

Capital City Walks in Providence, Rhode Island

11km route comprised of 6km and 5km loops

EVENT ID: 2021 / Y1092

OPEN: January 1 to December 31, 2021

TRAIL DESCRIPTION: Explore Providence's 375+ years of vibrant history through carefully restored neighborhoods, a revitalized downtown, and tree-lined cobblestone walkways.

The 11km route is comprised of both loops as described below.

The **6km College Hill (CH) Loop** travels down Benefit Street, a "mile of history" with an impressive concentration of original, privately owned colonial homes; Brown University, the 7th oldest Ivy League University in the nation; and Prospect Terrace, a photographer's delight with a breathtaking panorama of the city and countryside beyond.

The **5km Historic Downtown (HD) Loop** explores Providence's architecture and passes by many buildings listed on the National Register of Historic Places, including the Arcade, the oldest indoor mall in the country, the old Custom House, Grace Episcopal Church, and Providence City Hall. It also visits the Roger Williams National Memorial, the site of the original Providence settlement in 1636; Waterplace Park, a 4-acre urban park surrounding a tidal basin featuring landscaped terraces and walkways; and the Rhode Island State House, considered one of the most beautiful capitols in America.

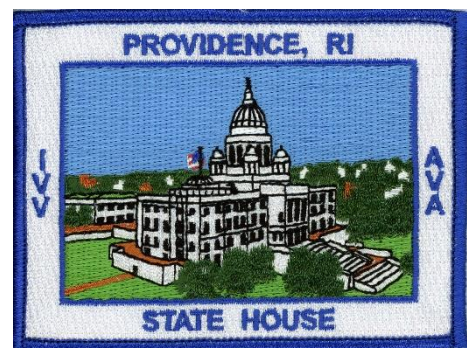
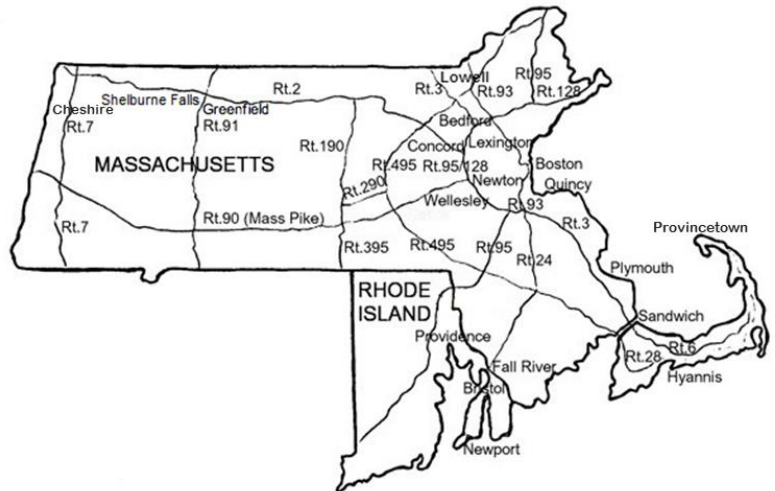
TRAIL RATING: With some cobblestone walkways, short hills and stairs, the AVA rating of both walk routes is 2B, **difficult for strollers and not suitable for wheelchairs.**

AVA SPECIAL PROGRAMS:

- Mayflower 400th Anniversary (**CH:** Brown Street; **HD:** Weybosset Street)
- Rockin' Around the Clock (**CH:** Courthouse clock, 250 Benefit Street; **HD:** Clock Tower in Waterplace Park)
- State Capital: Rhode Island
- Walking with America's Veterans (**CH:** Soldiers' Memorial Gateway on Brown campus at Thayer Street; **HD:** Canal Walk passes Memorial Park with three war memorials)
- Walking the USA A – Z: P for Providence

REGISTRATION: IVV Credit is available with online registration only (<https://my.ava.org>). The online system does not allow Free walkers, a minimal charge is incurred for directions.

