

GENERAL INFORMATION

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

In Case of Emergency: Dial 911

Event Related Assistance:

Event Number

121376

Walk Rating

1A

Walk Description

The Saco Historic Walk is a seasonal walk, taking place from April 1 through June 30, 2022. Walk historic Main St. The walk goes into Laurel Hill Cemetery, where you may see thousands of blooming daffodils on the river bank if the timing is right.

Starting Point

Saco Transportation Center
138 Main St., Saco ME
Tel (800) 872-7245

Getting There

Via Interstate 95, take the Saco exit 36. Then take the first right to Saco. Stay straight on Route 1/Main St. Saco Transportation Center will be on the right at 138 Main St. Saco Transportation Center is also serviced by the Downeaster Train and local buses.

Latitude/Longitude

Latitude: 43.496011

Longitude: 70.448945

Parking

The short-term parking lot is in front of the building. Park away from the building if possible.

Restrooms

Saco Transportation Center has public restrooms.

Special Programs

Free Little Libraries

Mayflower-400th Anniversary Walk

Rockin' Around the Clock

Walk the USA (A to Z)

Walking with America's Veterans

Point of Contact

Carole Plowman

68 Southpointe Drive

Scarborough ME 04074

carplo@aol.com

(207) 883-4912

Restaurants on the Route

Traditions Italian Ristorante

162 Main St., Saco ME

Tel (207) 282-6661

Tues-Sun 4 pm to close

Saco House of Pizza

163 Main St., Saco ME

Tel (207) 282-5942

Call ahead for open times

Rapid Ray's

189 Main St., Saco ME

Tel (207) 282-1847

Open Daily, 11 am to 11 pm

Golden Rooster
236 Main St., Saco ME
Tel (207) 282-9003
Sun-Sat 6 am-9 pm

The Saco Scoop
209 Main St., Saco ME
Tel (207) 571-9106
Mon-Fri 2 pm-9 pm
Sat & Sun 12 pm-9 pm

Cia Café
9 Beach St., Saco ME
Tel (207) 494-7426

Area Lodging

There are many. Here are three:

Ramada by Wyndham
352 North St., Saco ME
Tel (207) 286-9600

Comfort Inn
48 Industrial Park Rd., Saco ME
Tel (207) 282-7222

Rodeway Inn
21 Ocean Park Rd., Saco ME
Tel (207) 282-5569

Walking Maine 2022

Augusta Capital Walk
April 1-Sept 30

Kennebunk Walk
April 1-Sept 30

Portland Walk
April 1-Dec 31

South Portland Walk
April 1-Sept 30

* The following two are coordinated by
Twin State Volkssport Association:

Maine Appalachian Trail
June 1-Oct 31

Baxter State Park Appalachian Trail
June 1-Sept 30

LOCATIONS OF HISTORIC SIGNIFICANCE

(Not all sites may be on both the 6k and 10k walks)

Saco Island, Biddeford/Saco Mill District

Saco Island was the heart of Saco's industrial development in the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.

Berry Block, 1869

152 Main Street

Originally a Greek Revival block of stores, Berry's block was built by local contractors Augustus Scamman and David Bacon Hill in typical fashion, with plain brick walls and horizontal granite lintels. In the 1890s the roof was raised, arched windows put in the third floor, and cast-iron columns added to the shopfronts. The Italianate Sweetser block (1874) next door also shows the type of substantial Victorian commercial blocks which linked downtown Saco with the mill district's industrial, commercial, and residential complex on Saco Island.

William Deering Block, 1894

163 Main Street

A symbol of the prosperity of the 1890's, the William Deering block exhibits a variety of patterns and textures in its three stories of pressed brick. The top floor features Romanesque arches over the windows and a diaper pattern frieze picked out in yellow brick.

Pepperell Square

Originally known as the Haymarket, Pepperell Square has been the commercial heart of Saco since the 18th century. Ideally located between the mills above the falls and the wharves below the falls, the square was the site of the Customs House when

Saco was a thriving seaport. Two well-preserved commercial blocks, Deering & Lowell's block (1857, 6-10 Pepperell Square, and Gilpatrick's block, (1846, Common St.) give some idea of the appearance of the square in its heyday.

