

KENT TRAIL DIRECTIONS (5K and 10K, #2180)
Connecticut Valley Volkssport Club

City/State	Kent, CT
Event Name	Kent – Village
Event Type	Seasonal (4/1/2020 – 12/31/2020), using OnLine Start Box
Event ID	Y2407
Award	IVV Credit Only
Rating	1A
Distance	5/10 km
Strollers?	Medium
Wheelchairs?	Medium
Pets	Yes
Restrooms	Yes – Davis IGA
Sponsor Club	Connecticut Valley Volkssport Club
POC	Eileen Anderson, eilande@comcast.net, 203-314-5401. P.O. Box 251, Glastonbury, CT 06033
Start Point/Driving Directions	Davis IGA Parking Lot: From I-91N or I-91S: Take I-84W to Rt. 8N to exit 38. Take Rt. 109W through Morris to Rt. 209N, and then Rt. 202W through Bantam to Rt. 341 in Woodville. Take Rt. 341W through Kent. At Rt. 7 (Civil War monument at intersection), turn right onto Rt. 7N and turn right onto Kent Green Blvd.
Event Information	Kent is primarily residential with some small industry and farms. There are a variety of shops, seven art galleries, antique shops and restaurants in the village center. Kent is also a perfect destination for a scenic fall drive. The walk includes the private, co-educational college preparatory Kent School campus. The school, founded in 1906 and affiliated with the Episcopal Church, currently has just under 600 students. Its academic program is well-regarded, as are its crew teams.
Hours	Dawn to dusk
Special Programs	Little Free Libraries, Rockin' Around the Clock, Walking the USA A - Z
Comments	A short drive from the Start Point are the Sloane-Stanley Museum with Kent Iron Furnace on its grounds and the Connecticut Antique Machinery Association museum.

Post-Amble:

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 biked, the distance biked, 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.).

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AVA Special Programs: *Walk the USA: A-Z*

FOR IMMEDIATE EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE, CALL 911. LOCAL CLUB POINT OF CONTACT: Eileen Anderson, 203-314-5401. AVA REGIONAL DIRECTOR: Chris Mellen, 978-649-7633.

DIRECTIONS	COMMENTARY
BOTH 5K and 11K WALKERS:	
1. START POINT: 0.3 mi. north of intersection of Rt. 341/Maple St. and Rt. 7/Main St.): DAVIS IGA supermarket (27 Kent Green Blvd.) parking lot (north of railroad tracks). Note: Restrooms are no longer open to public, but the Kent Welcome Center off No. Main St. on Railroad St. has restrooms (and showers!)	Davis IGA is set way back from and on the east side of Rt. 7/Main St. and can be reached by either of two short entrance roads from No. Main St., marked with Kent Green signs. One of the entrances is opposite the Fife 'n Drum Restaurant and the one slightly north is at the Cozzy's Pizzeria.
2. Leaving the parking lot as you face the IGA, walk to the right (south) toward Post Office. Just before the next building (Kent Town Hall), turn right on asphalt walk (left side of Greenward Way) to return to No. Main St. The Fife 'n Drum Restaurant will be in front of you. To your right is the Kent Green and Morrison Gallery, with its contemporary Peter Busby steel sculptures (e.g., bull, whale tails, bear).	Kent's population is just under 3,000. It continues to be one of Connecticut's draws for people, many from New York, seeking a rural and cultured home (e.g., former U.S. Secretary of State Henry Kissinger, fashion designer Oscar de la Renta and <i>Cheers</i> actor Ted Danson are among them) or tourists seeking a quintessential New England town, particularly in fall foliage season. Peter Busby's large steel sculpture of Abraham Lincoln's horse can be seen along the east bank of the Connecticut River, on our Hartford volkswalk route
3. Take left on No. Main St. Cross railroad tracks. Note the Kent Welcome Center has restrooms on your left. Just past the Kent Station Square, take the crosswalk carefully across No. Main St. to Lane St.	The railroad came through in the early 1840s, when the town center moved here from the 18 th C. "Flanders" district (including its 18 th C. Kent Historical Society-owned Seven Hearths house (1751), two miles north. The Housatonic Railroad station, now a pharmacy, was built about 1872. The Kent Pizza Garden Pasta & Grill set back from the road on your left is a great, moderately priced spot for lunch or dinner.
4. Proceed down Lane St. Turn left on Elizabeth St. and proceed to stop sign on Bridge St./Rt. 341.	Rt. 341 is named "Maple St." just east of Rt. 7, "Bridge St." between Rt. 7 and the Housatonic River, and "Macedonia Rd." just west of the river.
5. Cross Bridge St. at crosswalk and turn right. Cross the bridge over the Housatonic River.	The 149-mile long Housatonic River starts in the Berkshire Mountains of western Massachusetts near Pittsfield and empties into Long Island Sound at Stratford and Milford Points.
6. Note the Kent School campus on your left. <i>Our route no longer includes the campus, due to COVID restrictions in 2020.</i>	Kent School, founded in 1906 , is a highly ranked co-ed boarding and day school for grades 9-12, plus a Post Graduate year. Enrollment is approximately 500 students from 35 states and 40 countries. Tuition in 2019 was about \$68,000 for boarding students (90% of student body) and \$48,000 for day students.
7. Cross Bridge St. (now called Rt. 341/Macedonia Rd.) at the blinking light VERY CAPEFULLY to left (west) side of Skiff Mountain Rd., which runs north along the Housatonic River.	