AWARD: The "A" award is a fully embroidered patch depicting the Rhode Island State House as it sits above the city. **To purchase an award, please send a SASE with check payable to Walk 'n Mass Volkssport Club for \$4.00 to Ann Plichta at 79 Archer Street, Fall River, MA 02720**



START ADDRESS: The walk routes begin from **Roger Williams National Memorial Visitor Center which is located at 282 North Main St. at the corners of North Main, Smith, and Canal Streets.** See their website for open dates/hours: www.nps.gov/rowi/index.htm

RESTROOMS: If the Visitor Center is closed, public restrooms along the route are limited. Possibilities include the following: **College Hill Loop** – Café Pearl at entrance to RISD Museum at 224 Brown Street (less than 1km into loop); Student Union building at Brown University (3.3km into loop). **Historic Downtown Loop** – inside Providence Place Mall (4km into loop); various restaurants.

PARKING: on-street parking available along Canal Street or in NPS lot. For NPS lot, get temporary parking permit from ranger at Visitor Center to display on dashboard, allowing you extra time to complete your walk.

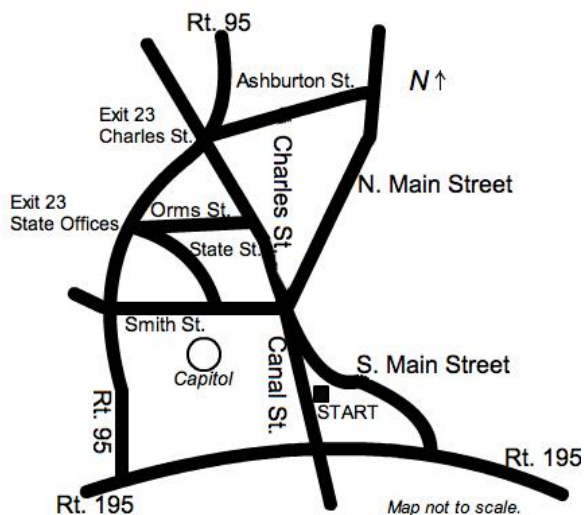
DRIVING DIRECTIONS:

Ongoing Exit Renumbering: *As renumbering of exits along many highways per federal mandate is ongoing in RI & MA, you may find things look different than how directions are described here. Please watch signs closely as old exit numbers will also be noted on the new signage, and have patience as you navigate highways during this ongoing project.*

From the North: I-95 South to Exit 23 (Charles St.). Turn **RIGHT** at stop sign, then take first **LEFT** around onto Ashburton St. At the next light, bear **RIGHT** onto Charles St. which becomes Canal St. On-street parking or NPS lot on the left just beyond the second traffic light.

From the South: I-95 North to Exit 23 (State Offices). At end of exit ramp, continue straight through light onto State St. At next light, turn **LEFT** onto Smith St. Cross railroad bridge to next light at Canal St.; turn **RIGHT** onto Canal St. (one way). Stay to left. Parking is immediately on the left.

From the East: I-195 West to Exit 2 (South Main St. becomes North Main St.). Turn **LEFT** at Smith St. for one block. Turn **LEFT** onto Canal St. Parking available on the left.



REMEMBER: you must log back into the Online Start Box at <https://my.ava.org> to finish online registration procedure after completing this event.

In case of Emergency Dial 911

Contact Ann Plichta with questions at amplic@comcast.net or 508-673-6553.

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Thanks for attending our walk! If you are interested in other nearby AVA events, in Rhode Island or Massachusetts, please see our website: <https://walknmass.org>