York National Bank, 1896

180 Main Street

Built on the site of an 18th century stockade, Brown's Garrison, the York Bank block has been used as a site for banking since 1833. The northern three bays of this block contain part of the original 1833 York Bank. In 1896, it was remodeled by John Calvin Stevens in the Colonial Revival style with buff brick and terra cotta Ionic pilasters on the second story. In the 1920s the block was greatly enlarged by repeating the original design to the south.

William Pike Block, 1869

199 Main Street

This large Victorian commercial block was originally two stories tall with a mansard roof, like the wooden block next door. In 1896, the Odd Fellows hired John Calvin Stevens to remodel the block as their lodge hall. The intricate diaper patten brick work and terra cotta panels were added by Stevens.

Central Hall Block, 1828

206 Main Street

Central Hall is one of the earliest Greek Revival blocks in Maine, built of brick with an elegant post and lintel facade of dressed granite. The rhythm of the two-story granite facade is continued onto the neighboring Deering block (190 Main St., c. 1845). Together, these two blocks give a good impression of the style and sophistication of Saco's commercial district 150 years ago.

Saco House, 1837

209 Main Street

Originally built as a hotel and stage coach terminal, the Saco House is one of the few early Greek Revival hotels to survive in the state. The old hostelry was gutted by fire in 1912, but the unique facade, with its giant Ionic pilasters spanning the top two floors and floating over the curved ends of the ground floor, was saved. It has been home to Atkinson's Furniture for more than 75 years.

Tristram Hooper Store, 1824

237 Main Street

The Hooper store is one of three Federal Period commercial buildings in this section of Main Street, along with the Abel Hersey shop (c.1814, 228 Main St.) and the Manufacturer's Bank (1825, 224 Main St.). The Hooper store is notable for having a brick facade with flared granite lintels, while the main body of the building is stone rubble. A date stone in the gable end reads "Built 1824." Masonic Block, 1907 252 Main Street This gargantuan Renaissance Revival block dominates the commercial center of Saco. The block features multi-story windows with arched tops and trefoil tracery as well as decorative metal roof cresting. This is the only commercial block in Saco which actually covers the whole width of a city block. It was designed by Penn Varney of Lynn, MA. It is notable for retaining two of its original occupants: Saco and Biddeford Savings Institution and the Masonic Lodge.

Cyrus King House, 1807

255 Main Street

Perched atop a fully articulated basement story, this Federal Period mansion is unusual for being sited so far back on its lot

and facing away from the street. Built for Congressman Cyrus King, this refined Adamesque house was remodeled in the late 19th century for industrialist and inventor Horace Woodman. Since 1916 it has been the rectory for Most Holy Trinity Church.

Mutual Theatre, 1927

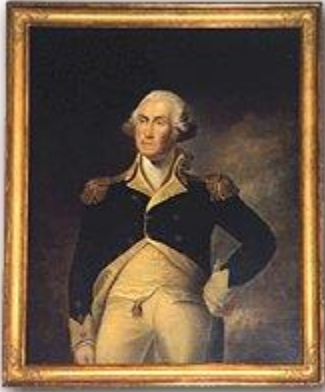
268 Main Street

This is a rare example of an early modern commercial block in Saco. Designed as a combination insurance office and motion picture theater, the Mutual block has the horizontal, rectilinear massing and geometrical ornament of the Arts and Crafts Style. It is an interesting attraction in the melange of architectural styles on Main Street, complimented by the new Most Holy Trinity Church across Main Street.

Saco City Hall, 1855

300 Main Street

Saco Town Hall was erected in 1855 despite public outcry over the expense of its construction. It was designed by local builder Thomas Hill in an eclectic expression of the Greek Revival, Italianate, and Gothic Revival styles. The ground floor housed offices and fire barns, while the main floor contained a large public hall. In 1880, an elegant clock tower designed by Francis Fassett of Portland replaced the original central cupola. Interior renovations of the first floor were carried out in 1989 and the upper floors were renovated in 1995. A series of patriotic portraits painted by Saco artist Charles Henry Granger in the 1860's adorn the walls of the auditorium, which is open to the public. City Hall is on the National Register of Historic Places.



