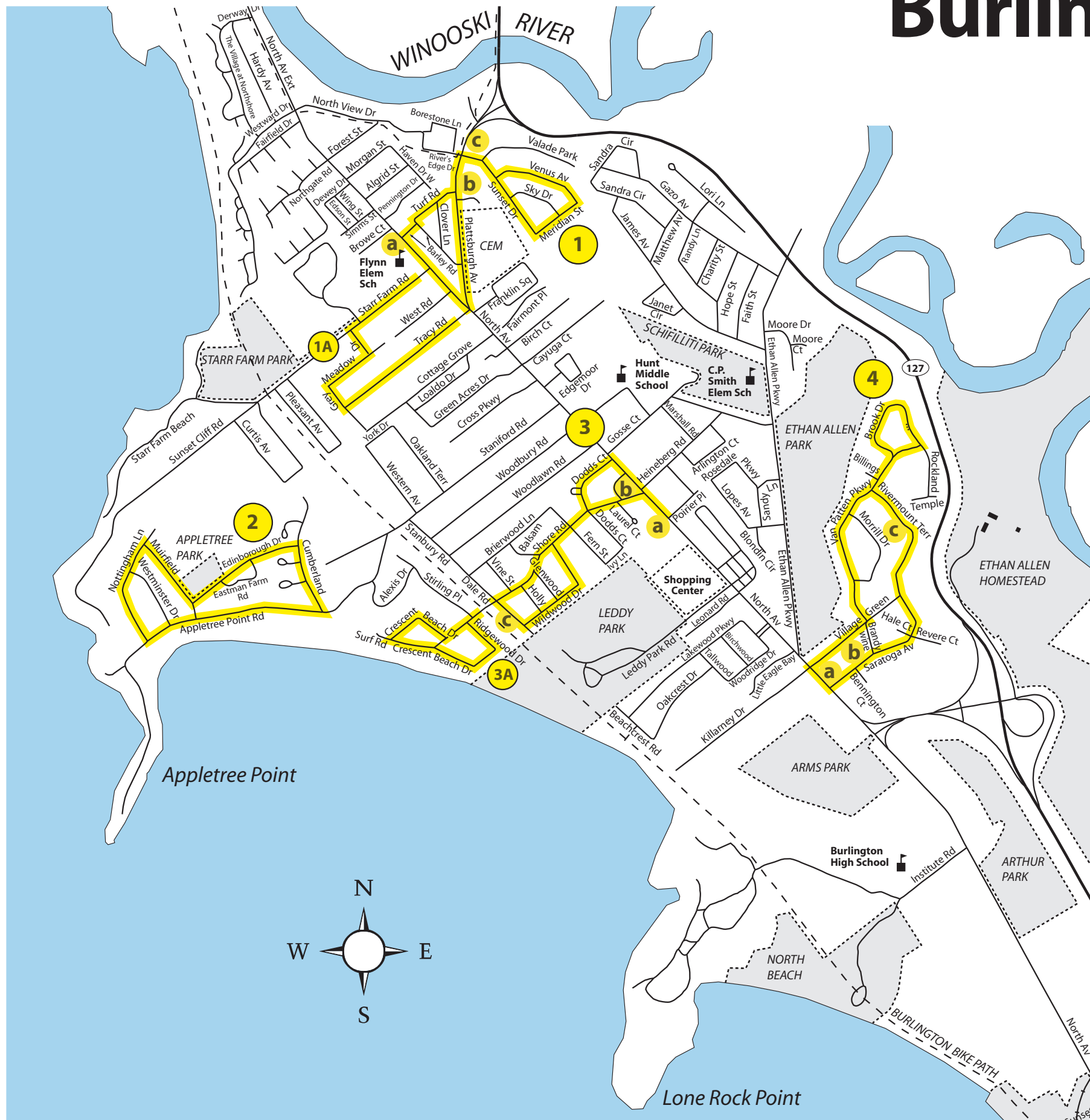
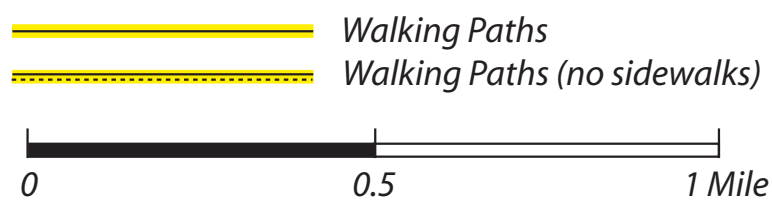


Burlington Walks



- 1** (a) Flynn School was built in 1953 to serve the ballooning population of the New North End. (b) As you turn onto Plattsburgh Avenue, notice the old farmhouse (# 155) across the street. Behind the house, you can see several 19th-century barns, remnants of the farm that operated here for decades. (c) As you walk down Plattsburgh Avenue, think back to the era when the stagecoach rattled past here going from Burlington to Plattsburgh (hence the street name). The river was crossed by a ferry boat until the 1840s, and then by a long covered bridge until 1937. (1.6 miles, mostly flat)
- 1A** This loop adds 0.8 mile to the walk and traverses pleasant neighborhoods of various ages.
