

Virginia Volkssport Association  
Seasonal Walk 4/1 to 9/30  
**Bluefield, WV**  
**5/10 KM Trail Directions**

**START POINT:** Lotito City Park, 1780 Stadium Dr  
**GPS:** 37° 14' 57.6" N, 81° 14' 43.3" W  
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	<b>Emergencies or Safety Concerns: Call 911</b> Directions Contact: Sandy Croushore, (757) 532-3468
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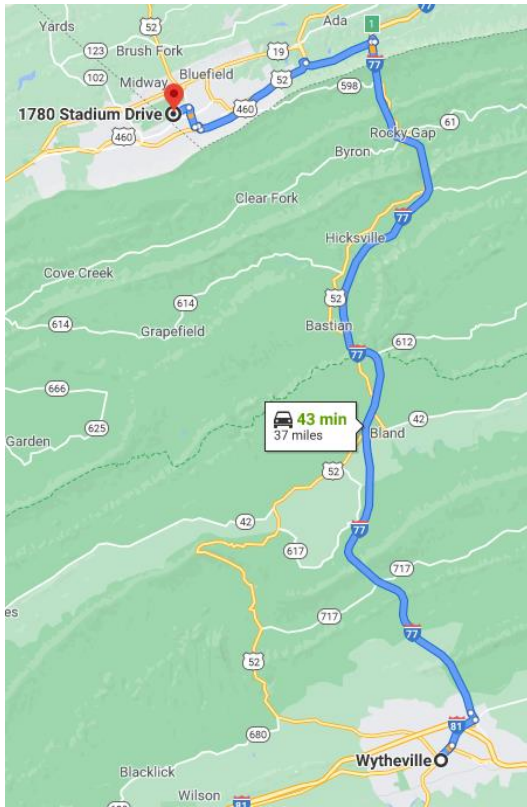
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**Driving Directions:**

1. From I-81, take Exit 72 to I-77 N toward Charleston, WV and continue through two tunnels to Exit 1 just after the second tunnel.
2. Continue on US 52 N toward Bluefield for about 2.7 miles to the merge with US 460W.
3. Merge onto US 460 W for about 4.1 miles to Cumberland Dr exit (Co Rte 21/1).
4. Turn RIGHT onto Co Rte 21/1 and continue on W Cumberland Dr for about 0.2 mi to Maryland Ave.
5. Turn RIGHT on Maryland Ave and continue about 0.7 mi to Stadium Dr.
6. Turn LEFT on Stadium Dr and continue to the Bluefield High School sign on your right.
7. Turn RIGHT into the parking lot and park in front of the train.

**Restrooms** available at the tennis courts.

## Driving Map:



## Special Programs:

Border Crossings: #1, 5

Rockin' Around the Clock: #4, 14 (10 KM only)

Virginia Counties: Tazewell

Walking the United States: Virginia and West Virginia

Walking the USA A-Z: "B" for Bluefield

Walking with America's Veterans: #17 (10 KM only), 22

*The European-American history of Bluefield began in the 18<sup>th</sup> century when two families settled in a rugged and remote part of what is now southern West Virginia. Others joined them and they built a small village with a mill, a church, a one-room schoolhouse, and a fort for defending the settlement against invasions by the Shawnee Native American tribe, which had a village on the banks of the Bluestone River.*

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

*In 1882, the descendants of the two families sold a portion of their land, when Captain John Fields of the Norfolk and Western Railway pioneered the area and began building a new railroad through the hills of Bluefield. The city is traditionally thought to be named after the chicory flowers in the area, which give the fields a purplish blue hue during the summer. Research has shown that this settlement was probably named for the coal fields that were developed in the area of the Bluestone River.*

*In the late 19<sup>th</sup> century, the Norfolk and Western Company selected Bluefield as the site for its headquarters and repair center, which greatly stimulated the town's growth. With a strong ethnic community, Bluefield was the site of the 1895 founding of Bluefield Colored Institute, an historically black college. It developed as today's Bluefield State College, known as "The Whitest Historically Black College in America."*

*On the Virginia side, the town developed around a small post office named "Pin Hook" in the 1860s, named for a small creek that ran through the community. For a brief time it was known as the community of Harman, after a Civil War hero from the area who had been shot during the Battle of Cloyd's Mountain in Pulaski County. Later, after coal was discovered and a company was formed to build a railroad to the Pocahontas Coalfields, the name was changed again to "Graham" to honor Col. Thomas Graham, a Philadelphia capitalist.*

*The Norfolk and Western railroad chose Bluefield over Graham as the place to build its headquarters. As a result, Bluefield grew faster than did Graham.*

*Graham operated under that name until a referendum on June 10, 1924, voted to change its name to Bluefield, Virginia. The name change was celebrated in a mock marriage ceremony held in the city park between officials in both towns, to celebrate the renaming of Graham.*

