

Smith Mountain Lake Walking Club Inc.
The Lovely Valley Loop Trail at Smith Farm
 An AVA Sanctioned Year-Round Event

Virginia Counties and Towns: Franklin County



This Franklin Country trail is heavily wooded and follows a developed, rough path which crosses a creek. There are roots and rocks, so bring walking sticks if needed. The Main Trail is a circular loop of 2.25 miles (3.5 km). To make 5 km, walk a figure 8 by using the Spur Trail, an old farm road that crosses two hayfields. (See arrows on map, page 3). The Spur Trail has high grass in the summer, so bring insect repellent. You can forego the Spur Trail and walk one of two alternates mentioned at the end. The 5 km loop is rated 2C. To make 10 km, walk the figure 8 twice.

Start/end point is the trail head parking lot (see photo below), which has no restrooms. Restrooms are available in the nearby Napoli Cowboy restaurant when open (generally evenings 4 - 8 pm). It is closed Tuesday and Wednesday. Restaurant website: <https://napolicowboy.com/>.

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

Walk Completion and Walk Credit: Upon completing the walk, please login to your Online Start Box account, click on “My Start Box” tab, then “Finish Table” tab, then click on “Go to Finish Table” button for the event you've completed. Use the displayed entry form to submit date and distance of your walk and select applicable AVA Special Programs to generate stamped “virtual” insert cards that you may choose to print out.

Starting Point Location: Parking Lot on the left just past a house on the right side, 581 Lovely Valley Road, Wirtz VA 24184. The Trail is in a rural location.

Driving Directions: From Roanoke VA: Take Exit 143 off I-81 to head south on I-581. Take to Exit 6, Elm Avenue, and go left at the end of the ramp heading towards Vinton. In about one-half mile, go right on 9th Street SE (there is a stop light and Liberty Tax is on the right corner). After crossing the Roanoke River, turn left on Riverlands Road SE (Route 116) at the light. You will come to a roundabout, take the first exit following Route 116 towards Burnt Chimney (also known as Jubal A Early (JAE) Valley Highway). Travel 13 miles up this winding mountain road to the intersection with Route 122, Booker T. Washington Highway. At the light turn right for a block and then turn left on Route 670 (Burnt Chimney Road). Follow this road 7 miles. At about mile 4.5 there is a roundabout go straight through it. Just before the Napoli Cowboy Restaurant turn right on State Route 833 (Lovely Valley Road) towards the 4-H center. The parking lot is on the left just past a house on the right, 581 Lovely Valley Road. See the “Lovely Valley Loop” sign in the photo.

From Bedford VA: Take US 460 to Bedford. Proceed south on Route 122, Booker T. Washington Highway, 27 miles until the town of Burnt Chimney. Go thru the light and turn left on Burnt Chimney Road for 7 miles until it intersects Lovely Valley Road. Just before the restaurant, go right on Lovely Valley for about 300 yards to the trail head parking lot.



These walk directions and maps may only be used in conjunction with a signed American Volkssport Association athletic waiver. All other uses are prohibited.

Restrooms: Trail head has no restrooms.

Restrooms are available in the Napoli Cowboy restaurant when open (generally evenings 4 - 8 pm).

Emergency Numbers:



In case of Emergency: Dial 911
Event related assistance:
Ron Jones: 703-217-3140

5 km Walking Directions

1. From the trail map at the parking lot, take the feeder trail down to the Main Trail. At the junction with Main Trail go the left.
2. In a short distance, a farm road (marked as the Spur Trail on the map) on the right leads down towards a field. Sometimes a wire cable crosses it. This point is Marked "A" on the Map.
3. Take the Spur Trail down the hill towards the field. Once you are at the field stay to the right along the tree line. There is an opening in trees connecting the two fields. Proceed through the opening and keep the trees now to your left. You will link back up with the farm road/Spur Trail at the edge of the forest (about 50 yards) Follow the Spur Trail until it intersects with the Main Trail. This Point is marked B on the map.
4. Go left on the Main Trail.
5. You will come to a sign on the right for a Scenic View. Walk out the Scenic View trail (about 100 meters). There is a bench where you can enjoy a view overlooking the little creek and enjoy the sounds of nature. When you are ready, head back out to the Main Trail and go left.
6. You will cross over a bridge at the creek. Continue along the winding path. You will see an old abandoned building in the distance on the right, then the back side of Napoli Cowboy on the right before returning to the Spur Trail (Farm Road) now on your left.
7. Go left back down the Spur Trail. Following the instructions in #3.
8. Once you reach the Main Trail, go right.

9. As you follow this section of the Main Trail you will cross another bridge over a creek, you will pass a stone ramp and will return back to the intersection of the Feeder T rail. Go left to return to your car.

10 km Walking Directions. To make 10 km, walk the figure 8 twice.

Alternate Route A (5 km) Go to Napoli Cowboy:

During the summer, grass along the Spur Trail is high and likely has chiggers and ticks. Here is an alternate route.

1. After completing the Main Trail (with no Spur Trail), return to the parking lot.
2. Walk along Lovely Valley Road towards Burnt Chimney Road.
3. Turn right, go to the Napoli Cowboy restaurant parking lot, turn around in the parking lot and return to your car.

Alternate Route B (5 km) Continue on Main

Trail: During the summer, grass along the Spur Trail is high and likely has chiggers and ticks. Here is an alternate route.

1. Complete the Main Trail (with no Spur Trail) but do not return to the parking lot.
2. Continue walking a second rotation of the Main Trail. The trail passes the back of the Napoli Cowboy restaurant
3. Keep walking until on the left side of the trail a tree has a "Northern Red Oak" marker. In the distance is a house on Burnt Chimney Road. Turn around at this point and return to the parking lot.