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<p>8. On your left as you walk north on Skiff Mountain Rd., you will pass the Kent School rowing center and boathouse. Walk on left side of Skiff Mountain Rd., keeping Housatonic River on right. You will pass Kent School field house, athletic fields, Bourke Racquet Center tennis and squash courts, and farther down, the cluster of about a dozen Faculty Village houses on left side of Smith Mountain Rd. ("SMR"). Continue walking past Faculty Dr.</p>	<p>Kent School is well known for its athletics. It competes against other prep schools such as Loomis Chafee, Choate Rosemary, Avon Old Farms, Pomfret School, the Gunnery, Hotchkiss School, Taft School, and out of state schools such as Deerfield Academy and Phillips Exeter. Its crew teams, both girls and boys, have won many championships in the U.S. and England.</p>
<p>5K WALKERS: TURN-AROUND at the beige Faculty Village house at # 67 SMR (with a black mailbox) on your left, and retrace your steps back to Rt. 341/Macedonia Rd./Bridge St. Skip to #12</p>	
<p>9. For the 11K route, proceed past the Faculty Village houses on Skiff Mountain Rd. to the light green sign, "Appalachian National Scenic Trail" on the right, where the dirt River Rd. goes down. Cross road carefully and proceed down River Rd. You will have great views of the Housatonic River for a while. You will pass a yellow One-Lane Bridge sign and a marker down the road on the right for the grave of Civil War veteran, John Rogers, who died in 1894. Gradually you'll lose sight of the river.</p>	<p>If you wish to later hike the Connecticut Valley Volkssport Club's volkswalk on the Appalachian Trail, you would drive down River Rd. at the Appalachian National Scenic Trail sign to the volkswalk Start Point, which is at the St. Johns Ledges parking area/iron swing gate (late May-early Sept.) or at the AT South Gate Kiosk a mile further (mid-Sept.-early May). Registration is via AVA Online Start Box.</p> <p>This section of the AT is the flattest and the longest riverside stretch of the 2,200-mile Maine-to-Georgia hiking trail, and home to bald eagles and other interesting birds.</p>
<p>10. In about 2.7k/1.7 mi. you will come to a very small area along the road for hiker parking. You will see the small AT sign indicating "South" on your left, and just ahead two large white signs (English and Spanish) "Welcome to the AT National Scenic Trail Stanley Tract Natural Area" and then an iron swing gate. This is where the AT comes down from St. Johns Ledges up on your left/northwest to join River Rd. This is the TURN-AROUND point for our 11K walk. See commentary to right.</p>	<p><i>In another 1.6k/1 mi. from St. Johns Ledges parking area, River Rd. will end at the AT south gate trailhead kiosk. Here the AT becomes a narrow wooded path again. Walkers who wish to go out and back to this trailhead would add a total of 3.2K to their walk.</i></p>
<p>11. Retrace your steps back to the start of River Rd. Turn left to retrace your steps back down Skiff Mountain Rd. to Rt. 314/Macedonia Rd.</p>	

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BOTH 5K and 11K WALKERS:	
<p>12. Turn left on Rt. 314/Macedonia Rd./Bridge St. and proceed to Rt. 7/Main St. Note the Civil War obelisk monument in the middle of Main St.</p>	<p>The Swyft restaurant (downstairs from the fancier Ore Hill restaurant) across the street from the Episcopal church offers light meals, like wood-fired pizza and craft beers. These restaurants are housed in the carefully restored (in 2016) Swyft-Bull House (built 1781), named after the families who previously owned it. It has served as a temporary place of worship, a lubritorium (servicing early automobiles, not what you think!), pharmacy, and ice cream parlor.</p>
<p>13. Turn left and walk north on No. Main St. through the town, noting the elegant Victorian homes built from 19th century iron industry wealth, now repurposed to serve locals and tourists as boutiques, art galleries, eateries and inns. Enjoy some ice cream, pastry, coffee, etc. at Kent Coffee and Chocolate Company on the left side of No. Main St.</p>	<p>If time permits, the Sloane-Stanley Museum and Kent Iron Foundry (open May-Oct., Fri.-Sun., 10 am-4 pm.), as well as the Connecticut Antique Machinery Association museum (open May-Oct., Wed.-Sun., 10 am-4 pm.), located less than a mile north of the Davis IGA on Rt. 7, merit a visit for insights on the town's industrial and farming past. As the iron industry died out in Connecticut, the land that had been cleared to supply fuel for the iron furnaces gave rise to prosperous dairy farms until the mid-1900s (when huge Mid-western farms took the lead in the farming industry).</p>
<p>14. Turn right on Greenward Way across from the Fife 'n Drum Restaurant, or take the right a block farther up at Kent Green Blvd. at Cozy's Pizzeria, to return to the DAVIS IGA Start Point.</p>	<p>While you are in the area, consider hiking and picnicking at beautiful nearby Kent Falls (north on Rt. 7) or Macedonia Brook State Parks (west on Rt. 341 and north on Macedonia Brook Rd.). To the south right off Rt. 7 is also Bull's Covered Bridge and a hiking trail around First Light's Spooner Island.</p>

