

SPRING MILL STATE PARK YEAR-ROUND VOLKSWALK 5 /10 K



The Year-round event at Spring Mill State Park features caves, a pioneer village, lake, small waterfall, and a stroll through an old growth forest. The Park has been listed by National Geographic Traveler as one of the Top 40 State Parks in the Nation. In the past it has been rated in the nation's top 10 Volkswalks. Spring Mill State Park offers an enjoyable and educational walk for any walker, and the Park Inn has good food and good hospitality for anyone wanting to stay longer. There are primitive restrooms along the route and indoor restrooms and water at the Nature Center (located on the 10K route at approx. the 4km mark) as well as at Park Office. **If you have a dog follow the alternate route around the pioneer village.

The entrance fee to the State Park is \$7.00 for Indiana vehicles and \$9.00 for out of state vehicles payable at the gate. An annual pass is also available.

* **WE SUGGEST YOU CARRY WATER**

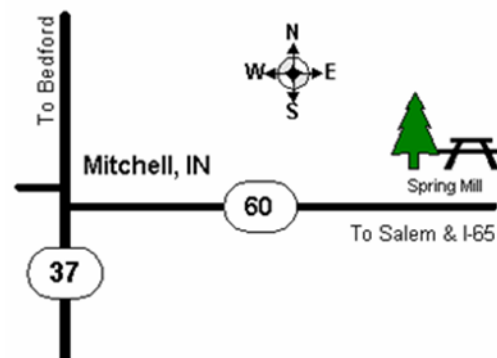
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Start Point for Check In: **Spring Mill Park Office – Adjacent to Grissom Memorial 3333 IN-60 E, Mitchell, IN 47446**

Point of Contact: Teena Ligman: e-mail tdligman@att.net Phone: 812-278-0139.
For emergencies call 911.

Lawrence County, Indiana

Spring Mill Park YR Directions: State Road 60, Mitchell IN. On SR 60 approx. 18 miles west of Salem and 3.4 miles east of SR 37/SR 60 junction just south of Mitchell. There is generally no gate fee from November through March. **The walk box is currently in the Park Office which is open 8AM – 4PM daily.** The Inn is closed for renovation so the trail has been rerouted for the next several months. If you need to walk after hours you can use an On-line check-in.



Please sign up for either the Online start box or the physical start box in the Spring Mill Park Office, not both. These walk directions and maps may only be used in conjunction with a signed American Volkssport Association athletic waiver. All other uses are prohibited.

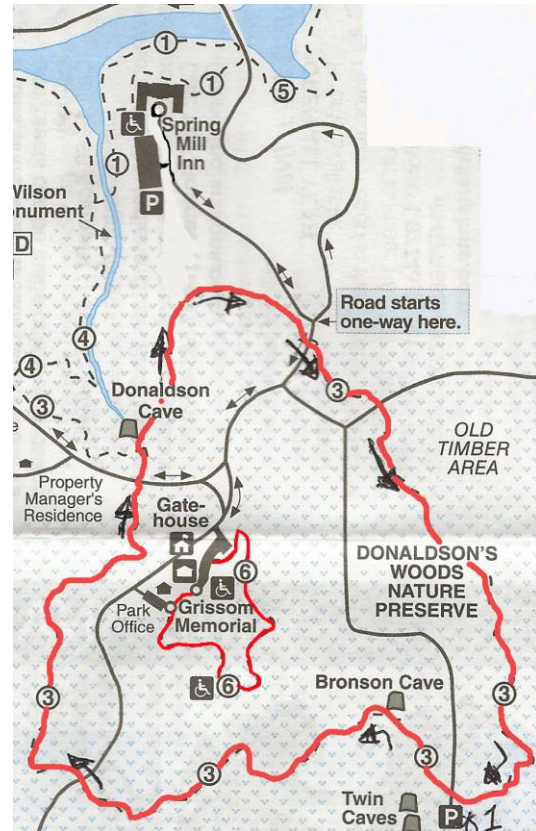
Directions for 5K walk.

1. From the Park Office walk the 0.25 paved **Trail 6** across from the Grissom Memorial. This accessible trail has Tree Identification signs

along the trail and is an easy interesting loop which brings you back to the parking lot.

2. Then **drive to The Twin Caves Parking Area**. From the Park office, turn R, then R toward the Campground, then R again to the Twin Caves Parking area.
3. Follow **Trail 3** which heads off to the right of the buildings and archway and steps down to the caves. You are welcome to walk down the steps to the caves (it's a natural window into the underground cave system), or take the boat tour in season, but it is not part of the volkswalk and is a long steep stairway. Follow **Trail 3** toward Bronson Cave. Entrance to this and other caves with one exception is prohibited. Continue on **Trail 3**, crossing two paved roads to Donaldson Cave overlook.
4. At the overlook (slightly to the right) enjoy the view. Then continue on **Trail 3**, to the next junction where you take a R and go back across the Park road. Follow the trail to the next crossing of the paved road and enter Donaldson Woods, an old growth forest. Notice the sinkholes which indicate the area is underlain with caves, and the large trees, many of which have fallen. Notice the historical marker as you come back to the Twin Caves parking lot.

