

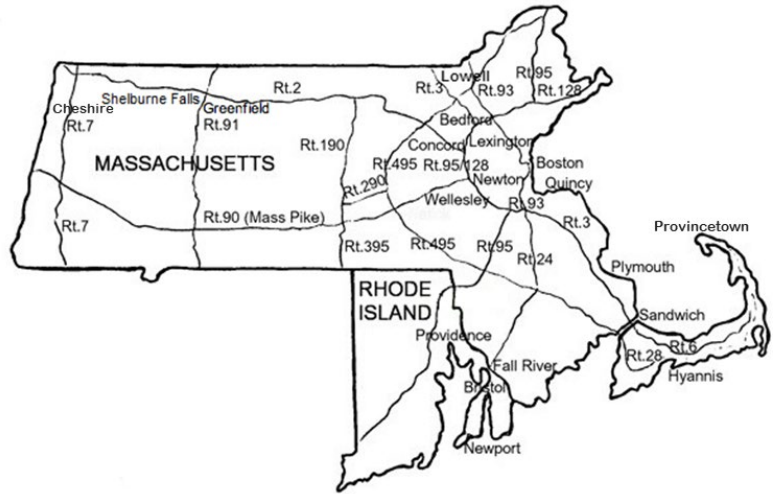
# Wickford, RI

## 10km & 5km routes

**EVENT ID:** 2026 / Y3509

**OPEN:** January 1 to December 31, 2026  
Dawn to Dusk

**TRAIL DESCRIPTION:** Wickford is a village in North Kingstown, RI, Washington County, located 20 miles south of Providence. This historic seaport is located on one of the most well-protected natural harbors on the Eastern seaboard and has one of the largest collections of 18th century dwellings in the Northeast. The fictional village of Eastwick in John Updike's novel *The Witches of Eastwick*, was modeled on Wickford.



**The Village Loop (5km)** is mostly on flat, paved surfaces and includes historic homes, unique shops and restaurants, Clarence Hussey Memorial Bridge (a concrete arch design unique in the state), Town Hall, North Kingstown Beach, Poplar Point neighborhood, and a view to the Poplar Point Lighthouse. The lighthouse tower is the oldest surviving wooden lighthouse in the U.S. and is the oldest lighthouse in Rhode Island still standing at its original location.

**The Historic Loop (5km)** includes natural paths in Bush Hill Nature Reserve and 13 interpretive signs highlighting the area's past (e.g., shipbuilding, Narragansett settlers, steamships, grand architecture, and more), as well as Washington Academy, the mysterious Narragansett Rune Stone, and Old Narragansett Church.

Interpretive marker signs to look for along the volkswalk routes:

	TOPIC	VILLAGE #	HISTORIC #
Marker 1	Wickford Walk		36
Marker 2	Wickford as a Maritime Center Early 1700s to 1860s		38
Marker 3	The Narragansett, The People of the Small Point		14
Marker 4	Wickford Women and their Legacy		39
Marker 5	Main Street ... The Grand Highway 1770-1836	4	42
Marker 6	Black Mariners		45
Marker 7	The Founding of Wickford Pleasant Street		2
Marker 8	Wickford, Gateway to Newport, 1870-1920s		1
Marker 9	The Narragansett Rune Stone		31
Marker 10	The Clarence L. Hussey Memorial Bridge	7, 21	28
Marker 11	Story of Ten Rod Road		26
Marker 12	Washington Academy		24
Marker 13	Academy Cove		20

**TRAIL RATING:** The Village Loop, mostly on flat, paved surfaces, has an AVA trail rating of 1A. The Historic Loop, with a portion of the route on natural surfaces in Bush Hill Nature Reserve, has an AVA trail rating of 1B, making it difficult for both strollers and wheelchairs.

## AVA SPECIAL PROGRAMS:

- Anniversaries Hurrah
- Lighthouses II
- Par-For-The-Course
- Step to the Beat
- Walking the USA A – Z
- Walking with America’s Veterans
- Washington-Rochambeau National Historic Trail

**REGISTRATION:** IVV Credit is available with online registration only (<https://my.ava.org>). All walkers must pay the nominal participant fee through OSB, whether getting IVV Credit or not.

