



The Mon Valley Trailblazers Club of SW Pennsylvania
Welcomes You to the
John C. Oliver Multi-Purpose Trail at M.K. Goddard State Park
Mercer County

The Loop around Lake Wilhelm 5K, 10K walks are rated 1A. Both trail surfaces are blacktop with the 5K starting at the trail parking lot located southwest of the park office on Lake Wilhelm Road and follows the North Loop, and the 10K starts at the bait shop on the South Loop near the Marina, east side of Lake Wilhelm Road on the South Loop of Lake Wilhelm Road. At the Marina, you have opportunities to rent kayaks, boats, and paddleboats. Note that while there is a snack shop at the marina and restrooms at various points along the trail, there are no public water fountains, so plan accordingly.

Walk Registration: Please use the online start box provided by AVA at website (<https://my.ava.org>). Follow the 'Online Start Box', and the instructions provided to sign a waiver and register for this event. Follow directions to make payments for event credit and directions. 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.

Walk Completion and Walk Credit: Once you have physically completed the walk, please login to your Online Start Box account and select the "Finish Table" 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.

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Driving Directions to Lake Wilhelm: GPS coordinates: N41 25.580/W80 08.836.

From the North: Take I-79 South and get off at Exit 141 (Rt. 285). Go west approximately $\frac{1}{4}$ mile to Rt. 19. Take Rt. 19 South to Georgetown Road. Take Georgetown Road to Lake Wilhelm Road. Go South on Lake Wilhelm Road to your destination at Lake Wilhelm, 684 Lake Wilhelm Road, Sandy Lake, PA 16145 (724) 253-4833.

From the South: Take I-79 North, take Exit 130 for SR 358 toward Greenville/Sandy Lake. Head northwest on SR 358 W, and go 0.5 mile. Take a slight right onto Sheakleyville Road, and go 1.1 miles. (Sheakleyville Road angles to the right off Rt. 358) Then turn right onto Lake Wilhelm Road, and go 1.7 miles. To reach the trailhead at Lake Wilhelm Marina turn right into the access road for the marina, which is straight ahead in another 0.2 mile. Lake Wilhelm, 684 Lake Wilhelm Road, Sandy Lake, PA 16145 (724) 253-4833.

Your Destination Start Point at Lake Wilhelm:

For the 10K Walk Start Point: Trailhead starts at the bait shop on the south side of Lake Wilhelm Road and south of Lake Wilhelm.

For the 5K Walk Start Point: Trailhead starts at the hike/bike trail parking lot located southwest of the park office on Lake Wilhelm Road.

Seasons: Year-round

Other trail users: Bicyclists, snowmobilers on the trail section north of the lake, and cross-country skiers on the trail section south of the lake.

Canine compatibility: Leashed dogs permitted, must clean up after your pooch.

Land status: State Park

Fees and permits: No fees or permits required

Maps: Park map available by contacting Maurice K. Goddard State Park; USGS Hadley and New Lebanon

Trail contacts: Maurice K. Goddard State Park, 638 Lake Wilhelm Road, Sandy Lake, PA 16145-8715; (724) 253-4833; www.dcnr.state.pa.us/stateparks/parks/mauricekgoddard.aspx

Special considerations: PORTIONS OF THIS HIKE RUN ACROSS PARKLAND THAT'S OPEN TO HUNTING - CAUTION: WEAR BRIGHT ORANGE DURING HUNTING SEASONS.

Guidelines For A Safe Hike

The following guidelines will help ensure a safe and enjoyable hiking/biking experience while at the park.

- Check the weather before you hike. It is not safe to hike in thunderstorms or when heavy snow is expected.
- Wear sturdy shoes to protect your feet.
- Carry the proper safety equipment like a poncho, first aid kit, and a whistle.
- Carry drinking water. DO NOT drink from streams, springs, or lakes without properly treating the water first.
- Observe wildlife from a safe distance. Do not try to get close to wild animals.
- Stay on the trail. If you hike off the trail, you might get lost or cause damage to unique natural resources.
- Let someone know where you are hiking and when you should return.
- Have a general idea of your location at all times in the event of an emergency.
- Give yourself plenty of time for your hike. Plan to be off the trails well before dark.
- Don't overestimate your abilities. Use a map to select the trail and distance.
- Keep in mind that the park is open to hunting. Wear orange when appropriate for your safety.

RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES: Biking, Fishing, Picnicking, Hunting & Firearms, Boating-20 hp motors permitted, and hiking

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS: A wide variety of interpretive and educational programs are offered May through September. Through hands-on activities, guided walks, and evening programs, participants gain appreciation, understanding, and develop a sense of stewardship toward natural and cultural resources. Visit the website or contact the park office for program schedules.

ACCESS FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES: ADA accessible for people with disabilities. If you need an accommodation to participate in park activities due to a disability, please contact the State Park you plan to visit.

ENJOY THE WINTER:

Sledding and Tobogganing: There is a one acre hill for sledding at the dam.

Snowmobiling: Approximately 6 miles of trail are open for snowmobiling. The trail can be accessed at Boat Launch 4 and the parking lot below the office. Be aware of hikers.

Cross-Country Skiing: There are approximately 6 miles of trails marked for cross-country skiing for beginner to expert skiers.

Ice thickness is not monitored. For your safety, make sure ice is at least 4" thick for a single angler or skater, 7" thick for a small group, or 6" thick for iceboating. Always carry safety equipment.

- Ice Fishing: Ice fishing accounts for many of the larger fish caught in Lake Wilhelm.

- Ice Skating: Launch 3 has an unmaintained ice skating area.
- Ice Boating: Iceboats must displace a current state park launch permit.

FRIENDS OF GODDARD STATE PARK (FrOG):

The volunteer organization supports the state park with funding, volunteer projects, and sponsoring events such as the Pioneer Frolic Festival in June and Music at the Marina in August. Contact the park office for volunteering opportunities.

NEARBY ATTRACTIONS:

Information on nearby attraction is available from the Mercer County Convention and Visitors Bureau, 800-673-2370. www.mercercountypa.org.

McKeever Environmental Learning Center is a modern facility that provides environmental education programs for schools. Groups can also rent the center for retreats, workshops, and conferences. Overnight accommodations include three lodges and two retreat houses. A discovery building, auditorium, and hiking trails complement each other to make an ideal setting for an environmental education experience. For more information, contact McKeever Environmental Learning Center, 724-376-1000. www.mckeever.org.

WILDLIFE WATCHING: The large lake, abundant wetlands, old fields, and mature forests provide a diversity of habitats that attracts wildlife in all seasons. Bald Eagles, Osprey populations, American woodcock, Common Snipe, Common Nighthawk, and many species of warblers.

In the spring and fall, thousands of waterfowl stop at the lake during migration for rest and food. Loon, teal, merganser, goldeneye, and bufflehead are some of the noteworthy waterfowl.

Winter is a good time to see several species of woodpeckers, including the pileated woodpecker.

In the summer, turtles, northern water snakes, and amphibians are abundant in the quiet waters by the marina. The wetland across Lake Wilhelm Road from the marina entrance has a waterfowl observation station and is a great place to see ospreys, eagles, and beavers.

CAMPGROUND FACILITY: Goddard Park VacationLand Campground, LLC

<file:///C:/Users/Owner/Desktop/Goddard%20State%20Park/Goddard%20State%20Park%20Vacationland%20Camp%20ground.pdf>

Reservations: 724-253-4645 Open April 15th - October 15th vacationland-campground.com
Reservations - A \$50.00 deposit is required to secure all reservations.

Accommodations Cabin and Trailer Rentals • 590 Spacious, level camping sites • 85 beautiful acres • Optional 30 amp. electric service, water, sewage, and cable TV hookup. • 50 Amp, full hook-up sites on row 29. • 50 Amp - Water and electric sites on rows C, D and A • Picturesque wooded tenting area. • Big Bear 2 bedroom cabin • Buck Tails 2 bedroom cabin • 2 Standard cabins • 3 Deluxe cabins • 2 Primitive Cabins • 2 Tenting Chalets Choose from fully equipped cabins-bathroom with showers, linens, kitchen utensils provided, or a rustic cabin in the woods with sleeping accommodations only. We also continue to offer trailer rentals. Cabins sleep 4, 6, or 9 people. Trailers sleep 4 people. Security deposit required • Reservations required Handicap accessible available.

