



## The Mon Valley Trailblazers Club Welcomes You to two West Newton Seasonal 5k/6k & 10k/11k Walks

These two AVA rated 1B walks are composed of a 5k West GAP Trail and the town of West Newton with a 1k option to the West Newton Historic Cemetery and a 10k East GAP trail with a 1k option. Both walks are starting/finishing from the same location at The West Newton Bicycle Shop, 106 West Main Street, West Newton, PA. Westmoreland County. The 5k West walk is on the GAP trail and then crosses the bridge to walk on a few streets in West Newton. The 10K East walk is on the GAP trail that begins at the West Newton Bicycle Shop, 106 West Main Street.

### **Walk Registration:**

Please use the online start box at [my.ava.org](http://my.ava.org). Follow the left side link, 'Online Start Box', and the instructions provided to sign a waiver and register for this event. The directions and insert cards are PDFs that you can download and print as needed. The POC does not provide event directions or accept alternate payment methods. The entire online process should take less than 10 minutes for a first time user. There are bathrooms at various locations throughout the town.

### **Walk Completion and Walk Credit:**

Once you have physically completed the walk, please login to your Online Start Box account and select the "Maps / Finish" tab. 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 later choose to print out.

**Table of Contents:** Use the following table to guide what portion of this document you may wish to print out.

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West Newton is located at (40.209378, -79.769157).

### Driving Directions:

**From the EAST on PA TURNPIKE:** Take I-76 W (toll road) to exit 75 for I-70 W toward Wheeling WV. Continue on I-70 W Take exit 51B for PA 31 W toward West Newton. Turn right onto PA-31 W and Continue onto PA-136 W to W Main St in West Newton, PA

**From the WEST:** Take I-70 E to PA-201 N/Rostraver Rd in Rostraver Township. Take exit 43 from I-70 E. Continue on PA-201 N. Drive to PA-136 E/W Main St in West Newton.

**From SOUTH:** Take I-79 N/US-19 N Continue on I-79 N. Take the PA-51 exit from US-119 N Continue on PA-51 N. Drive to PA-136 E/W Main St in West Newton

**From NORTH:** Follow I-79 S and I-76/PA Turnpike to US-30 E in North Huntingdon Township. Take exit 67 from I-76/PA Turnpike. Take Arona Rd to PA-136 W to W Main St in West Newton.

**HISTORY:** In the late 1700s, West Newton was an early jumping off point for travelers heading west. The abundant forests in the area provided excellent material for flatboats, barges and rafts that were launched here and went downriver to McKeesport and then to Pittsburgh and the Ohio.

The trail is on the west bank of the Youghiogheny River, with the historic

downtown just across bridge. Some businesses – including a canoe outfitter, bed and breakfast, bike shop, and restaurants with outdoor seating- are all near the trail.

Near the road crossing is a pioneer sculpture made of railroad spikes to represent the town's original settlers during the westward expansion. The downtown has quaint storefronts and small businesses. A few tucked away gems include a Victorian home on Vine Street that was once featured in the *Painted Ladies* book, the historic Plummer House (dated 1814) on South Water Street, and the ornate and serene Historic West Newton Cemetery, accessible from the trail.

West Newton, located 24.5 miles (53 km) southeast of Pittsburgh, is a borough in Westmoreland County in the U.S. state of Pennsylvania. Formerly, the manufacture of radiators and boilers were the chief industries. In 1900, the people living there numbered 2,467. In 1910, 2,880 people lived there. The population was 3,083 at the 2000 census.

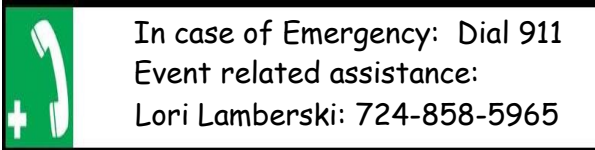
The town traces its roots to 1788, when a group of American pioneers to the Northwest Territory led by Gen. Rufus Putnam traveled overland from Massachusetts and stopped at this location to build boats. They then set out down the Youghiogheny River to the Monongahela and Ohio Rivers, ending their journey and founding the town of Marietta, Ohio. Former names of the town are Simeral's Ferry (also, Sumrill's Ferry) and Robbstown.

**Start Point:**

The West Newton Bicycle Shop for both walks. A large parking lot is available between the bike shop and the trail/river.”

**Restrooms:**

Restrooms are available at the trailhead 24/7 and throughout the town.