**AWARD:** This is an IVV Credit Only event; no award.

**RESTROOMS:** Restrooms are available in the center of Wickford, the Town Dock (porta-potties), the public library, and North Kingstown Beach (porta-potty).

**START ADDRESS:** The walk routes begin from the public parking lot at the Town Dock. For GPS, use 161 Main Street, North Kingstown, RI.

## DRIVING DIRECTIONS:

### From the South:

1. I-95 North to Exit 14A (RI-102 South).
2. RIGHT onto RI-102 South/RI-3 South.
3. LEFT on RI-102 South. Continue straight to stay on RI-102 South for 2.9 miles.
4. LEFT on Brown St.
5. RIGHT on Main Street and proceed to Wickford Town Dock parking lot at the end of Main Street.

### From the North:

1. I-95 South to Exit 24B (this is a left exit!) to RI-4 South. Follow signs to North Kingstown.
2. From RI-4 South, take exit for RI-403 toward Quonset and continue on RI-403 East for 2.4 miles.
3. From RI-403 East, take Exit 3 to RIGHT on US-1/Post Road.
4. LEFT on West Main Street. Continue straight to Wickford Town Dock parking lot at end of Main Street.

**REMEMBER:** You must log back into the Online Start Box at <https://my.ava.org> to the finish online registration procedure after completing this event. Any checkpoints noted in the walk directions are for your own amusement/education and are not validated in OSB.

### In case of Emergency Dial 911

For questions or comments, contact Ann Plichta, 508-965-6922, [amplic@comcast.net](mailto:amplic@comcast.net)  
79 Archer Street, Fall River, MA 02720

**Thank you for participating in this walk in Wickford, RI. We hope you enjoyed exploring one of the oldest preserved colonial seaside towns in the country.**

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## WICKFORD, RI

### HISTORIC LOOP — 5 km



1. From the parking lot at the Wickford Town Dock, proceed **STRAIGHT on Main St.** on right hand sidewalk to Pleasant St. *Marker #8: Wickford, Gateway to Newport, 1870-1920s*
2. **RIGHT on Pleasant St.** to Marker #7: *The Founding of Wickford Pleasant Street.*
3. **RETRACE** steps to Main St.
4. **RIGHT on Main St.** to the Greenway, just after house #84. *Look for the break between two hedges.*
5. **RIGHT on the Greenway** to the church. *The flagstones chronicle the history of the parish, bearing names of the early missionaries and the rectors of the parish from 1706 forward. The congregation was founded in 1706. The church was built in 1707 and moved to its current location in 1800.*
6. **RIGHT in front of the church on Church Ln.** (no sign) Follow Church Lane to Fowler St. (no sign; first street you come to).
7. **LEFT on Fowler St.** to Friend St. *#47 Fowler St. was once owned by two Loyalists, Gideon Carr and Thomas Bissell Jr., who left for either England or Canada.*
8. **RIGHT on Friend St.** to Pleasant St.
9. **LEFT on Pleasant St.** to Bruce Ter. *The home at 115 Pleasant St. has been in the possession of a direct descendant of the original owner, Nancy T. Hazard, an African American/Narragansett Indian woman, for over 33 years.*
10. **LEFT on Bruce Ter** (no sign; dirt path just past house #122. Authorized Vehicles only sign) to Fowler St.
11. **LEFT on Fowler St** to Eldrid Lane (no sign; packed dirt road just past the row of mailboxes).
12. **RIGHT on Eldrid Lane** to private driveway.
13. **Bear LEFT on path** after passing private driveway sign, across from sign saying Villa Mahoney, to first fork. *Bush Hill Nature Reserve is a good place for bird watching, and there are great views of the saltmarsh.*
14. **LEFT at first fork**; bear **RIGHT at next fork** to Marker #3: *The Narragansett, The People of the Small Point.*
15. **Retrace steps, bearing LEFT on trail** to next intersection.
16. **LEFT at intersection** to cross bridge over the marsh to end of trail at Newtown Ave.
17. **LEFT on Newtown Ave** to end at West Main St.
18. **RIGHT on West Main St.** to crosswalk.
19. **CROSS West Main St.** using crosswalk and proceed **STRAIGHT on asphalt walkway.** *The building at #100 West Main was originally a commercial structure (grocery and butcher shop).*
20. **LEFT on path just beyond large rock after crossing bridge. Bear Right** to Marker #13: *Academy Cove* behind the library.
21. **Retrace route on path** to asphalt walkway.
22. **LEFT on walkway to front of library,** continuing on driveway in front of library to end at Boone St.
23. **LEFT on Boone St.** and continue until playscape can be seen on left. *The Old Town House 1807-1889. Par For the Course.*