- 2** Although occupied by a very modern neighborhood now, Appletree Point is where Felix Powell, the first European settler in Burlington, cleared 5 acres and built a log house in the 1770s. The farms that subsequently occupied the point included one that had a prize-winning Guernsey dairy herd in the 1920s. The entire walk is level because the area was once a flat-topped sandy delta deposit. The delta was built by the Winooski River as it emptied into an arm of the sea that filled the Champlain Valley as the glaciers retreated 12,000 years ago. (1.3 miles, flat)
- 3** (a) The old Thayer School was built in 1894 on the site of an older country schoolhouse. It was the only school in the New North End for 50 years. Its tall windows are characteristic of school buildings built before electric lights were common or cheap. (b) For more than 100 years, Shore Road was an unpaved road leading to a farm near the lakeshore. (c) The Burlington Bike Path was built on the rail bed of the Rutland Railroad spur line to the Champlain Islands and Canada, built in 1899. The line was spectacularly scenic and very expensive because of the causeway. Try to picture this area a century ago: all open farmland with a steam train chugging through it. (1.4 miles, flat)
- 3A** This 0.7 mile loop allows some glimpses of the lake, and adds some gentle slopes.
- 4** (a) When this brick house (now the Ready Funeral Home) was built in 1866, the New North End was completely rural, consisting of a dozen farms. (b) As you start down Saratoga Avenue, you are stepping onto what was once Ethan Allen's 1400-acre farm in the 1780s. The road to the farm ran right through this area. When this part of the neighborhood was developed in the 1940s, street names with Revolutionary War associations were chosen because of the Allen connection. Test your knowledge of history as you pass the street signs! (c) As you begin to climb the hill, you will see a number of buff-colored rock outcrops. The rock is a 550 million-year-old magnesium-rich limestone called Dunham Dolomite, and it is the leading edge of a thrust fault that runs 200 miles along western Vermont. The fault dates to the great collision of the European and African tectonic plates against North America. A view of Camel's Hump will reward you near the north end of the walk. (1.8 miles, first third is flat, then hilly)
- 5** (a) The yellow house at 12 Colchester Avenue was built in about 1790. In 1794, the house and 50 acres were sold to Col. Stephen Pearl (hence the street name), and for many years, it stood in a small clearing in the forest. (b) If you were standing at this corner in 1850, you would be looking at a wooden bridge that crossed a 100-foot-deep ravine, with railroad tracks running at the bottom. The ravine cut diagonally through the city from here to the Perkins Pier area. This section was later filled in with wood shavings from the waterfront lumber mills, and Green Street was laid out on top of the fill. (c) 170 North Prospect Street is a Greek Revival style house built in 1851 by Thaddeus Fletcher, whose considerable fortune was probably made in the western land market. His family lived a very private, secluded life here, and eventually donated their money to found the city library (Fletcher Free) and to endow a hospital (now Fletcher Allen). (d) The Willard Nervine Home, 89 North Prospect Street, was built as a private hospital in 1888 by Dr. Andrew Jackson Willard. Offering a rest cure for nervous invalids, it combined the comforts of a first class hotel with the seclusion of a retreat. (e) Mount Saint Mary's Convent was built in the late 1880s after the the nuns came to Burlington to staff the city's Catholic schools. In front of the convent, to the right of the front door, is the largest recorded white fir tree in Vermont. Behind the convent is a pine grove which is a remnant of the original pre-European settlement forest. (1.6 miles, moderate hills)



- 6** (a) This corner (Church and Bank Streets) is the site of the first retail store on Church Street, built in the 1820s. The current building was built in 1879 as the Howard Opera House. Note the musical decorations on the cornice at the top of the façade. (b) The three-story section in the middle of this block of Main Street is what is left of a stagecoach inn from the early 1800s. The seven-story building on the corner was once the Hotel Vermont, built in 1910. For years it was the glittering social center for the city and was known for its rooftop garden and grill overlooking the lake. (c) The entire city block west of City Hall Park was owned by the Wells, Richardson Company, manufacturers of Paine's Celery Compound, other patent medicines and dyes for butter. Offices, manufacturing, a box factory, and shipping were all located here. (d) A seven-block Italian neighborhood in this area was razed in an urban renewal project in the 1960s and 70s. The fill from the cellars of the new offices and mall was used to build the Battery Park Extension, with its sculpture garden and tree-lined walkway. Many of the active church bells in Burlington are found along this walk. Take this walk on Sunday morning or at noon to hear them. (1.2 miles, steady climb to the Marketplace makes this a good workout.)
