

## **Portland (EC/1347/NE2019)**

**This Event Features a 5k and two 10k Trails from the same start location.**

### **Getting There:**

**Directions: From I-91N or I-91S:** Take Rte. 9 south to Middletown. Turn right at the light under the bridge that crosses the river. Cross the bridge to Portland. Dunkin' Donuts will be on your immediate left after crossing the bridge.

**Parking space is available at the Dunkin' Donuts and adjacent lot, please uses spaces along the back of the parking lot and adjacent lots to the right, leaving space closer to the store open for short term visitors.**

**FOR IMMEDIATE EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE, CALL 911. LOCAL CLUB POINT OF CONTACT: Bob McDougall, 860-342-3062. AVA REGIONAL DIRECTOR: Chris Mellen, 978-649-7633.**

## Portland (EC/1347/NE2019)

**This Event Features a 5k and two 10k Trails from the same start location.  
You may walk any or all trails for this event.**

### TRAIL1: PORTLAND (5K/10K/5K)

Connecticut Valley Volkssport Club, AVA-784

**Welcome to Portland Connecticut!**

**FOR IMMEDIATE EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE, CALL 911.** LOCAL CLUB POINT OF CONTACT: Bob McDougall, 860-342-3062.  
AVA REGIONAL DIRECTOR: Chris Mellen, 978-649-7633.

Although Portland was established as a town in 1841, the areas' modern history began in 1672, when the Wangunk Indian tribe deeded a tract of land along the Connecticut River to the fledgling city of Middletown, which had established itself nineteen years earlier. As you walk our streets you will learn of the towns assorted and unique history from the Indian residents of the meadows, the colonial shipbuilding industry which thrived here, and the brownstone quarry industry of the late 17th through the early 20th century to our present residential community.

<b>DIRECTIONS</b>	<b>COMMENTARY</b>
1. Start: DUNKIN' DONUTS, 152 Main Street. (Rest Rooms available at start/finish)	<i>The first half mile of this walk travels the nineteenth-century business district. Small gable-to-street stores and many old houses in this area have held numerous thriving businesses over the past 150 years.</i>
2. Left on Main Street to Marlborough St. (Rt 66, first cross walk)	<i>At 26 and 28 Marlborough Street notice the Williams and Stancliff Octagon Houses, reputed to be the only set of Twin Octagon houses in the world.</i>
3. Cross Main Street, Continue straight on Marlborough St. to Cross Street (first left)	<i>East Main Street is an 1890's version of the suburban development we will see on Taylor Drive and Edgewood Road, from the 1960's-- a sudden burst of houses, removed from the owners' place of work. This was a new idea when it first came about in the later 1800's</i>
4. Left on Cross Street to Foley Rd.	
5. Left on Foley Rd. to Fairview St.	
6. Left on Fairview St. to Highland Ave.	
7. Right on Highland Ave. to Homestead Ave.	<i>As you turn on Highland Avenue, notice the 1889 Central School building on the left side of Fairview Street, it is our town office building.</i>
8. Left on Homestead Ave. to E Main St.	
9. Right on E Main St. to Spring St. (5K: continue on E Main St one block and turn left on Church Street Proceed to number 21 below, blue arrows on map).	<i>The first church in Portland, built in 1721, stood at the intersection of High and William streets, probably in the road, traffic being what it was in those days. Spring Street is so named because of a spring, shared by several Main Street homeowners of the 1800's, that ran in this vicinity. High Street also marked a similar boundary between Wangunk and English land. One of the Wangunks, Moses Cuschoy, served on the three-man surveying team that laid out the road in the 1750's.</i>
10 Right on Spring St. to High Street	
11. Left on High Street to Bartlett Street. (Cross High St at crosswalk and go left on sidewalk)	
12. Right on Bartlett to Prospect St.	<i>In the vicinity of Bartlett Street, named for Portland's beloved Rev. Moses Bartlett (1708-1766), begins the section known as Gildersleeve. Summer Street heads us into the larger portions of the Wangunk reservation, which extended to the Congregational cemetery, a half mile east. The tiny brook that passes under the road once marked the dividing line: English to the west, Wangunk to the east. You are walking into the area which was one of the earliest Indian reservations in the country, reserved to the Wangunks in 1673, then sold to the English in 1765. Indian Hill Avenue bisects the smaller part of the reservation. Most of its houses were built for and by</i>

