

Underground Railroad Y3072

Sandy Spring, Maryland

10k and 6k Walks

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In Case of Emergency: Dial 911
For Event Assistance: Tony Laing 301-980-8932

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Underground Railroad Y3072

YRE Description

This trail is located in northeastern Montgomery County. You will enjoy a pleasant walk through the woods and around fields which demonstrates the typical terrain faced by escaped slaves making their way to freedom on the underground railroad. You will appreciate their experiences as you read the sign markers on the trail.

Neither an “underground” nor a “railroad”, this informal system arose as a loosely constructed network of escape routes for slaves that originated in the South, intertwined throughout the North, and eventually ended in Canada. An unknown number of runaway slaves apparently used the Sandy Spring trail between 1800 through 1860.

In addition to this underground railroad trail, we are also walking on other historic trails and sidewalks. We’ll walk past the Sandy Spring, where water still flows; past the Harewood Farm, summer and weekend home of Dean Acheson, Secretary of State under President Harry Truman; and past the Friends Meetinghouse, the center of the local Quaker Community.

And we’ll walk through the Sandy Spring community, passing the Sandy Spring Museum, Sherwood High School with a World War II memorial to the alumni who died in that war, a bell from Triadelphia that survived the Johnstown, PA, Flood of 1899, and the 300+ year-old Maryland Champion White Ash Tree.

Both trails are NOT suitable for strollers and wheelchairs. Pets are allowed, but must be leashed at all times during the walk.

AVA Special Programs

Location

Special Program

Instruction 19 is an option on the 10k trail

Walking with Veterans

Instruction 21 on the 10k trail

Par for the Course

Registering for the walk

The Seneca Valley Sugarloafers Volksmarch club charges all participants over 12 a \$3 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.

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Revision Date: 15 December 2023



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Underground Railroad Y3072

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 parking lot at the Woodlawn Manor Cultural Park. There are restrooms and Porta-Johns near the Manor House.

Address: Woodlawn Manor Cultural Park, 16501 Norwood Rd., Sandy Spring, MD 20860

GPS Coordinates of Woodlawn Manor Cultural Park are **39.12915, -77.02592**

Plus code is **4XHF+79 Sandy Spring, Ashton-Sandy Spring, MD**

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.



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Directions from the North via (I-70):

Take I-70 to Exit 76 for MD-97S/Georgia Ave toward Olney.

LEFT onto Prince Philip Dr.

LEFT onto Olney Sandy Spring Rd.

RIGHT onto MD-182S (Dr Bird Rd).

LEFT into Woodlawn Manor driveway.

LEFT at the stop sign to the parking area.

Directions from the South via (I-495):

Take I-495 to Exit 31 for MD-97N/Georgia Ave toward Wheaton.

Slight RIGHT onto MD-182N/Norwood Rd.

LEFT onto MD-182 N/Norwood Rd.

RIGHT into Woodlawn Manor driveway.

LEFT at the stop sign to the parking area.



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Sandy Spring Underground Railroad Trail

6k (3.7 miles) and 10k (6.2 miles)

AVA rating 1C and 2C

Restrooms are available at the Woodlawn Manor when they are open.

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

From the parking area,

1. Follow the road back toward the manor house.
 - a. Pass the Manor house.
 - b. Cross the entrance driveway.
 - c. Pass the large stone barn.
 - d. Continue down the exit driveway to the start of the Underground Trail.

There is a signboard with information regarding the trail that is well worth the read near the corner of the fence.

2. **LEFT** at the end of the fence on the left onto the Underground Railroad trail.
 - a. Continue on the grass trail to the corner of the fence.
3. **Bear LEFT** to remain on the trail.
4. **RIGHT** into woods at info board "The Night Sky and Nature".
 - a. Continue on the trail marked by signs with a picture of a man with a pack over his shoulder.
 - b. Pass sign #3 "The Brambles" (on left).
5. **LEFT** at the "Alex Manor Dr." sign.
6. **RIGHT** to go over a bridge.
7. **RIGHT** at sign #4 "Crossing of Paths".
8. **RIGHT** at sign on left (no #) to find sign #5 "Hollow Tree." (1 km)
9. Walk to the tree and return to the trail.
10. **RIGHT** to continue on trail.

11. **RIGHT** at sign #6 "Stream Crossing" to a long bridge.
12. **RIGHT** at sign #7 "Farm Fields" to go around the field.
 - a. **Do NOT turn** at the sign "to Alex Manor Dr".
 - b. Pass sign #8 "The Sandy Spring" (on right) (2 km).
13. **Bear RIGHT** on a gravel road to go between fields.
 - a. Pass a white house (on left).

