

**EAST TENNESSEE WANDERERS  
OAK RIDGE SECRET CITY WALK  
5K/10K**

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## OAK RIDGE, TENNESSEE – The Secret City

In 1942, the US Army Corps of Engineers purchased 59,000 acres of farm land in East Tennessee to house the Manhattan Project. The city created there, Oak Ridge, was a closed, secret location throughout World War II due to the on-going work to develop the atomic bomb. During the war, 75,000 people lived and worked in Oak Ridge. During this time, armed guards checked every vehicle entering what was then Oak Ridge Federal Reservation. Visitors had to provide the name and phone number of the person they were there to visit, and guards called to verify that the visitor was expected. Two years after the war ended, Oak Ridge was placed under control of the Atomic Energy Commission. It wasn't until 1959 that the town ceased being under direct federal control when the city was incorporated with a city manager and City Council. In 2015, Oak Ridge became part of the Manhattan Project National Park along with Los Alamos, NM and Hanford, WA.

### STARTING POINT

The starting point for both distances is the Towne Place Suites by Marriott, 141-157 Wilson St., Oak Ridge, TN

**Directions:** From the east on I-40, take Exit 376 to merge onto TN-162 N toward Oak Ridge. Merge onto TN-62 W. Turn right onto S. Rutgers Ave. Hotel will be on the left just beyond Northwestern Ave at the corner of Wilson St.

From the west on I-40, take Exit 356 toward Oak Ridge. Turn left onto TN-58 N/Gallaher Rd. Continue onto Oak Ridge Turnpike. Turn right onto S. Rutgers Ave. Hotel will be on your right just beyond Wilson St.

**Parking:** Hotel has a large parking lot. Please be courteous and park in an out-of-the-way space leaving close parking for hotel guests.

**Latitude 36.013237, Longitude -84.252112**



## **GENERAL WALK INFORMATION**

Walk during daylight hours. This walk uses the sidewalks and park trails in the City of Oak Ridge which is known as the Secret City. Walkers are encouraged to visit the American Museum of Science and Energy to get a more complete view of the history and accomplishments of the Secret City. There are also bus tours to some of the more significant locations in the Secret City. Note that there are legal restrictions on participation of these tours.

Although limited, there are restrooms and food venues available at various locations along or near the route.

## **POINT OF CONTACT**

Dan Lewis (president @easttennesseewanderers.org) 865-441-2429  
If you have questions, comments, or recommendations with respect to this event, please do not hesitate to make contact.

## **SPECIAL PROGRAMS**

The three Special Programs associated with this walk are A-Z (Oak Ridge, TN), 50 States (Tennessee), and Walking with America's Veterans.

## **OSB REMINDERS**

**Please use either the Online Start Box (OSB) or Physical Start Box (PSB) to register and complete this event. Do NOT mix and match, for example, by registering using the OSB then completing your event using the PSB, or using the OSB then signing the PSB log sheet. The sponsoring club only receives credit for OSB participation when an OSB registration has been completed online by entering your participation date, distances, and any special programs using the OSB.**

Be sure to log back into the OSB system to finish/complete your online registration. You can then print out your insert cards for this walk.

## **OTHER EAST TENNESSEE WANDERERS EVENTS**

While in the area, you might enjoy some of our other events.

Alcoa Greenway, Alcoa Bike, Alcoa/Maryville Extended Greenway, A.T. Through Tennessee, Clinton 12, Gatlinburg Trail, Gatlinburg Tourist, Elkmont Historic, Newfound Gap (A.T.), Knoxville (UT), Knoxville (Music, Moonshine, and Art), Knoxville (North Knoxville – 4<sup>th</sup> & Gill), Seven Islands State Birding Park, Maryville, Townsend, and Fort Loudoun State Historic Park.