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13. Left on Prospect St to Summer	<i>shipyard workers. The square brick store on the corner of Indian Hill and Main was Gildersleeve Store, incorporating its own post office. Once again, old houses are closer together, indicating thicker early settlement, and people who made their living in the shipyards rather than from extensive farming. Ship building began in this area around 1740, but it took an entrepreneur named Sylvester Gildersleeve (1795-1886) to make the area famous for its shipbuilding. Among other things, Sylvester Gildersleeve contracted to build the ships to send brownstone building blocks to places as far away as New York and San Francisco. Starting at Taylor Drive you enter a comfortable suburban area which includes Robert Street, Palmer Road, Hale Road and Edgewood Road was created around 1960. You will notice from the signs that settlement along this stretch goes back to the 1700's. Land along Main Street was originally dealt out to settlers in long strips, running east from the Connecticut River towards High Street. Coe Avenue, named for Captain Wellington Coe, whose house stands on the northwest corner. The land here was farmed, unlike the smaller house lots of quarrymen and merchants near the town's center. Of course twentieth century houses have filled in the streetscape. Ruth Callender House Museum of Portland History From Middlesex Avenue you see one of the nicest views in town with the National Historical Landmark Brownstone Quarry in the foreground and the award winning Arrigoni Bridge on the horizon. In some respects, you have walked backwards through time in Portland. You saw the business and residential development of the 1800's in the current "center," the farming and shipbuilding of the 1700's further north in Gildersleeve, and at the top of the area, the Native American presence, now virtually obliterated, but stretching back thousands of years. All the features of the landscape you traverse have a story to tell, so keep walking and looking! We hope you enjoyed your visit to Portland! If you have any comments, please pass them on to us c/o Bob McDougall, P. O. Box 251, Glastonbury, CT 06033-0251 (860) 342-3062</i>
14. Left on Summer to Indian Hill Avenue (cross Main St at cross walk go right)	
15. Left on Indian Hill to Taylor Dr	
16. Left on Taylor Dr to Olson Ave	
17. Left on Olson Ave to Robert	
18. Right on Robert to Palmer Rd	
19. Left on Palmer Rd to Hale Rd	
20. Right on Hale Rd to Edgewood Rd	
21. Left on Edgewood Rd to Main Street	
22. Right on Main Street to Coe Ave (fifth right)	
23. Right on Coe Ave to Coe Ave Ext.	
24. Left on Coe Ave Ext to Prout St (first right)	
25. Right on Prout St to McDonald St.	
26. Left on McDonald St to Russell St	
27. Right on Russell St to Middlesex Ave Ext	
28. Left on Middlesex Ave Ext to Middlesex Ave.	
29. Left on Middlesex Ave to Main St	
30. Turn right on Main St to DUNKIN' DONUTS, Start/Finish.	

### Specific Sites to note as you walk

<b>188 Main Street:</b>	<i>Portland Restaurant. Built in 1884 as Laverty's Saloon, after a raging fire destroyed the earlier building.</i>
<b>231 Main Street:</b>	<i>Portland Funeral Home. Frederic Hall house, built 1845.</i>
<b>245 Main Street:</b>	<i>Liberty Bank. Alfred Hall house, built 1839. The architect was the famed A.J. Davis.</i>
<b>246 Main Street:</b>	<i>Main Street Diner, House built by Joel Hall Jr. in 1805.</i>
<b>265 Main Street:</b>	<i>Old Town Hall, built as a private home in 1852 by quarry owner Jonathan Fuller.</i>
<b>269 Main Street:</b>	<i>Bank of America. This building was built in 1925, but a bank has occupied this site since 1865.</i>
<b>314 Main Street:</b>	<i>Brownstone Intermediate School, built in 1932 on the "cattle lot."</i>
<b>325 Main Street:</b>	<i>The Brainerd Sisters house, built in 1889 by their brothers' and fathers' quarry profit. The name "Stonehaven" was given to the building in 1942.</i>

