

Old Town Gaithersburg/Washington Grove Y3056

Gaithersburg, Maryland

s11k and 5k Walks

TABLE OF CONTENTS

YRE Description	1
Gaithersburg History	2
Washington Grove History	2
AVA Special Programs	2
Registering for the walk	3
Driving Directions to the trail start	3
Old Town Gaithersburg Trail	
5k (3.1 miles) - AVA rating 1A	4
Washington Grove Trail	
5k (3.1 miles) - AVA rating 1A	6
Old Town Gaithersburg/Washington Grove Trail	
11k (6.7 miles) - AVA rating 2A	9
Internet Resources	14



In Case of Emergency: Dial 911

For Event Assistance: Carolyn Thurber 301-926-0915

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Old Town Gaithersburg/Washington Grove Y3056

YRE Description

The Olde Towne Gaithersburg (OTG) trail (5k and first part of the 11k) is on paved surfaces mostly on city sidewalks. The walk is through several historic neighborhoods with houses from the 1900 era; there is one street (Walker) on which 5 Gaithersburg mayors once lived that was also the first street to receive street lights. The Washington Grove (WG) trail (5k and second part of the 11k) is through a tiny town within a forest and an oasis of tranquility. It began in 1873 as a permanent place for Methodist camp meetings (religious retreats.) There is a town hall, narrow Carpenter Gothic cottages with steeply pitched roofs, lacy gingerbread trim and gravel walkways with a few streets for car traffic. It is a view of living in the past.

All trails are suitable for strollers but maybe not wheelchairs. Pets are allowed, but must be leashed at all times during the walk.

Gaithersburg History

Gaithersburg began in 1765 as Logtown.

The city is now named after Benjamin Gaither, who built a house and tavern in 1802. These buildings were in the vicinity of N. Frederick Rd. and E. Diamond Ave. Benjamin recognized the needs of travelers on the Great Road west known as Frederick Ave. His tavern was also used as a post office.

The house and tavern were built near a Forest Oak tree. For a time in the mid-19th Century, the town was known as Forest Oak. The tree toppled during a storm in 1997. The green and white street signs in Olde Towne and the Gaithersburg city logo include the tree.

The B&O Railroad came to the town 1873 and served as many as 30 trains a day. The station was originally built in the form of a cross with separate waiting rooms for men and women, a Victorian era custom intended to give women more comfort. Now it is both a small passenger station for commuters and a café.

The town was incorporated as Gaithersburg in 1878.

Washington Grove History

June 1873, John T. Mitchell, Richard Willett, F. Howard, W.R. Woodward, E.F. Simpson, Mr. Worthington, Thomas P. Morgan, B. Peyton Brown, and a few others purchased 267.5 acres of land from the widow of farmer Nathan Cooke for \$6,636.25. The land was given to the Washington Grove Meeting Association, which had been recently incorporated on March 30, 1874.



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Named Washington Grove Camp, the first camp meeting began on August 5, 1874, with 240 tents. In 1937, the Washington Grove Camp Meeting Association was dissolved; the Maryland Legislature incorporated the community as a town on March 26, 1937.

The town applied for National Register of Historic Places status in 1979, and it was approved the following year.

AVA Special Programs

Location	Special Program
Instruction 4a on the OTG 5k and 11k trail (Gaithersburg City Hall)	Town Halls/City Halls, Walking with Veterans
Instruction 6 and 26 on the OTG 5k trail	Step to the Beat
Instruction 15a on the WG 5k trail (McCathran Town Hall)	Town Halls/City Halls
Instruction 27b on the WG 5k trail	Step to the Beat, Grain Elevators: Monarchs of the Plains
Instruction 34a on the 11k trail (McCathran Town Hall)	Town Halls/City Halls
Instruction 47b on the 11k trail (McCathran Town Hall)	Step to the Beat

Registering for the walk

The Seneca Valley Sugarloafers Volksmarch club charges all participants over 12 a \$4 fee. When you register for your walk event, please DO NOT check the "No Credit" checkbox for any participant over 12 years of age. When you register for the walk you can download the PDF file with walk information. The PDF includes directions to the walk start and walk instructions. The fee for the download is \$2. You will be credited for this fee if you complete the walk and pay the walk participant fee within 60 days.

