

BLOCK ISLAND WALK (5 km & 11 km - #3262) – “Island Highlights”

Washington County Event

Connecticut Valley Volkssport Club, AVA-784

“PRE-AMBLE”:

City/State	Block Island - Old Harbor, Rhode Island
Event Name	Block Island in Washington County Plan to spend at least a day visiting this beautiful 3 mi. by 7 mi. pork chop-shaped island lying twelve miles off the coast of Rhode Island. Old inns, spectacular ocean views, bluffs, a lighthouse, rolling hills, woods and meadows await you.
Event Type	OSB Seasonal Walk (2023/Y3262) 4/1 – 12/31/2023
Award	IVV Credit Only
Rating	Island Highlights Walk: 3A: Rodman’s Hollow Nature Walk: 3B
Distance	5K/11K (Island Highlights), 12K Rodman’s Hollow Nature Walk
Strollers	Medium – Island Highlights only
Wheelchairs	Medium – Island Highlights only
Pets	Yes
Restrooms and Water	Yes. Visitors Center in Old Harbor, Block Island and also at airport
Sponsoring Club	Connecticut Valley Volkssport Club
POC	Carol West, Carol.West@sbcglobal.net, 860-721-1185. P.O. Box 251, Glastonbury, CT 06033
Start Point/Driving Directions	<p>WEB REGISTRATION ONLY, using the AVA Online Start Box.</p> <p><u>TO BLOCK ISLAND FERRY</u> at Point Judith, 304 Great Island Rd., Galilee/Narragansett, RI: Take Rt. 1S, which becomes Rt. 108/Point Judith Rd. Turn right onto Galilee Escape Rd. In 1.0 mile, turn left onto Great Island Rd., then right to Block Island Ferry terminal. GPS Coordinates: 41.379, -71.511</p> <p><u>PARKING and TAKING THE BLOCK ISLAND FERRY from Point Judith:</u> There are a number of nearby independently owned, fee-based parking lots for people not taking their vehicle with them on the ferry. One next to the ferry terminal and one directly across the street are unattended and require self-pay by credit card. (Leave yourself enough time before sailing time to figure out the system!) Rates vary by length of stay (day-trips, overnight, multi-day), of course, ranging generally between \$5-15 per calendar day.</p> <p>It is not necessary to have a car to do the Block Island walks, since the Start Point for all walks is at the BI Ferry landing. It is recommended that you not bother with a car – both because it is expensive (depending on size/height of car, whether there is a bike rack, etc) and because space is limited and reservations must be made by phone well in advance, depending on what season you are traveling in. See schedules and rates for passengers, vehicles, bikes, etc. at www.blockislandferry.com (Interstate Navigation Co.). If you have questions or want to make a vehicle reservation, call 866-783-4613.</p> <p>BLOCK ISLAND WALKS (both Island Highlights and Rodman’s Hollow Nature): Esta’s Park, on Water St., is next to Old Harbor ferry, to right as you leave the ferry you took from Point Judith.</p>

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Event Information	Trail Highlights: The Island Highlights routes (5K and 11K) start with a long hill, but soon level off and pass beautiful old inns on Spring St., with great views to the Southeast Lighthouse and Mohegan Bluffs. The nature trail through Rodman's Hollow follows parts of The Nature Conservancy's Greenway trail system, up and down through woods and meadows. Over 250 types of birds and many reptiles, amphibians, mammals, and plants/trees can be seen. Interestingly, there are few mosquitoes, or the squirrels/chipmunks/skunks/possum/racoons that New Englanders are accustomed to seeing!
Hours	Dawn to dusk
Special Programs	Walk the USA A-Z, Washington-Rochambeau National Historical Trail, Lighthouses II
Comments	

“POST-AMBLE”:

Be sure to log back into the OSB system to “finish/complete” your online registration after doing the walk. The OSB system does not deduct any walking fee from a walker's Event Bank until they have submitted walk completion info., including the date the event was walked, the distance walked, and the selection of applicable special programs that walker is participating in. (Nevertheless, a fee of \$2 for a downloaded PDF is deducted from the user's Event Bank when the PDF is downloaded. Later, any PDF fees are credited back to a walker's Event Bank when he/she submits the walk completion info as a paying for credit walker. Note, however, the \$2 coupon for the downloaded PDF will expire in 60 days.)