PROVIDENCE RI VOLKSWALK

11KM = one 6KM and one 5KM loop



COLLEGE CAMPUS — 6KM Loop

1. **LEFT** leaving start to traffic light.
2. **RIGHT** to cross North Main Street in crosswalk.
3. **RIGHT** on North Main Street to end of first building, St. John's Episcopal Church Office Building at #275. Take immediate **LEFT before church**; go up small set of steps and continue **STRAIGHT** on sidewalk alongside the building, keeping building on your left. This is not a dead end.
4. **LEFT** at end of building, following sidewalk to steps.
5. Ascend steps and follow steps and walkway up hill to Benefit Street.
6. **RIGHT** on Benefit Street to end at Wickenden Street. (1.78 km) (*Mile of History with the largest concentration in America of original Colonial and Early Federal architecture. The Providence Athenaeum, 1753, is one of America's oldest subscription libraries.*)
7. **LEFT** on Wickenden Street to traffic light at Brook Street.
8. **LEFT** on Brook Street.
9. **LEFT** on Arnold Street at stop sign to Roome Lane, immediately after #27 and #29.
10. **RIGHT** to cross Arnold Street, continuing **STRAIGHT** on Roome Lane to first intersection at John Street. (no sign)
11. **LEFT** on John Street to the next right at Neighbors Lane (hydrant on corner, cobblestone lane).
12. **RIGHT** on Neighbors Lane to end at Williams Street. (no sign)
13. **LEFT** on Williams Street to first right at Copley Lane, just past #88 on right.
14. **RIGHT** on Copley Lane to end at Power Street. (no sign) (2.59 km)
15. **LEFT** on Power Street to the next right at Brown Street.
16. **RIGHT** on Brown Street, walking on right side to end at George Street.
17. **CROSS** George Street in cross walk and continue **STRAIGHT** through gates onto Brown University Campus (*7th oldest college in United States, 1764.*)
18. **RIGHT** at third paved path just past Sayles Hall. There is a blue campus phone with blue light on the corner.
19. **STRAIGHT** down stairs, continuing through the Soldiers' Memorial Gateway to Thayer Street. (no sign) (3.36 km)
20. **LEFT** on Thayer Street to Meeting Street. (no sign. Andrea's on corner, just past Avon Cinema.)
21. **CROSS** and **LEFT** on Meeting Street, walking on right side to third path onto Pembroke College Campus. (stone pillars. The Pembroke College Tribute will be on the left.)
22. **STRAIGHT** up stairs and bear left to third paved walkway (paving stones and bricks) on left, just past Smith-Buonanno Hall.
23. **LEFT** on paved walkway to first intersection at Brown Street.

- 24. **RIGHT** on Brown Street to first left at Bowen Street. (stop sign) (4.00 km)
- 25. **LEFT** on Bowen Street to end at Congdon Street.
- 26. **STRAIGHT** to cross Congdon Street into Prospect Park. Follow the paved path to the left, passing the Roger Williams Memorial before returning to Congdon Street. Be sure to enjoy the view! (*Roger Williams Memorial Statue, 1603-83. His remains are interred here.*)
- 27. **RIGHT** on Congdon Street to end at Angell Street. (no sign)
- 28. **RIGHT** on Angell Street to end at Benefit Street.
- 29. **RIGHT** on Benefit Street for a short distance to first crosswalk.
- 30. **CROSS** Benefit Street and continue **STRAIGHT** on Thomas Street to end at North Main Street.
- 31. **CROSS** and turn **RIGHT** to Roger Williams National Park Visitors' Center.

Finish for 6km.

Continue with #32 for 11km.

**DOWNTOWN/
STATE CAPITOL — 5KM Loop**

- 32. **RIGHT** on North Main Street leaving Start to **RIGHT** down first set of stairs.
- 33. **LEFT** on brick walkway. **RIGHT** at second four-way intersection (stairs on left), then **LEFT** at subsequent intersections, at one point walking parallel to North Main St.
- 34. **RIGHT** at last four-way intersection (Wayland Building in front of you) to end. **LEFT** to head to the corner of Park Row and Canal Street.
- 35. Cross Park Row, continuing **STRAIGHT** on Canal Street, crossing Steeple and Washington Streets to reach the

pedestrian Canal Walk keeping the river on your right. You will pass the College Street Bridge, continuing to a short set of stairs at Crawford Street. (name on bridge)

