



AVA 323

The Susquehanna Rovers
Welcome You to
The Fort Hunter Walk
An AVA Sanctioned Seasonal Event
that takes you to historic Fort Hunter
and along the Harrisburg Greenbelt to Wildwood Park



The walking path will be on grass paths, paved walkways and gravel trails. The trail will take you around Fort Hunter Park, which contains many preserved historic buildings and you can learn a bit about them. Then you will walk along the Susquehanna River on the Capital Area Greenbelt to the northern end of Wildwood Park for the 10K. (There is no shade along the river.) At the lake you may see many types of birds including green herons, great white egrets, small critters and possibly some spring flowers. You will return along the river to Fort Hunter.

Both 5km loop and 10km are rated 1A. The walk start/end point is at the west pavilion on the river side of the road. There is a permanent pit toilet near the pavilion and at various businesses along the walk route.

Tours of the mansion are available, the fees are \$5 for children, \$6 for seniors, and \$7 for adults. The tours are given at 10 am, 11 am, 12 pm, 1:30 pm, 2:30 pm and 3:30 pm on any day but Monday, May through December. The tour usually takes about 45 minutes. The mansion is built over the foundation of the old fort. The center of the mansion was built in 1786, the front part in 1814 and the rear wooden part in 1870.

The Olewine Nature Center is located at the southern end of Wildwood Lake. It is free to visit. They are open between 10 am and 4 pm.

Wildwood Lake is one of our Harrisburg year-round events. Your Fort Hunter walk will take you to the northern end of the lake, but if you want to add another 10K to your walk, the year-round trail continues around the lake. This trail includes paved paths, tow path and some boardwalks. If you are up to it, this would mean getting two event stamps for your trip to Harrisburg.

Walk Registration:

Registration takes place online using that AVA Online Start Box, on my.ava.org. Follow the instructions provided to create a user account and sign the AVA waiver (one time). Instructions for payment are also included. Download the directions and print as needed. The POC does not provide event directions or accept alternate payment methods.

Walk Completion and Walk Credit:

Once you have physically completed the walk, please login to your Online Start Box account click on the "My Start Box" tab, then the "Finish Table" tab, then click on "Go to Finish Table" button for the event you have completed. 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 choose to print out.

Table of Contents:

Use the following table to guide what portion of this document you may wish to print out.

Section Contents	Pages
Introduction, Walk Registration/Completion, and Table of Contents	1
Driving and Walk Directions	2-3
Historic Sites	4
Maps	5-7
Special Programs	8

Fort Hunter Walk – Harrisburg, PA Susquehanna Rovers Seasonal Walk 2023© 5K and 10K Directions These walk directions and map may only be used in conjunction with a signed American Volkssport Association athletic waiver. All other uses are prohibited.

Start Point:

Fort Hunter Park, West Pavilion
 5300 N. Front Street, Harrisburg, PA 17110
 Lat: 40.3413610 Lon:-76.9094776
 Directions: From Route 22/322:
 Driving East: take the Route 443 Fishing
 Creek/Rockville exit. Continue straight on Front St
 for 1 mile. The West Pavilion will be on your right.
 Driving West: take the Route 443 Fishing Creek exit.
 Turn left on route 39. At T-intersection, turn left on
 Front St. Drive 3/10 mile to the West Pavilion on
 your right.
 From I-81: Driving North or South take Exit 66 Front
 St and then bear onto the North Front St ramp.
 Drive 2 miles to the West Pavilion

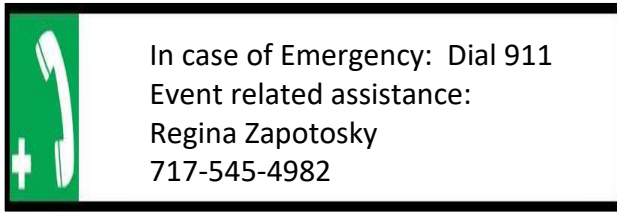
Trail Description:

The walking path will be on paved walkways, gravel
 paths and some grassy areas. The trail will take you
 around Fort Hunter Park, along the Susquehanna
 River to the northern end of Wildwood Park and
 back.

Informational notes are the italicized font.

Restrooms:

Are available at the start point and at Wildwood
 Park. You will also be able to find at fast food
 restaurants along the trail.