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

**The East Tennessee Wanderers  
Secret City Historic Walk©  
Oak Ridge, TN  
5KM Rated 1A Y1392**

**Special Programs (SP): Walking with America's Veterans, 50 States, A-Z (O)**

**This trail does not have markings; so, you are encouraged to pay close attention to these directions.**

- 1. Turn right** as you exit the main doors of the Townplace Suites Marriott.
- 2. Walk** along the sidewalk to the end of the building.
- 3. Walk through** the parking lot to Wilson Street.
- 4. Turn left** onto the sidewalk at Wilson Street.
- 5. Walk along** Wilson St to Tulane Ave. You will pass the American Museum of Science and Energy. Exhibits include The Story of Oak Ridge, National Defense and other amazing things. Be sure to return for a visit.
- 6. Turn right** on Tulane Ave. Walk down to the traffic light and crosswalk.
- 7. Turn left** and cross Tulane Ave.
- 8. Turn left** on the sidewalk.
- 9. Walk up** Tulane Ave to the circular Commemorative Walk.
- 10. Take the first right path** to walk through the Commemorative Walk area past the flag pole and then turn left. This is part of A.K. Bissell Park. The Secret City Commemorative Walk was dedicated by the Rotary Club of Oak Ridge in 2004 and tells the story of more than 75,000 people who came to an unknown town in East Tennessee at the call of their nation to take part in the top-secret Manhattan Project.
- 11.** As you come out of the circular area you will see bronze Oak Ridge History Panels telling the story of the building of Oak Ridge. The first panels on your right are 1942 and 1943.
- 12. Continue around the circle** to read the 1944 and 1945 panels.
- 13.** As you walk back into the center past the Founders I and III memorials, you will come out to see 1946, 1947, 1948, and 1949 panels.
- 14.** As you exit past panels 1942 and 1943 a second time, you will **turn right onto an asphalt/gravel path** with a stream to your left.
- 15.** At 1 km, the Oak Ridge Public Library and Civic Center is on your right and Performing Arts Pavilion and Art Center on your left. Enjoy the 2 Water Fountains in the pool by the large sculpture. This area is the site of the annual Secret City Festival, held the third weekend of June each year.
- 16. Follow the path** as it curves to the right at a bench. You will pas the construction site of a new Senior Center on the right.
- 17. Take the next left to the Friendship Bell.**
- 18.** The Bell was built as an expression of hope for everlasting peace and was funded by donations from US and Japanese corporations, individuals, and scientists. Take a moment to ring the bell in honor of those who served in World War II, and pray for peace and freedom.
- 19. Exit the Bell area** to stay on the same path you came in on.
- 20. Walk over** a cement "bridge".
- 21. Turn left** to cross over a wooden bridge.
- 22. Turn right** and walk along this trail with the stream on your right until you reach an unmarked road (ORAU Way).
- 23. Turn right** at the road and walk along the sidewalk with A.K. Bissell Park on your right.
- 24.** Carefully **cross the Turnpike** at the traffic light.
- 25. Continue up the hill** on Robertsville Rd., and **take the first right** onto Providence Road. The city swimming pool will be on your left and Oak Ridge High School on your right.
- 26.** As you reach an intersection with three roads coming in at strange angles, known locally as "malfunction junction," use the marked crosswalks to first **cross to the other side of Providence Road and then cross over Pennsylvania Ave and turn right** to walk along Pennsylvania Ave.
- 27. Cross New York Ave and turn right to cross Pennsylvania Ave. (now called W. Tennessee Ave.)**
- 28. Walk along New York Ave to Vermont Ave.**
- 29. Cross Vermont Ave.**
- 30. Turn right and cross** New York Ave.

In case of emergency, call 9-1-1  
After emergency, call (865) 441-2429

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31. **Continue on Vermont Ave. Cross** Rutgers, **passing** St. Mary's Church and KOC (Knights of Columbus) on your left.
32. **Turn left** on Vienna.
33. **Cross Viking and continue on Vienna** to walk past several churches.
34. **Turn left on Tulane** when Vienna T-bones with Tulane Ave. and **walk to** the Oak Ridge Turnpike.
35. **Cross Oak Ridge Turnpike and follow** Tulane up to Wilson St.
36. **Turn left** on Wilson St. and follow it back to the starting point at Townplace Suites Marriott.

