



The Suncoast Sandpipers Volkssport Club  
welcomes you to the  
**Downtown Fort Myers 6 & 10K Walk**  
An AVA Sanctioned Year Round Event



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**Course description:** The rated 1A (easy) walk route guides participants through the historic and charming Fort Myers Waterfront district and downtown area. Be sure to enjoy a tour of the nearby Edison and Ford Winter Estates. For \$25, visitors can enjoy a self-guided tour of the museum and 21 acre botanical garden on the adjacent sites of the winter homes of Thomas Edison and Henry Ford.

For more Fort Myers history see:

[fortmyers.org/live-in-fort-myers/history-of-fort-myers/](http://fortmyers.org/live-in-fort-myers/history-of-fort-myers/)

Photo by  
Craig Bennington

Eligible AVA Special Programs	
PROGRAM	STEP
Par for the Course	1
Step to the Beat	13
Walking with America's Veterans	20
Walking the United States (Florida)	All
Walking the USA A - Z (F)	All



Photo by  
Robin Kelly

**Online Start Box Finish Table:** Once you have physically completed the walk, please login to your Online Start Box account click on the "My Start Box" tab, then the "Finish Table" tab, then click on "Go to Finish Table" button for the event you have completed. 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 choose to print out.

**Driving Directions to Walk Start Point Start.**

Start Location: Centennial Park, 2000 W First St., Fort Myers, FL 33901. Follow directions below to the parking area beneath S-bound US-41 (60 spots). Pay with parking app (see sign) and pay via your phone. Cost is \$1/hour. There is metered parking on nearby streets at 25¢/hr. and garages for \$1/hr. Prices are subject to change!



From US-41S: After crossing Caloosahatchee River just north of downtown Fort Myers, exit right on the cloverleaf to MLK Blvd. Go under the bridge. Turn LEFT on Heitman St. Parking is on left under bridge.

US-41N: Use Main St. exit crossing FL-82 and merging onto Main. In 75 yards turn LEFT on Heitman St. At first intersection angle left crossing First St., continuing on Heitman St. Parking is on left under bridge.

All walks start at Fire Dance Sculpture visible on west side of parking. Porta Potty restrooms are just beyond sculpture.

**In Case of Emergency: Dial 911**  
**For event related assistance:**  
**Call Craig Bennington (239) 687-8333**

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

**6 & 10K Walk Directions & Points of Interest (POI)**

1. **ALL WALKERS:** Leave Fire Dance sculpture toward river. Turn RIGHT on last sidewalk before river.
2. Follow pathway under the bridge continuing past **POIs:** *airplane propeller monument and American Legion memorial. If desired read plaques.*
3. Prior to the amphitheater turn RIGHT and follow path to circle containing **POI:** *Edison, Ford & Firestone statues in fountain.*
4. Leave statues passing rear of Amphitheater to river-side sidewalk.
5. Turn RIGHT. Follow path passing the riverboat & crossing river basin.
6. Immediately after crossing the basin turn RIGHT, passing the **POIs:** *- signs on the fence guarding the basin and iron artwork.*
7. Keeping the basin on right CROSS **Edwards Dr.**
8. Turn LEFT. Proceed along **Edwards Dr.**, passing (on right) **POIs:** *Hall of 50 States (note Mural); Chamber of Commerce with Don Quixote statue; Veteran's Memorial (corner of **Edwards/Lee Streets**) and "Little Free Library" (newspaper stand-like book swap).*
9. Continue to end of the sidewalk (**Fowler St.**).
10. Turn RIGHT to **First St.**
11. Turn RIGHT to **Bay St.**
12. Turn LEFT, CROSS **First St.** Turn RIGHT, passing Fort Myers City Library (*if open, restrooms & water are available*).
13. CONTINUE along **First St** crossing **Hendry St.**
14. Walk ~200 feet to (on left) small *metal artwork depicting children playing Dominos.*

15. Turn LEFT entering **Patio de Leon.** Continue straight ahead past pubs & restaurants exiting **Place de Leon** at **Main St.** (*not marked*).
16. Turn RIGHT. Proceed to and CROSS **Broadway.**
17. Turn RIGHT. Walk 1 block to **First St.**
18. Turn LEFT. In ~75 feet, turn LEFT and enter courtyard/alleyway to view sepia-toned tile mural on side of building. **POI:** *The mural, **Fort Myers: An Alternative History**, depicts Chief Billy Bowlegs; a section of stockade of old fort for which the city is named; a contingent of the 2nd Regiment of the United States Colored Troops that defended the fort from Confederate attack in the waning days of the Civil War; a cattle rancher leaning against one of his steers; and the Atlantic Coast Line Railroad locomotive that brought rail service to the fledgling town on February 20, 1904.* REVERSE course and return to **First St.**
19. Turn LEFT, proceeding to **Monroe St.**
20. Turn LEFT, proceed to and CROSSING **Main St.**, walking straight ahead to the rock (on right) with *plaque memorializing Fort Myers residents who died in wars through 1967.*
21. RETURN to **Main St.** Turn RIGHT, passing (on right) *HUGE Banyan Tree and Oak Tree Eagle Sculpture with informational plaque.*
22. Continue along **Main St.**, CROSSING **Broadway.**
23. Turn RIGHT walking 2 blocks to **Third St.**
24. Turn LEFT 1 block to **Hendry St.**
25. Turn RIGHT, crossing **Third St.** & proceed to **Dr. Martin Luther King Jr Blvd.**
26. CROSS **MLK Blvd.**, turning LEFT on other side.
27. Continue to & CROSS **Jackson St.**
28. In ~150', turn RIGHT, entering **Bennett-Hart Park** and walking toward the white building (*former Ft. Myers train depot*).
29. At the building, turn RIGHT and walk around the building, noting at the corner (on right) the *Blue Star Military Memorial.*
30. At the memorial, turn around and walk toward **COLLABORATORY** building. **POI:** *The Collaboratory was built around the former Fort Myers Train Station. Note railroad tracks laid in walkway leading into the Collaboratory entrance. If door is open/unlocked where railroad tracks enter building, go inside to see locations of the platform; ticket office; and white and colored waiting rooms, all containing original windows.*
31. Outside the Collaboratory, follow the railroad tracks in the walkway to **Jackson St.**
32. Turn LEFT. In 75 feet (to the left between the Col-