After you have completed the walk

Please remember to log back into the OSB's "Finish Table" after completing the walk. Completion information includes the date the event was walked, the distance walked and applicable special programs. If you are a member of the Sugarloafers Volksmarch Club then select the Sugarloafers Challenge programs.

Driving Directions to the trail start

The start point is located at the plaza area at the back of the Java Junction coffee shop. That is the side away from the train tracks. Java Junction is normally open 8am-3pm Monday thru Saturday and closed on Sunday. Hours of operation should be confirmed with Java Junction (301)330-0333.

Address: Java Junction, 5 S Summit Ave, Gaithersburg, MD 20877

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3



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GPS Coordinates of the Java Junction are **39.14186, -77.19329**

Plus code is **4RR4+MM Gaithersburg, Maryland**

Plus codes are based on latitude and longitude. By using a simpler code system, they are intended to be shorter and easier to use than traditional global coordinates.

Directions from the North via (I-270):

Take I-270 S to Exit 11 (MD-124 N/Montgomery Village Ave/Quince Orchard Rd)

LEFT onto MD-124 N/Montgomery Village Ave

RIGHT on MD-355 S.

RIGHT onto Chestnut St.

LEFT on E Diamond Ave.

Cross S Summit Ave.

Immediate RIGHT into the Train Station Parking area.

Directions from the South via (I-270):

Take I-270 N to Exit 10-9 for I-370 toward MD-200/MD-117/MD-124

Take exit 2 to merge onto MD-355 N (S Frederick Ave) toward Gaithersburg/Town center

RIGHT onto S Summit Ave.

RIGHT on E Diamond Ave.

Immediate RIGHT into the Train Station Parking area.



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Old Town Gaithersburg Trail 5k (3.1 miles) - AVA rating 1A

Restrooms are available at the Java Junction when it is open.

There will be some streets without sidewalks. Please use sidewalks when available. Otherwise, walk on the left facing traffic. Use crosswalks when available.

Facing the Java Junction building from the plaza area,

1. Walk between the Java Junction building and the old steam locomotive to the railroad tracks crossing.
 - a. Cross the railroad tracks.
2. **LEFT** at the parking lot onto the sidewalk next to the Do Not Enter sign.
3. **RIGHT** at the first asphalt path.
4. **RIGHT** at the 'T' onto the sidewalk.
 - a. Pass the Gaithersburg City Hall (on left) and the Veterans Memorials (sign in front of City Hall and a monument in the park on the right).
5. **RIGHT** to cross the driveway on the brick crosswalk and continue to E Summit Ave.
6. **RIGHT** onto E Summit Ave (no sign, brick sidewalk).
 - a. Cross railroad tracks.
7. **CROSS and LEFT** onto E. Diamond Ave.
 - a. Cross N. Summit Ave.

Pass The Old Town Cafe Bar and Grill, formerly Diamond Drugs. Across the street is the J.A. Belt building, built in 1903 and named after John Belt. It operated as a general store for many years. It is now a brewing company.

- b. Cross Park Ave.

8. **RIGHT** onto Russell Ave.

Russell Ave was one of the early boundaries of the town.

9. **CROSS and LEFT** onto Brookes Ave.

Note the Historic District plaque at Brookes Ave and Russell Ave.

10. **RIGHT** onto Rt. 355/N. Frederick Ave.

11. **RIGHT** onto Walker Ave.

Walker Ave. is named for John Wesley Walker, the first of 5 Gaithersburg mayors who lived on this street. Walker Ave was the first street to receive street lights. Almost every home on this street was built between 1900 and 1915.

12. **LEFT** onto Russell Ave.

Opposite Russell and Walker stands the original 1926 building and entrance of Asbury Methodist Village.

13. **LEFT** onto Maryland Ave.