BLOCK ISLAND, RI WALK (#3262) – 5K and 11K Island Highlights Walk

#3262 – 2023 Connecticut Valley Volkssport Club, AVA-784

AVA Special Programs: *Walk the USA A-Z; Lighthouses II, America's Veterans, Town/City Halls*

FOR IMMEDIATE EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE, CALL 911. LOCAL CLUB POINT OF CONTACT: Lee West, 860-721-1185. **AVA NORTHEAST REGIONAL DIRECTOR:** Wayne Knapp, 518-469-7298.

Restrooms: Just off the ferry and straight ahead, you'll find restrooms at the Visitor's Center in Old Harbor. Bathroom facilities are also available at the harbormaster's shack in Old Harbor, the Fire/Police Station, Town Hall, Island Free Library, State Airport, North Light, Hog Pen marina in New Harbor, and the Town Beach pavilion. Port-a-johns are set up at the Southeast Lighthouse and Mansion Beach.

Caution: With the exception of the streets right in Old Harbor, there are few sidewalks. Please exercise caution as you share the road with bicycles, mopeds, cars and vans. In most areas, there are grassy stretches alongside the paved surface that you can walk on if you can anticipate any traffic congestion on the paved surface.

Street Addresses: While there are street signs, there are no street addresses on Block Island. As new buildings are erected, each home is assigned a fire number. Emergency services use these numbers when responding to calls. Typically mounted on house fronts, they are meaningless as street addresses.

5K and 11K Island Highlights Walk	
DIRECTIONS	COMMENTARY
<p>1. Walkers (both 5 km and 11 km): Leaving the Start Point at the Block Island Ferry Terminal, turn left on Water St., passing the ferry landing on your left. Restrooms are located in the ferry parking lot.</p>	<p><i>Block Island was first sighted by Giovanni da Verrazano in 1524, when Francis I of France sent him to find a shorter route to the Orient. He thought its green hilly landscape was like the Greek Island of Rhodes, thereby giving Rhode Island its name. The Dutch explorer Adriaen Block stopped at the island in 1614 and called it Adriaen's Eylandt – hence its present-day name. You'll see a number of references around the island to the year 1661, when European settlers came.</i></p>
<p>2. At the 4-way intersection with the statue in the center, proceed up the hill on Spring St., which becomes Southeast Rd. as it nears the Southeast Lighthouse.</p>	<p><i>Throughout the Old Harbor area, you'll see evidence that this was a prosperous Victorian resort town (1860-1920s). You'll pass between the Harbor Church (on the left street corner) and the parking lot for the Manisses Hotel on the right street corner. The famous Manisses Hotel (with a bar that's a nice spot for a late day drink), is named after the Manisseans, a Narragansett tribe. (John Oldham, a settler of Wethersfield, CT, was murdered here in 1636, one of many victims of years of turmoil - white-Native American and Native American internecine conflicts.)</i></p> <p><i>The Statue of Rebecca (1896), named for the biblical Rebekah-at-the-well, stands proudly at the intersection of four Old Harbor roads. She was erected by the local Women's Christian Temperance Movement, which hoped to curb the consumption of alcohol on Block Island. Ironically, restoration experts have concluded that Rebecca is, in fact, Hebe, cup bearer to the gods, which may explain why teetotaling never caught on here! The statue was recast in 2001.</i></p> <p><i>The Block Island Historical Society (at the 4-way stop on Old Town Rd.) has exhibits on the island's farming and maritime past, along with quartz and other projectile points over 4,000 yrs. old. A short introduction is offered at the door; you are then left to see the house and its interior exhibits. The 1850 structure has a mansard roof and is furnished with antiques. Admission \$10.00 (Seniors \$8)</i></p>