HISTORY:

Sandy Creek, which traverses the park, was first noted in reports made by George Washington during his trip to Fort LeBoeuf in 1753. The creek's history of flooding prompted the initial flood control study the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in 1939. The U.S. Soil Conservation Service subsequently became committed to building a dam for flood control and conservation purposes. The recreational potential of the project became so apparent during the initial planning phase that state, county, township, and municipal authorities were drawn into an outstanding cooperative effort to construct the park and game lands. The land was acquired for the project in the late 1960s. The dam was completed in 1971 and recreational facilities were dedicated in 1972.

MAURICE K. GODDARD:

M.S. Degree in Forestry from the University of California at Berkley. Served in the United States Army from 1941 to 1945 and was awarded the Bronze Star, the Legion of Merit, and earned the rank of Lieutenant Colonel. In 1955, Goddard was appointed Secretary of the Bureau of Forests and Waters. It was here that he set a goal of having a state park within 25 miles of every resident of Pennsylvania. In 1959, he received an honorary doctorate of science from Waynesburg College and was thereafter called "Doc Goddard." In 1971, the Department of Forests and Waters combined with several other state departments to create the Department of Environmental Resources. Goddard was appointed the secretary of the department.

When Dr. Goddard retired in 1979 after an unprecedented 24 years as a cabinet officer to six governors, he had added 45 states parks and an additional 130,000 acres of state park land. He raised Pennsylvania's parks and forestry bureau to national leaders, while not losing sight of the people and programs. Dr. Goddard received many awards in his career, including the prestigious National Wildlife Federation Special Achievement Award for his 50 years as an outspoken defender of natural resources. And despite his objections, the Sandy Creek State Park project was officially named Maurice K. Goddard State Park in 1969.

Below are the directions and maps for a 5K walk out and back along Lake Wilhelm on the North side of the lake. Those wishing to do a 10K walk out and back along Lake Wilhelm will travel to the above trailhead destination to walk on the South side of the Lake.

The 10K South Side Lake Wilhelm Loop Walking Directions

Driving Directions to the Start point: See the above directions.

Start Point:

The Bait Shop on the east side of Lake Wilhelm Road on the South side of Lake Wilhelm. Lake Wilhelm, 684 Lake Wilhelm Road, Sandy Lake, PA 16145 (724) 253-4833.

Restrooms:

Restrooms and snacks are available at the Bait Shop. There are restrooms and picnic tables along the way.

Emergency Numbers:

	In case of Emergency: Dial 911 Help: Joe Schaefer (724) 400-5158
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In an emergency after calling 911 contact a park employee. Directions to the nearest hospital are posted on bulletin boards and at the park office.

NEAREST HOSPITAL:

UPMC Horizon, Greenville
110 N. Main Street
Greenville, PA 16125
(724-588-2100

These walk directions and maps may only be used in conjunction with a signed American Volkssport Association athletic waiver. All other uses are prohibited.
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Caution: Please be advised that when hunting season is open and it is permitted in designated areas within state parks. For your protection, all visitors should take proper precautions such as wearing a fluorescent orange vest and hat while recreating in areas of the park that are open to hunting during your visit. If you have questions please contact the park office.

John C. Oliver Multipurpose Trail, Maurice K. Goddard State Park

The 12 mile loop of John C. Oliver Multi-Purpose Loop Trail is a centerpiece of Maurice K. Goddard State Park, which spans 2,856 acres in northwestern Pennsylvania. The mostly shaded, paved, off-road trail traces the northern and southern shores of Lake Wilhelm, a popular spot for both anglers and boaters; on-road connections at either end complete a pleasant, largely wooded loop around the lake. In 2015 the trail was named in honor of the first secretary of the state's Department of Conservation and Natural Resources.

Open every day of the year sunrise-sunset, trail users can engage in a variety of activities, including snowmobiling along the north shore and cross-country skiing along the south shore. The state park grounds are also open to hunters, and trail users are advised to wear orange during hunting season. Tree canopy over much of the route can result in moss and moist surfaces, so bicyclists should take caution and use safe speeds at all times.