14. **RIGHT** into the alleyway just before Rt. 355/N. Frederick Ave. (Legacy's Barber Shop on right).

15. **Cross and RIGHT** onto Montgomery Ave. (no sign)

16. **RIGHT** onto Highland Ave.

17. **LEFT** onto Maryland Ave.

18. **Cross and RIGHT** on Russell Ave.

- a. Cross Lee Ave.

19. **LEFT** onto Brookes Ave.



20. **LEFT** through the wrought iron arch into Constitution Gardens. Keep left of the brick building, circle, and pavilion.

This is the area of the Gaithersburg library that burned down in the 1980s. The library moved to Montgomery Village Ave and the renovated library reopened in January 2014.

a. CONTINUE on the path past the playground and circle with benches, and down the curving ramp.

21. At the bottom of the ramp, **CROSS and LEFT** on Park Ave. (no sign)

22. **RIGHT** on N. Summit Ave.

Summit Ave. became an important link between the railroad station and Walker Grist and Saw Mill located on Whetstone Branch, a creek in Montgomery Village near Lake Whetstone. It was a commercial street with hotels, banks and horse stables. The horse stables were closed after WWII when a town ordinance prohibited livestock on town streets.

a. Cross Belt Pl.
b. Cross Lee St.

23. At Brookes Ave, **CROSS** to the opposite of Summit Ave and continue in the same direction.

24. **CROSS and LEFT** onto Teachers Way.

25. **RIGHT** onto Melvin St.

26. **RIGHT** at stop sign. (Diamond Ave, no sign)

27. **LEFT** at traffic light onto N Summit Ave. to the start/finish at Java Junction.

Thank you for walking our Sugarloafer Year Round Event today!

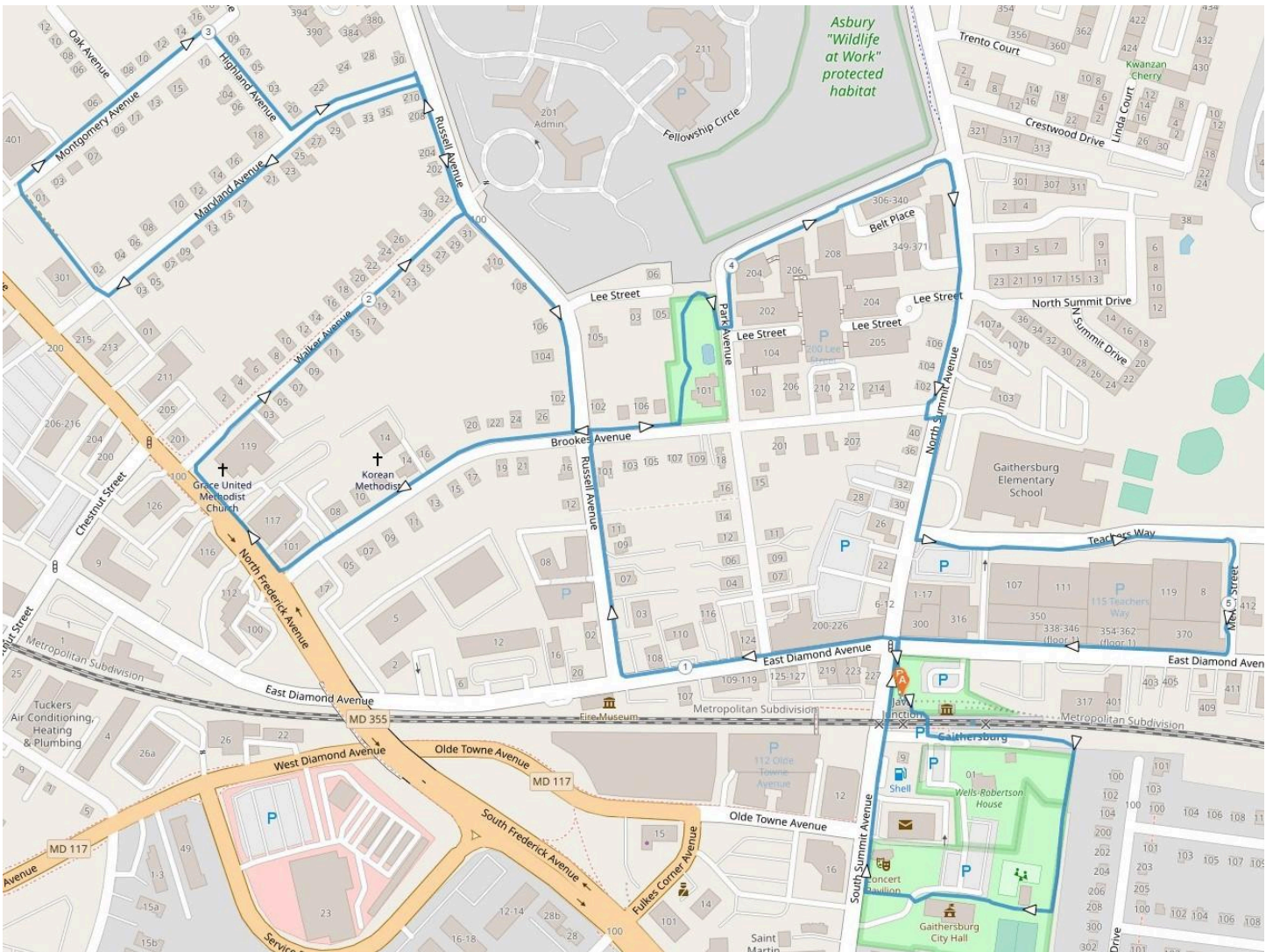
We hope you enjoyed this trail.