*George Washington Portrait
By Charles Henry Granger*

Old Dyer Library, 1893

308 Main Street

The former home of the Dyer Library was designed by Boston architect Horace G. Wadlin, and features Colonial Revival elements such as broken scroll pedimented dormers and banks of arch-topped windows. Horace Wadlin was a cousin of Saco philanthropist Cornelius Sweetser, whose generous bequests to public institutions like Thornton Academy, Pepperell Park, Laurel Hill cemetery, and Dyer Library resulted in a boon for Wadlin's architectural practice. Wadlin later became the librarian at Boston Public Library.

Daniel Page House, c. 1800

311 Main Street

This 5-bay Federal Period cape is notable as being the first house built on the east side of Main Street between Pepperell Square and Beach Street. The property belonged to loyalist William Pepperrell Sparhawk, whose holdings were seized by the State during the Revolution. The Pepperrell lands were divided into house lots and sold at auction in 1798-99.

James Curtis House, 1827

312 Main Street

Now adapted to commercial use, this 3-bay "half house" was originally the residence of James Curtis, who ran a distillery on the site. The house features flush roof eaves, a shallow wooden cornice, tall end chimneys, and flared granite window caps. The heavy Doric porch was added later in the 19th century.

Dr. Jeremiah Mason House, 1856

319 Main Street

Built for dentist Jeremiah Mason, this is a good example of a brick Greek Revival residence. It has a 3-bay facade with a side hall plan and the principal entrance on the gable end. The heavy brick entablature is similar to those on the mills being erected at the same time.

Thornton Hall, 1801

331 Main Street

This sleek, square, three-story hip roofed mansion demonstrates the restrained elegance of the Adamesque style. The design is attributed to builder/architect Bradbury Johnson, who came to Saco in 1801 to present a handsome design for the town's new meetinghouse. The owner, Joseph Leland, was a wealthy lumber merchant who supplied much of the timber for the meetinghouse. For many years this was the home of Sarah Fairfield Hamilton (1831 - 1909), a leader in the women's suffrage movement and other progressive social issues.

Emma Hall House, 1892

342 Main Street

The Hall house is the best example of a Queen Anne style residence in the Historic District. It features an asymmetrical plan and corner tower, a complex roofline, a multistory porch with decorative spindle work, and varied siding materials. Locally,

this house is associated with Ruth Olive Roberts, who taught music to countless children in the grand double parlor.

York Manufacturing Company Agent's House, 1889

350 Main Street

This outstanding Colonial Revival house was built by the York Manufacturing Co. to house Franklin Nourse, the first mill agent to live outside the mill-yard. The architect, Horace Wadlin, embellished his design with fluted pilaster corner boards, molded window caps, and roof dormers.

1st Parish Congregational Church, 1862

12 Beach Street

The distinctive steeple of this Italianate and Romanesque church has served as a marker for Saco's principal cross-roads for a century and a half. The architect was John Stevens of Boston and the contractor was Thomas Hill of Saco. The flush board siding, corner buttresses and heavy window hoods imitate features of masonry construction in less expensive Maine pine. This well-preserved church is on the National Register of Historic Places.

Jonas C. Tibbets House, 1860

365 Main Street

In contrast to the Deering house, this wood framed Italianate house features a hipped roof with broadly projecting eaves supported on paired scrolled brackets. Similar brackets adorn the glazed belvedere in the center of the roof.

Joseph G. Deering House, 1869

371 Main Street

Saco lumber baron Joseph Deering purchased a local brickyard to supply the pressed brick for his new Italianate mansion. The house features a 3-bay facade

and an open gable in the roof. There are limestone window and door frames, heavy wood balustrades, and an intricate cornice with shaped dentils and modillion blocks. This house is on the National Register of Historic Places.