This house was the former summer and weekend home of Dean Acheson, Secretary of State under President Harry Truman. The President was a Sunday guest here in the late 1940's. Secretary Acheson died here on October 12, 1971.

- b. Go around yellow gate to continue on gravel road.
 - c. Continue on the paved road walking on the left side facing traffic.
14. At the top of the hill is the red brick Sandy Spring Friends Meetinghouse and cemetery.

This is the headquarters of the Quaker community that founded this Sandy Spring Community. Notice the beautiful old yellow poplar tree in the cemetery. The meeting house turned 100 in 2018. (3 km)



Sandy Spring Underground Railroad Trail - 6k and 10k

***** **Decision Point** *****

*** **6 km Walkers**

15. **TURN AROUND and RETRACE** your steps back to the start/finish point. To do this **jump to instruction #28a**.

*** **10 km Walkers**

16. **CONTINUE** on paved road to traffic light at MD-108 (Olney-Sandy Spring Rd).

This is the Sandy Spring community.

17. **RIGHT** on the sidewalk along MD-108 (Olney-Sandy Spring Rd)

Restrooms are available at the Passion Bakery Cafe customers. The pastries and sandwiches are quite good.

- a. Cross Auburn Village Dr.
- b. Pass Bentley Rd (on left).
- c. Pass Sandy Spring Museum (on left).
Open Sat. 10am to 5pm
Admission: Adults \$5, Seniors \$4.

18. **RIGHT** at Sherwood High School's first driveway (with a BIG school sign), and cross toward the school using the crosswalk.

19. **LEFT** onto the sidewalk next to the school to see WWII Memorial (4 stone pillars with arches next to bldg). It lists graduates who served and died in WWII.

- a. Continue on the sidewalk to the Triadelphia Bell (another 4 stone pillars with arches at bldg). It has interesting information on the two plaques. (4 km)

20. **LEFT** at the crosswalk to the sidewalk along MD-108 (Olney-Sandy Spring Rd)

21. **RIGHT** onto the sidewalk to traffic light at intersection with MD-650 (New Hampshire Ave.)

- a. Cross Hidden Garden Ln.
- b. Cross Porter Rd.

This is the Ashton community.

22. **TURN AROUND and RETRACE** your steps on sidewalk along MD-108 (Olney-Sandy Spring Rd)
- a. Cross Porter Rd
 - b. Cross Hidden Garden Ln.
 - c. Pass Sherwood high school
 - d. Sandy Spring Museum (on right).
 - e. Pass Bentley Rd (on right).

23. **Cross and LEFT** onto Auburn Village Dr.

24. **Bear RIGHT** after house #17602 across the grass toward "The Sandy Spring Ash Tree" the giant 300+ year old Maryland Champion white ash tree.

25. **Read** the plaque on the boulder to the right of the tree. (6 km)

26. With your back to the plaque, turn **RIGHT** on a trail along a grassy field.

27. **LEFT** onto the gravel road (yellow gate at road on right).

28. At 90° curve in the gravel road, **STRAIGHT** onto the dirt/grass trail.

- a. Pass "The Sandy Spring" (on left).
- b. Ignore horse/hiker trail (on left).

29. **Follow** the brown signs on posts "To Woodlawn" through the woods (ignoring the Alexander Manor Dr. sign on the left) until you reach a "TRAIL" sign.

30. **LEFT** to leave the woods and continue on grass path with fence on right.

31. **RIGHT** to follow the fence around to the beginning/finish of the "Underground Railroad Trail".

32. **RIGHT** on the paved road back to the parking lot and our start/finish point.

Thank you for walking our Sugarloafer Seasonal Event today!

We hope you enjoyed this trail.