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Old Town Gaithersburg - 5k



5K map - Created by PlotaRoute.com, map data by OpenStreetMap Contributors

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Washington Grove Trail

5k (3.1 miles) - AVA rating 1A

Restrooms are available at the Java Junction when it is open.

There will be some streets without sidewalks. Please use sidewalks when available. Otherwise, walk on the left facing traffic. Use crosswalks when available.

With your back to the Java Junction building and looking across the plaza area,

1. Walk to the traffic light at the corner of Summit Ave and E Diamond Ave.
2. **CROSS** E. Diamond Ave to remain on N. Summit Ave.
3. **RIGHT** onto Teachers Way.
 - a. Cross Melvin St.
 - b. Pass Gaithersburg Middle School (on left).
4. **Cross driveway and RIGHT** onto the sidewalk toward the Olde Towne Youth Center.
5. **RIGHT** onto the sidewalk, keeping the Youth Center on your left.
 - a. Follow the sidewalk and the asphalt path.
6. **LEFT** onto E Diamond Ave (no sign).
 - a. Cross Girard St.
 - b. Pass Rippeon Equipment Co. building (on left).
7. At the traffic light, **CROSS** to the median on the left.
8. **CROSS** the turn lane and parking lot to the Post Office.
9. **Continue** onto the sidewalk on the **LEFT** side of the Post Office and down the stairs to the street.

10. **RIGHT** onto Hickory St. (no sign).
11. **LEFT** onto Brown St (no sign). Walk around the barrier and into Washington Grove.

Washington Grove Historical District. You are now in the tiny town of Washington Grove, a town within a forest, a town with gravel walkways instead of sidewalks and rustic wooden signs to mark its streets, a town that seems to be living in the past.

12. **LEFT** onto a grassy, unpaved lane, Chestnut Ave.
 - a. Pass a fire hydrant on the right and “walk way only” sign on the left.

13. **RIGHT** onto Oak St.

Look ahead to the tall pine on the left side of the next street. This is the state champion 87 foot shortleaf pine tree. It has a circumference of 6 feet 6 inches and an average crown spread of 44 feet.

14. **LEFT** onto Chestnut Rd.

15. **RIGHT** onto Center St.

- a. Pass McCathran Town Hall (on the left).

The Town Hall, a wood-shingled octagonal structure, was built in 1902 as a chapel when the Grove became a favorite stop on the famed Chautauqua Circuit. It was named in 1957 in honor of the Grove's first mayor; Roy McCathran.