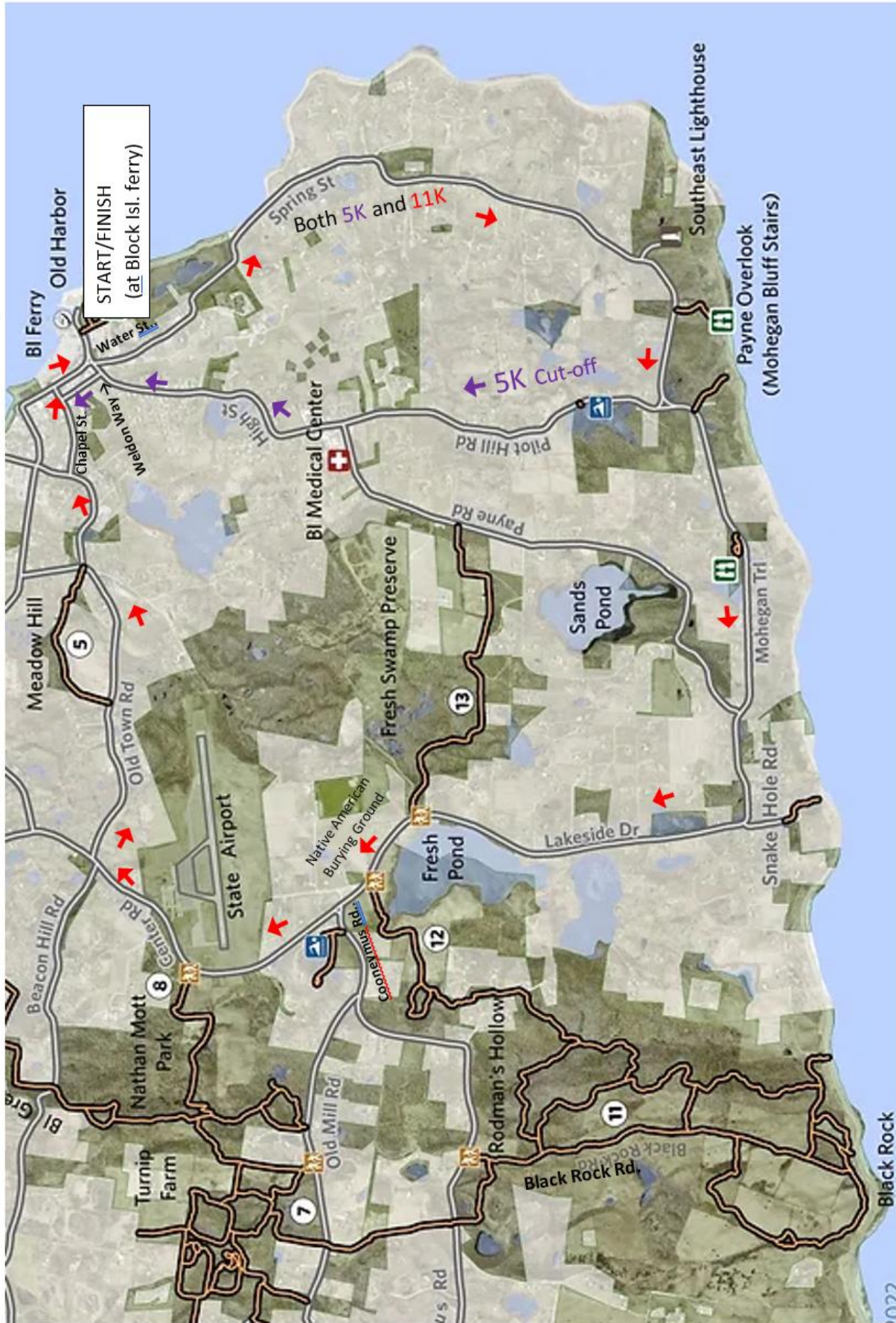
5K and 11K Island Highlights Walk

DIRECTIONS	COMMENTARY
<p>3. Continue on the paved road which changes from Spring St. to Southeast Rd.</p> <p>Landmarks include, in order: the Spring House (an imposing white structure with red roof) and an animal farm (on your right) and the churches of St. Andrew and St. Ann's (on the left).</p> <p>At the yellow house on the corner, bear right on the turn.</p>	<p><i>The 140-year-old Spring House overlooks the Mineral Springs swan pond. Many hotels serve the explosive summer tourist population. (Year-round population is around 1,400).</i></p> <p><i>1661 Inn Animal Farm (formerly called Abrams, after its original owner) a small farm between Spring and High Streets, is home to a collection of exotic and domestic animals. The llamas, emus, sheep, donkeys, goats, swans, ducks, even camels, live happily together in the hillside meadow. Visitors are free to view and pet the animals here all year long.</i></p>
<p>4. The Southeast Lighthouse will be on your left. Follow the grass to the lighthouse and enjoy the view. Check out the lighthouse.</p>	<p><i>Take time to visit the Southeast Lighthouse (1873). This massive red brick beacon, a National Historic Landmark with gingerbread detail, nearly fell into the sea. Storms had eroded the adjacent sand and clay bluffs until the lighthouse sat precariously close to the 150' cliff. A grassroots movement succeeded in moving it to safe ground in 1993. Tours of the tower are available for \$15 (Seniors \$12).</i></p> <p><i>There's a great view of Montauk Point on Long Island off in the distance. Note five wind turbines offshore, among very few on the East coast.</i></p>
