

## North Oconee River Greenway 5/10K Walk Y2421©2019

The UpState PathFinders Volksmarch Club of Greenville, SC, is the only South Carolina member of AVA: America’s Walking Club. We welcome you to our North Oconee River Greenway 5/10K Year-Round Event (YRE) and thank you for taking interest in one of our walks. 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 and follows into the town of Athens along the Oconee River and past University of Georgia student housing old and new, then into Dudley Park. Cool off and enjoy the exhibits in the nature center after the walk.

### Walk Registration:

Please use the online start box provided by the California Volkssport Association website ([www.cva4u.org](http://www.cva4u.org)). Follow the left side link, 'Online Start Box', and the instructions provided to sign a waiver and register for this event. Payments for event credit and directions use PayPal. The directions and insert cards are PDFs that you can download and print as needed. The entire online process should take less than 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 “Maps / Finish” 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” start cards that you may later choose to print out.

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## 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.

#### Driving Directions

From Gainesville, GA (53 min., 39.6 mi.)

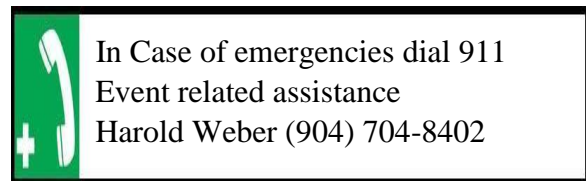
1. Southeast on W. Academy St S/GA-53 Conn/GA-60 toward Spring St. Continue to follow GA-53 Conn/GA-60. (0.21 mi.)
2. **Left** on Jesse Jewell Pkwy/GA-13. (0.26 mi.)
3. **Right** on E.E. Butler Pkwy/GA-11 Bus. Continue to follow E.E. Butler Pkwy. (1.41 mi.)
4. E.E. Butler Pkwy becomes US-129 S. (26.38 mi.)
5. **Left** on New Kings Bridge Rd. (5.47 mi.)
6. **Right** on Commerce Rd. (0.13 mi.)

7. Commerce Rd becomes Highway 334 (0.14 mi.)
8. Highway 334 becomes Commerce Rd. (0.68 mi.)
9. Stay **straight** to go onto Highway 334/GA-334. (0.07 mi.)
10. **Right** onto Commerce Rd/US-441 S/GA-15. (4.21 mi.)
11. **Slight right** onto Old Commerce Rd. (0.72 mi.)
12. **Destination ahead** (0.42 mi.) past the Nature Center Rd.

### Restrooms

Public Restrooms are available at Sandy Creek Nature Center Monday through Saturday. On Sunday, be sure to use nearby gas stations and restaurants.

### Emergency Numbers



### 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.



*From the parking lot, walk away from Sandy Creek Nature Center toward the Leisure Services Administration Office. The paved trail head is between the nature center and the Leisure Services Administration Office.*

1. Walk ahead on the paved trail about 4K. You will remain on the North Oconee River Greenway Trail for the entire walk.
2. **Right** at the intersection of the trail and College Avenue. Cross the bridge over the North Oconee River

### ***5K Split***

*5K walkers turn around on the bridge and retrace their steps back to the Sandy Creek Nature Center. Skip to step#27*

*10K Walkers continue w/step #3.*

3. **Left** at the crosswalk where you see the North Oconee River Greenway sign. Cross carefully.
4. **Left** at Willow Street
5. Be alert to both humans and vehicles as you approach North Avenue. Cross North Avenue using walk signals and crosswalk.
6. **Left** after crossing East Broad/Willow.
7. Cross the iron pedestrian bridge
8. **Right** at the end of the bridge on East Broad St.
9. Follow brick sidewalk into Cook & Brother Plaza.
10. Exit the plaza, continue along sidewalk, keeping the river on your right.
11. **Left** at the “Y”, uphill. (Photo OP at the hole in the stone wall ahead).
12. **Right** at circle.