Notice the bell hanging from the porch roof of the hall. This bell originally hung from a tree at the Sacred Circle, and called campers to their meetings.



Washington Grove - 5k

16. **LEFT** onto First Ave (the second gravel path).

Notice the large tree growing through the porch of the first house on the right. Take your time to look at the unique houses in Carpenter Gothic style with steep peaked roofs and gingerbread-type trim, originally built in the shape of tents.

17. About 20 feet after the end of the white picket fence on the right, **LEFT** on the gravel walkway to walk completely around the perimeter of the Sacred Circle.

In this circle there was a Tabernacle, an open-air hipped-roof chapel built in 1877 to seat 500 people. By 1905, it was too small for the multitudes of campers who flocked to the Grove every year; so it was razed and replaced by a 1400 seat auditorium. The auditorium was located a short distance away in what is now Woodward Park. With diminishing use, the auditorium fell into disrepair and was torn down in 1963.

18. Back at the point where you entered the perimeter path from First St, **ENTER** the grassy circular area of the Sacred Circle.

Notice the plaque on the ground about 20 feet center-left of the entrance.

19. **EXIT** the Sacred Circle by the telephone pole.

20. **Veer RIGHT** onto 4th Ave (no sign), keeping the Wishing Well on your left.
a. Cross a paved road.
b. Continue on the gravel path marked with a “walk way only” sign.

21. **RIGHT** onto McCauley St.
a. Pass Acorn Ln.
b. Pass 5th Ave.
c. Continue on McCauley St. as it curves right and becomes Grove Rd.
d. Pass 6th Ave.

e. Pass Dorsey St.
f. Pass 7th Ave.
g. Pass Locust Ln.
h. Pass Cedar St.

Notice the gazebo on your left as you approach Center St. This area is the site of many outdoor social events, annual Baroque Breakfasts in June, 4th of July parades, and music weekends. Wedding parties are also held here.

i. Cross Center St.

You are now passing Woodward Park with all kinds of recreational/sports facilities. The tennis courts on your left pinpoint the former site of the 1400-seat auditorium built in 1905.

After WWI, the Grove started to change from a summer religious retreat to a year-round residential community.

22. **RIGHT** onto Oak St, a grassy walkway after the tennis courts.

23. **LEFT** onto Grove Ave (the first gravel intersection) (no sign).

24. **RIGHT** onto Brown St.
a. Cross Chestnut Rd.
b. Exit Washington Grove by going around the barrier where you entered.

25. **CROSS and RIGHT** onto Hickory St.

26. **LEFT** at the end of the parking lot to go up the ramp and steps by “Groomed by Haye” and the right side of the Post Office building.
a. Cross the parking lot in front of the Post Office toward the traffic signal.
b. Cross the right-turn lane of the intersection to the median.

27. **Cross and LEFT** onto the right side of Diamond Ave, for approximately 1.3 km total.
a. Cross Girard St.



b. Cross Melvin St.

28. **LEFT** onto Summit Ave. to the start/finish point at Java Junction.