- 36. **RIGHT** at top of stairs, crossing the Rowan Bridge to Memorial Boulevard. (no sign)
- 37. **RIGHT** on Memorial Boulevard, crossing College Street at traffic light.
- 38. **LEFT** to cross Memorial Boulevard at crosswalk, continuing under arch to Westminster Street. (no sign) (1.27km) (*Note the Turk's Head Building at the "V" in front of you. It is one of the oldest skyscrapers in Providence. Look above the door for the distinctive stone figurehead that gives the building its name.*)
- 39. **LEFT** in crosswalk just before Exchange Street to cross Westminster Street. Bear to the **LEFT** to continue on Weybosset Street. (no sign) (*You'll pass by the historic Custom House at 24 Weybosset Street. It was built in 1857, and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Across from the Hampton Inn and Suites is the Arcade, the oldest indoor mall in the country, built in 1828. It is a National Historic Landmark.*)
- 40. **STRAIGHT** on Weybosset Street, crossing Dorrance Street at the traffic light to Chestnut /Empire Street. (*You'll pass part of the Johnson and Wales Campus, as well as the Providence Performing Arts Center (PPAC), formerly Loew's State Theater. It is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.*) (2.09 km)
- 41. **RIGHT** to cross Weybosset Street at traffic light, and **RIGHT** to continue down Weybosset Street on other side.
- 42. **LEFT** at second light on Matthewson Street. (no sign. Across from PPAC entrance.) (*Grace Episcopal Church is on the*

left. It was built in 1845-1846 in the Gothic Revival architectural style, and is on the National Register of Historic Places.)

43. **CROSS** and turn **RIGHT** on Westminster Street continuing to Eddy Street.

44. **CROSS** and **LEFT** on Eddy Street for two blocks to Washington Street. (no sign) You will be in back of Providence City Hall.

45 **RIGHT** on Washington Street continuing along the side of Providence City Hall for one block to Dorrance Street. (no sign)

46. **RIGHT** on Dorrance Street in front of Providence City Hall, crossing Fulton Street. (*Providence City Hall was built in 1878 in the Second Empire Baroque architectural style. It is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.*)

47. **LEFT** to cross Dorrance Street, continuing **STRAIGHT** on Fulton Street. Kennedy Plaza will be across the street. (3.16 km)

48. **LEFT** at Exchange Street to cross Fulton Street. Fulton Street turns into Cookson Place along Kennedy Plaza. (*Note Federal Courthouse and Post Office across the street. Look back and see the Industrial National Bank Building. It's located at 111 Westminster Street and is the tallest building in Rhode Island. It is known as the "Superman Building," due to its*

resemblance to the Daily Planet Building in the Superman comics. It is currently vacant.)

49. Carefully cross Exchange Terrace and turn **LEFT** to set of stairs at East Approach. (sign on left)

50. **RIGHT** to go down stairs, then **LEFT** to continue on sidewalk with parking lot on your right.

51. **RIGHT** after fire hydrant to go under Water Place arch to the river. **LEFT** to continue along the river, keeping water on your right and continuing up a small set of stairs, continuing straight to cross over the General Pershing Bridge.

52. **LEFT** at end of bridge to set of stairs.

53. **ASCEND** stairs to Finance Way (3.74 km) turning **LEFT** for a very short distance, then **RIGHT** on Francis Street. (no sign)

54. Continue **STRAIGHT**, crossing Hayes Street (no sign) in front of the State Capitol.

55. **LEFT**, then **RIGHT** on Francis Street, continuing up the hill, keeping State Capitol on your right to end at Smith Street. (*State Capitol constructed of white Georgian marble with one of the top four self-supported marble domes in the world.*)

