



WILSON, NC WALK



**AMERICA'S
WALKING CLUB**
— ESTABLISHED 1976 —

An AVA Sanctioned Year-Round Event
of the Triangle Trailblazers
Special Programs:

Par for the Course / Step to the Beat
Walking with America's Veterans / Walking With The Wild Things

[>Print pages 2 through 4 for 10k walk directions, Points of Interest and map<](#)
[>Print pages 5 & 6 for 5k walk directions, POI's and map<](#)

This walk is mostly flat on sidewalks and quiet streets. This walk goes through tree-lined streets in lovely residential neighborhoods, through Wilson's historic districts and the downtown area. The highlight of the walk is the Vollis Simpson Whirligig Park, a one-of-a-kind attraction that must be seen to be believed. Both the 10k and 5k visit Whirligig park.

Wilson's beginnings were in the early 19th century as settlers arrived to farm the land and harvest trees in the vast forests. By the mid-19th century, the town was prospering as a trading center on the railroad line between Richmond, VA and Wilmington, NC. The town was chosen as the county seat of the newly formed Wilson County. After the Civil War, farmers switched from cotton to tobacco, as the sandy soil of the area was a perfect medium for the tobacco plant. By the early 20th century, Wilson was the world's largest bright-leaf tobacco market.

These dining establishments are on or near the walk route.

Consider visiting them before, during or after the walk.

Carolina Cheese Co 205 Tarboro St - Wonderful selection of sandwiches and salads

Ruckus & Redemption 220 Barnes St - Signature burgers and sandwiches

The Hub Pizzeria and Casita Brewing Company - right by Whirligig Park

Whirlidogs Café-215 Goldsboro – All kinds of hot dogs and grilled cheese

Southwest of town is Parker's Barbecue at 2514 US-301S. This restaurant has been a regional favorite since it opened in 1946.

In addition, there are numerous eating establishments on US-264 ALT on your way back to I-95

Upon completion of the walk, remember to log back into the OSB system to complete your online registration. Once you have entered your participation date, distances, and any included Special Programs, you can print out an Insert Card for each applicable book.



WILSON, NC / Wilson County

Year-Round Event (YR1498) – 10K Walk

Driving Directions to the Start Point: Recreation Park Community Center, 500 Sunset Rd, Wilson, NC

From the North on I-95, take exit 121 for US-264 ALT towards Wilson; turn left. From the South on I-95, take exit 121 for US-264 ALT towards Wilson; turn right. From both directions: Stay on US-264 ALT (becomes Raleigh Rd) for approximately 5 miles. After passing the junction of NC-42/Ward Blvd, go about ½ mile and turn **HARD LEFT** on Sunset Crescent Rd (there are a few commercial buildings at this intersection; Walnut St is to the right). Proceed towards the rec center and turn left into the parking lot. Restrooms are available when rec center is open: M-Th 9-6, Fr 9-5, Sat-Sun hours vary during year.



In Case of Emergency: Dial 911
For Event Assistance: Jan Weeks / 216-333-2281

Some residential areas do not have sidewalks. Always stay to the left and watch for oncoming traffic.

POI details are at end of the directions on next page

1. Leave the parking lot and walk along the front of the Rec Center (on your left). You will be on Sunset Rd. (not Sunset Crescent Rd)
2. Go PAST Lynch Circle.
3. LEFT on Cozart Rd.
4. LEFT on Lynch Circle.
5. In 1 block, turn RIGHT on Watson Dr.
6. When Watson ends, turn RIGHT on West End Ave. Continue for 4 blocks.
7. At stop sign, CROSS Nash St. using extreme caution; turn RIGHT on Nash St.
8. Continue on Nash, passing through primarily residential areas for approximately 6 blocks.
9. At the 2nd traffic light, Atlantic Christian College Dr, CROSS AC College Dr and turn LEFT.
10. CROSS Vance St, and in ½ block cross the driveway and turn RIGHT on the brick sidewalk entering the campus of Barton College. Follow this sidewalk towards the clock tower. **POI #1 Barton College**
11. Continue past the clock tower towards the bronze bulldog sculpture.
12. Continue ahead on the wide brick sidewalk; quad on your right, two brick buildings on your left. *The 3rd building you'll pass, is the Hamlin Student Center. Restrooms and food are available inside during the school year. Food is upstairs, restrooms are downstairs.*
13. Just past the student center, turn RIGHT passing in front of the Nixon Nursing Building and a greenhouse.
14. Just past the greenhouse, turn LEFT on sidewalk. Walk between buildings to arrive at Truist Stadium-home of the Barton Bulldogs Football and Lacrosse teams.
15. Turn RIGHT along the fence line to exit the campus onto Whitehead Ave and turn RIGHT. Go ~4 blocks to Nash St.
16. **CAREFULLY** CROSS Nash St and turn LEFT. Continue for 4 blocks.
17. Turn RIGHT on Jackson St passing the Wilson Public Library on your left. *Restrooms available when open.*
18. In 1 block CROSS Broad St and turn LEFT.
19. Go past the Truist Building and CROSS Pine St. Continue ahead, now on Barnes St.
20. In 2 blocks, turn RIGHT on Goldsboro (lighthouse on corner). Continue on Goldsboro for 1 block. **POI #2 Whirligig Museum on right** (*Restrooms available inside when open.*)
21. Cross Goldsboro St to enter the Vollis Simpson Whirligig Park! Take your time exploring the

various wind sculptures and informational signs.