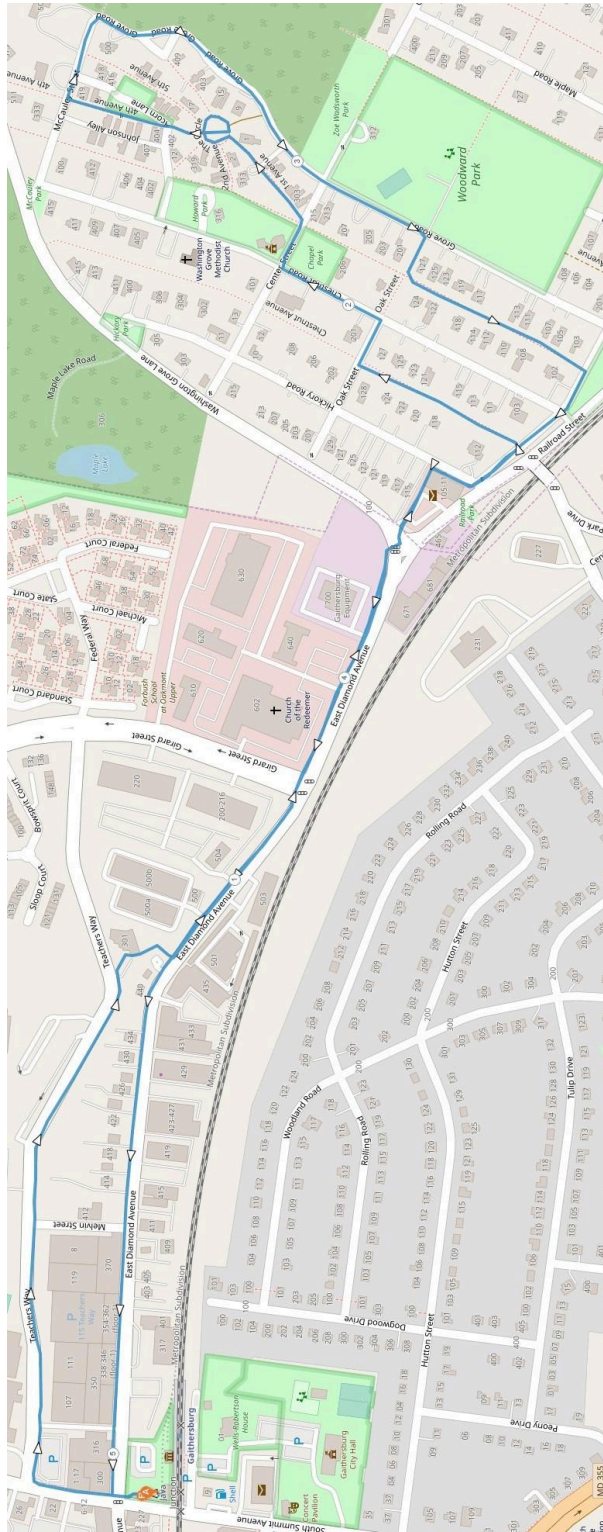
*Thank you for walking our Sugarloafer Year Round Event today!
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Washington Grove - 5k



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Old Town Gaithersburg/Washington Grove Trail

11k (6.7 miles) - AVA rating 2A

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Facing the Java Junction building from the plaza area,

1. Walk between the Java Junction building and the old steam locomotive to the railroad tracks crossing.
 - a. Cross the railroad tracks.
2. **LEFT** at the parking lot onto the sidewalk next to the Do Not Enter sign.
3. **RIGHT** at the first asphalt path.
4. **RIGHT** at the 'T' onto the sidewalk.
 - a. Pass the Gaithersburg City Hall (on left) and the Veterans Memorials (sign in front of City Hall and a monument in the park on the right).
5. **RIGHT** to cross the drivewalk on the brick crosswalk and continue to E Summit Ave.
6. **RIGHT** onto E Summit Ave (no sign, brick sidewalk).
 - a. Cross railroad tracks.
7. **CROSS and LEFT** onto E. Diamond Ave.
 - a. Cross N. Summit Ave.

Pass The Old Town Cafe Bar and Grill, formerly Diamond Drugs. Across the street is the J.A. Belt building, built in 1903 and named after John Belt. It operated as a general store for many years. It is now a brewing company.

- b. Cross Park Ave.

8. **RIGHT** onto Russell Ave.

Russell Ave was one of the early boundaries of the town.

9. **CROSS and LEFT** onto Brookes Ave.

Note the Historic District plaque at Brookes Ave and Russell Ave.

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Old Town Gaithersburg / Washington Grove - 11k

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This is the area of the Gaithersburg library that burned down in the 1980s. The library moved to Montgomery Village Ave and the renovated library reopened in January 2014.

- a. CONTINUE on the path past the playground and circle with benches, and down the curving ramp.

21. At the bottom of the ramp, **CROSS and LEFT** on Park Ave. (no sign)

22. **RIGHT** on N. Summit Ave.

