

Southeast Striders Walking Club, Inc.

North Oconee River Greenway – Sandy Creek Nature Center 6/11K Walk© Y2421 2024

The Southeast Striders Walking Club is the newest member of AVA: America’s Walking Club. We welcome you to our North Oconee River Greenway 6/11k Year-Round Event (YRE), and thank you for taking interest in one of our walks. The North Oconee River Greenway is located in Athens, GA. The route follows a wide, paved and mostly shaded path free of traffic. The walk begins at Sandy Creek Nature Center (www.accgov/sandycreeknaturecenter) and meanders along the Oconee River past the east side of downtown Athens, past the University of Georgia student housing old and new, then into Dudley Park (www.accgov/dudley), before returning to Sandy Creek Nature Center. Cool off and enjoy the exhibits in the nature center after the walk.

Walk Registration:

Please use the online start box provided by AVA: America’s Walking Club (www.my.ava.org). After signing in, select the 'My Start Box' tab. Press the “Help” button in the upper right-hand corner for the instructions to sign a waiver and register for this event. Payment for event credit and walk directions uses your credit card. The walk directions and insert cards are PDFs that you can download and print as needed. The entire online process should take approximately 10 minutes for a first-time user. The POC does not provide event directions or accept alternate payment methods.

Walk Completion and Walk Credit

Once you have physically completed the walk, please login to your Online Start Box account and select the “Finish Table” tab. Use the displayed entry form to submit the date and distance of your walk as well as select applicable AVA Special Programs to generate stamped “virtual” insert cards that you may later choose to print out.

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Use the following table to guide what portion of this document you may wish to print out.

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Driving Directions

North Oconee River Greenway History

Athens is the home of the University of Georgia – the state’s signature university, and the first and oldest land grant college in the USA. UGA was founded in 1785 and is the birthplace of public higher education in the nation.

The North Oconee River Greenway is a 3.5 mile long, 10 foot wide, paved multi-use path open to walkers, runners, bikers and all types of non-motorized uses. The trail runs from Sandy Creek Nature Center alongside the North Oconee River to Dudley Park. Dudley Park includes a series of interpretive panels depicting Athens’ rich history. Learn about the former Cook and Brother Armory, Chicopee Mill, Dudley Park, Athens railroad prominence, and more.

The trail is rated 1A. Because bikers and runners use the trail, keeping to the right observing runner/cyclist courtesy is a must for your safety. The greenway is almost entirely under a canopy of mature trees.

North Oconee River Greenway Walking Directions

Start Point

Sandy Creek Nature Center, **205 Old Commerce Road, Athens, GA 30607.**

Sandy Creek Nature Center is readily available via your GPS at **205 Old Commerce Road, Athens, GA 30607.** Without a GPS, heading North out of Athens on US 441, turn left on Nature Center Road (see a large stone “Sandy Creek Nature Center” sign at the intersection), then left onto Old Commerce Road, then right into the parking lot in front of the Nature Center.

Restrooms

Public Restrooms are available at Sandy Creek Nature Center Tuesday through Saturday. Sandy Creek Nature Center is closed on Sundays and Mondays.

Emergency Numbers



In Case of emergencies dial 911
Event related assistance, dial
Harold Weber (904)704-8402 or
Marie Weber (904) 703-8403.

Walking Instructions

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

Start Point: **205 Old Commerce Rd. Athens, GA**

Restrooms are available in the nature center building.

1. Walk away from Sandy Creek Nature Center RIGHT onto the sidewalk to enter the North Oconee River Greenway.
2. Walk ahead awhile on the paved trail about 2.7k. You will remain on the North Oconee River Greenway Trail for the entire walk.
3. **At the "Y", 11k walkers turn RIGHT.**
4. **6k walkers stop at the information sign. 6k** Turn around and retrace your steps back to Sandy Creek Nature Center. Enjoy the nature center exhibits.
5. **11k walkers** turn RIGHT at the end of the greenway trail onto Martin Luther King Boulevard.
6. RIGHT on North Avenue to walk over the bridge.
7. LEFT across North Ave. at the traffic light onto Willow St. Remain on the left side of Willow St.
8. **Caution!** At Willow and East Broad, cross Broad using crosswalk and walk LEFT toward the pedestrian bridge.
9. Cross the iron pedestrian bridge
10. RIGHT at the end of the bridge onto East Broad St.
11. Follow brick sidewalk into **Dudley Park**, the Greenway & **Cook & Brother Plaza**.
12. Exit the plaza; keep the river on your RIGHT. Walk ahead on the sidewalk.
13. LEFT at the "Y", uphill.
14. **PHOTO OP** at the hole in the stone wall ahead. Restrooms ahead.
15. From the Restrooms & water fountain, follow concrete path to the RIGHT.
16. At the "Y", bear LEFT & Uphill toward the bridge railing.
17. Cross the bridge. You are now on **Rails to Trails**.
18. At the end of the trail, RIGHT onto East Broad St. (no street sign).