<b>336 Main Street:</b>	<i>The Haynes Ransom house, a perfect example of the Carpenter Gothic style, built between 1872 and 1874.</i>
<b>345 Main Street:</b>	<i>Trinity Episcopal Church, built between 1872 and 1874.</i>
<b>381 Main Street:</b>	<i>Methodist Church built in 1853.</i>
<b>405 Main Street:</b>	<i>Elisha Covell house, built around 1855.</i>
<b>478 Main Street:</b>	<i>Deacon Samuel Hall house, built 1708 on a unique room plan, with the stairwell running from front to back. (See also 119 High Street.)</i>
<b>487 Main Street:</b>	<i>(Corner of William and Main) Note ``reindeer" in porch trim.</i>
<b>492 Main Street:</b>	<i>Ruth Callander house. Built in 1711 by Nathaniel White.</i>
<b>533 Main Street:</b>	<i>Capt. John Worthington house, built 1841, added onto in 1911.</i>
<b>554 Main Street:</b>	<i>Congregational Church, built 1850. This was the third building.</i>
<b>601 Main Street:</b>	<i>Gildersleeve Firehouse built 1889.</i>
<b>604 Main Street:</b>	<i>John Ilsley house, built 1869 on a partial foundation of John Savage house, built in 1735.</i>
<b>Indian Hill Ave:</b>	<i>is on the National Register of Historic Places due in part to its 18th and 19th century architecture, and in part to its early use as a Wangunk Indian burial ground.</i>
<b>31 Indian Hill Ave:</b>	<i>Petzold's shipyard, site of shipbuilding since the mid 1700's.</i>
<b>5 Indian Hill Ave:</b>	<i>The David Bates house, built 1779. Bates was a privateer during the Revolution. In the 1850's the house was lifted so that a tavern, called the Union Hotel, could be put in the basement. It survived until Prohibition.</i>
<b>3 Indian Hill Ave:</b>	<i>The Job Bates house; Job, David's father, built this house illicitly on Wangunk land in the 1740's, before it had been legally purchased from the tribe.</i>
<b>643 Main Street:</b>	<i>the Captain Giles Hall house, built 1714. Hall properly applied to the General Assembly to buy his 6 acres from the Wangunk.</i>
<b>646 Main Street:</b>	<i>Portland Floor and Wall, built in 1855 as Gildersleeve Store.</i>
<b>644 Main Street:</b>	<i>Gildersleeve Spirit Shop built in 1855 by Samuel Buckingham.</i>
<b>Corner of Prospect&amp;Bartlett:</b>	<i>The second Congregational Church building occupied the northeast corner of this intersection from 1748 till 1850.</i>
<b>145 High Street</b>	<i>look back over your left shoulder for a view of Hartford.</i>
<b>Corner of High &amp; William:</b>	<i>Note the brownstone marker for the first Congregational Church building, on the southeast corner.</i>
<b>119 High Street:</b>	<i>the Ebenezer Smith house, built 1708. This house has the same unique floor plan as the Deacon Samuel Hall house on Main Street.</i>
<b>49 Spring Street:</b>	<i>look slightly to your right for a magnificent view of the Arrigoni Bridge, built in 1936.</i>
<b>East Main Street:</b>	<i>the Episcopal Church cemetery. The graves in the north end were moved from the earliest graveyard near the Connecticut River so that the land could be quarried for brownstone.</i>
<b>33 East Main:</b>	<i>Town Hall (Old Central School), built in 1889.</i>

**Traffic Warnings:** *State law requires that pedestrians walk on the left shoulder of the road (facing traffic) when there is no sidewalk.*

**Places for refreshment along the trail:**

DUNKIN' DONUTS	152 Main Street.	Walgreen's Pharmacy	Main Street.
Portland Restaurant	188 Main Street.	Gildersleeve Spirit Shop	644 Main Street.
Sarah's On Main Diner	246 Main Street.		