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- a. Cross Belt Pl.
- b. Cross Lee St.

23. At Brookes Ave, **CROSS** to the opposite of Summit Ave and continue in the same direction.

24. **CROSS and LEFT** onto Teachers Way.

- a. Cross Melvin St.
- b. Pass Gaithersburg Middle School (on left).

25. **RIGHT** at stop sign onto Girard St. (no sign)

26. **LEFT** onto E Diamond Ave.

- a. Pass Rippeon Equipment Co. building (on left).

27. **CROSS** to the median on the left side.

28. **CROSS** the turn lane and parking lot to the Post Office.

29. **Continue** onto the sidewalk on the **LEFT**

side of the Post Office and down the stairs to the street.

30. **RIGHT** on Hickory St. (no sign).

31. **LEFT** onto Brown St (no sign). Walk around the barrier and into Washington Grove.

Washington Grove Historical District. You are now in the tiny town of Washington Grove, a town within a forest, a town with gravel walkways instead of sidewalks and rustic wooden signs to mark its streets, a town that seems to be living in the past.

32. **LEFT** onto a grassy, unpaved lane Chestnut Ave.

- a. Pass a fire hydrant on the right and “walk way only” sign on the left.

33. **RIGHT** on Oak St.

Look ahead to the tall pine on the left side of the next street. This is the state champion 87 foot shortleaf pine tree. It has a circumference of 6 feet 6 inches and an average crown spread of 44 feet.

34. **LEFT** on Chestnut Rd.

35. **RIGHT** on Center St.

- a. Pass the McCathran Town Hall on the left.

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Notice the bell hanging from the porch roof of the hall. This bell originally hung from a tree at the Sacred Circle, and called campers to their meetings.

36. **LEFT** on First Ave, the second gravel path.

Notice the large tree growing through the porch of the first house on the right. Take your time to look at the unique houses in Carpenter Gothic style with steep peaked roofs and gingerbread-type trim, originally built in the shape of tents.



37. About 20 feet after the end of the white picket fence on the right, **LEFT** on the gravel walkway to walk completely around the perimeter of the Sacred Circle.

In this circle there was a Tabernacle, an open-air hipped-roof chapel built in 1877 to seat 500 people. By 1905, it was too small for the multitudes of campers who flocked to the Grove every year; so it was razed and replaced by a 1400 seat auditorium. The auditorium was located a short distance away in what is now Woodward Park. With diminishing use, the auditorium fell into disrepair and was torn down in 1963.

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39. **EXIT** the Sacred Circle by the telephone pole.

40. **Veer RIGHT** onto 4th Ave (no sign), keeping the Wishing Well on your left.
a. Cross a paved road.
b. Continue on the gravel path marked with a “walk way only” sign.

41. **RIGHT** on McCauley St.
a. Pass Acorn Ln.
b. Pass 5th Ave.
c. Continue on McCauley St. as it curves right and becomes Grove Rd.
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e. Pass Dorsey St.
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Notice the gazebo on your left as you approach Center St. This area is the site of many outdoor social events, annual Baroque Breakfasts in June, 4th of July parades,

and music weekends. Wedding parties are also held here.

- i. Cross Center St.
- j. Continue to Oak St.

You are now passing Woodward Park with all kinds of recreational/sports facilities. The tennis courts on your left pinpoint the former site of the 1400-seat auditorium built in 1905.

After WWI, the Grove started to change from a summer religious retreat to a year-round residential community.

42. **RIGHT** on Oak St, a grassy walkway after the Tennis Courts.

43. **LEFT** on Grove Ave, the first gravel intersection (no sign).

44. **RIGHT** on Brown St.
a. Cross Chestnut Rd,
b. Exit the Grove by going around the barrier where you entered.

45. **CROSS and RIGHT** on Hickory St.

46. **LEFT** at the end of the parking lot to go up the ramp and steps by “Groomed by Haye” and the right side of the Post Office building.
a. Cross the parking lot in front of the Post Office toward the traffic signal.
b. Cross the right-turn lane of the intersection to the median.