24. **Veer LEFT across field to Marker #12:** *Washington Academy* by playscape.
25. From the marker, continue to **veer RIGHT across parking lot** driveway to Phillips St. (no sign)
26. **RIGHT on Phillips St.** to *Marker #11: Story of Ten Rod Road.*
27. **RETRACE steps on Phillips St.** and continue to Brown St. (no sign) at roundabout.
 

*The Odd Fellows Hall, at 90 Phillips St., was built in 1884. In the early 1950s the building reopened as a movie theatre and is now an auction hall, museum, and antique store.*
28. **BEAR LEFT** and turn **RIGHT to CROSS** Brown St. at crosswalk with roundabout at right.
29. Continue **STRAIGHT on Boston Neck Rd. toward bridge** to *Marker #10: The Clarence L. Hussey Memorial Bridge*
30. From the Marker, **RETRACE your steps to Brown St.** (no sign; roundabout).
 

*If you're hungry or thirsty, there are many restaurants on Brown Street to choose from.*
31. **RIGHT on Brown St.** to Library Park on the right, past Shayna's Place and the first crosswalk.
 

*At 22 Brown St., Ishmael, along with his sons, practiced the lost art of harness making for over 60 years. They were the sole providers in the village of this valued service.*
32. **RIGHT on path into Library Park** to *Marker #9: The Narragansett Rune Stone.*
33. **Return through Library Park to Brown St.**

*Restrooms are available at 61 Brown Street, behind Dollar Tree.*
34. **RIGHT on Brown St.** to the next crosswalk across from the Kayak Center.
 