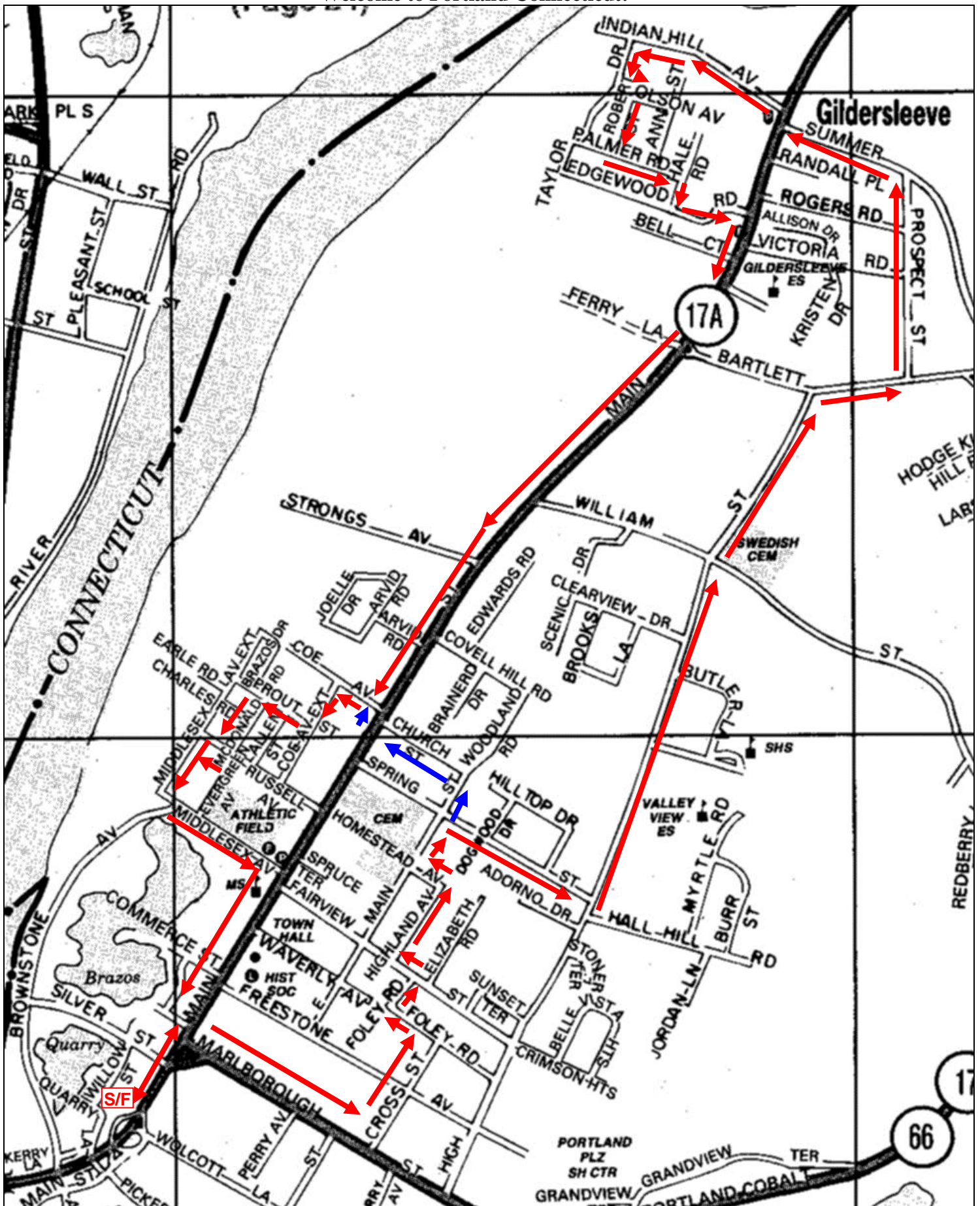
**Credits:** The Connecticut Valley Volkssport Club and the Portland Historical Society wishes to express their appreciation to Doris Sherrow for her contribution of the historical descriptions noted on this trail map.

**Questions:** Call Bob McDougall 342-3062

# TRAIL 1: PORTLAND (10K/5K)

Connecticut Valley Volkssport Club, AVA-784

Welcome to Portland Connecticut!



## TRAIL 2: MIDDLETOWN (10K)

Connecticut Valley Volkssport Club, AVA-784

**FOR IMMEDIATE EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE, CALL 911.** LOCAL CLUB POINT OF CONTACT: Bob McDougall, 860-342-3062.  
 AVA REGIONAL DIRECTOR: Chris Mellen, 978-649-7633.