Contact Numbers:**Walking Instructions:**

1. From the start/finish point: EXIT the pavilion
 turn RIGHT onto the paved path with the river
 on your right and parking lot on your left.
2. Follow path to southern edge of Fort Hunter
 Park and Heckton Church. Walk around to the
 front of the church to walk on the marked
 Capital Greenbelt Trail.

3. Continue along the river enjoying the amazing
 views, interpretive signs, and many storyboards.
4. When you get to the Storyboard titled BLUE
 MOUNTAIN WATER GAP and turn you see the
 BORO BAR AND GRILL on the other side of
 street.

Decision Point:

5K turn around continue at direction #17

10K continue along the Capital Greenbelt Trail
 continue at direction #5

5. At the intersection of Rte. 39 and Front St.
 CROSS Front Street using the pedestrian
 walkway and continue for 2 blocks.
6. CROSS 6th Street.
7. Follow trail on left of Rte. 39 as it goes under
 road and along the other side to a hairpin U-
 Turn. Trail will now be on right side of Rte. 39.
8. Follow the Greenbelt Trail across bridge. At the
 light it bears to the right side of Industrial Road.
9. CROSS Industrial Road at the crosswalk to the
 Wildwood Park North Entrance.

Restroom at the end of the parking lot.

10. Bear to the LEFT on the trail. Walk by the
 Susquehanna Spillway water feature. When you
 reach the 1.5 Mile marker (3 Ft. high brown
 post on your right) STOP.
11. Turn around retracing steps on paved trail. Pass
 by where you entered park and pick up a gravel
 path now beside the canal.
12. Walk by the Middle Parking area. When you
 reach a similar 2.0 Mile marker on your left
 STOP.
13. Turn back now to where you first entered
 Wildwood Park and exit crossing Industrial Road
 and returning to the trail.
14. Continue back the way you came along Rte. 39
 to the hairpin U-Turn, following trail by railroad
 tracks, under Rte. 39 and along again on the
 right side of road.
15. Cross 6th Street and walk 2 blocks to Front
 Street.

There are several food places on your right if you need a break here.

16. Carefully cross Front Street and turn RIGHT onto the Greenbelt Trail, again alongside the river.
17. Return the way you came along the Greenbelt Trail to Heckton Church.
18. Walk around the church on the path and then beside parking lot. In a short distance turn LEFT onto the winding path near the river. It leads to a wide grassy path with river on the left.
19. Continue straight to where there are 5 steps back up to paved path.
20. Turn LEFT and head toward the Mansion. Walk nearly around circular drive clockwise and exit onto a brick walk on the left.
21. Walk toward PA State interpretive signs about the history of the site. After 2nd sign continue straight on grass to where you pick up path that leads to marked pedestrian crosswalk for Front Street.
22. Carefully cross and stay on path as it bears to the LEFT past sign about slavery at Fort Hunter and then on to the Centennial Barn.
23. Just past the Barn the paved path will turn right and go by a kitchen garden, Tavern House, and Stone Stable.
24. Continue walking straight towards the Everhart Covered Bridge. Exit bridge and bear right to walk briefly along the old Pennsylvania Canal towpath.
25. At the last large storyboard about the early history of transportation in America STOP and turn around.
26. Return to the Covered Bridge, walk thru, and turn LEFT along the road past the Farmhouse.
27. Pick up the paved path to the right of the parking area and follow it back to the crosswalk at Front Street.
28. On the other side the path will bear to the LEFT and back to the start point pavilion and FINISH.

The Susquehanna Rovers thank you for participating in our walk at Fort Hunter Park