<p>5. Continue a short way and then enjoy the view from Payne Overlook on the Mohegan Bluffs, a highlight of the island. 11 km Walkers: Skip to Step # 10.</p>	<p><i>The 150' cliffs along Mohegan Trail, the island's southernmost road, are named for an Indian battle in which, lore has it, the local Manisses pinned down an attacking band of Mohegan Indians at the base of the bluffs.</i></p> <p><i>A remarkable set of stairs descends to the beach below. If you're energetic, you can go down the 150 steps and traverse some small boulders to the tidal pools and rocky beach below the cliffs.</i></p>
<p>6. 5 km Walkers Only: Turn right at Pilot Hill Rd. (dirt at the fork, but it returns to pavement) and proceed up the hill. You'll pass the Block Island K-12 School on your left.</p>	<p><i>Block Island School was built in 1933, replacing five scattered, one-room schools.</i></p>
<p>7. Pilot Hill Rd. becomes High St.</p>	<p><i>The well-known Atlantic Inn and Rose Farm Inn are on your right.</i></p>
<p>8. Turn left on Weldon's Way. At the T-intersection, turn right onto Chapel St.</p>	<p><i>This shopping district has a mix of businesses, including bicycle and moped rentals, candy and ice cream shops, etc. Reward yourself at The Ice Cream Place through the archway next to Harborside Inn, or Aldo's Bakery at Weldon's Way!</i></p>
<p>9. At the next intersection, turn right on Water St. and return to the Start/Finish Point. Congratulations, 5 km walkers, on completing your introduction to Block Island!</p>	<p><i>We hope you enjoyed your walk today!</i></p>