DIRECTIONS	COMMENTARY
1. From DUNKIN' DONUTS turn right on Main Street towards the bridge (please watch for traffic)	This portion of the walk crosses the Arrigoni Bridge which was completed in 1938 at a cost of \$3.5 million. The bridge is 2/3 of a mile long and was build to replace the 1,300 foot 1895 two-lane plank drawbridge. The bridge has been undergone major structural repairs and repainting since 1989. Painting was
2. After crossing bridge, take the first right.	Completed in the fall of 1997 at a cost of \$6 million. The bridge is federal standard color blue number 25526.
3. Right on Spring St. to Pearl St. (first left)	As you cross the bridge to Middletown you may catch a
4. Left on Pearl St. to Liberty St (second stop sign)	glimpse of the brownstone quarries just beyond the oil tanks.
5. Right on Liberty St. to High Street	Enjoy the quite residential neighborhoods along Pearl, Spring, High Streets and Lincoln Streets, where you will see
6. Left on High Street to Lincoln Street	many homes reflecting numerous architectural styles
7. Right on Lincoln Street to Park Pl.	with many personalized variations.
8. Left on Park Pl. to Washington Street. Cross Washington St. at cross light. Go up on Veterans Way to Washington Terr.	<b>Note War Memorials in the park to your left.</b>
9. Right on Washington Terr. to Mt. Vernon ( <b>No Sign</b> )	You are now entering the Wesleyan University Campus area
10. Left on Mt. Vernon to McConaughy Dr. ( <b>No Sign</b> )	Wesleyan University, College Row, High Street
11. Right on McConaughy Dr and follow up to the Dining Hall. ( <b>No Sign</b> )	McConaughy Dining Hall, known on campus as Mocon, is the central dining hall as well as a popular spot for social events.
12. Keep the dining hall to your right and continue straight up the hill to the cemetery on left.	Off to your left is the Van Vleck Observatory which was designed by Henry Bacon. The Observatory houses the largest reflecting telescope in the state.
13. Just past the cemetery turn left and follow this around as it curves to an S. proceed straight to Church St.	College cemetery, where the first president of Wesleyan is buried.
14. Turn left on Church St to Sixth pathway and turn left.	The Library on the left is recognized as one of the finest small university library systems in the country.
15. Continue on to College Row (Judd Hall, '92 Theater, Memorial Chaple, South College and North College).	-Orange Judd Hall of Natural Science, Architects: Bryant &
16. Take the path to the right in front of North College which will take you to High Street.	Rogers, 1869-1872, Second Empire -'92 Theater/Rich Hall, 1866-1868, Gothic Revival. -Memorial Chapel, Architect: possibly G. B. Keeling, remodeled
17. Cross High St at light and turn left to Washington St.	1916 by Henry Bacon, 1868-1871 Gothic Revival
18. Right on Washington St to Pearl St (first right)	-South College, Architects: Edward Hine & Merrill Ward, belfry added by Henry Bacon 1916, 824-1825, Federal. -North College, 1824-1825, destroyed by fire and rebuilt in 1906-1907, Federal
19. Right on Peal St to College St.	You will be passing the Old Middletown High School which has been converted to alternative housing.
20. Left on College St to Broad Street.	
21. Right on Broad Street to Church St.	The houses at 49, 61 & 73 Main Street were moved to their present locations in 1977 by John Reynolds, a local preservationist. They were relocated from downtown areas slated for demolition under urban renewal.
22 Left on Church St and take the Left path onto the Green and follow this to Main St.	
23. Left on Main St to Court St.	<b>The Middlesex County Historical Society Museum</b> is in the
24. Right on Court St to DeKoven Dr.	General Mansfield House at 151 Main Street.
25. Left on DeKoven Dr to Washington St.	
26. Left on Washington to Main St	The intersection of Main and Washington is considered by
27. Right on Main St to the Arrigoni Bridge	many to be the center of downtown.
28. After crossing the bridge turn right and take the first right under the bridge as the road curves back to the Start/Finish at Dunkin' Donuts	As you cross over the Connecticut River on the bridge you will see downtown Middletown off to your right. We hope you enjoyed your visit to Middletown! If you have any comments, please pass them on to us c/o Bob McDougall, P.O. Box 251, Glastonbury, CT 06033-0251 (860) 342-3062

**TRAIL 2: MIDDLETOWN (10K)**  
Connecticut Valley Volkssport Club, AVA-784

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