Walking Instructions:

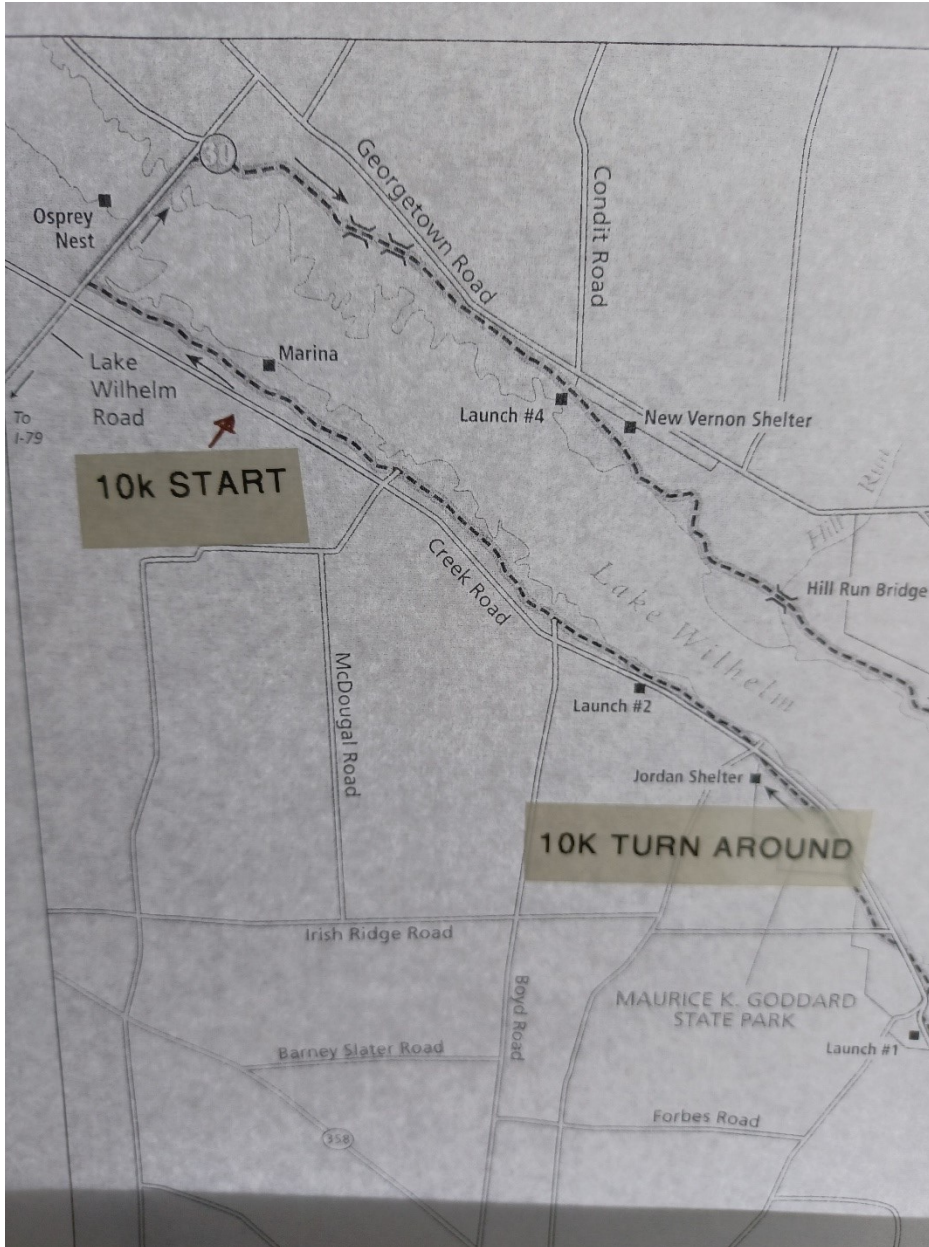
10K South Side of Lake Wilhelm

1. The trail starts at the Bait Shop on the east side of Lake Wilhelm Road and continues on the Southside of Lake Wilhelm.
2. Go East through the parking lot to the trail which is paved with gradual gentle slopes that travels in woodland and along the lake.
3. There are mile and kilometer markers for those who would prefer more or less distance.
4. Continue on the trail with the lake on your left and Creek Road on your right.
5. Heading a couple more miles down the trail takes you past Boyd Road.
6. Continue on the trail past Boat Launch No. 2. Here you will find rest rooms, a shelter, and picnic tables.
7. You will pass Borland Road, and continue to the log cabin-style Jordan Shelter. Built by a local company that makes log homes, it's a unique rest spot.
8. Keep an eye out across from Jordan Shelter for the osprey nesting tower located by the bridge over Walker Run.
9. Jordan Shelter is the turn-around point for the 10K.
10. Retrace your steps and head back to the parking lot at the Bait Shop to finish your walk.

We hope you enjoyed the walk.