**CONGRATULATIONS!** You have just completed your 5 km walk.

**Be sure to log back into the OSB system to finish/complete your online registration. You can then print out your insert cards for this walk.**

**POC: Dan Lewis (865) 441-2429**

While in the area, we would like to invite you to participate in one of our other Year-Round Events:

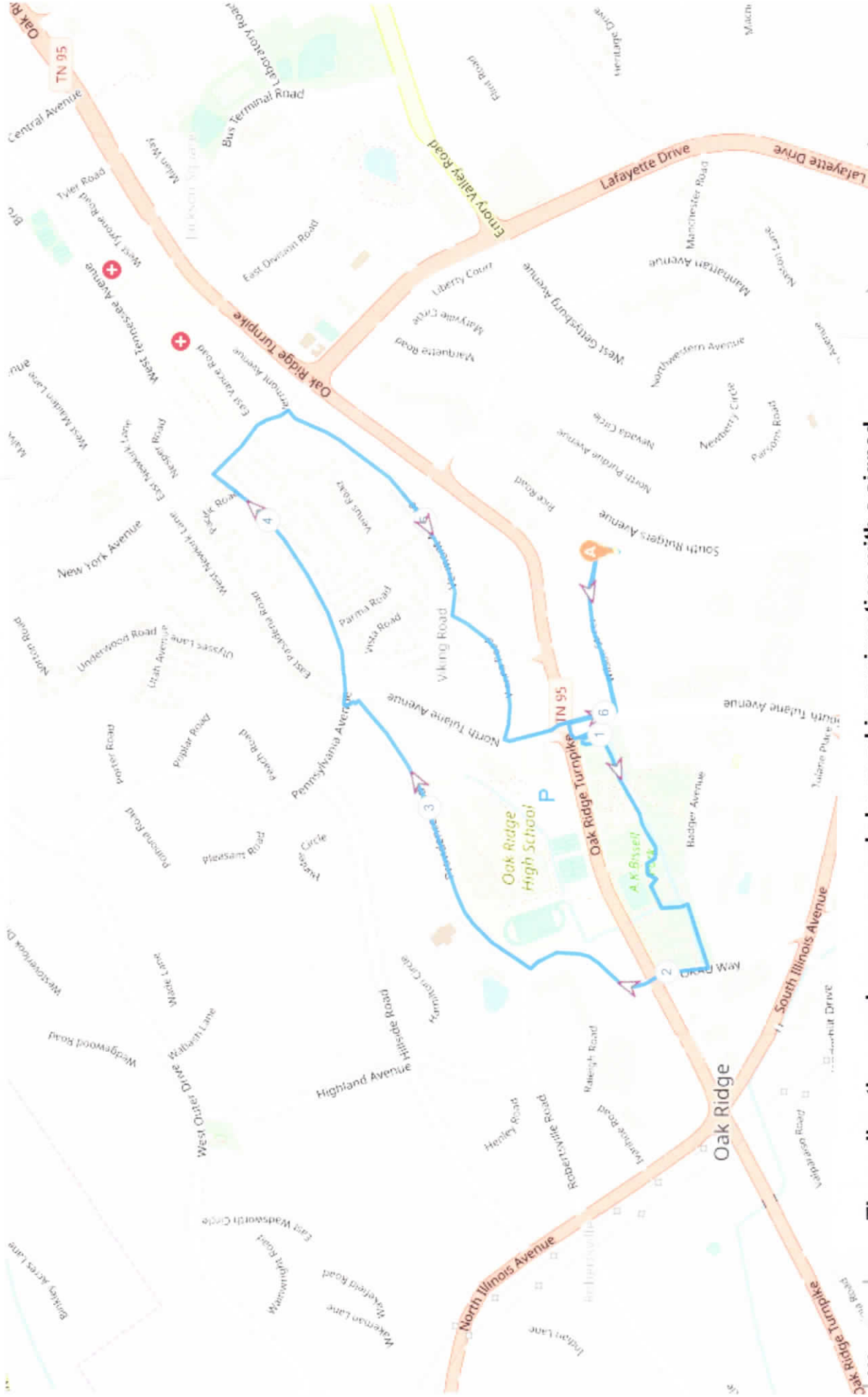
Clinton 12 Walk (just down the road!)  
Rogersville Historic Walk  
Maryville Historic City Walk  
Alcoa Greenway Walk  
Alcoa-Maryville Extended Greenway  
Fort Loudoun Historic Walk  
Alcoa Greenway Bike  
Knoxville Music, Moonshine & Art Walk  
Knoxville University of Tennessee  
Townsend Peaceful side of the  
Smokies Walk  
Vonore/Ft. Loudoun Walk  
Gatlinburg Tourist Walk  
Gatlinburg Trail Walk  
Elkmont Historic Trail Walk  
Newfound Gap/Appalachian Trail  
A.T. Through Tennessee