5K and 11K Island Highlights Walk

DIRECTIONS	COMMENTARY
<p>10. 11 Km Walkers: Continue past Pilot Hill Rd. on your right (dirt), which the 5 km walkers will take. Southeast Rd. is now called Mohegan Trail. Turn right on Lakeside Drive, passing Fresh Pond on your left as the road bends, and passing Cooneymus Rd.</p>	<p><i>Fresh Pond, the site of the original English settlement in the 1600s, is one of 365 ponds on the island. Island residents boast that there's a pond for every day of the year. The proliferation of ponds is caused by the impermeable layer of clay under the surface of most of the island.</i></p> <p><i>Note the Indian burial ground on the right.</i></p> <p><i>Across the way is a restoration of the cottage to which Arthur A. Penn referred in his song, Smilin' Through, which was written for a play of the same name in 1919: "There's a little brown road windin' over the hill, To a little white cot by the sea; There's a little green gate, At whose trellis I wait, While two eyes o' blue, Come smilin' through at me!" Three movies (1922, 1932, 1941) were later produced with the same title.</i></p>
<p>11. Lakeside Rd. is now Center Rd. Pass the airport on your right – with restrooms.</p>	
<p>12. Turn right on Old Town Rd. Cross over Conn. Ave. and continue past the Town Hall on your right. Turn right on Chapel St., which ends at Water St.</p>	
<p>13. At Water St. cross over the street to the Start Point.</p>	<p><i>Now reward yourself at The Ice Cream Place through the archway next to Harborside Inn, or Aldo's Bakery at Weldon's Way!</i></p>
<p>14. Congratulations! You have completed your 11 km walk on Block Island.</p>	<p><i>We hope you enjoyed your walk on Block Island today.</i></p>

Connecticut Valley Volkssport Club
Block Island, RI – Island Highlights Walk – 5 and 11 K



Print map in color (or manually highlight your route/arrows)

* 5K route follows Spring St/Southeast Rd. (like 11K), but cuts off north to return to Start Point

4/1/2023 (based on Nature Conservancy map)

BLOCK ISLAND, RI WALK (#3262) – 12K Rodman’s Hollow Nature Walk

#3262 – 2023 Connecticut Valley Volkssport Club, AVA-784

AVA Special Programs: *Walk the USA A-Z; Lighthouses II, Town/City Halls*

FOR IMMEDIATE EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE, CALL 911. LOCAL CLUB POINT OF CONTACT: Lee West, 860-721-1185. **AVA NORTHEAST REGIONAL DIRECTOR:** Wayne Knapp, 518-469-7298.

12K Rodman’s Hollow Nature Walk	
DIRECTIONS	COMMENTARY
1. Leaving the Start Point at the BI Ferry, turn right on Water St. Cross Water St. and proceed up Chapel St., bearing left onto Old Town Rd.	<i>Be sure to bring water, sunscreen and insect repellent with you. Take the usual precautions against deer ticks and poison ivy. Note: There are no restrooms located on the greenway. Also, be aware that hunting season runs from mid-October to February (archery in October, guns beginning in November, except for most weekends).</i>
2. Continue on Old Town Rd (west) to Center Rd. Turn left on Center (note the millstone on the ground on left). Pass Nathan Mott Park on right.	
3. Continue down Center until you come to “Isaac’s Corner.” Turn right onto Cooneymus Rd. (crossing Center carefully).	<i>Isaac Church’s home site is on the southwest corner of Center and Cooneymus Rd. Isaac died in 1886 and was the last of the Manissean tribe on Block Island. A short way down Cooneymus Rd on left is a replica of the gambrel-roofed cottage to which Arthur A. Penn referred in his song, Smilin’ Through, which was written for a play of the same name in 1919: “There’s a little brown road windin’ over the hill, To a little white cot by the sea; There’s a little green gate, At whose trellis I wait, While two eyes o’ blue, Come smilin’ through at me!” Three movies (1922, 1932, 1941) were later produced with the same title.</i>
4. Proceed down Cooneymus Rd., past where Old Mill Rd. goes off to the right. Then the road will bend sharply to the right. Peckham Farm is on your left. Pass a trail (which goes through the Hollow) on your left.	<i>Rodman’s Hollow is a unique ravine and a great example of what’s called a glacial out-wash basin. Unlike other parts of the island, the soil is porous, not clay, so ponds are not formed here. The hollow was the first piece of property purchased in the island’s 50-year tradition of land conservation, an effort that has succeeded in saving about half of the island from development.</i>
5. Continue to the Greenway entrance and parking lot for Rodman’s Hollow on left, crossing Cooneymus Rd. carefully to Black Rock Rd.	
6. Enter Greenway beyond parking lot at granite marker. Go through turnstile and down steep hill toward Rodman’s Hollow.	
7. Turn left at the next junction. (You will be heading east toward Fresh Pond and eventually Lakeside Dr., NOT south toward Black Rock Point.)	
8. At loop sign in Rodman’s Hollow, take “long” loop to the left, which goes to the bottom of the hollow.	<i>The shadbush (also call shadblow or serviceberry) is plentiful on Block Island and has beautiful white flowers in May (when the shad are running), and berries later in the season.</i>