47. **Cross and LEFT** onto the right side of Diamond Ave.

- a. Cross Girard St.
- b. Cross Melvin St.

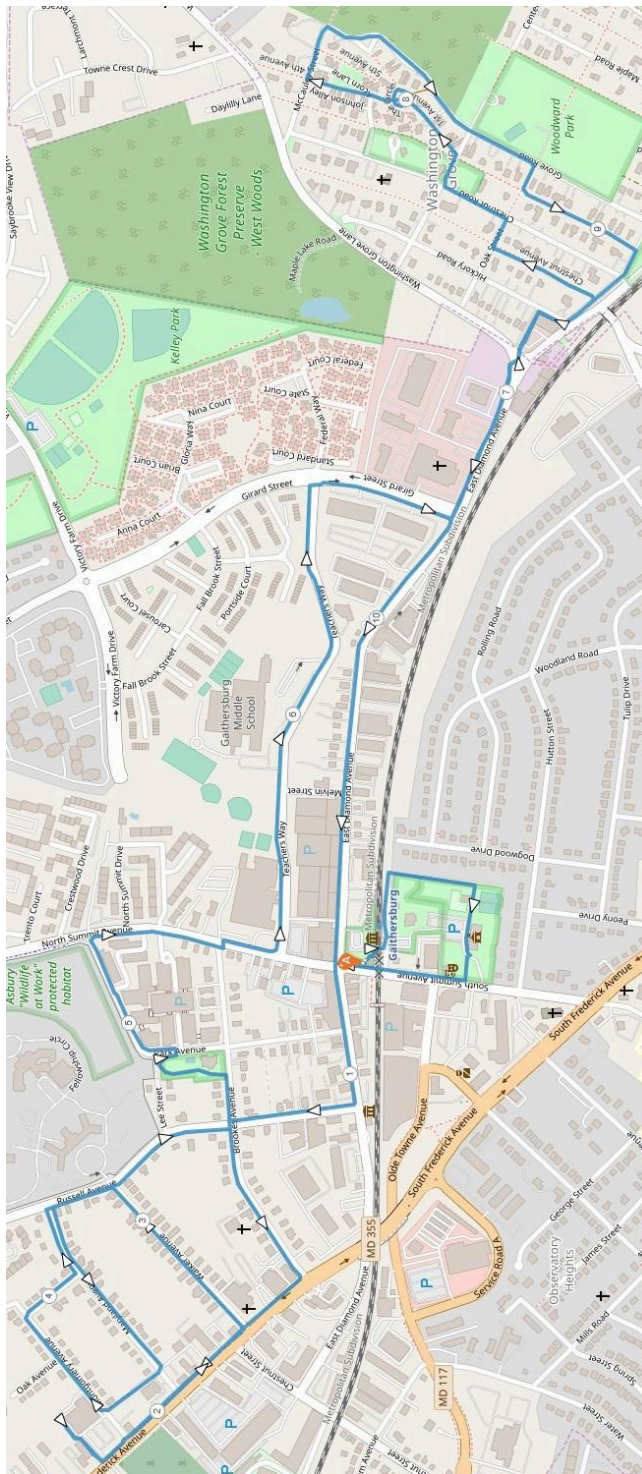
48. **LEFT** on Summit Ave to the Start/Finish table at Java Junction.

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Old Town Gaithersburg / Washington Grove - 11k



11k map - Created by PlotARoute.com, map data by OpenStreetMap Contributors



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Internet Resources

Gaithersburg, Maryland: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gaithersburg,_Maryland

Forest Oak Tree, Gaithersburg, Maryland:

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/archive/local/1997/06/28/gaithersburg-tree-goes-down-in-history/f0294cfe-7d72-40f5-a7ea-e99a4b4ee489/>

Washington Grove, Maryland:

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Washington_Grove,_Maryland,_Maryland

<https://washingtongrovermd.org/community/amenities/mccathran-hall/>

Geographic region: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Piedmont_\(United_States\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Piedmont_(United_States))

Club Information: [Sugarloafers Walking Club](#)



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