



SMITHFIELD, NC WALK



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

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

**A-Maze-ing Labyrinths / Par for the Course
Rails to Trails / Step to the Beat / Walking with America's Veterans**

>Print pages 2 and 3 for walk directions and map / Page 4 for Points of Interest<

This walk briefly follows the Buffalo Creek Greenway before visiting the Historic Riverside Cemetery which was established in 1777. The trail then continues through lovely residential areas among the pine trees at the edge of North Carolina's Coastal Plains. Lastly, you'll visit downtown Smithfield, passing by the Johnston County Courthouse and the Ava Gardner Museum which houses memorabilia of the Smithfield native, one of the glamorous screen stars of Hollywood's Golden Age.

Brief History of Smithfield: The Tuscarora Indians, an Iroquoian-speaking tribe, flourished here until the early 1700's when they were defeated in a bloody war with European colonists in 1713. Most of the remaining Tuscarora fled to New York where they became the sixth nation in the Iroquois confederation. The early European settlers came from coastal NC and the Tidewater areas of Virginia and Maryland and were mainly subsistence farmers who grew little more than was required to feed and clothe their families. Some made a profit by growing tobacco or by raising large herds of swine and cattle which they drove to markets in Virginia.

Johnston County, created in 1746, was named in honor of Gabriel Johnston, North Carolina's royal governor at the time. Smithfield, Johnston County's first town, grew up at the site of Smith's Ferry on the Neuse River. The courthouse was moved there in 1771, and the town was incorporated in 1777.

Cotton became the county's leading money crop in the early 1800's. Corn and tobacco were also grown, but at much smaller profits. The North Carolina Railroad was completed in 1854 and this allowed the area to shift from subsistence farming to market-driven agriculture. In addition to cotton and grains, the railroad spurred growth in the lumber and turpentine industries. A financial depression in 1893 caused cotton prices to plummet and forced many farmers to look for another money crop. That crop was Bright-Leaf tobacco and its success led to a tobacco market being established in Smithfield.

There are numerous restaurants in the downtown area for an after-walk meal.

All four are on the route.

Gotham's Deli-224 E Market St (NY style deli - voted best deli in NC - a club favorite!)

Sami's Pizza-312 E Market St (pizza & more)

SoDoSoPa-146 S Third St (BBQ, burgers & more)

Within a short drive from downtown you can find Carolina Premium Outlets, surrounded by hotels and more restaurants (1025 Outlet Center Dr)

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.



SMITHFIELD, NC / Johnston County

Year-Round Event (YR3008) – 10K / 5K walk

Driving Directions to the Start Point: Smithfield Town Commons Park, 200 N Front St, Smithfield, NC From I-95, take exit 95 for US-70 Business towards Smithfield. Follow the signs for US-70 Business W (Market St) for approximately 1.7 miles. Turn RIGHT onto N Front St. and follow it to its end and park in spaces on the left.

LIMITED RESTROOMS ON TRAIL - Porta Potty at Start



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

1. Go to the far end of the parking area and take the steps or ramp down to the Buffalo Creek Greenway along the river. Turn LEFT on the paved asphalt path. *Spec Program-Rails to Trails. (Wheelchair route: Do not use the Greenway: Go back down Front St to the intersection of Market St; cross and continue on Front St to the cemetery just past the Primitive Baptist Church. Continue with #4 below.)*
2. Shortly after passing under bridge (Market St), turn LEFT on the first path. The Neuse Little Theater will be on your left and the Neuse River Amphitheatre will be on your right *Special Program-Step to the Beat. **POI #1** (info on last page)*
3. At top of the path, turn RIGHT onto S Front St. Hastings House will be on your right. **POI #2**
4. Go past the Smithfield Primitive Baptist Church and then about halfway along the stone wall, turn RIGHT into the cemetery between two stone pillars. Headstone for Hamilton on left, Crocker on right. **POI #3**
5. Proceed to the back of the cemetery. Turn LEFT just past headstone for Williams.
6. Just past a tall, white, headstone for Sanders, turn RIGHT on a grass/gravel road. Follow this road as it curves counterclockwise through the cemetery.
7. When the road ends at stone wall, exit the cemetery. CROSS and turn RIGHT onto the sidewalk for E Church St. *For those of you doing the Labyrinth Spec Program-at the end of the wall, turn left into church grounds towards the wooden arbor.*
8. In one block, turn RIGHT onto S Second St passing a playground. *Spec Prog-Par for the Course.*
9. In two blocks, CROSS and turn RIGHT on E Davis St.
10. In one block, turn LEFT onto S First St.