Historic Sites at Fort Hunter

1. The Federal-style Mansion, on the site of the old French and Indian War Fort Hunter, was built in three sections. The two front sections were built by Archibald McAllister – the front mansion in 1814 and the middle “cabin” in 1786. The rear wooden portion was built by Daniel Dick Boas in 1870.
2. Margaret Wister Meigs was a niece of Helen and John Reily and the founder of Fort Hunter Museum. The Margaret Wister Meigs Memorial honors her vision to preserve Fort Hunter. The tiles were created by Henry Varnum Poor
3. Butter was produced in the McAllister Dairy. This process required exacting standards in temperature as well as hygiene and was often housed in a specialized structure such as this.
4. Plants found in the Flower Garden represent the garden that was kept at Fort Hunter in the late 1800’s. Conceived around 1885, the nearby Boxwood Allee is an example of Victorian landscaping.
5. Built around 1810, the Ice House was accessible to both the creek on the lower level and the back yard on the upper level. Blocks of ice were cut from the river and packed in sawdust. This type of “refrigeration” served the mansion throughout the summer months
6. Listed in the book Penn’s Woods, these two Buttonwood Trees are estimated to be over 300 years old. Also called sycamore trees, they are thought to be among the oldest in the state.
7. Incorporated into the present bridge which takes Front Street over Fishing Creek is the original single lane Stone Arch Bridge of the 19th century.
8. Elevated on stilts to avoid hungry rodents, the Corncrib was built around 1880. The slatted sides allow for ventilation of the corn.
9. The 1876 Centennial Barn housed John Reily’s budding milk business. Constructed with Gothic Revival details in typical German bank barn form, the structure graciously housed the 19th century Fort Hunter Dairy.
10. The mound-shaped area accessible to the barn and road was built as a Loading Platform to ease the loading of dairy products onto market wagons.
11. The Fort Hunter Station was built in 1929 by the W. F. Martin family when gas stations were privately owned. Stations sold several brands at a time as they were not controlled by large gasoline companies. Like many others, this way station also included a restaurant, tourist cabins, miniature golf course, and a beer garden behind the main building.
12. The Spring House, built around 1800, may have housed a distillery but later was used to cool milk from the Dairy.
13. Called “The Practical Farmer”, the Tavern House was built around 1800 to sell Captain McAllister’s brandies and whiskies, to accommodate overnight travelers, and to serve as a community center for surrounding farmers. Later it was home to the Dairy’s milking crew and farm hands. It is restored to the period of about 1870.
14. The Smokehouse contained smoke that would permeate meats such as ham and bacon, hanging within, thus preserving them. This smokehouse has a strong iron bar on the door to deter would-be thieves.
15. The Stone Stable was built around 1810 in conjunction with the tavern to shelter travelers’ horses. It is built in an unusual drive-through English form.
16. The Everhart Covered Bridge was built around 1881 to span Little Buffalo Creek in Oliver Township, Perry County. Mrs. Margaret Wister Meigs moved it to the Mansion’s front lawn in 1941. By 1980 the bridge had deteriorated. It was dismantled and placed in storage where the original elements were used to recreate the current bridge.
17. **Farmhouse is a private dwelling.**
18. The Eastern Division of the Main Line of the Pennsylvania Canal was begun in 1826 and completed in 1833. This 43-mile stretch linked Columbia to the mouth of the Juniata River at Duncan’s Island. It was an integral link on the canal system that spanned the state and was used through the early 1900’s. It is now the site of the Park’s Natural Swamp Area that nurtures plants and wildlife indigenous to the area.
19. Heckton Church was built in 1885 on land donated by Henrietta P. McAllister, widow of a grandson of the builder of Fort Hunter Mansion and served as a Methodist church until the 1990’s. Damaged by fire in 1927 the interior reflects some alteration from that time. The building was moved to its current location in 2009 to avoid further flood damage