**Emergency Numbers:**

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

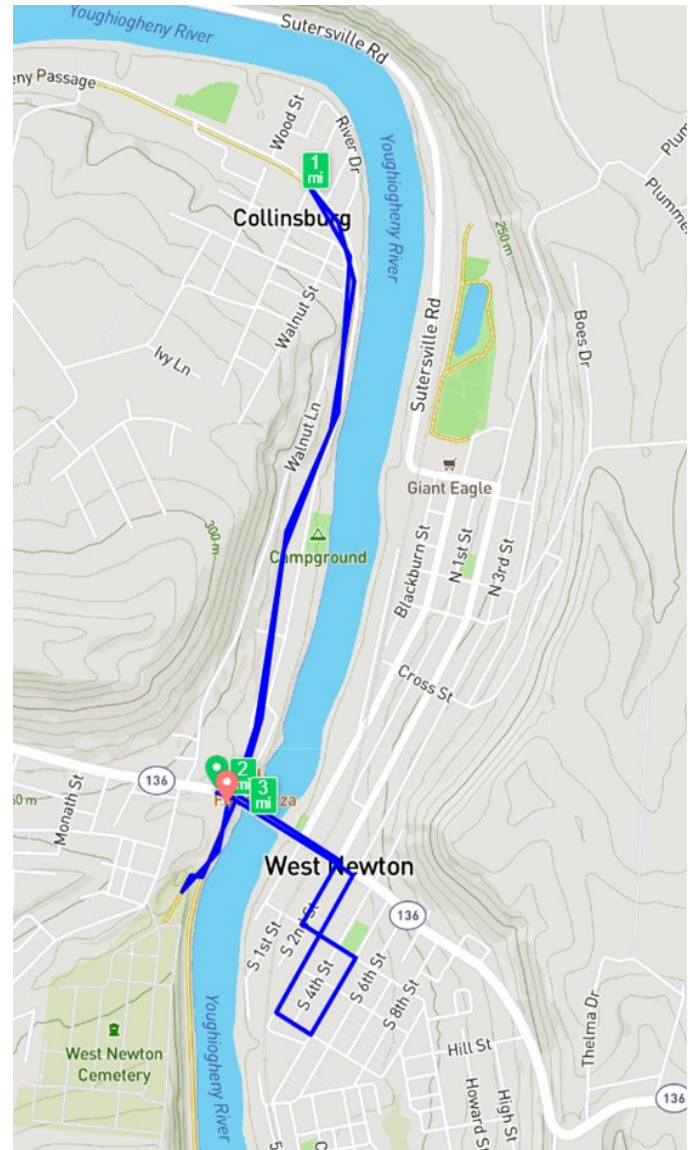
**Walking Instructions:****Begin 5k**

- 1) Exit the West Newton Bicycle Shop, turn left and cross Main Street entering the GAP trail and head west.
- 2) At the first stop sign continue straight on the GAP trail.
- 3) At German Street and Collinsburg Road (stop sign) turn around and walk back to the Visitor's Center.
- 4) You will pass St. Paul's AME Church and the Yough Canoe Outfitters where you can get drinks, rent bikes, canoes and kayaks.
- 5) At the Visitor's Center note the Blue Star Memorial Plaque.
- 6) Pass the Railroad car built in 1914, this is a P & LE RR combination passenger and baggage car.
- 7) At the stop sign at Main Street (unmarked) turn left and cross Collinsburg Road.
- 8) Cross the bridge, cross Water Street at the end of the bridge, continue on Main Street and safely cross the Railroad tracks. Cross Second Street. At the intersection light cross Main Street, turn left and continue on Main Street for one block.
- 9) Turn Right on to Third Street. (Take note of the three Historic Yellow Brick homes on this block).
- 10) Continue on Third Street. Cross Vine Street (Lutheran Church on the corner). Continue on Third Street.
- 11) Turn Left at Penn Street.

- 12) Continue on Penn Street. (Cross Fourth Street).
- 13) Turn Left on to Fifth Street (Take note of 217 5<sup>th</sup> Street-Red House on the corner). Continue on Fifth Street.
- 14) Cross Vine Street, (Baptist Church on the corner). Turn Left onto Vine Street.  
  
(This was the location of the old West Newton High School, the old school bell is on display. The Gym remains as a community center.)
- 15) Continue on Vine Street.
- 16) Turn Right on Second Street (at the Post Office).
- 17) Turn Left on to Main Street.
- 18) Continue on Main Street, safely cross the Railroad Tracks, back to and Cross the bridge to the finish at the West Newton Bicycle Shop.
- 19) Optional 1k: At the end of the bridge turn Left and cross Main Street.
- 20) Continue east (left) on the GAP trail to the West Newton Historic Cemetery.
- 21) After touring the cemetery, return to the GAP trail.
- 22) Turn left on the GAP trail, finish back at the start point at The West Newton Bicycle Shop.

#### End of 5k with 1k Option

The Mon Valley Trailblazers hope that you enjoyed the walk.





**The Mon Valley Trailblazers  
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Welcomes You to two West  
Newton  
Year Round 5k/6k & 10k/11k  
Walks**

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### 10K/11K Walk Instructions

**Start Point:**

The West Newton Bicycle Shop for both walks.

**Restrooms:**

Restrooms are available throughout the town and 24/7 at the Visitor's Center..

	<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>Emergency Numbers:</u></b></p> <p>In case of Emergency: Dial 911. Event related assistance: Lori Lamberski: 724-858-5965</p>
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- 1) Exit the West Newton Bicycle Shop. Cross the parking lot and enter the GAP to the right to start the 10K.
- 2) Right after the 5k/10k Start Marker on the Right is the entrance to the West Newton Cemetery built in 1852. This is the 1k optional.

No dogs are allowed in the cemetery.

- 3) Return to the GAP trail and turn Right to continue the walk.
- 4) Pass Buddtown on your left.
- 5) Pass the Banning #4 Mine on the Right. (Note the slag hills)
- 6) Continue the walk to the 10k turnaround marker and return to the West Newton Bicycle Shop to complete the walk.

End 10k

The Mon Valley Trailblazers hope you have enjoyed the walk.

10K Walk on the GAP