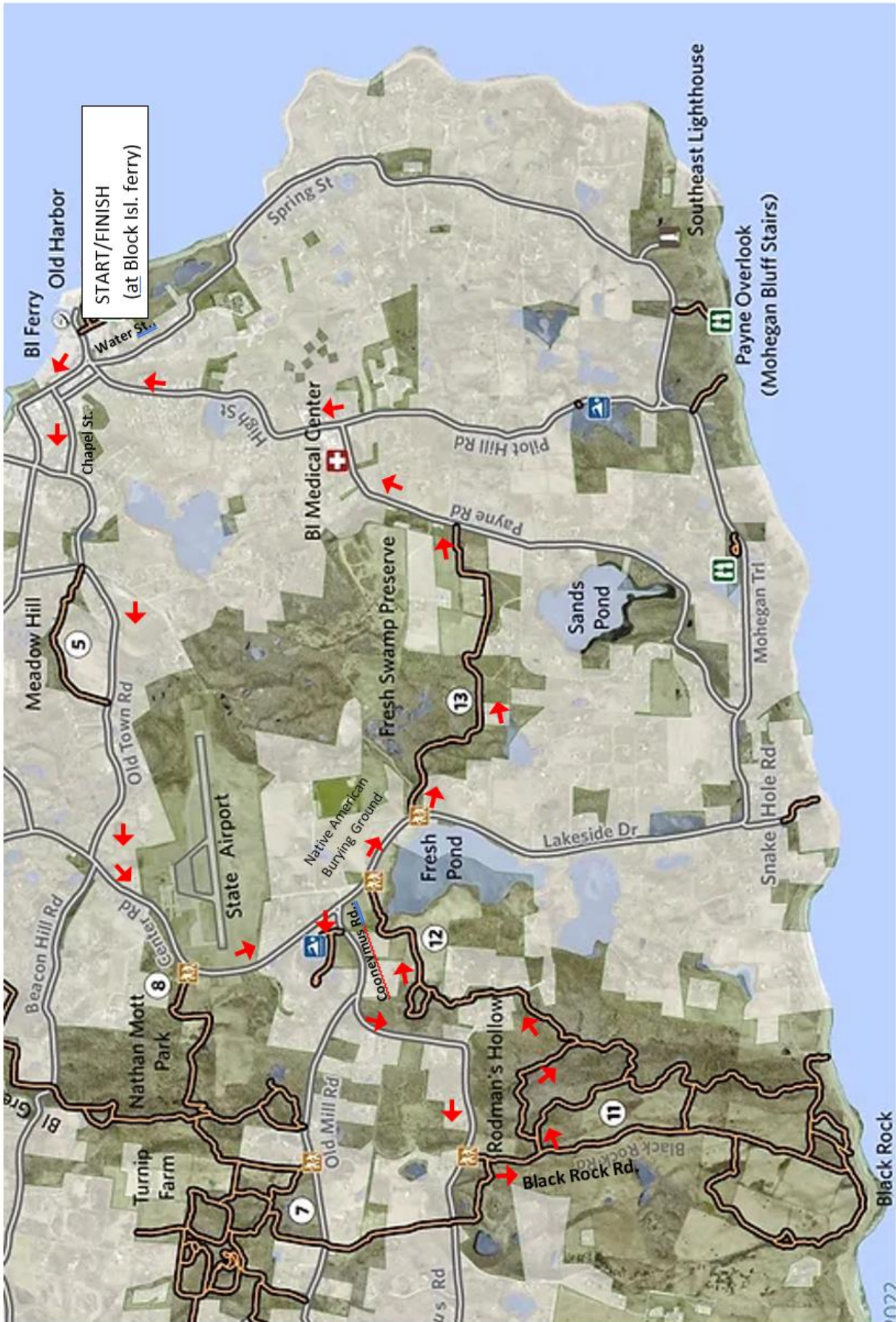
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12K Rodman's Hollow Nature Walk

