

**EAST TENNESSEE WANDERERS  
OAK RIDGE SECRET CITY WALK  
5K/10K**

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## OAK RIDGE, TENNESSEE – The Secret City

In 1942, the US Army Corps of Engineers purchased 59,000 acres of farm land in East Tennessee to house the Manhattan Project. The city created there, Oak Ridge, was a closed, secret location throughout World War II due to the on-going work to develop the atomic bomb. During the war, 75,000 people lived and worked in Oak Ridge. During this time, armed guards checked every vehicle entering what was then Oak Ridge Federal Reservation. Visitors had to provide the name and phone number of the person they were there to visit, and guards called to verify that the visitor was expected. Two years after the war ended, Oak Ridge was placed under control of the Atomic Energy Commission. It wasn't until 1959 that the town ceased being under direct federal control when the city was incorporated with a city manager and City Council. In 2015, Oak Ridge became part of the Manhattan Project National Park along with Los Alamos, NM and Hanford, WA.

### STARTING POINT

The starting point for both distances is the Towne Place Suites by Marriott, 141-157 Wilson St., Oak Ridge, TN

**Directions:** From the east on I-40, take Exit 376 to merge onto TN-162 N toward Oak Ridge. Merge onto TN-62 W. Turn right onto S. Rutgers Ave. Hotel will be on the left just beyond Northwestern Ave at the corner of Wilson St.

From the west on I-40, take Exit 356 toward Oak Ridge. Turn left onto TN-58 N/Gallaher Rd. Continue onto Oak Ridge Turnpike. Turn right onto S. Rutgers Ave. Hotel will be on your right just beyond Wilson St.

**Parking:** Hotel has a large parking lot. Please be courteous and park in an out-of-the-way space leaving close parking for hotel guests.

**Latitude 36.013237, Longitude -84.252112**



## **GENERAL WALK INFORMATION**

Walk during daylight hours. This walk uses the sidewalks and park trails in the City of Oak Ridge which is known as the Secret City. Walkers are encouraged to visit the American Museum of Science and Energy to get a more complete view of the history and accomplishments of the Secret City. There are also bus tours to some of the more significant locations in the Secret City. Note that there are legal restrictions on participation of these tours.

Although limited, there are restrooms and food venues available at various locations along or near the route.

## **POINT OF CONTACT**

Guy Calkins (president @easttennesseewanderers.org) 585-727-6493  
If you have questions, comments, or recommendations with respect to this event, please do not hesitate to make contact.

## **SPECIAL PROGRAMS**

The two Special Programs associated with this walk are A-Z (Oak Ridge, TN), and 50 States (Tennessee).

## **OSB REMINDERS**

Be sure to log back into the OSB system to finish/complete your online registration. You can then print out your insert cards for this walk.

## **OTHER EAST TENNESSEE WANDERERS EVENTS**

While in the area, you might enjoy some of our other events.

Linda Nelson Memorial, Alcoa-Maryville Greenway Bike, Bridges of Pistol Creek (Alcoa/Maryville Extended Greenway), A.T. Through Tennessee, Clinton 12, Gatlinburg Trail, Gatlinburg Tourist, Elkmont Historic, Knoxville (UT), Knoxville (Music, Moonshine, and Art), Knoxville (North Knoxville – 4<sup>th</sup> & Gill), Seven Islands State Birding Park, Maryville, Townsend, and Fort Loudoun State Historic Park.

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All other uses are prohibited.

**The East Tennessee Wanderers  
Secret City Historic Walk©  
Oak Ridge, TN**

**5/10 KM Rated 1A Y1392**

**Special Programs (SP) : 50 States, A-Z (O)**

**Now, let's walk. This trail does not have markings; so, you are encouraged to pay close attention to these directions.**