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# Oak Ridge 5 KM Walk©



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**The East Tennessee Wanderers  
Secret City Historic Walk©  
Oak Ridge, TN**

**10 KM Rated 1A Y1392**

**Special Programs (SP) :Walking with America's  
Veterans, 50 States, A-Z (O)**

**Now, let's go do a 10 km walk.**

**This trail does not have markings; so, you are  
encouraged to pay close attention to these  
directions.**

1. **Turn right** as you exit the main doors of the Townplace Suites Marriott.
2. **Walk along** the sidewalk to the end of the building.
3. **Walk through** the parking onto Wilson St.
4. **Turn left** onto the sidewalk at Wilson St.
5. **Walk along** Wilson St to Tulane Ave. You will pass the American Museum of Science and Energy on your left. Exhibits include The Story of Oak Ridge, National Defense, and other amazing things. Be sure to return for a visit.
6. **Turn right** on Tulane Ave. and walk down to the traffic light and crosswalk.
7. **Turn left** and cross Tulane Ave.
8. **Turn left on** the sidewalk.
9. **Walk up** Tulane Ave to the circular Commemorative Walk.
10. **At the circular Commemorative Walk, take the 2<sup>nd</sup> right** to walk through the Commemorative Walk area past the flag pole and then turn left. This is part of A.K. Bissell Park. The Secret City Commemorative Walk was dedicated by the Rotary Club of Oak Ridge in 2004 and tells the story of more than 75,000 people who came to an unknown town in East Tennessee at the call of their nation to take part in the top-secret Manhattan Project.
11. As you come out of the circular area you will see bronze Oak Ridge History Panels telling the story of the building of Oak Ridge. The first panels on your right are 1942 and 1943.
12. **Continue around the circle** to read the 1944 and 1945 panels.
13. As you walk back into the center past the Founders I and III memorials, you will come out to see 1946, 1947, 1948, and 1949 panels.
14. As you exit past panels 1942 and 1943 a second time, you will **turn right onto an asphalt/gravel path** with a stream to your left.
15. At 1 km, the Oak Ridge Public Library and Civic Center is on your right and Performing Arts Pavilion and Art Center on your left. Enjoy the 2 Water Fountains in the pool by the large sculpture. This area is the site of the annual Secret City Festival, held the third weekend of June each year.
16. **Follow the right path** as it curves to the right at a bench. A new Senior Center is on your right.
17. **Take the next left to the International Friendship Bell.**
18. The Bell was built as an expression of hope for everlasting peace and was funded by donations from US and Japanese corporations, individuals, and scientists. Take a moment to ring the bell in honor of those who served in World War II, and pray for peace and freedom.
19. **Exit the Bell** area to stay on the same path you came in on, heading to your left.
20. **Walk over** a cement "bridge".
21. **Turn left** to cross over a wooden bridge.
22. **Turn right** and walk along this trail with the stream on your right until you reach an unmarked road (ORNL Way).
23. **Turn right** at the road and walk along the sidewalk with A.K. Bissell Park **on your right.**
24. Carefully **cross the Turnpike** at the traffic light. The building on your right houses the Oak Ridge History Museum.
25. **Continue up the hill** on Robertsville Road and **take the first right** onto Providence Road. The city swimming pool will be on your left and Oak Ridge High School on your right.
26. As you reach an intersection with three roads coming in at strange angles, known locally as "malfunction junction," use the marked crosswalks to first **cross to the other side of Providence Road and then cross over Pennsylvania Ave and turn right** to walk along Pennsylvania Ave.
27. **Cross New York Ave. and continue straight on Pennsylvania** as Pennsylvania Ave. becomes Tennessee Ave.
28. **CHECKPOINT:** At approximately 4.7 km, what is the name of the hospital on your right?
29. **Follow Tennessee Ave. to cross** Nesper Rd.
30. **Cross** Michigan Ave. and **turn left** onto Michigan by the tennis courts.
31. **Cross** Broadway and **turn right** on Broadway on the sidewalk.
32. Pass the Alexander Inn on your left. Built in 1943, it was the original guest house and only army hotel within the gates of the city, housing numerous notable visitors to the Secret City during the war. It is on the National Historic Registry, and attempts are being made to raise funds to restore it to its former glory.