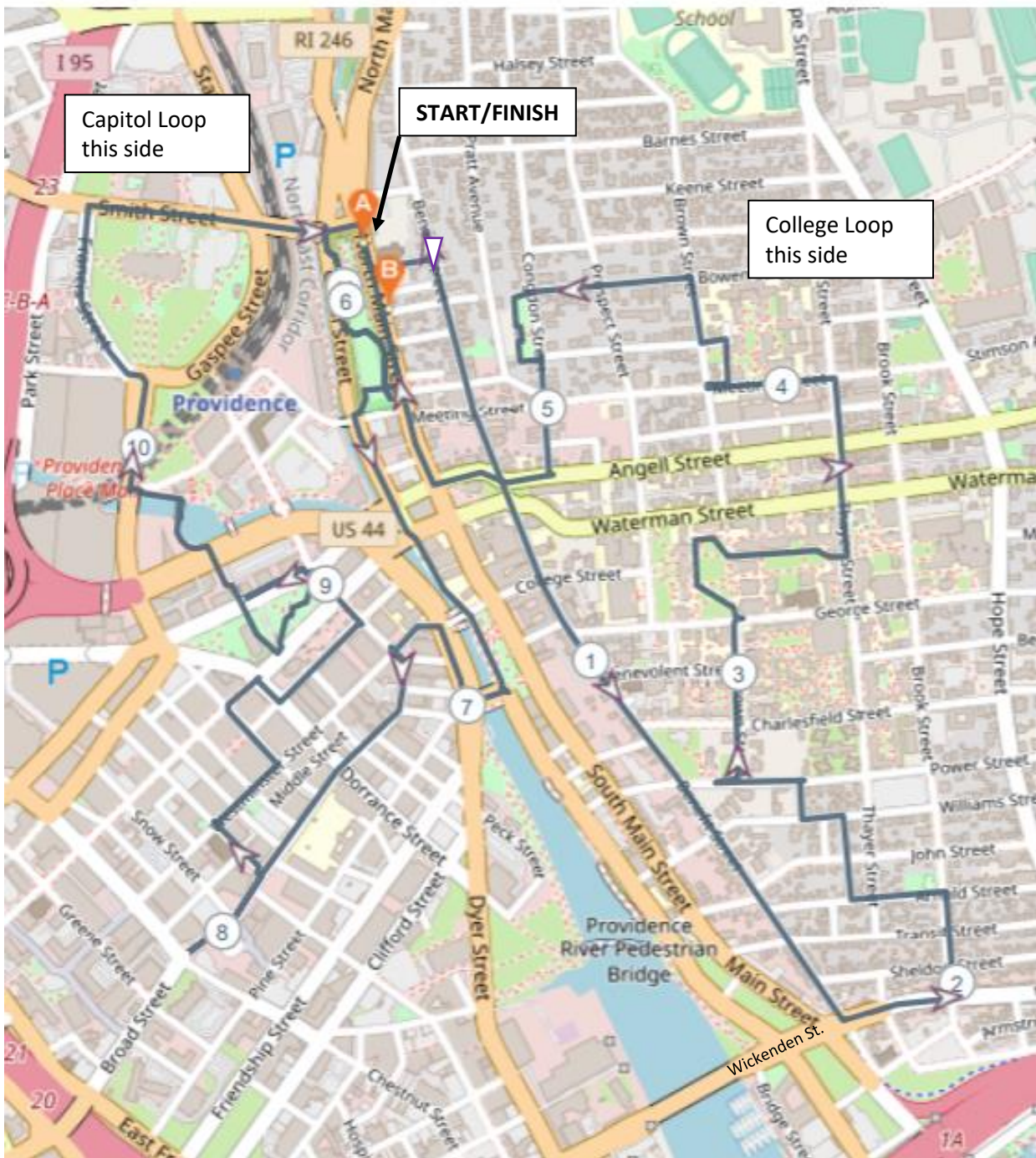
56. **RIGHT** on Smith Street to traffic light. **LEFT** to cross Smith Street, then **RIGHT** on Smith Street to end at Roger Williams National Park Visitors Center at North Main Street. **Finish.**

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Emergency: 911

Providence 2021 Walk



START/FINISH ADDRESS:

Roger Williams National Memorial Visitor Center

282 North Main Street, Providence, RI 02903

Tel: 401-521-7266

www.nps.gov/rowi/index.htm

In case of Emergency Dial 911

Contact walk POC Ann Plichta with questions at amplie@comcast.net or 508-673-6553.