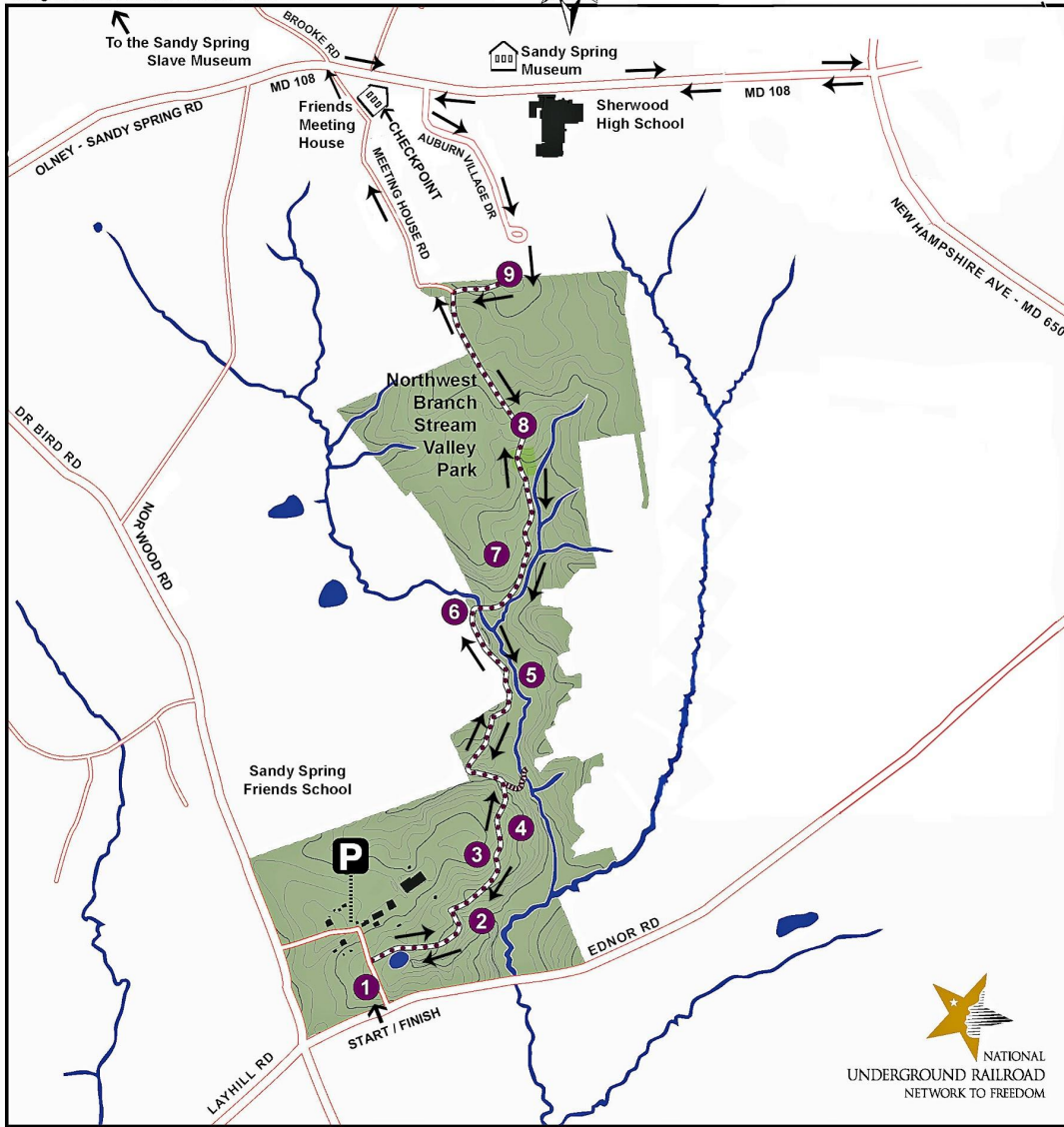


Sandy Spring Underground Railroad Trail - 6k and 10k

Underground Railroad Experience Trail

Length: 2 mi. natural surface trails

Seneca Valley Sugarloafers
Sandy Spring Volksmarch
November 14, 2015



Points of Interest Along the Trail

- | | |
|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1 Woodlawn Manor & Barn | 6 Stream Crossing |
| 2 The Woods | 7 Farm Fields |
| 3 The Brambles | 8 The Sandy Spring |
| 4 Crossing of Paths | 9 Champion White Ash Tree |
| 5 Hollow Tree | |

	Hard Surface Trail Connector		Use extreme caution crossing road
	Natural Surface Trail Connector		Steep Slope
	Hiker Only Trail Connector		Parking
	Parklands & Topography		Bathrooms
	Streams & Water		Drinking Water
			Phone
			Picnic Area

MANOPPC
Park Police: 301.949.3010 (Emergency Only)
Park Manager: 301.774.6255

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Internet Resources

Sandy Spring, Maryland: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sandy_Spring,_Maryland

Woodlawn Manor House:

<https://montgomeryparks.org/parks-and-trails/woodlawn-manor-cultural-park/woodlawn-manor-house/>

Woodlawn Cultural Park:

<https://montgomeryparks.org/parks-and-trails/woodlawn-manor-cultural-park/>

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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