laboratory and Fire Department Station #1 building), view **POIs: Combat Infantrymen and Purple Heart monuments**. After viewing the military memorials, RETURN to **Jackson St.**

### 6 & 10K Walk Routes Split Here!

**6K walkers: Go to A-I below**

**10K walkers: Go to step 33**

#### 6K Walkers

- A. Turn RIGHT and return to the railroad track.
- B. CROSS **Jackson St.**, continuing along right side of **Widman Way** for 2 blocks to **Broadway/Monroe St.** intersection.
- C. CROSS **Broadway** and **Monroe Sts.**
- D. IMMEDIATELY after crossing **Monroe St.**, turn RIGHT. Go 1 block to **Dr. Martin Luther King Jr Blvd.**
- E. Turn LEFT, walking under arched building walkway & under highway bridge where **MLK** turns into **McGregor Blvd.**
- F. CONTINUE along **McGregor Blvd** to **Virginia Ave.** Turn RIGHT crossing **McGregor Blvd.**
- G. Go 1 block, crossing **West First St.**
- H. Turn RIGHT. Walk 6+ blocks to (just prior to bridge) entrance to Centennial Park.
- I. Follow the curving pathway to Fire Dance sculpture and finish. \*\*\*

#### 10K Walkers

33. After crossing **Jackson St.**, turn LEFT, passing bus terminal and in 3 blocks (on right) baseball fields.
34. At **Edison Ave.**, turn RIGHT. **POI:** On right is the City of Palms baseball park (former home of Boston Red Sox spring training) now hosts Florida SouthWestern State College baseball games.
35. Walk along **Edison Ave.** for 3 blocks to **Cleveland Ave. (US-41)**. RaceTrac gas station on the right at intersection is **LAST RESTROOM!!!**
36. CROSS **Cleveland Ave.** via crosswalk; continue along **Edison Ave.** In approximately 50 feet, turn LEFT, keeping white building on right. Enter sidewalk alongside **Cortez Ave.**
37. In 100 yards CROSS **Monte Vista St.** Continue 1.7 miles (12 blocks) keeping **Cortez Ave** on left. *You'll pass (on left) Fort Myers High School as you walk through the historic Edison Estates neighborhood.*
38. At **Alcazar Ave.**, turn RIGHT & proceed to **McGregor Blvd.**
39. Turn RIGHT and walk ~50 feet to crosswalk (on left).

40. CROSS **McGregor Blvd** via crosswalk. Turn LEFT & proceed back to **Alcazar Ave.**
41. Turn RIGHT. Walk along **Alcazar Ave.** to end at **Valencia Way.**
42. CROSS **Valencia Way.** Turn RIGHT & continue to sidewalk end at **Lynwood Ave** (not marked).
43. Turn RIGHT. Go ~100 feet to 1st intersection (**Carlton St** - not marked).
44. Turn LEFT and continue to dead end at **Poinciana Ave.**
45. Turn RIGHT and proceed ~150 feet to **Shriver Dr.** (alleyway on the left).
46. Turn LEFT. Go to third intersection on right (not marked).
47. Turn RIGHT & go 1 block to **McGregor Blvd.**
48. Turn LEFT. Walk approximately 1/2 mile passing (on left) **Edison/Ford Estates (POI: Tours Available - check at entrance)**.
49. Continue along **McGregor Blvd.** for 1/2 block to **W First St.**
50. Turn LEFT following, sidewalk as it curves right. Continue along **W First St.** for ~ 1/2 mile to (entrance just prior to bridge) to Centennial Park.
51. Follow the curving pathway to Fire Dance sculpture and finish. \*\*\*

**\*\*\* Congratulations! You've earned a breakfast, lunch, or supper. Many eateries along First St. are within easy walking distance. Exit parking toward downtown. Turn RIGHT on Heitman St to First St. Turn LEFT on First St. Eateries start in 2 blocks. Pick one and ENJOY!!!**



*Photo by Craig Bennington*

# 6K Walk Route

Circled numbers are kilometers walked



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# 10K Route (Circled numbers are kilometers walked)

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