DIRECTIONS	COMMENTARY
9. Turn left at the sign for Fresh Pond . Go up a steep hill. Turn left at the dirt road, following Greenway (stone marker) to Fresh Pond.	<i>Colorful blossoms of trees and wildflowers abound in many seasons: Mouse-ear Hawkweed (small yellow dandelion-like flowers with hairy leaves, blooming in June), Bushy Rockrose (also yellow flowers in June), Northern Blazing Star (spiked purple plant flowering in fall), Black Cherry, and Bayberry, to name a few.</i>
10. At sign to Fresh Pond Loop, go right. Bear right at the next intersection, and straight at the next junction.	<i>Some wildlife to listen and look for:: green frogs (at Shirley's Pond), dragonflies (green darners), eastern painted turtles, American black ducks, green herons, great blue herons, Eastern meadowlarks, Carolina wrens, towhees. There are over 250 species of birds on the island, including the northern harrier, a raptor with a prominent white spot near the tail.</i>
11. Stay to left of Fresh Pond, following the greenway signs and crossing the open field. At 5 unmarked trail junctions, stay right toward pond and take spur to shore. Enjoy the view from the bench. Continue to right, over boardwalk bridge, and up to the road (Center Rd. changes name to Lakeside Dr. east of Isaac's Corner/Cooneymus Rd.).	<i>More flora: Bayberry, arrowwood (viburnum dentatum, a species that is common throughout New England). The American burying beetle also lives here, laying eggs on carrion that then nourishes its young.</i>
12. At Center Rd., note the Fresh Pond stone elevation marker (78').	<i>Fresh Pond, the site of the original English settlement in the 1600s, is one of 365 ponds on the island. Island residents boast that there's a pond for every day of the year. The proliferation of ponds is caused by the impermeable layer of clay under the surface of most of the island. This one is the deepest freshwater pond on the island and serves as an emergency reservoir for the town's water system. The Manissean Indians camped here and early settlers temporarily camped in caves before their homes were built.</i>
13. Cross over Center Rd./Lakeside Dr. to the Native American Burial Ground .	It's not very convenient, but there are restrooms if you want to walk north on Center Rd. about 20 minutes to the State Airport.
14. Proceed right (east) along paved Lakeside Dr. (unmarked). Turn left at Greenway stone, and take ladder over the stone wall onto trail. This is the Fresh Swamp/Payne Farm trail. Follow trail through heavy vegetation (right at first fork) near Fresh Swamp, across small bridge, along open meadows, then onto unmarked, dirt Payne Rd. Go left.	<i>The Payne Farmhouse in the area dates from 1877. Local farms such as those owned by the Payne and Peckham families granted easements to the Nature Conservancy so that the public could enjoy these lands.</i>
15. Turn left on High St. at the Block Island School. Turn left on Water St. and return to the Start/Finish Point.	Congratulations! <i>We hope you enjoyed your walk on the Greenway system of Block Island today.</i>

**Connecticut Valley Volkssport Club
Block Island, RI – Rodman’s Hollow Nature Walk – 12K**



Print map in color (or manually highlight route/red arrows)

4/1/2023 (based on Nature Conservancy map)