

Virginia Volkssport Association
 Year Round Walk
 Damascus, Virginia
 5/10 KM Trail Directions

START POINT: SunDog Outfitter, 331 Douglas Dr
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	<p>In case of Emergency: Dial 911</p> <p>Event related assistance: Chris Kelly 804-909-9916</p>
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Table of Contents:

Section Contents	Pages
Start Information, Table of Contents, Driving Directions	1
Driving Map, Special Programs, History	2-3
Walk Directions	4-6
Walking Maps	7

Driving Directions:

From I-81 at Abingdon VA, take Exit 19. From the north, turn left on US 58 East (Jeb Stuart Highway). From the south, turn right on US 58 East (Jeb Stuart Highway). Follow US 58 East for approximately 11 miles. Turn left on East Laurel Avenue in Damascus. Continue along the right-hand curve at Damascus Dr/Douglas Dr. SunDog Outfitters will be on the right just before the road curves left, next to Subway.

Driving Map:



Special Programs:

- Appalachian Trail: Virginia
- Rails-to-Trails: #3, 7
- Walking with America's Veterans: #11
- Virginia Find the Love: #18
- Virginia Counties: Washington County

Damascus is a small town in the Blue Ridge Mountains and is the gateway to the Mount Rogers National Recreation Area. It is traversed by the Appalachian Trail, the Virginia Creeper Trail, the Trans-America National Bicycle Trail, the Iron Mountain Trail, the Daniel Boone Heritage Trail, the Crooked Road Musical Heritage Trail, Virginia's Birding and Wildlife Trail, and lies within a short distance of hundreds of miles of other horseback, hiking, and biking trails. The town is becoming a major tourist destination for those seeking a way into the wilderness.

The name of the community changed to Damascus in 1886 when General John D. Imboden purchased much of the land from the Mocks. Imboden, one of Lee's chief officers in the War Between the States, had become a land and development speculator following the war. After failed enterprises at Big Stone Gap, he came to Mock's Mill with a dream of building a "steel city" on the site. He believed that under the millions of board feet of virgin timber that covered the nearby mountains were rich and unlimited deposits of iron ore. He selected this site as "the very best in the United States for a modern 'Damascus,'

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destined to become as famous ... as its ancient namesake in Asia." The iron deposits turned out to be on the surface only and the dream was doomed. But the surface timber was another story. With an eye on millions to be made from virgin oak, chestnut, pine, and poplar, Northern capital rushed into the Damascus area.

The mountains were denuded of their forest cover. The National Lumber Magazine reported in 1912 that Washington County, Virginia, was producing more lumber than the entire state of Pennsylvania. Most of this was from the Damascus area.

The lumber boom lasted 25 short years. The creation of the United States Forest Service to conserve and restore forest resources resulted in federal acquisition of much of the land around Damascus.

Today, the spirit of trailblazing and the sense of community responsibility continue in the town. Damascus is known both as "Trail Town USA" and "the friendliest town on the Appalachian Trail." While the town does have other diverse interests, the natural world and the legacy of trail blazing still influence the course of the future.

Walking Directions:

1. Leaving the start point, SunDog Outfitter, 331 Douglas Dr walk out to Douglas Dr and the Appalachian Trail (AT).
2. Turn RIGHT and continue straight on Orchard Hill Rd when Douglas Dr curves left.
3. Immediately, turn LEFT on the Virginia Creeper/AT, walking next to the highway, to the AT marker on your right and steps on your left. (If you get to a trail or trailer park on your right, you've gone too far.)

The Virginia Creeper Trail is a Rails-to-Trails Special Program.

Decision Point:

10 KM walkers: continue with #4 below.

5 KM walkers:

Reverse your direction on the trail and continue with direction #6.

4. Continue straight on the Virginia Creeper Trail as it crosses under Mountain City Rd (SR 91) to an iron bridge (trestle). **(1 KM at the bike marker in the middle of the trail just past Mt View Tr. 1.9 KM at three wooden posts with yellow flashers)**
5. Cross the bridge and then reverse your direction on the Virginia Creeper Trail back to Damascus, going under Mountain City Rd and re-joining the AT, to Orchard Hill Rd. **(2.9 KM at the far end of the bridge, 4 KM at the green information sign, 5 KM at the AT sign)**
6. Cross Orchard Hill Rd and continue straight on the Virginia Creeper Trail across two bridges to an intersection near the caboose. **(6 KM at the beginning of the iron trestle at the first bridge)**
7. Turn LEFT on the AT, paralleling Beaverdam Ave and continue to Water Street. **(Restrooms on the left.**

You are on the Beaverdam Trail also (Rails-to-Trails Special Program).

8. Continue on the path that parallels Beaverdam Ave and walk under the AT sign to Water St. **(7 KM at the AT sign)**

9. Turn RIGHT on Water St and continue one block to the curve at Mock St. (The AT continues uphill at this point.)

10. Reverse your direction on Water St and continue two blocks to the entrance to the Damascus Veterans' Memorial on the left.

11. Turn LEFT and continue to the first path on the right. *(Walking with America's Veterans Special Program)*

12. Turn RIGHT and circle the flag poles back to the entrance walk.

13. Turn RIGHT and continue back to Water St.

14. Turn RIGHT on Water St and continue back to the entrance to the AT on the right.

15. Turn RIGHT on the AT, walk under the AT sign, and continue on the left path past the **restrooms** to the STOP sign at West Laurel Ave/Jeb Stuart Hwy.

16. Turn RIGHT on Laurel Ave and continue two blocks to Reynolds St. **(8 KM at the Speed Limit 25 sign just past Smith St)**

17. Turn LEFT on Reynolds St and continue two blocks past the Post Office to the Old Mill Inn on Imboden St.

18. Turn RIGHT on Imboden St and continue one block past the new Farmer's Market to North Shady Ave.

19. Turn RIGHT on North Shady Ave and continue two blocks to Laurel Ave.

20. Cross and turn LEFT on Laurel Ave and continue to the big right

curve at Damascus Dr. (Laurel Ave becomes East Third St at Railroad Ave.)

21. Turn **RIGHT** on Damascus Dr and continue back to SunDog Outfitters on the left. (Damascus Dr becomes Douglas Dr.) **(9 KM just before E 4th St)**

Thank The Virginia Volkssport Association wants to thank you for walking with us today. We hope you have enjoyed your day

OSB: Don't forget to log into the OSB system to complete your walk and the registration process.

Remote Registration:
Send the completed Start Card with the number of stamps needed to:

Chris Kelly
12311 Ridgefield Parkway
Henrico, VA 23233