5K WALKERS: In one block turn LEFT on W Rose St. Continue for two blocks and turn LEFT on S Third St. Walk several blocks into town. Skip to Step #29

11. **10K WALKERS:** In one block turn RIGHT onto W Rose St.
12. In one block turn LEFT onto Vermont St. *Note: no sidewalks from this point on for some distance – always stay to the left.*
13. In one block, turn RIGHT onto W Parker St (becomes Meadowbrook Dr).
14. At the 'T', turn LEFT onto S Sunset St.
15. When road ends, turn RIGHT onto W Woodlawn Dr.
16. At the 'T', turn RIGHT onto S Crescent Dr. Road will eventually curve to the left and become Rosewood.
17. When the road ends, turn LEFT onto W Wellons St.
18. Turn RIGHT onto Chestnut Dr (first street on right). Continue for 4 long blocks until it ends.
19. Turn LEFT onto W Holding St.
20. Turn RIGHT onto Crescent Dr (first street on right).
21. When road ends, turn LEFT onto Wilson St. **(5K)**
22. In one block, turn LEFT onto S Vermont.
23. In ~ 4 blocks, turn RIGHT onto W Hood St.
24. In one block, turn LEFT onto S First St.
25. After 4 long blocks, turn RIGHT onto E Meadowbrook Dr. (it's only on right side of road).
26. In one block, turn LEFT onto Second St.
27. In ~3 blocks, after passing a cluster of large, red, brick buildings, with a large parking lot (on the right), turn RIGHT onto E Davis St.
28. In one block, turn LEFT onto S Third St. Continue on S Third into historic downtown Smithfield.
29. Turn LEFT onto E Johnston St (theater and restaurant are at this intersection).
30. In one block, turn RIGHT onto S Second St.

31. In one block turn RIGHT onto Market St. *Spec Prog-Veterans **POI #4**.*
32. In one block at Third St, turn LEFT to cross Market and turn RIGHT to cross Third. Continue on Market St (*Public Library on left-restrooms available when open. The Ava Gardner museum is just past the library **POI #5**.*)
33. In one block, turn LEFT onto Fourth St.
34. In one block, turn LEFT onto Bridge St.
35. In one block, CROSS and turn RIGHT onto N Third St and continue to its end.

36. Turn LEFT onto North St.
37. When road ends, CROSS and turn LEFT onto N Second St.
38. At signal, turn RIGHT onto Bridge St.
39. When road ends, turn RIGHT onto Front St to return to the parking area at the Start Point.

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Smithfield 10K/5K Walk
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START

5K Walkers

POINTS OF INTEREST:

#1 – The Neuse Little Theater was originally built as a WPA project during the Great Depression to house the American Legion. Affectionately known as “The Hut” it has been home to the theater since 1974.

#2 - The Hastings House (ca. 1850) is one of the oldest homes in Smithfield. Originally built for William Hastings, it eventually served as the pre-battle command office for General Joseph E. Johnston, Commander of the Confederate troops that marched to stop General Sherman at the Battle of Bentonville in March of 1865. Ironically, General Sherman would also occupy the house following the battle.

#3 – Riverside Cemetery was established in 1777, the same year that the town of Smithfield was chartered. Both the town and cemetery were formed on land donated by John Smith. Though burials were assumed to have taken place in the late 1700’s, no headstones from that time still exist. The oldest documented gravesites are from the early 1800’s.

#4 - The Johnston Co. Courthouse dates to 1921 and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. It stands on the site of the 19th century courthouse where General Sherman’s army celebrated the news of General Lee’s surrender in April 1865.

#5 - The Ava Gardner Museum is home to an incredible collection of memorabilia including original scripts, photos, costumes, and personal effects of screen legend Ava Gardner, who was a true Hollywood “Cinderella” story. Ava was born in “Grabtown”, a rural crossroads just east of downtown Smithfield, where her family farmed tobacco and cotton. Ava is buried in Sunset Memorial Gardens, just Northwest of town on US 70 Business.