Thank you for completing our 5K walk.



5K Map, Route in Red

Directions for 10K walk.

** The 10K walk has an alternate route for those with dogs. At #6, you'll take a bypass around the Village on Trail 4.

1. From the Park Office walk the 0.25 paved **Trail 6** across from the Grissom Memorial. This accessible trail has Tree Identification signs along the trail and is an easy interesting loop which brings you back to the parking lot.
2. Then **drive to The Twin Caves Parking Area**. From the Park office, turn R, then R toward the Campground, then R again to the Twin Caves Parking area.
3. Follow **Trail 3** which heads off to the right of the buildings and archway and steps down to the caves. You are welcome to walk down the steps to the caves (it's a natural window into the underground cave system), or take the boat tour in season, but it is not part of the volkswalk and is a long steep stairway. Follow **Trail 3** toward Bronson Cave. Entrance to this and other caves with one exception is prohibited. Continue on **Trail 3**, crossing two paved roads to Donaldson Cave overlook. one-third point for the VM.
4. At the overlook (slightly to the right) enjoy the view. *To do the 5K route go right and return to the Twin Caves Parking Lot. To continue on the 10K route, turn left toward Donaldson Cave. Cross two footbridges and continue to the wooden deck with steps. Use caution on the steps which are uneven and often slippery.*
5. At the steps go up to Donaldson Cave parking lot. Cross the lot passing

restrooms on the right and walk to **Trail 4's** Hamer Cemetery and Pioneer Village sign.

6. Take **Trail 4** and go past the cemetery on your left. (If interested you can walk around to the gate on the west side and visit this interesting historic cemetery) Continue straight ahead behind Hamer Cemetery with the fence on your left and restrooms on right. Continue straight ahead on main trail toward Pioneer Village. Use caution going down the steps (slippery when wet), some of the steps are quite steep. At the bottom of the hill, turn left to the village. ****Enter the village past the restroom. Enjoy the village!**
7. **** Pets are not allowed in the village.** *Alternate route: At the bottom of the hill where the restroom is, do not enter the village. Stay on Trail 4 and go back up over the next hill. You will come out by the Butternut Shelter and large parking lot. (omit numbers 8 through 10). Go straight ahead and follow directions on #11. Give yourself **11 KM** if you take this route.*
8. With the mill to your right, go straight ahead between the Hamer homes (inside stone fence). Go through the first stone archway and turn right at the center of the garden. Walk out of the garden, turn left passing the Spring House and Carriage House. But feel free to wander around and visit all the cabins in the village.
9. Turn right and cross lawn to the Meeting House. Turn right on wide paved path.
10. Turn left at blue Apothecary Shop. Follow path to the Weaver's House. Stay on the wide paved path and pass the

refreshment stand on your right and Souvenir-Gift Booth (near stream) on your left (may be closed). Seasonal restrooms are to the right.

11. Continue past restrooms and turn left at second footbridge and cross the parking lot to entrance. Cross road with caution and turn right on **Trail 2**.

12. Go up the hill and at the Y bear right past picnic tables and Clara Barton Cabin on to the Nature Center. Indoor restrooms and water are available all year.

13. On paved road in front of Nature Center, go left around the lake on **Trail 5**, (with the lake on your right), to the spillway.

14. Cross footbridge over dam and around the lake to paved road. Cross the road, leaving **Trail 5** to **Trail 1**.

15. After a few meters, you will see a sign with **Trail 1** going left or straight ahead. Continue walking straight with the lake on your right on **Trail 1** to footbridge. Cross the bridge and turn left on **Trail 4**. Walk along the stream to Donaldson Cave. This is an interesting cave though where you can investigate the opening to the cave.

16. Return to the same footbridge crossing back to **Trail 1** and the Park Road.

17. Because of the reconstruction, trails are closed around the Inn, so walk the hike/bike lane on the Park road up the hill just past the entrance to Inn which would be on your right. Cross that road and just beyond that, you'll see where **Trail 3** crosses. Follow **Trail 3** through a short stretch of woods to the next paved road and enter Donaldson Woods Nature Preserve. This old growth forest is very interesting. Notice the sinkholes which indicate the area is underlain with

caves, and the large trees, many of which have fallen. Notice the historical marker as you come back to the Twin Caves parking lot.

CONGRATULATIONS on finishing this beautiful 10K hike.

WALK COMPLETION AND CREDIT: 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, the distance walked, 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 user's Event Bank when the PDF is downloaded. Later, any PDF fees are credited back to a user's Event Bank when he/she submits the event completion info as a paying for credit participant. Note, however, the \$2 coupon for the downloaded PDF will expire in 60 days."

The Bedford Hiking Club members hope you have enjoyed the walk. Please visit our other Year-Round Event in the nearby town of Bedford, Indiana.

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10K Walk Map