1. Having parked in front of The American Museum of Science and Energy (AMSE), put **ASME behind you and walk along the entry road to Wilson St.**
2. **Turn left** onto the sidewalk at Wilson St.
3. **Walk along** Wilson St to Tulane Ave. [No sign but a four-lane divided road]
4. **Turn right** on Tulane Ave. and walk down to the traffic light at the Oak Ridge Parkway.
5. **Turn left** at the light/crosswalk and cross Tulane Ave.
6. **Turn left** on the sidewalk. To your right is the circular Commemorative Walk.
7. **Take the 2<sup>nd</sup> right into the circular Commemorative Walk walk past the flag pole and then turn left.** [The Secret City Commemorative Walk was dedicated by the Rotary Club of Oak Ridge in 2004 and tells the story of more than 75,000 people who came to an unknown town in East Tennessee at the call of their nation to take part in the top-secret Manhattan Project.]
8. As you come out of the circular area you will see bronze Oak Ridge History Panels telling the story of the building of Oak Ridge. The first panels on your right are 1942 and 1943.
9. **Continue around the circle** to read the 1944 and 1945 panels.
10. As you walk back into the center past the Founders II and III memorials, you will come out to see 1946, 1947, 1948, and 1949 panels.
11. As you continue around you pass the 1942 and 1943 panels a second time, **continue on and turn right onto an asphalt/gravel path** with a stream to your left.
12. At 1 km, the Oak Ridge Public Library and Civic Center will be on your right. The Performing Arts Pavilion and Arts Center will be on your left across the stream.
13. As you pass the Senior Center on your right, you will see a bench along the trail, here you **follow the trail as it curves to the right.**
14. **Take the next left to the International Friendship Bell.**
15. The Bell was built as an expression of hope for everlasting peace and was funded by donations from US and Japanese corporations, individuals, and scientists. Take a moment to ring the bell in honor of those who served in World War II, and pray for peace and freedom.
16. **Exit the Bell area, turning left and staying on the same path you came in on.**
17. **Walk over** a cement "bridge".
18. **Turn left** to cross over a brown steel and wood bridge.
19. **Turn right** and walk along this trail with the stream on your right until you reach an unmarked road (ORAU Way).
20. **Turn right** at the road, recrossing the creek, and walking along the sidewalk with A.K.Bissell Park **on your right.**
21. Carefully **cross the Turnpike** at the traffic light. The building on your right, Midtown Community Center, houses the Oak Ridge History Museum [check on-line for hours]
22. **Continue up the hill** on Robertsville Road and **take the first right** onto Providence Road. The city swimming pool will be on your left and Oak Ridge High School on your right.
23. As you reach an intersection with three roads coming in at strange angles, known locally as "malfunction junction," use the marked crosswalks to first **cross to the other side of Providence Road and then cross over Pennsylvania Ave and turn right** to walk along Pennsylvania Ave.
24. **Cross New York Ave.**
25. [10 km] **Skip to Step # 30**
26. [5 km] **Turn right to cross Pennsylvania Ave. (now called W. Tennessee Ave)**
27. **Walk along New York Ave. to Vermont Ave.**
28. **Cross Vermont Ave and turn right to cross New York Ave.**
29. [5 km] **Skip to Step # 53**
30. [10 km] **Cross New York Ave. and continue straight on Pennsylvania** as Pennsylvania Ave. becomes Tennessee Ave.
31. **Follow Tennessee Ave. to cross Nesper Rd.**
32. **Cross Michigan Ave. and turn left** onto Michigan by the tennis courts. [Note history sign]
33. **Cross Broadway and turn right** on Broadway on the sidewalk.
34. Watch for the flag pole on your left. This building is the Alexander Inn. Built in 1043, it was the original guest house and only Army hotel within the gates of the city, housing numerous notable visitors to the Secret City

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In case of emergency, call 9-1-1  
After emergency, call (585) 727-6493

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during the war. It is on the National Historic Registry.

35. **Turn left on Kentucky Ave.** then bear left into the parking lot. Continue walking up to read the historic plaque in the parking lot of the White Chapel On The Hill (United Church) where all deno0minations took turns having services during the early war years. Services ere held one after another on Saturday and Sunday. Today the Chapel is a non-denominational church offering services on Sunday.
36. **Return down Kentucky Ave to cross and turn Left on Broadway.**
37. **Turn right** into Jackson Square, site of original Oak Ridge Townsite that was the social hub of the Secret City during the war with everything open 24/7.
38. **Walk around the inside perimeter** of Jackson Square. The Oak Ridge Playhouse has been in operation since 1943. Take time to look at any historic photos that may be on display. Jackson Square is the site for the annual Lavender Festival in June.
39. While in Jackson Square you might consider stopping for a rest and good eats. There are a couple good stopping spots. Pizza will also be available a block further on the route.
40. **Turn right** onto Broadway when you leave Jackson Square, continuing past Towne Rd.
41. At approximately 6 km, you will see **Big Ed's Pizza**, a noted Oak Ridge and regional landmark, on your right. (Mon-Sat.)
42. **Turn right onto Georgia Ave.** just past Big Ed's Pizza,
43. **Cross and turn right** onto Tennessee Ave. at the next intersection.
44. Shortly you will see the Soup Kitchen on your right, another good local food spot.
45. As you cross Central Ave., look left to see the large white building on the distant hill, site of Department of Energy's Oak Ridge Operations
46. **Continue** on Tennessee Ave. to the traffic light and **turn left** on Tyler Rd. [**Note mural on your right**]
47. **Cross and turn right** on Tyrone.
48. **Cross and turn left on Tyndale** as you approach the hospital, to walk to Oak Ridge Turnpike.
49. **Turn right** on Oak Ridge Turnpike.
50. **Cross Division (per the Turnpike sign] and turn right onto what is Tennyson Rd.**
51. **As Tennyson Rd. ends, turn left** onto Vance Rd.
52. **Follow** Vance Rd. to New York Ave.
53. **Turn left** on New York Ave.
54. **Cross** Vermont Ave. and **turn right** on Vermont Ave.
55. **Cross** N. Rutgers, and **continue** on Vermont to **pass** St. Mary's Church and KOC (Knights of Columbus) on your left.
56. **Take the first left after the KOC onto Vienna**
57. **Cross Viking and continue on Vienna** to walk past several churches.
58. When Vienna T-bones with Tulane Ave., **turn left on Tulane** and walk to the Oak Ridge Turnpike.
59. **Cross** Oak Ridge Turnpike **and follow** Tulane Ave up to Wilson St.
60. **Cross and turn left** on Wilson St and **follow** it back to the starting point at AMSE.