(Porta Potty Trailer may be open). **POI #3**

Whirligig Park

22. Exit the park at the corner nearest the tallest Whirligig (the one depicting a horse-drawn carriage). With your back to the park, CROSS South and head down Douglas St. Continue for 2 blocks to Nash St. **POI #4 The Imagination Station**
23. Turn LEFT on Nash St. You will be going through the heart of old downtown Wilson. Continue for approximately 8-9 blocks. **POI #5 Downtown** (One Special Program in the 2nd block: Veterans Memorial by the County Courthouse. Two Special Programs in the 3rd block: Step to the Beat-ProMusic Conservatory at 105 Nash St, and Walking with the Wild Things-Gargoyles on the Edna Boykin Cultural Center at 108 Nash).
24. Look for the Western Sizzlin restaurant on the right, and 1 block later, turn LEFT on Warren St.
25. In 1 block, CROSS Broad St and turn RIGHT. Broad St will end at Raleigh Rd.
26. Turn LEFT on Raleigh Rd.
27. At stop sign, CROSS Kenan St. and turn RIGHT. Continue on Kenan for approximately 10 blocks. There are no sidewalks after the first few blocks. Use caution and stay on the left side of the road.
28. Turn LEFT on Woodland Dr.
29. Woodland ends; turn LEFT on Canal St.
30. Turn RIGHT on Kincaid.
31. Just past bridge, enter the park on the first paved path on the left. Continue through the park on the paved path.
32. Path will go past a playset and two picnic shelters and then curve to the left. Go over the bridge to cross the stream.
33. Turn RIGHT on gravel/dirt road and return to the parking lot.

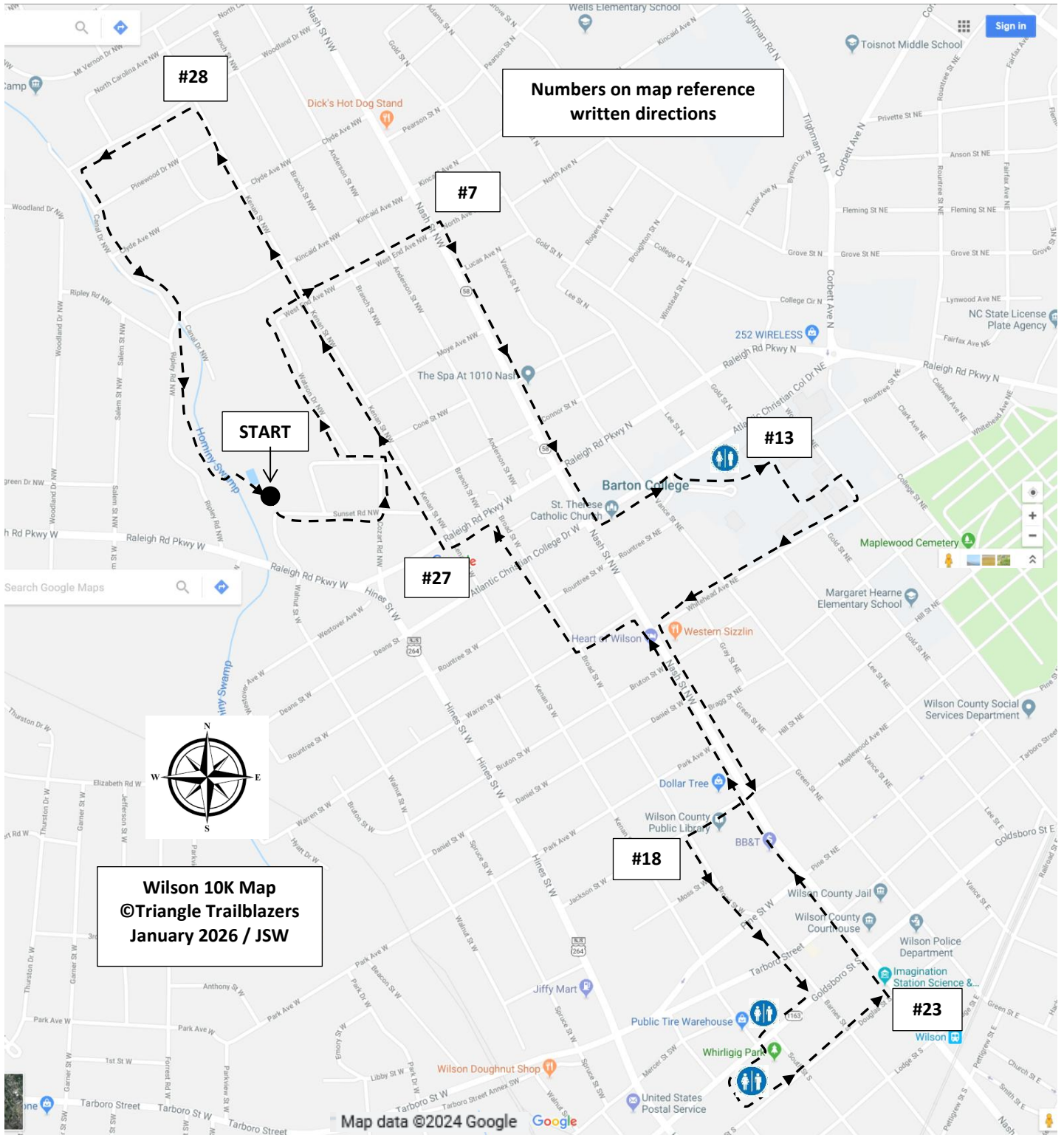
POINTS OF INTEREST:

- #1**-Barton College is a 4-year, private, liberal arts college. Originally founded as Atlantic Christian College in 1902, it is affiliated with The Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).
- #2**-Before exploring Whirligig Park on the left, take time to visit the Whirligig Museum at 230 Goldsboro. Exhibits show the timeline of the creation of Whirligig Park. Free admission. Hours: Tues-Sat 10-5.
- #3**-Vollis Simpson (1919-2013) made and repaired machines during most of his life. After retiring, his love of "tinkering" led to the creation of these wind sculptures, which were originally placed in fields surrounding his home. Various people and organizations in Wilson worked to acquire, conserve and display them in this park. In 2025 the park was named #2 in USA Today's list of Top Ten Sculpture Gardens in the United States! There is a great deal of revitalization going on in the areas surrounding this park and downtown Wilson. In addition to new businesses, restaurants and galleries, a new Single A baseball stadium is being built right next to Whirligig Park. This will be the home of the Wilson Warbirds and will be open for the 2026 season!
- #4**-The Imagination Station is home to permanent and changing exhibits covering science, technology, and history. This is a "hands-on" museum great for kids and adults alike.
- #5**-You will be passing several historical buildings as you walk through downtown. Notables are: in the 1st block-The 1903 Branch Banking and Trust Company Building which was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1978; the Wilson County Courthouse, a 1924 limestone structure in the Neo-Classical Revival style. 2nd block-The Edna Boykin Cultural Center. Originally an office building, it was converted to an opera house in 1919, and was considered THE showpiece of downtown Wilson.

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





Driving Directions to the Start Point: Recreation Park Community Center, 500 Sunset Rd. Wilson

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1. Leave the parking lot and walk along the front of the Rec center (on your left). You will be on Sunset Rd. (not Sunset Crescent Rd)
2. Pass Lynch Circle and Cozart Rd.
3. When road ends, **RIGHT** on Kenan St.
4. In 1 block, **CROSS** and turn **LEFT** on Raleigh Rd.
5. Turn **RIGHT** at the next corner onto Broad St.
6. Walking on the left side of the road, continue on Broad St for several blocks. You will be passing through residential areas initially, and then through a commercial area. *Wilson Public Library at the corner of Broad and Jackson-restrooms available during operating hours.*
7. Continue past the Truist building and **CROSS** Pine St. Continue ahead, now on Barnes St.
8. In 2 blocks, turn **RIGHT** on Goldsboro (lighthouse on corner). Continue on Goldsboro for 1 block. **POI #1 Whirligig Museum on right** (*Restrooms available inside when open*).
9. Cross Goldsboro St to enter the Vollis Simpson Whirligig Park! Take your time exploring the various wind sculptures and informational signs. (*Porta Potty Trailer may be open*). **POI #2 Whirligig Park**
10. Exit the park at the corner nearest the tallest Whirligig (the one depicting a horse-drawn carriage). With your back to the park, **CROSS** South St and head down Douglas for 2 blocks to Nash St. **POI #3 The Imagination Station**
11. Turn **LEFT** on Nash St. You will be going through the heart of old downtown Wilson. Continue for approximately 12 blocks. **POI #4 Downtown** (*One Special Program in 2nd block: Veterans Memorial by County Courthouse. Two Special Programs in the 3rd block: Step to the Beat-ProMusic Conservatory at 105 Nash St, and Walking With The Wild Things-Gargoyles on the Edna Boykin Cultural Center at 108 Nash St*).
12. Eventually you will pass St Therese Catholic Church on the right, at signal, at the corner of Atlantic Christian College and Nash.
13. At the next signal, turn **LEFT** on Raleigh Rd (old gas station at corner).
14. At stop sign, **CROSS** Kenan St, turn **RIGHT** to cross Raleigh Rd and continue straight on Kenan.
15. Immediately turn **LEFT** on Sunset Rd. Continue on Sunset, returning to the parking lot at the Rec Center.

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Points of Interest:

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