

WALK, BIKE, ROLL & EXPLORE

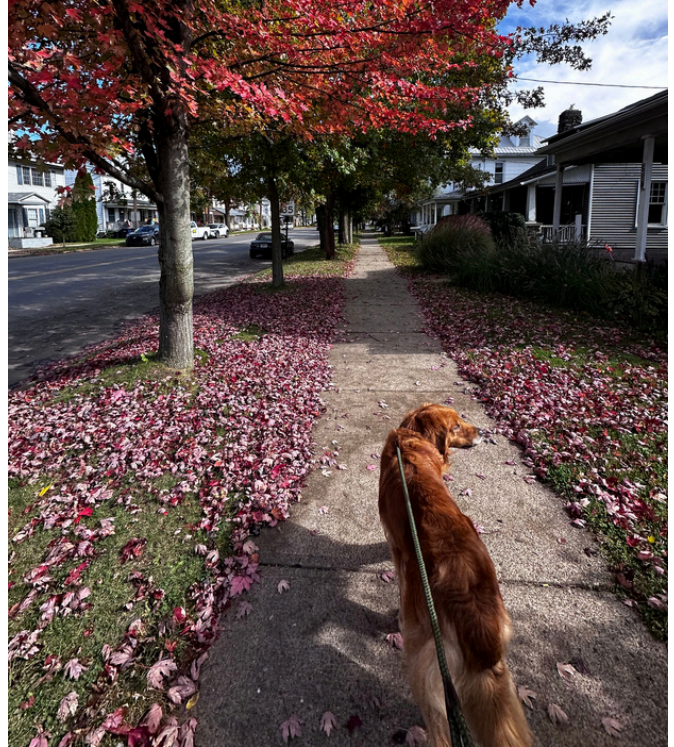
Located at the Bloomsburg Fairgrounds, the Bloomsburg Farmers Market is a popular Saturday morning destination that draws visitors from across the region. The market offers fresh produce, baked goods, meats, flowers, handcrafted goods, and a variety of other locally sourced products. Beyond shopping, it serves as a vibrant community gathering space where people can connect with neighbors, support local businesses, and spend time outdoors.

For this edition of Walk, Bike, Roll & Explore, we set out with our golden retriever, Gus, to experience what it is like to reach the Bloomsburg Farmers Market on foot. After parking on Market Street near the post office, we began our walk through downtown Bloomsburg, traveling along West Third Street and into the Bloomsburg Fairgrounds. Along the way, we explored the comfort, convenience, and accessibility of the route, evaluating sidewalk conditions, connectivity, safety, and the overall walking experience. Our goal was to better understand how easy it is to access one of the community's most popular destinations without relying on a car.

EXPLORING BLOOMSBURG ON FOOT: A FARMERS MARKET WALK

On a crisp fall weekend, we parked along Market Street near the post office and set out for a walk through Bloomsburg with our golden retriever, Gus. From Market Street, we traveled along West Third Street to Orchard Street, where we entered the Bloomsburg Fairgrounds.

While the fairgrounds are best known for hosting the annual Bloomsburg Fair each fall, they serve a much broader purpose throughout the year. During the off-season, the grounds become a community destination for walking, running, cycling, dog walking, and a variety of events, including the Farmers Market. The fairgrounds felt safe, quiet, and welcoming, making them an enjoyable place to spend time outdoors.



We made our way toward the Bloomsburg Farmers Market along Washington Street. Despite the chilly weather, the market was busy with visitors shopping, socializing, and supporting local vendors. We stopped at Wandering Brewtique for a hot apple cider and a pup cup for Gus before continuing our stroll through the market.

As we left the market and continued along Washington Street toward West Main Street, the experience changed noticeably. The lack of sidewalks, shoulders, and dedicated pedestrian facilities made this section feel uncomfortable to navigate on foot. A complex entrance and exit configuration, combined with multiple vehicle movements, creates potential conflicts and highlights the need for improved pedestrian accommodations.

From Washington Street, we turned onto West Main Street and then Leonard Street, making our way back toward Third Street before returning to Market Street. Along Third Street, we observed several accessibility challenges, including uneven sidewalks, utility poles within the pedestrian path, and overgrown vegetation that narrowed the available walking space.

Despite these obstacles, the overall walk was enjoyable. Bloomsburg's historic character, community gathering spaces, and active destinations create a pleasant environment for walking. The fairgrounds function as an important year-round community asset, providing opportunities for recreation, events, and access to the Farmers Market. Addressing pedestrian safety concerns near the market entrance and improving sidewalk conditions along portions of the route would help make the experience safer and more accessible for everyone.



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HOW EASY WAS IT TO GET THERE?

Moderately Easy

Reaching the Farmers Market on foot was relatively straightforward from our parking location on Market Street. Existing sidewalks provided a direct connection for much of the route, and Orchard Street offered convenient access into the fairgrounds. Once inside the fairgrounds, navigation was simple and enjoyable. The most significant challenge was the area surrounding the Farmers Market entrance on West Main Street, where the lack of sidewalks, shoulders, and dedicated pedestrian space made walking feel less safe and intuitive.

One of the benefits of visiting the Bloomsburg Farmers Market is the opportunity to make the trip part of a longer walk, run, or ride. Nearby corridors such as East Main Street, Fifth Street, Railroad Street, Fort McClure Road, and the Bloomsburg Area Recreation Trail (BART) offer opportunities to extend the journey and explore more of the community. Whether you're looking for additional mileage, a scenic route, or a chance to connect with other destinations, these routes provide a variety of options for experiencing Bloomsburg beyond the market itself.

WALKING ROUTE TO THE BLOOMSBURG FARMERS MARKET

Beginning on Market Street near the post office, this route travels through downtown Bloomsburg and the Bloomsburg Fairgrounds before reaching the Farmers Market, highlighting both enjoyable walking connections and opportunities for improvement along the way.



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CONCLUSION

Our walk to the Bloomsburg Farmers Market highlighted the strong sense of community and connectivity that exists throughout Bloomsburg. The route linked together local destinations, community spaces, and the fairgrounds, creating an enjoyable experience for walking and exploring. While the overall trip was positive, opportunities remain to improve comfort and safety for people walking, biking, and rolling, particularly near the market entrance.

Destinations like the Farmers Market demonstrate that transportation is about more than simply getting from one place to another. It is about connecting people to fresh food, recreation, local businesses, and opportunities to engage with their community. With targeted improvements to pedestrian and bicycle access, Bloomsburg could make one of its most popular community destinations safer, more comfortable, and more accessible for residents and visitors of all ages and abilities.