Don't forget to log on the OSB at my.ava.org to finalize your walk process.

10K Map of South shore at Lake Wilhelm



The 5K North Side Lake Wilhelm Loop Walking Directions

Driving Directions to the Start point: See the above directions.

Start Point:

The parking lot just south of the Park Office on Lake Wilhelm Road. Lake Wilhelm, 684 Lake Wilhelm Road, Sandy Lake, PA 16145 (724) 253-4833.

Restrooms:

Restrooms are available at the Park Office. There are restrooms and picnic tables along the way.

Emergency Numbers:

In an emergency after calling 911 contact a park employee. Directions to the nearest hospital are posted on bulletin boards and at the park office.

NEAREST HOSPITAL:

UPMC Horizon, Greenville
110 N. Main Street
Greenville, PA 16125
(724-588-2100)

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

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Open every day of the year sunrise-sunset, trail users can engage in a variety of activities, including snowmobiling along the north shore and cross-country skiing along the south shore. The state park grounds are also open to hunters, and trail users are advised to wear orange during hunting season. Tree canopy over much of the route can result in moss and moist surfaces, so bicyclists should take caution and use safe speeds at all times.

Maurice K. Goddard State Park makes maximum use of its resources, much to the benefit of hikers. It comprises 2,856 acres, but most of that—1,860 acres—lies under the surface of Lake Wilhelm, a popular fishery for large-mouth bass, muskies, walleyes, and panfish.

As a result, the park is narrow; in places, anyone with a strong arm could stand on the lakeshore and toss a baseball to its outermost boundary. Yet two trails, connected by short walks along two roads, combine to encircle the lake and provide a pleasant 12.0 mile hike.

The hike passes through open fields with bluebirds and pheasants; brushier areas with cardinals, black-capped chickadees, blue jays and robins; and forested areas with woodpeckers. With all that water, there are lots of Canada geese and ducks, too.

You might even see bald eagles here. None are known to nest in the park itself, but they do live in adjacent state Game Lands 270.

Walking Instructions:

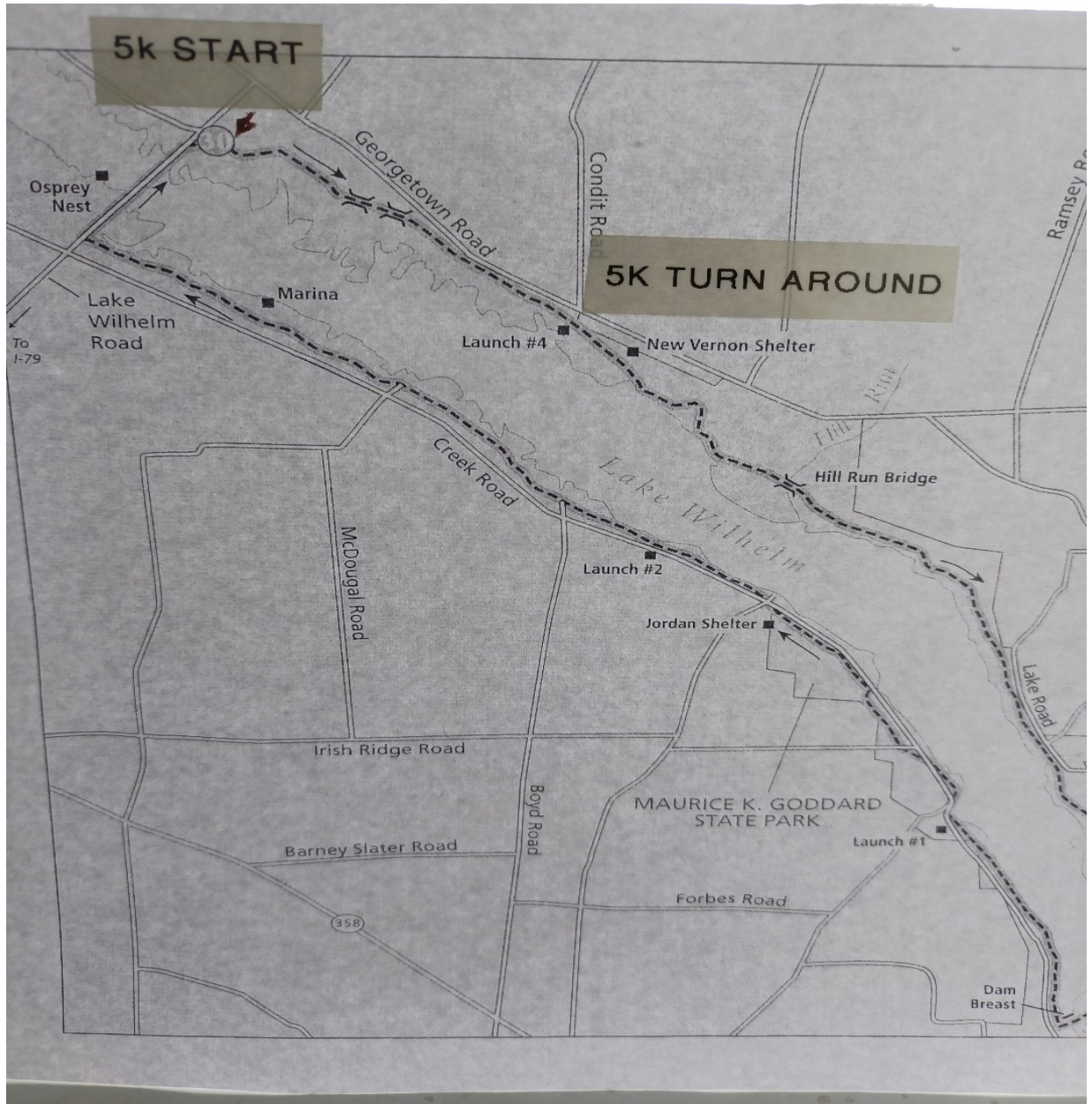
5K North Side of Lake Wilhelm

1. To start this hike-paved along its entire length-park in the lot just south of the park office on Lake Wilhelm Road. Begin at the trailhead parking lot, which is marked with a sign. You will start out on Wilhelm Trail as it follows the north shore of the lake.
2. The trail winds through an open area, then, at .3 mile, drops down a short but steep grade to two bridges.
3. Cross the two bridges, continuing past some hawthorn trees.
4. Just beyond the 1.0 mile mark you will cross a road leading to Boat Launch No. 4.
5. At 1.5 miles you will come to the New Vernon Shelter, one of several small huts located around the lake. They are not heated but offers a chance to sit down, out of any wind and rain, and catch your breath or just relax. There are containers here for garbage and recyclables, too, so please do not leave any trash on the trail.
6. The New Vernon Shelter is the Turn-Around point for the 5k walk.
7. Retrace your steps and head back to the parking lot at the Park Office to finish your walk.

We hope you enjoyed the walk.

Don't forget to log on the OSB at my.ava.org to finalize your walk process.

5k Map of North shore at Lake Wilhelm



AVA Special Programs for this event:

Rockin' Around-the-Clock

Walking the United States (50 States/51 Capitals)

Walking the USA A – Z

Mon Valley Trailblazer's Events:

Ohiopyle Ferncliff and GAP (Fayette County) Y2726	- YRE	OSB	1B
Three Rivers Heritage Trails (Allegheny County) Y2291	- YRE		1B
Zelienople/Harmony Walk (Butler County) Y2309	- Seasonal	OSB	1B
Meadville Ernst Trail (Crawford County) Y2724	- YRE		1B
Linesville, Pymatuning Spillway (Crawford County) Y2725	- YRE	OSB	1B
Wheeling, WV & Oglebay Park (Ohio County) Y2881	- YRE	OSB	1A
Finleyville, Mingo Ck Pk (Washington County) Y2727	- YRE	OSB	2B
Confluence Walk (Fayette & Somerset Counties) Y2275	- YRE		1B
Twin Lakes, Latrobe (Westmoreland County)	- YRE	OSB	1B
Raccoon Creek State Pk. – Wildflower Reserve Walk (Beaver Cnty) Y2332	- YRE		2C
West Newton GAP/Town Walk (Westmoreland County) Y2230	- YRE		1B
Cedar Creek Park, Belle Vernon, PA (- YRE		
Great Allegheny Passage Bike/Walk (Multi-Counties)	- YRE	OSB	1B
Erie Presque Isle Park (Erie County) Y1537	- YRE		1B
Stoystown Flight 93 Memorial Walk (Somerset County) Y2350	- YRE	OSB	2B

Goddard Park VacationLand Campground, LLC:

<https://www.pacamping.com/campgrounds/goddard-park-vacationland-campground>