*The Bluefield Blue Jays, a minor league baseball team, play their home games at Bowen Field, a stadium that serves both Bluefields. Although the park is operated by the West Virginia city, the stadium lies entirely within Virginia.*

### **Walking Directions:**

1. Facing the train, turn LEFT, passing the tennis courts, to Bowen Field.

*At the back of the caboose, you are crossing into Bluefield, Virginia (Border Crossings Special Program)*

2. Turn LEFT toward the tank and continue to the roadway, keeping the fence for Bowen Field to your right.

3. Turn LEFT on the roadway and continue to the T-intersection at Stadium Dr, keeping the Beaverpond Creek to your right.

4. Cross and turn RIGHT on Stadium Dr and continue to the T-intersection at College Ave.

*There is a clock in the tower for Bluefield College on your right (Rockin' Around the Clock Special Program)*

5. Turn LEFT on College Ave and continue about a kilometer to the second traffic signal at Maryland Ave. **You return to West Virginia at the first traffic signal. (1 KM at the first traffic signal, 2 KM at the second traffic signal)**

6. Turn LEFT on Maryland Ave and continue one block to the traffic signal at Augusta St.

7. Turn RIGHT on Augusta St and continue several blocks to the STOP sign at East River Ave/North St.

### Trail Split:

**10 KM walkers**—Continue with Direction #8 below.

#### **5 KM walkers:**

A. Bear LEFT on North St for one block to Woodland Ave.

B. Turn LEFT on Woodland Ave and continue one block to Frederick St.

C. Continue with Direction #20.

8. Turn RIGHT on East River Ave and continue to the STOP sign and flashing red light at College Ave.

9. Cross and turn RIGHT on College Ave and continue one long block to Dearborn Ave. **(3 KM at Bluefield Fitness and Recreation Center)**

10. Turn LEFT on Dearborn Ave and continue uphill one block to Albemarle St.

11. Turn LEFT on Albemarle St and continue five blocks to the T-intersection at Jefferson St. **(4 KM at 516 Albemarle St)**

12. Turn LEFT on Jefferson St and continue three blocks to South St, just past D. G. Javier, MD on your right.

13. Turn RIGHT on South St and continue three blocks to the T-intersection at Bland St.

14. Cross and turn LEFT on Bland St and continue to the Y-intersection at High and Federal St. **(5 KM at the traffic signal just past Union St)**

*Clock at the Chamber of Commerce at the corner of Bland and High (Rockin' Around the Clock Special Program)*

15. Bear RIGHT on Federal St and continue to the second traffic signal (nonfunctioning) at Raleigh St. You will pass the Federal Bldg with a flagpole on your right. **(6 KM at Scott St)**

16. Turn LEFT on Raleigh St and continue one block to Bland St (no sign).

17. Cross and turn LEFT on Bland St and continue to the second traffic signal at North St. **(7 KM at Ridge St)**

*Veteran's Memorial mural on right at Intuit Alorium Employee Parking Lot (Walking with America's Veterans Special Program)*

18. Turn RIGHT on North St and continue one block to Roy Ave.

19. Cross and turn RIGHT on Roy Ave and continue one block to Frederick St.

**5 KM walkers** rejoin here:

20. Turn LEFT on Frederick St and continue to the T-intersection with STOP sign at Maryland Ave. **(8 KM at Woodrow St)**