Elizabeth and Henry B.C. Green House, 1827

374 Main Street

The Green house exhibits many typical features of a Saco Valley house of the Federal Period: the chimneys are built against the end walls, the gable roof has no overhang at the eaves, and a shallow molded cornice runs across the facade. The entrance has a glazed transom and sidelights, and the Tuscan pilasters of the surround have an exaggerated swell in the center known as entasis.

York Institute Museum, 1926

375 Main Street

John Calvin Stevens of Portland designed this Colonial Revival museum in 1926. The brick walls are laid in Flemish bond and there is stone trim at the water table, window sills and arches, and door surround. These textural details and the stepped exterior chimneys give the building the appearance of a Southern Colonial mansion. The Institute houses one of the oldest and most interesting collections in Maine.

Laurel Hill Cemetery

Officially established in 1844, it was one of the first garden cemeteries in the United States. Inspired by Mount Auburn Cemetery in Cambridge MA, the original cemetery was 25-acres and designed by Boston businessman Waldo Higginson.





SACO HISTORICAL WALK 6K

1. Leave the Saco Transportation by turning left and proceeding to Main St, walking several blocks to Beach St. Cross Beach St. and notice to the left Eastman Park at the intersection of several streets. This park honors veterans of several wars, including World War 1. The Saco POC is proud that her grandfather is listed on the memorial.

2. Continue straight on Main St. a short way to Summer St.

3. Turn right onto Summer St.

4. Turn right onto Middle St.

5. Turn left onto Beach St.

6. Continue on Beach St. until you come to the second entrance of Laurel Hill Cemetery (after the white house at 265 Beach St.

7. Turn right into the cemetery.

8. After entering the cemetery, follow the road to the right and continue straight, bearing right at the 'Y'.

9. Continue straight, heading towards the river.

10. Enjoy the river view. If you are lucky enough to be there during daffodil season, enjoy the thousands of daffodils in bloom. However, it's a pretty view no matter what the season is.

11. Continue on the road. Take the second right and then another first right, then a first left. Follow the road to exit the cemetery.