**CONGRATULATIONS!** You have just completed your walk.

**POC: Guy Calkins 585-727-6493**

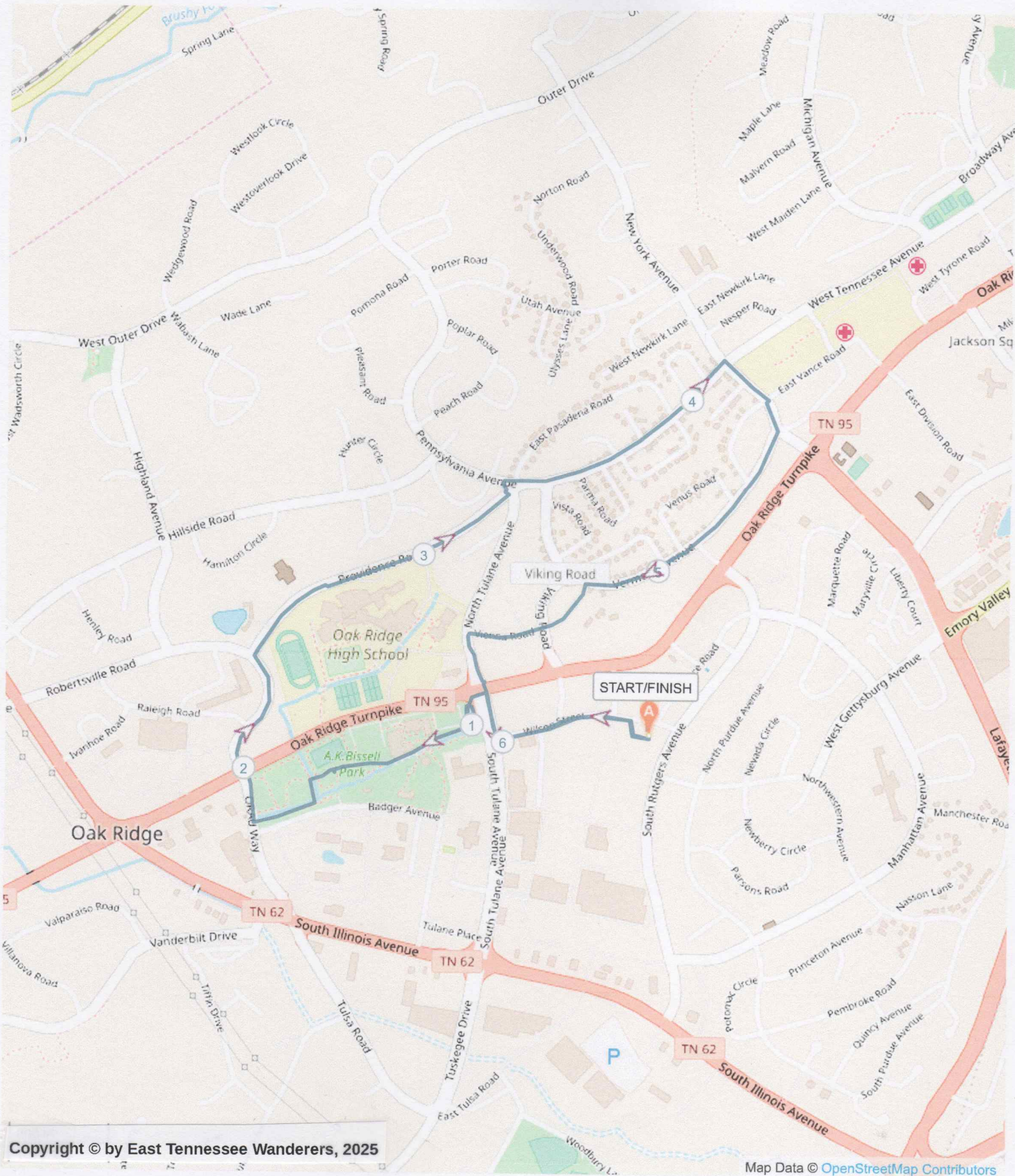
**Be sure to log back into the OSB system to finish/complete your online registration. You can then print out your insert cards for this walk.**

While in the area, we would like to invite you to participate in one of our other Year-Round Events.

