up a steep hill to the Lee's/Fairfax's Cemetery site (Stop #9) and another overlook (Stop #10). If you go to the overlook, retrace your steps back to the fenced cemetery. Otherwise, turn → **RIGHT** in front of the cemetery and continue down the trail, passing the fire road and Stop #11 until the trail ends at a road. (*In the past hundred years or so, the peninsula has been used by loggers and fishermen, bootleggers and squatters. It has also been a hunting retreat and a gambling resort.*)

16. Turn ← **LEFT** on the road to go downhill toward the Trailhead as the road bends right. Pass the entrance to the amphitheater on your left. At the bottom of hill continue past the Lee's Woods Historic Trail sign, bearing right on the dirt path. Continue on the path, passing a restroom building (seasonal) on your left.

17. Continue straight on the gravel road/parking area to the Visitor Center.

Thank you for walking with us. Please walk our other year rounds in historic Manassas, Prince William Forest Park, Quantico Marine Corps Museum, Potomac Mills Mall, Dumfries/Montclair, and Manassas Battlefield Park.

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