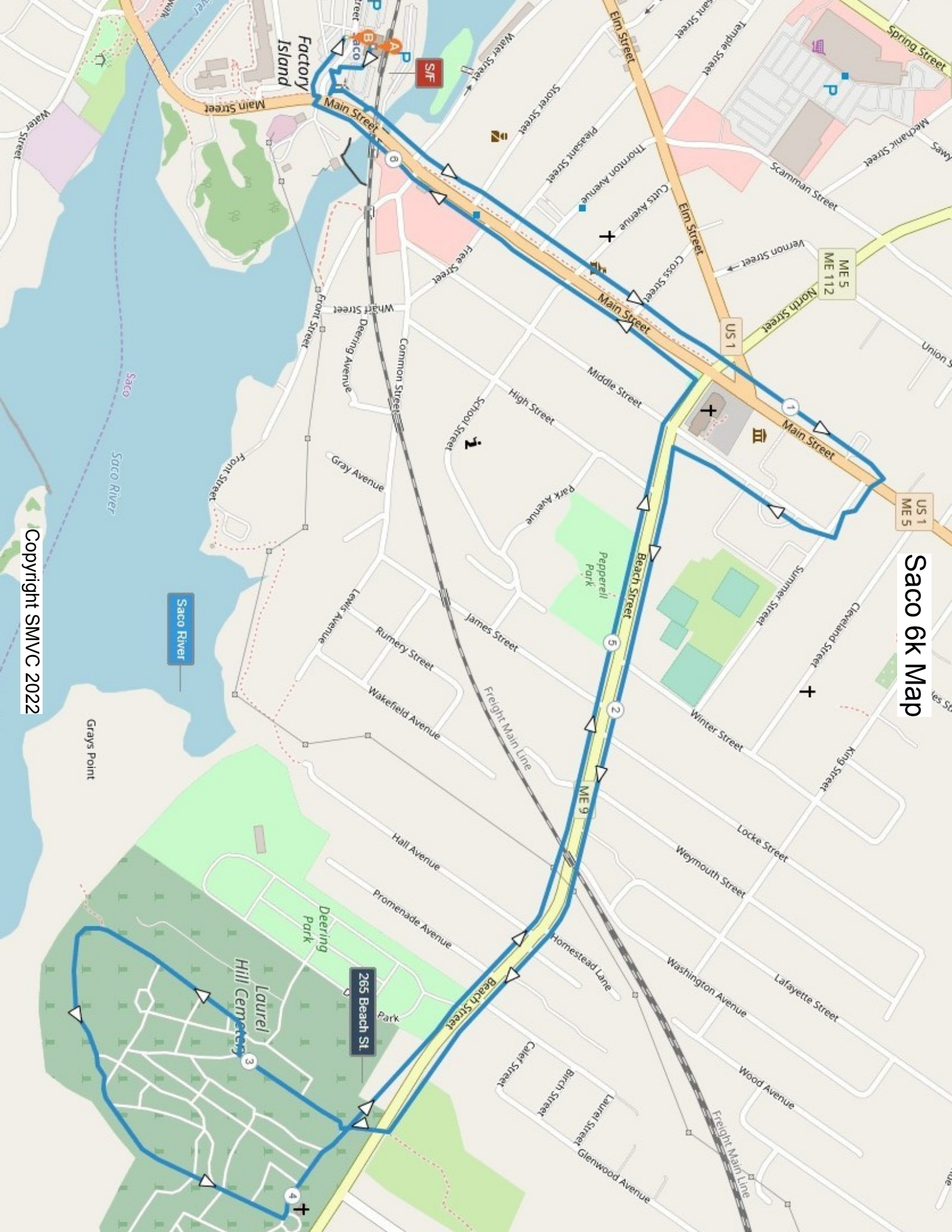
12. Turn left out of the cemetery onto Beach St. and walk several blocks back to Main St, turn left.

13. Follow Main St., crossing the railroad tracks and back to Saco Transportation Center.

NOTE: Log into the online box (OSB) system to finish your registration after completing the event.

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Saco 6k Map



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SACO WALK 10K

1. Leave the Saco Transportation Center by turning left and proceeding to Main St. and walking several blocks to Beach St. Notice Eastman Park to the left at the intersection of several streets. This park honors veterans of several wars, including World War 1. The Saco POC is proud that her grandfather is listed on the memorial.
2. Turn right onto Beach St. Continue on Beach St. going under the railroad overpass, until you come to the second entrance of Laurel Hill Cemetery (after the white house at 265 Beach St).
3. Turn right into the cemetery and follow the road straight, bearing right at the 'Y'.
4. Continue straight, heading towards the river. Enjoy the river view. If you are lucky enough to be there during daffodil season, enjoy the hundreds of daffodils in bloom. However, it's a pretty view no matter what the season is.
5. Continue on the road up the hill. At the end of the road, turn right and then follow the road to exit the cemetery.
6. Turn left onto Beach St. and continue back to Main St., then turn right.
7. Go to Cleveland St. (Trinity Episcopal Church is on the corner). Turn right.
8. Go to the end and turn left.
9. Take the next left (King St.) and follow it to the light at Route 1 (Main St.).
10. Cross Route 1 at the light and go straight down to the stop sign.
11. Turn left and then right at the next stop sign (Clark St.).
12. At the end, turn left onto Nott St. and then at the end turn right onto North St.
13. Follow North St. over the railroad tracks to Franklin St. and turn left (there is a ball field with chain link fence on the corner).
14. At the end of Franklin St., cross Bradley St., turn left and follow it to the blinking light.
15. Cross the street and turn right onto Spring St.
16. Turn left onto Lincoln St. and walk to the traffic light.
17. Cross Elm St. (Rt. 1) and continue straight on Water St., walking along the Saco River.
18. At the next stop sign, turn right onto Main St
19. Cross the railroad tracks and take the next right back to Saco Transportation Center

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Saco 10k Map