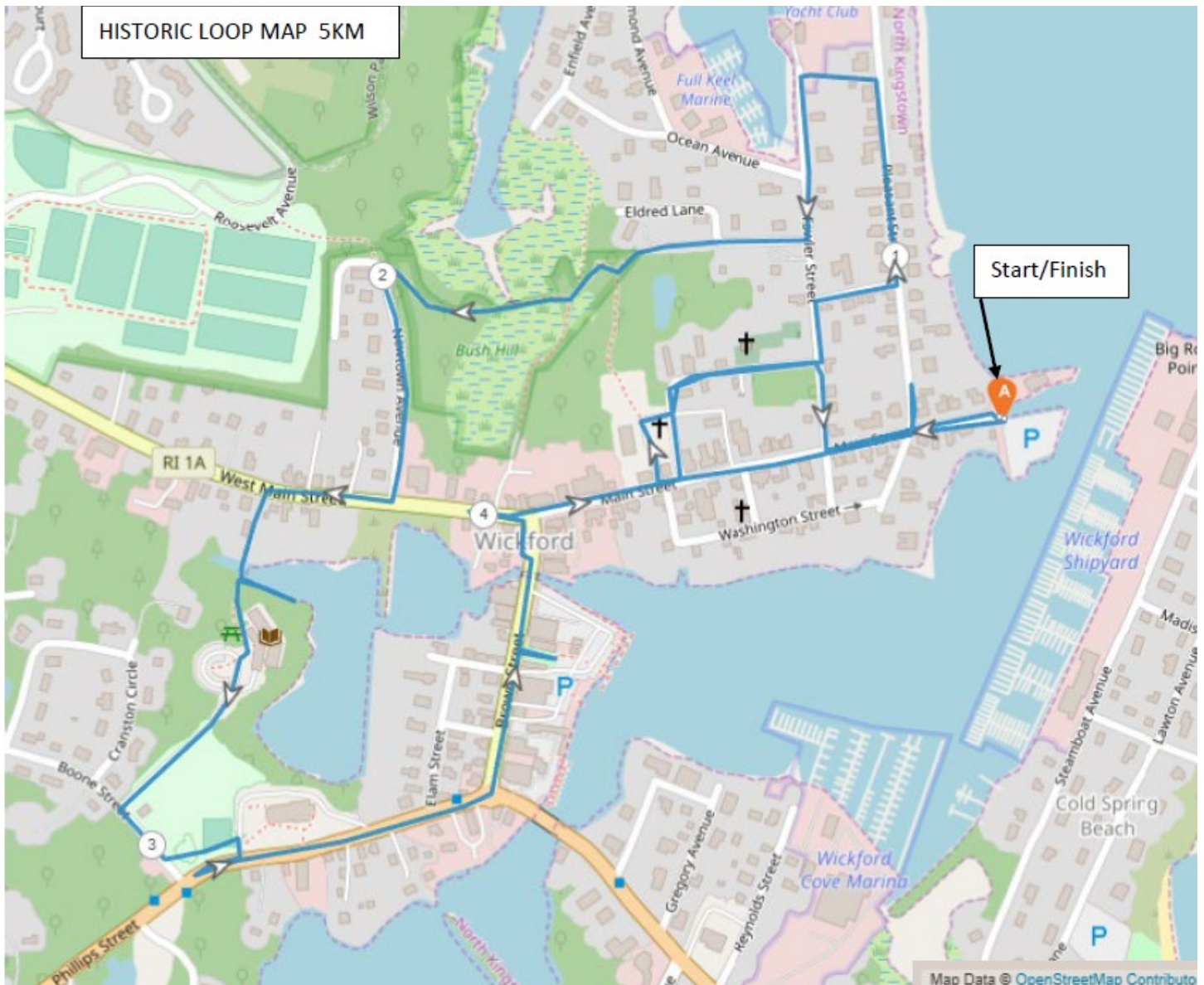
*In 1857, 70 Brown St. was the site of a two-family house. Later, Ryan's Market was in business here for over 120 years, largely due to the exceptional quality of its meat and produce and the high levels of service offered by the family. Today it is the site of the Kayak Centre, an outdoor sports store.*
35. **LEFT to CROSS Brown St.** in crosswalk.
36. **RIGHT on Brown St.,** crossing a low bridge to Updike Park. *Walking with America's Veterans.*
37. **LEFT on path through Updike Park** to *Marker #1: Wickford Walk.*
38. **Continue on path to West Main St.**
39. **LEFT on West Main St.** to *Marker #2: Wickford as a Maritime Center Early 1700s to 1860s.*
40. **Continue to crosswalk. CROSS and RIGHT on West Main St.** to *Marker # 4: Wickford Women and their Legacy.*

*Fifteen West Main was the home of Avis Ann Spink, who was a natural-born business woman in a time when females were not usually allowed to be involved in such things. Upon the death of her husband, Oliver, in 1846, she was the owner and landlord of much of the commercial and rental space in Wickford. She managed all these properties personally.*
41. **Continue on West Main St.** to first crosswalk after Brown St.
42. **RIGHT to carefully cross West Main St.**
43. **LEFT on Main St.** to *Marker #5: Main Street ... The Grand Highway 1770-1836*
44. **Retrace steps to crosswalk. CROSS and RIGHT on Main St. to Church Lane.**

*A summer home of Ralph Clark, heir to the Singer Sewing Machine fortune, was at 56 Main St. He purchased 35 Church Lane to house the family's servants, cook and chauffeurs.*
45. **Follow Church Lane, bearing RIGHT to the end** at Fowler St. (no sign).
 