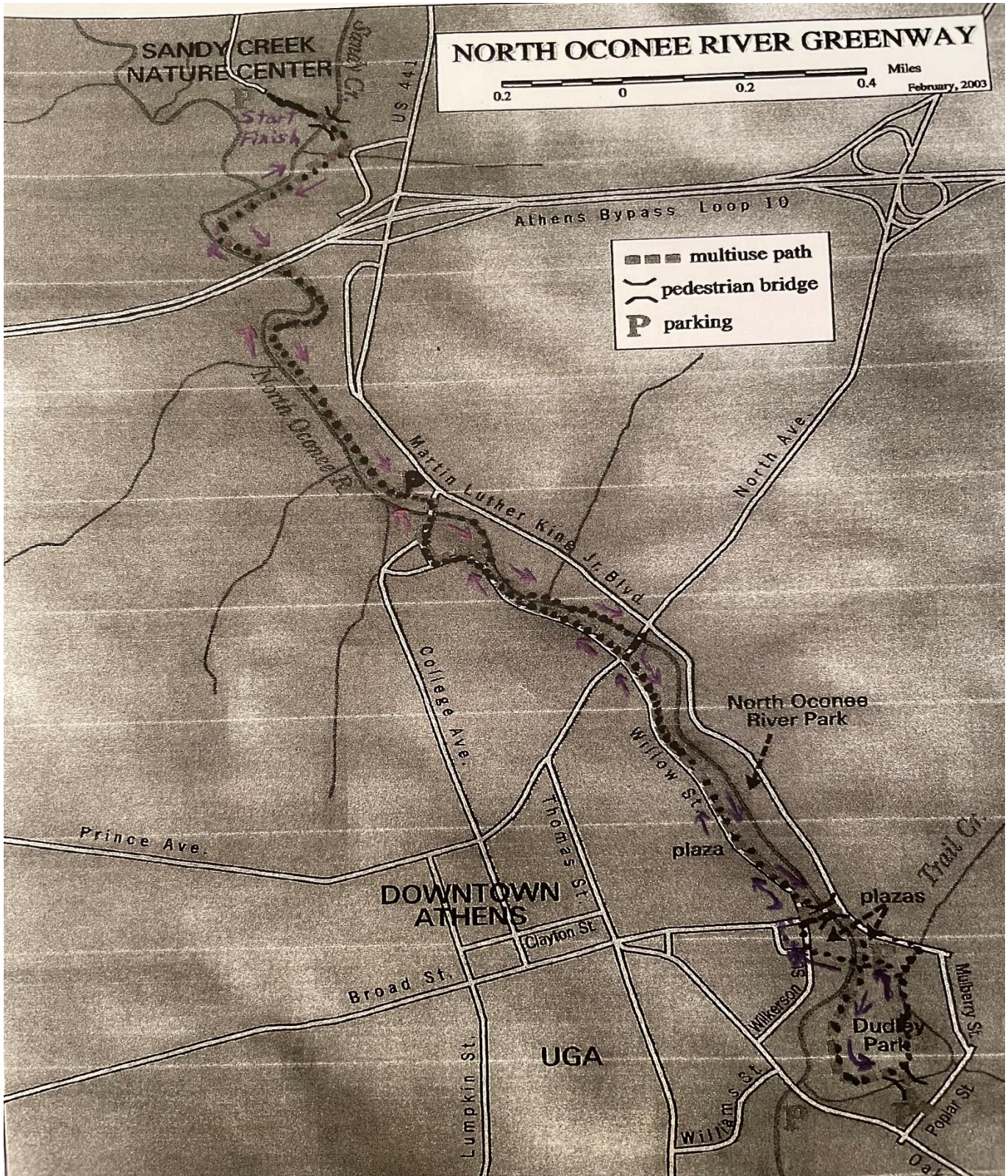
The center is closed on Sunday and Monday.

Open Tuesday-Saturday 8:30 am to 5:30 pm

19. Cross Willow St. walking toward **Weaver D's Delicious Fine Foods**.
20. Turn LEFT, CAREFULLY crossing E. Broad
21. Continue on North Oconee River Greenway.
22. Follow the sidewalk to North Avenue.
23. Remain alert at North Avenue crosswalk; use signal to cross North Ave
24. Walk straight ahead on sidewalk.
25. RIGHT at Elizabeth St. to crosswalk
26. Use the flashing warning signal to cross College Avenue.
27. RIGHT toward the bridge.
28. LEFT at intersection to follow North Oconee River Greenway Trail.
29. Walk all the way back toward Sandy Creek Nature Center.
30. At vehicle gate arm, walk back into the parking lot to the finish.

Congratulations, you have completed the North Oconee River Greenway. Thank you for walking our walk.

This walk was created by
Certified AVA Trailmasters:
Marie and Harold Weber
904 703-8403 or 904 704-8402



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North Oconee River Greenway – Sandy Creek Nature Center

2024 Special Programs

Special Programs

Walking USA A-Z, Walking the United States (50 States), Rails-to-Trails

**Southeast Striders
Listing of YRE's
And Traditional Events**

Watson Mill Bridge State Park
6/11k YRE

Watkinsville
5/10k YRE

North Oconee River Greenway - Sandy Creek Nature Center
6/11k YRE

Athens Sampler
5/10k YRE

Please see website: www.southeaststriderswalkingclub.org
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