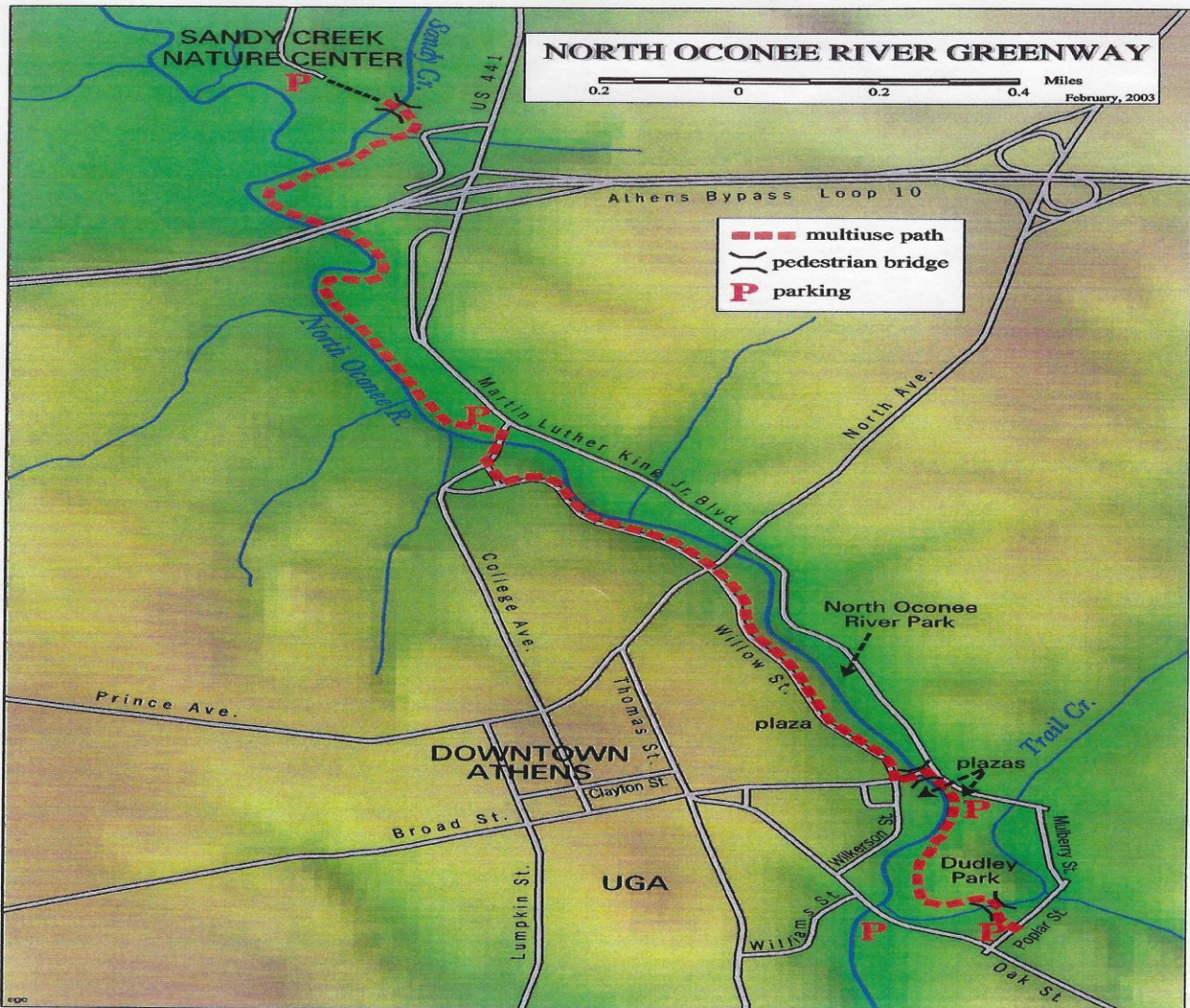
13. **Left** at second stone plaza, walk through and toward the railroad trestle made famous by the rock band, REM.
14. Keeping the creek on your right, walk under the trestle.
15. Continue around vehicle gate arm, then through the parking lot, keeping stone wall on your left.
16. **Left** at NO1 parking sign on sidewalk back to Cook & Brother Plaza
17. **Right** into the brick plaza where you see the compass imbedded in the center.
18. **Left** after the water wheel.
19. **Left** at Iron pedestrian bridge
20. **Right** at Wilkerson and Willow. Stay on brick pathway. Cross carefully
21. Follow the sidewalk ahead to North Avenue. (Caution at the North Avenue crosswalk; use signal to cross North Ave)
22. Continue straight ahead on sidewalk.
23. **Right** at Elizabeth to crosswalk and cross College Ave. using warning signal.
24. **Right** toward the bridge.
25. **Left** at North Oconee River Greenway Trail
26. Follow trail back to Sandy Creek Nature Center.
27. At vehicle gate arm, walk back into the parking lot to the finish.

### ***End of Walk***

Thank you for walking our North Oconee River Greenway Walk. We hope you enjoyed it! Please contact us at [www.upstatepathfinders.com](http://www.upstatepathfinders.com) and tell us about our walk or find information on any of our other walks.

This walk was created by a  
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**Upstate PathFinders, Greenville, SC**

# North Oconee River Greenway Map



North Oconee River  
Greenway 5/10K © 2019

**The UpState PathFinders  
North Oconee River Greenway  
2019 Special Programs  
(1-2-2019)**

**Special Programs**

Walking USA A-Z

**Location**

A - Athens

**UpState PathFinders  
Listing of YRE's  
And Traditional Events**

Greenville Veteran's Day  
5/10K  
Traditional Event

Historic Greenville  
5/10K YRE

Pickens Doodle Trail  
5/10K YRE

Greenville City Parks  
5/10KYRE

Paris Mountain State Park  
5/10K YRE

Furman University  
5/10K YRE

Travelers Rest  
5/10K YRE

Clemson University  
5/10K YRE  
(Re-opens March 2019)

Clemson Botanical Gardens  
5/10k YRE

Columbia RiverWalk  
5/10k YRE

Historic Georgetown  
5/10K YRE  
(OLSB)

Lake Conestee Nature Park  
5/10K YRE  
(New Feb 2019)

Greenville – Country Club  
5/10K YRE  
(New Feb 2019)

Watson Mill Bridge State Park  
Comer, GA  
(OLSB)

Please see website [www.upstatepathfinders.com](http://www.upstatepathfinders.com) for more details on our walks or find us on Meetup.com to join us on one of our upcoming walks.