*Daniel Weeden constructed 38 Church Lane as his shoemaker shop that he shared with his son, Christopher.*
46. **RIGHT on Fowler St.** to *Marker #6: Black Mariners.*

*A former slave owned 19 Fowler St.*
47. **Continue on Fowler St.** to Main St.
48. **LEFT on Main St. to FINISH** at the Town Dock Parking Lot.



The Walk 'n Mass Volkssport Club thanks the Connecticut Valley Volkssport Club for initiating this volkswalk route and allowing Walk 'n Mass Volkssport Club to adopt it.

We thank you, the participant, for walking in Wickford, RI.

**Please remember to log back in to the OSB and record your completion of this walk so Walk 'N Mass receives documentation and payment for your participation at this event.**

**In Emergency: 911**

**For questions or comments:** Ann Plichta 508-965-6922 amplic@comcast.net

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Rev 3/13/2026



## WICKFORD, RI

### VILLAGE LOOP — 5 km

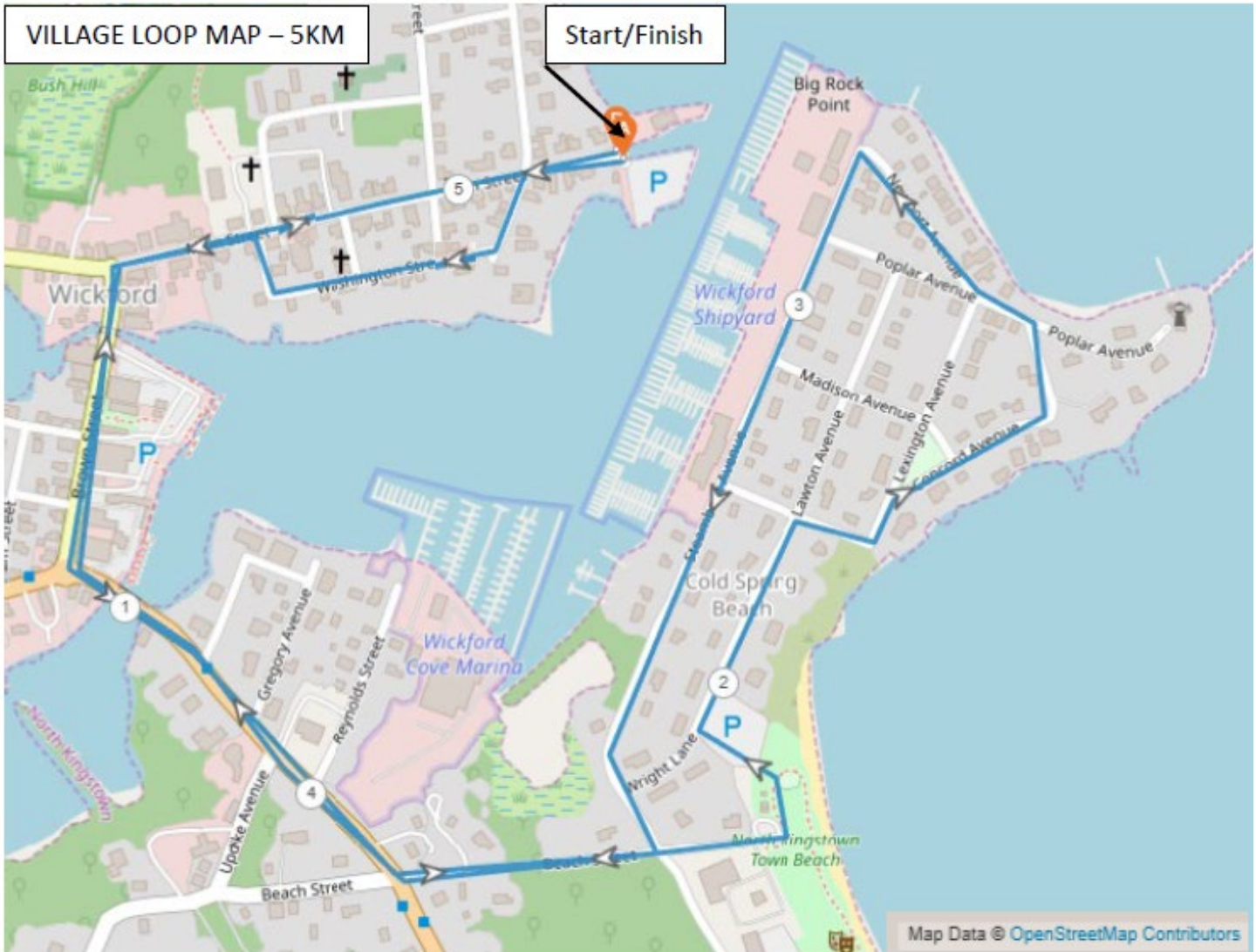


1. From the parking lot at the Wickford Town Dock, proceed **STRAIGHT on Main St.** on left hand sidewalk to Bay Street.
2. **LEFT on Bay St.** to first right at Washington St. (no street sign. One Way sign)  
*As you walk by the historic homes, take note of the plaques with the original owner's name and date the house was built. Some also served as businesses, which is also noted on the plaque.*
3. **RIGHT on Washington St.** to end at Gold Street. (no sign)
4. **CROSS and RIGHT on Gold St.** to the end at Main Street (no sign).  
*Across the street is the First Baptist Church of Wickford, built in 1817.*
5. **LEFT on Main St.** to Brown Street.  
*Brown Street is Wickford's downtown area. Check out the unique shops and eateries along the way. **Restrooms** are located at 61 Brown St. behind Dollar Tree*
6. **LEFT on Brown St.** to end at roundabout at Phillips Street (no sign)
7. **LEFT on Phillips St,** crossing the Hussey Bridge where it becomes Boston Neck Road. Continue past the Town Hall to first traffic light at Beach St. (street sign across Boston Neck Road)  
*10 Boston Neck Rd. one of the first homes in Wickford to have electric lights. It was once a carpenter's workshop, then a grocery store.*