- 7** (a) 258 S. Willard, now Champlain College's Pearl Hall, was built in 1889 by architect and builder Alfred B. Fisher as his retirement home. Fisher was a prolific architect who built many commercial buildings downtown and many grand residences in the city, including a large number on this street. (b) About 12,000 years ago, a glacial-age sea was lapping at the beach that ran approximately through the front yards of the houses on the upper side on S. Willard Street. The land above, where the University now stands, was an island. (c) Grace Goodhue and Calvin Coolidge were married in the living room of this house at 312 Maple Street in 1905. (1 mile, level stretches punctuated by steep climbs and descents)
- 7A** This loop adds 0.5 mile and takes you past (d) Grasse Mount, a stately mansion built almost 200 years ago. The Marquis de Lafayette was hosted here in 1825 when he came to lay the cornerstone of UVM's Old Mill.
- 8** (a) Dr. William Hickok built 567 St. Paul Street in 1854 on a 40-acre estate at the edge of the city. Note the rotating dome that housed the telescope he used for stargazing. The grounds of the estate were developed in the 1920s and 30s, becoming the Marion, Margaret, Ledgemere, Caroline, and Charlotte street neighborhood. (b) The Old District School House, 10 Shelburne Road, was built in 1850 for the families scattered at the south end of town, and later was used by a volunteer fire company to hold the horse-drawn fire cart. (c) The Howard and Catherine Street neighborhood was developed in 1911 from the 18-acre Buell pasture. The development's name (New Harlem) didn't stick. (1 mile, mostly level with some moderate slopes)
- 9** (a) The Willard family opened the Redstone Quarry in 1805 and operated it well into the 20th century. The distinctive reddish-brown sandstone is about 500 million years old, and is Burlington's signature building stone, used for both prominent buildings and simple house foundations. On the quarry floor you can see ripple marks from ancient ocean currents, and the quarry walls show the drill holes left from blasting. (b) The Guy Willard house at 160 Shelburne Road was built in 1830 by the second generation of Willards so they could be near their quarry. (c) Climb through the Hill Section, with its stunning lake and mountain views, to the UVM Redstone Campus, once the 66-acre estate of the Buell family, perched on Burlington's highest spot. The three original buildings were built around 1890 of redstone from the Redstone Quarry and a ledge on the property. (2.3 miles, steady uphill grades, with a few level stretches)
- 10** (a) The three-story brick factory building that now houses part of General Dynamics was built in 1894 by the Queen City Cotton Company. In the early 1900s, it employed 600 loom workers who worked from 7 a.m. to 9 p.m. (b) The Lakeside neighborhood was built as company housing for Queen City Cotton workers. (c) Leave the neighborhood on the bike path. Englesby Brook flows through a natural floodplain forest with its characteristic silver maple, cottonwood, and willow trees. These species can withstand high flood waters in the spring. (d) The bottom of Flynn Avenue was a traditional ice-harvesting location in the days before electric refrigeration. (1.1 miles, mostly level, a few gentle slopes)
- 10A** To lengthen your walk by 0.8 mile, continue into Oakledge Park. This park was once home to the 1880s summer estate of the Webb family (before they built Shelburne Farms), then it became a summer resort hotel, and then a private country club. (e) On the redstone peninsula, you can see the north-south scratches made by the massive glaciers that once scoured Vermont.
- 11** (a) Charles W. Scarff built the house at 385 Shelburne Road in 1893 on a 100-acre farm. He and A. O. Ferguson had bought the farm several years earlier, and subdivided it into 18 city blocks of building lots. The lots started to sell in 1893 after the trolley line was extended down Pine street. Note the streets that are named after the two developers. (b) The shopping center (with its unique sculpture park) was once the site of a Civil War hospital for Vermont soldiers. Shortly after the war, the hospital was converted into an orphanage, the Home for Destitute Children (hence Home Avenue's name). The Home's buildings were replaced in the 1950s by the shopping center. (1.2 miles, some gentle to moderate slopes)
- 11A** This loop adds 0.6 mile, and takes you past the Baird Center, the successor of the Home for Destitute Children.