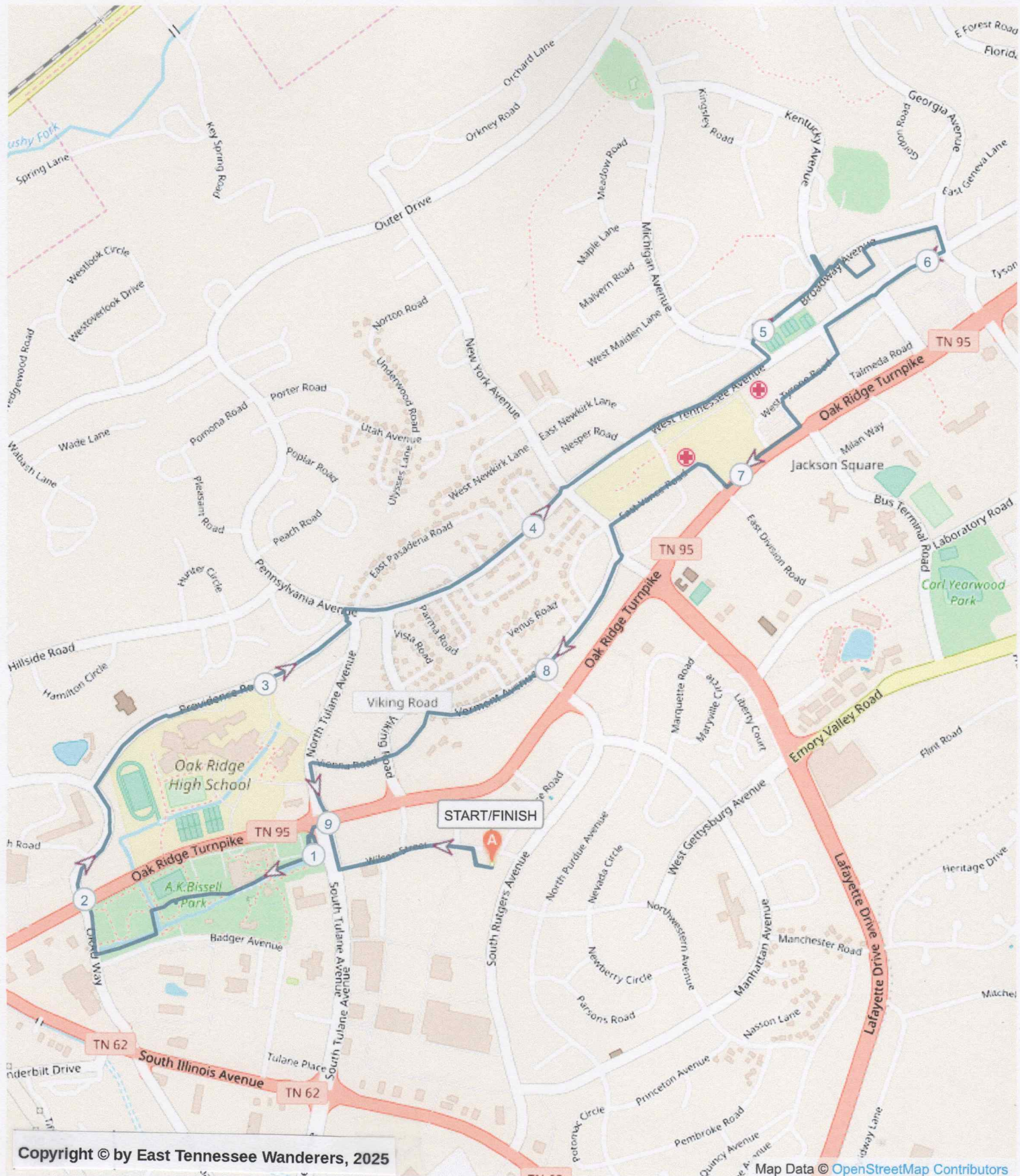
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# Oak Ridge 5k



# Oak Ridge 10k



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