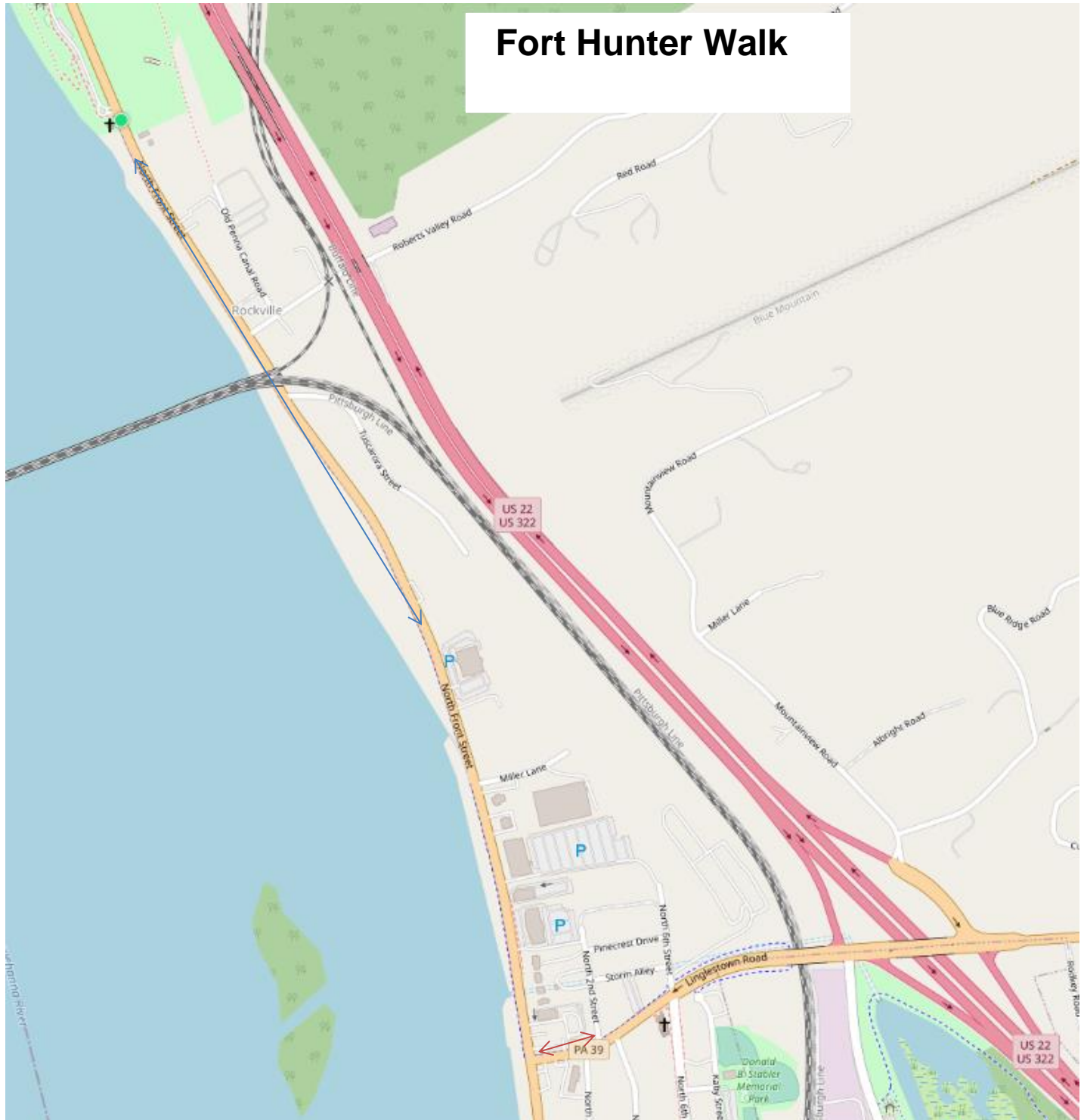
Taken from Fort Hunter Walking Tour Brochure