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33. **Turn left on Kentucky Ave.** and walk up to your left to read the historic plaque in the parking lot of the White Chapel On The Hill (United Church) where all denominations took turns having services during the early war years. Services were held one after another on Saturday & Sunday. Today the Chapel is a non-denominational church offering services on Sunday.
34. **Return down** Kentucky Ave to Broadway.
35. **Turn right** into Jackson Square, site of original Oak Ridge Townsite that was the social hub of the Secret City during the war with everything open 24/7.
36. **Walk around the inside perimeter** of Jackson Square. The Oak Ridge Playhouse has been in operation since 1943. Take time to look at the historic photos on display. Jackson Square is the site for the annual Lavender Festival in June.
37. While in Jackson Sq. you might consider stopping for a rest and good eats (Mon. thru Sat) at 1 of the 2 restaurants. Dean's Restaurant & Bakery offers great American lunch, & dinner. Razzleberry Café & Market (originally Razzleberry's Ice Cream Lab -**Ice Cream Parlors (SP)**) has breakfast, lunch and international market items. Inside are hundreds of pig "things" with customers continuing to add to his pig inventory. Polish owners serve several homemade foods and ice cream. Pizza is available a block further on the route.
38. **Turn right** onto Broadway when you leave Jackson Square, continuing past Towne Rd.
39. At approximately 6 km, you will see **Big Ed's Pizza**, a noted Oak Ridge and regional landmark, on your right. (Mon-Sat.)
40. **Turn right onto Georgia Ave.** just past Big Ed's Pizza,
41. **Cross and turn right** onto Tennessee Ave. at the next intersection,
42. Shortly you will see the Soup Kitchen on your right, another good local food spot.
43. As you cross Central Ave, look left to see the large white building on the distant hill, site of Department of Energy's Oak Ridge Operations.
44. **Continue** on Tennessee Ave. to the traffic light and **turn left** on Tyler Rd.
45. **Turn right** on Tyrone.
46. **Turn left on Tyndale** as you approach the hospital, to walk to O.R. Turnpike.
47. **Turn right** on O.R. Turnpike.
48. Cross Tennenson Rd, and as you reach the next intersection (Tennyson Rd)., **turn right to walk through the parking lot**, staying parallel to Tennyson Ave.
49. As you walk through the parking lot, straight ahead you will see the sign for REAC/TS (Radiation Emergency Assistance Center/Training Site)which provides emergency medical response to radiation incidents all over the world and training for medical personnel in treating radiation exposure.
50. **At the end of the parking lot, walk toward REAC/TS and turn left** onto Vance Rd.
51. **Follow** Vance Rd. to New York Ave.
52. **Turn left** on New York Ave.
53. **Cross** Vermont Ave. and **turn right** on Vermont Ave.
54. **Cross** N. Rutgers, and **continue** on Vermont to **pass** St. Mary's Church and KOC (Knights of Columbus) on your left.
55. **Turn left** on Vienna.
56. **Cross Viking** and **continue on Vienna** to walk past several churches.
57. When Vienna T-bones with Tulane Ave., **turn left on Tulane** and walk to the Oak Ridge Turnpike.
58. **Cross** Oak Ridge Turnpike **and follow** Tulane Ave up to Wilson St.
59. **Turn left** on Wilson St and **follow** it back to the starting point at Townplace Suites Marriott.

**CONGRATULATIONS!** You have just completed your 10 km walk.

**POC: Dan Lewis (865) 441-2429**

**Be sure to log back into the OSB system to finish/complete your online registration. You can then print out your insert cards for this walk.**

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# Oak Ridge 10 KM Walk



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