8. **CROSS and LEFT on Beach St,** continuing straight through wooden posts at North Kingstown Beach.  
*On your right you'll see an outdoor stage. This is where the summer concerts are performed. Step to the Beat.*
9. **LEFT on paved path,** continuing between the snack bar and playscape (Par For the Course) to parking lot.
10. **BEAR LEFT** in parking lot, heading toward "No Parking" signs. Follow along edge of parking lot, curving right.
11. **LEFT just before fence,** crossing over curb and grass to end at Wright Lane (no sign).
12. **RIGHT on Wright Lane** to first stop sign at Elgin Avenue.
13. **RIGHT on Elgin Avenue** to Lexington Avenue.
14. **LEFT on Lexington Avenue** to Concord Avenue.
15. **Bear RIGHT at Y intersection** to stay on Concord Avenue (no sign. Playground on left) to end at Armington Avenue.
16. **LEFT on Armington Avenue** to Poplar Avenue.  
*Just before turning onto Poplar Avenue, pause at the private road on the right and look up to see the beacon of the **Poplar Point Lighthouse.** Lighthouse II. The lighthouse was built in 1831 with a stone keeper's dwelling and wooden tower. The light was deactivated in 1882 and sold at auction in 1894. The tower is the oldest surviving wooden lighthouse tower in the US and is the oldest lighthouse in RI still standing at its original location. Listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1988.*
17. **LEFT on Poplar Avenue** to Newport Avenue.
18. **BEAR RIGHT on Newport Avenue** to Steamboat Avenue.
19. **LEFT on Steamboat Avenue** to end at Beach St.
20. **CAREFULLY CROSS and RIGHT on Beach St.** to end at the traffic signal on Boston Neck Road.
21. **RIGHT to cross Beach Street, continuing STRAIGHT** on Boston Neck Road, passing the town hall and crossing over the Hussey Bridge to roundabout on Brown Street.

22. **SLIGHT RIGHT** to first crosswalk, then **CROSS and RIGHT** on Brown Street to end at W Main/Main St.

*Walking with America's Veterans. Memorial in Updike Park.*

23. **SLIGHT LEFT** to first crosswalk. Then **CROSS and RIGHT** on Main Street to finish at Town Dock Parking lot.



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