Fort Hunter Park Section



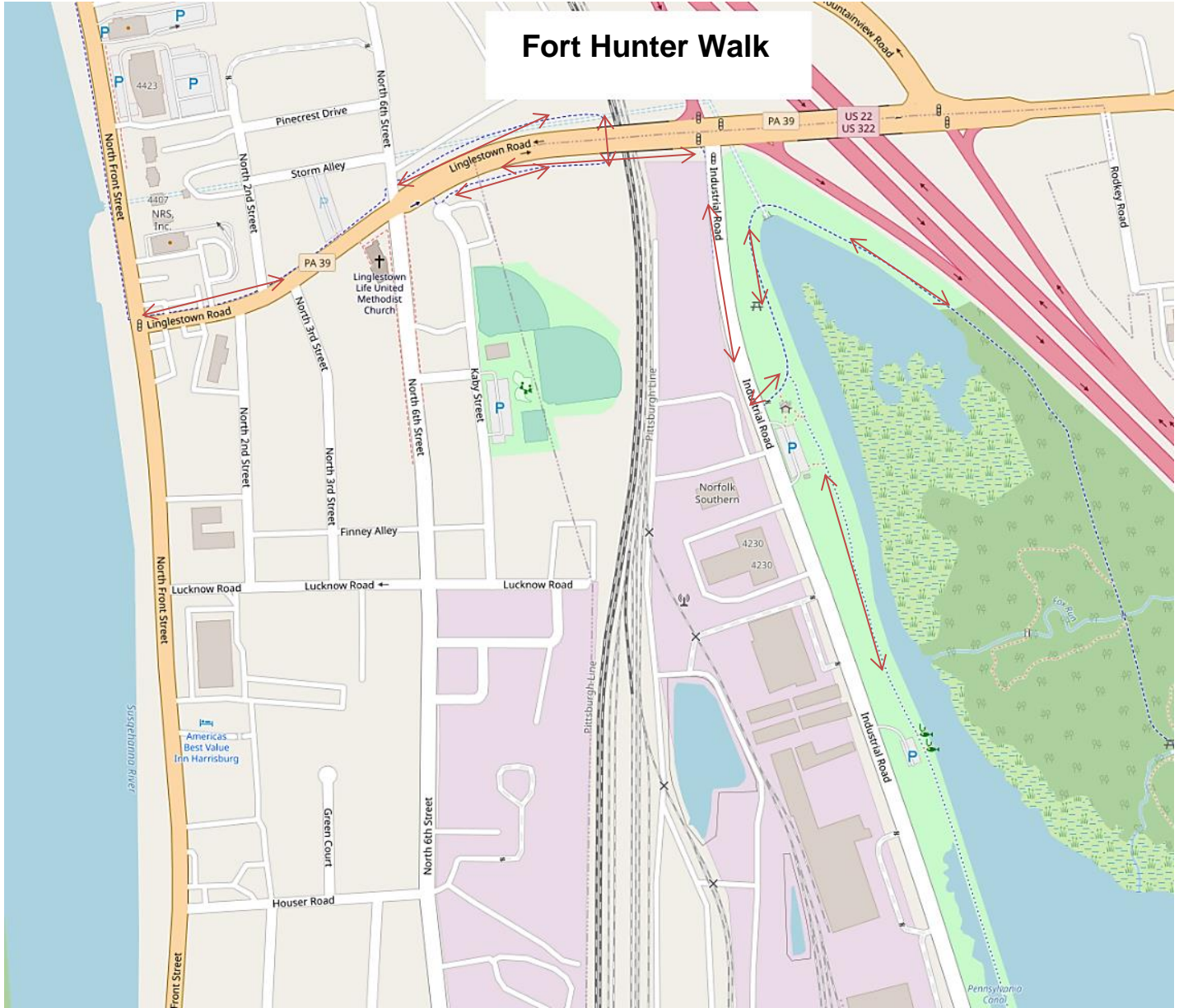
Fort Hunter Walk – Harrisburg, PA Susquehanna Rovers Seasonal Walk 2023© 5K and 10K Directions These walk directions and map may only be used in conjunction with a signed American Volkssport Association athletic waiver. All other uses are prohibited.

Capital Greenbelt Trail Section from Heckton Church to PA Rte. 39



Fort Hunter Walk – Harrisburg, PA Susquehanna Rovers Seasonal Walk 2023© 5K and 10K Directions These walk directions and map may only be used in conjunction with a signed American Volkssport Association athletic waiver. All other uses are prohibited.

Capital Greenbelt Trail from PA Rte. 39 to Wildwood Park North Entrance



Fort Hunter Walk – Harrisburg, PA Susquehanna Rovers Seasonal Walk 2023© 5K and 10K Directions These walk directions and map may only be used in conjunction with a signed American Volkssport Association athletic waiver. All other uses are prohibited.

2023 KSVA Special Challenges and AVA Special and National Programs

WALK NAME: <u>Fort Hunter</u> _____					
NUMBER: _____					
KSVA SPECIAL CHALLENGES					
67 Counties (no end date)			Dauphin		
AT Thru Hike (2017 -2023) in PA only					
AVA SPECIAL PROGRAMS					
Program Name	Years	5K	10K	_K	Information
Appalachian Trail in 14 States	(2018 - 2028)				
Border Crossings	(2014 - 2023)				
Great Lakes, Great Fun, Great Fitness, Great Friendships	(2021 - 2023)				
IVV-Americas	(2023 - No end)	X	X		
Lighthouses II	(2023-2025)				
Par For The Course	(2023-2025)				
Rails-to-Trails	(2022 - 2025)				
Town Halls/City Halls	(2022 - 2024)				
Walking with America's Veterans	(2021 - 2023)				
Closed Programs on Route					
Airports - Celebrating American Flight	(2020 - 2022)				
Mayflower - 400 th Anniversary Walk	(2020 - 2022)				
Rockin' Around the Clock	(2020 - 2022)				
AVA NATIONAL PROGRAMS					
Program Name	Years	5_K	10K	_K	Information
50 States / 51 Capitals	(No end date)				
Walk the USA (A To Z)	(No end date)	X	X		

Fort Hunter Walk – Harrisburg, PA Susquehanna Rovers Seasonal Walk 2023© 5K and 10K Directions These walk directions and map may only be used in conjunction with a signed American Volkssport Association athletic waiver. All other uses are prohibited.