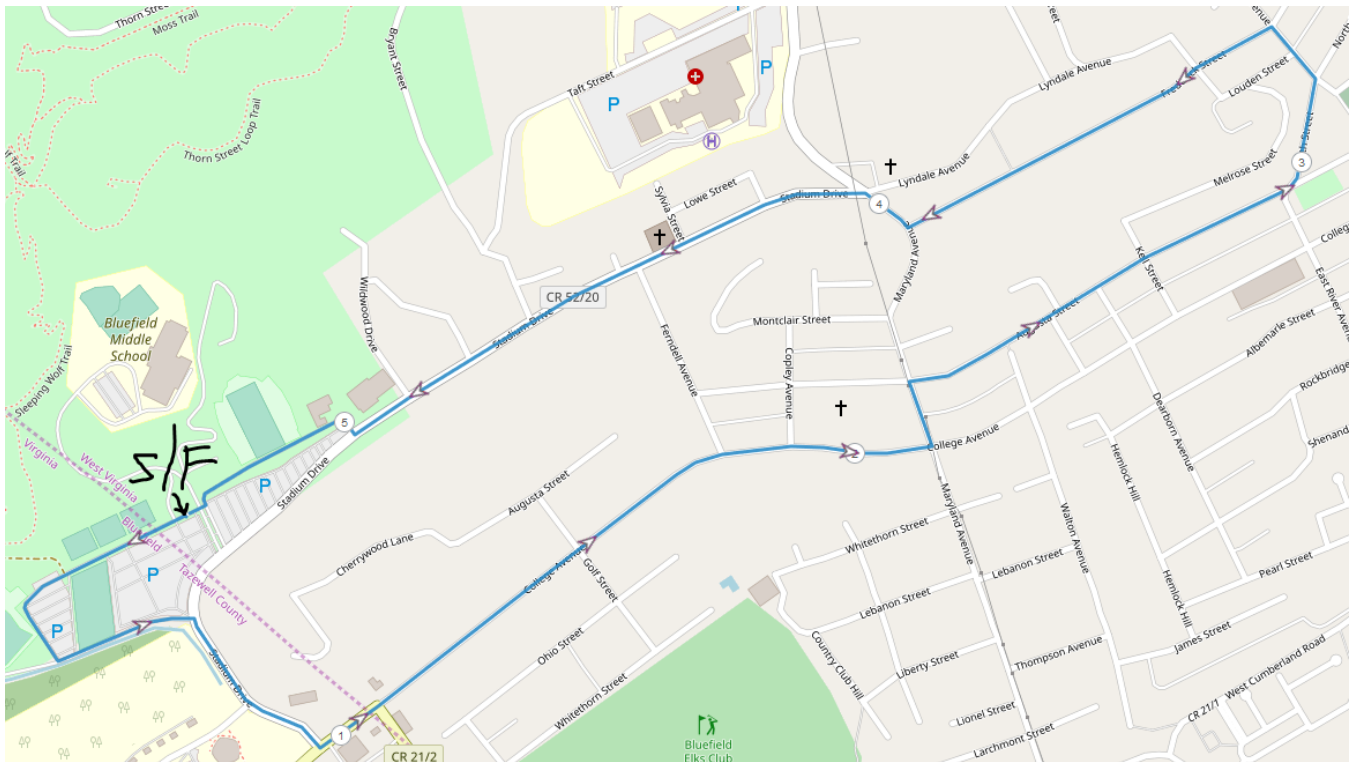
21. CAREFULLY cross and turn RIGHT on Maryland Ave and continue to the first street on your left, Stadium Dr.

22. Turn LEFT on Stadium Dr and continue to the parking lot just past the Bluefield College Wellness Center. (9 KM at Bluefield First Church of the Nazarene on the right)

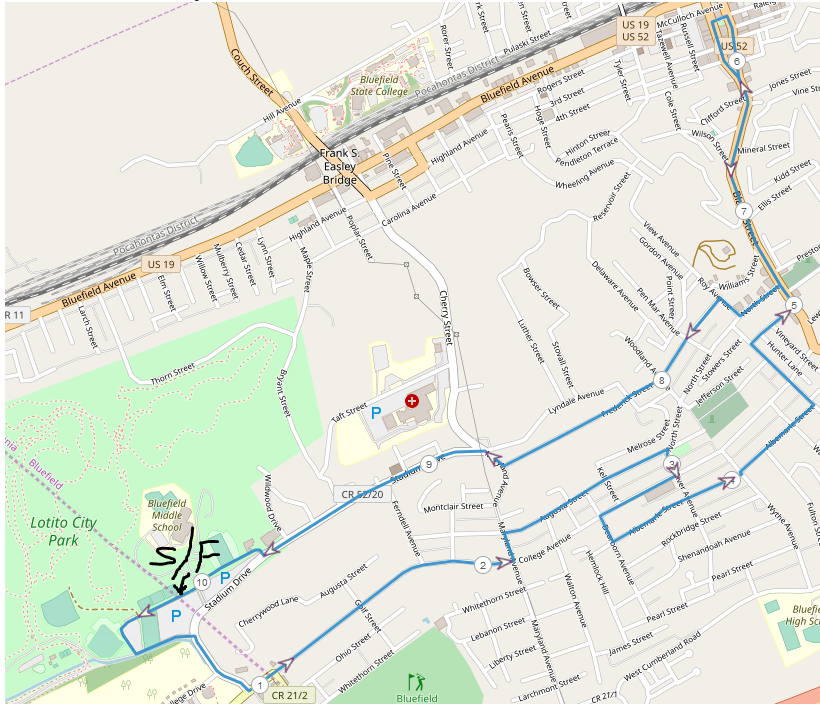
*American Legion Post 9 at 1780 Stadium Drive (Walking with America's Veterans Special Program)*

23. Continue on the right side of the lot and return to your vehicle.

**5 KM Map:**



## 10 KM Map:



### Walk Completion and Credit:

Once you have 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 to select the applicable AVA Special Programs, to generate stamped "virtual" insert cards that you may later choose to print out.