

# Day Hike, Green Circle Trail, Winchester, VA

*Two of us did this easy 6 mile loop around Winchester, VA on Tuesday, February 7, 2023.*

This was a good day. I got to hike a trail that I have wanted to hike for awhile. It was my birthday. And I got to hike with someone that I hadn't hiked with in about ten years. I met Charlie Johnson at the Winchester- Frederick County Visitors Center in Winchester, VA at 9:00 AM. We checked out the visitors center, used the facilities and then started the hike around 9:30 AM.

It was colder than the weather had predicted. Temps in the mid thirties. But it would get close to fifty degrees before we finished this hike. This was an urban hike. It was all on either sidewalks or asphalt walking paths. No wilderness experience here. However, there was a lot of history to be seen here. We walked down to Wilkins Lake, turned left and were then on the Green Circle Trail. We passed the .45 mile marker and immediately got lost. The trail curved to the left, went up a hill and then crossed S Pleasant Valley RD. However, half way around this curve, we got to Lowry DR. We saw a trail across the street so we took it. Big mistake.

Long story short we ended up walking around Jim Barnett Park for about half an hour. The georeferenced map on my AllTrails app was not working properly. I wasn't sure if it was the lack of cell service, the app or my phone. I would continue to have issues throughout the trip. I'm glad that we each had paper maps as



*Our 1st mile marker.  
By Mike Calabrese*



*Obligatory selfie.  
By Mike Calabrese*



*Oldest house in Winchester.  
By Mike Calabrese*

a backup. Charlie was getting antsy and was threatening to go home. After much discussion, some of it heated, we worked our way back to the .45 mile marker, studied the map and then saw that the trail crossed S Pleasant Valley RD. So we proceeded.

We had to get used to the trail signs. We proceeded down Lowry, then almost missed the turnoff into Shawnee Springs Preserve. At the 1 mile mark we crossed under a railroad bridge, then crossed E Pall Mall ST. The trail map and Google maps had some differences that would cause more confusion. We then started a nice walk along a stream called Town Run.

I wanted to see the Patsy Cline house since she is the most famous person born in Winchester, VA. But the trail went just east of 608 E Kent ST so we didn't get to see her birthplace. I was disappointed. We came out to Kent ST about two blocks north of Patsy's house. It was at this point that we had a choice to either take the bike route and avoid Old Town Mall or take the walking route through Old Town Mall. We chose the latter. Big disappointment.

The Old Town Mall was planned in the late 1960's and was supposed to bring people back to the old shopping district. It may have worked for awhile but it was sad to see it today. A number of homeless people congregated at the north end of the mall. I'm surprised that they didn't try to hit us up for money. The vacancy rate along formerly N. Loudoun ST was very high. There were a few restaurants along the mall and there was a public rest room. But I personally would not feel safe using either.



*Charlie J.  
By Mike Calabrese*



*Millstones.  
By Mike Calabrese*



*Neat house on Amherst ST.  
By Mike Calabrese*

They probably should run N. Loudoun ST back down this block as it is my opinion that this type of redevelopment just didn't work.

At the 1.75 mile mark we turned left onto Boscowan ST and would follow that road until it reached Amherst ST at around the 2 mile mark. We didn't see any trail signs for awhile. But a local who was also a runner told us where to go. There were two good local restaurants at Boscowan and Amherst. However, it was only 11:00 AM and too early for lunch. So we pushed on.

The trail went westward for about a mile along Amherst ST. We passed the Museum of the Shenandoah Valley, a number of very old and impressive looking homes and a number of doctors offices. We then turned left and south onto Meadow Branch AVE just past the 3 mile mark. I don't remember this road when I worked in this area in the 1980's so it must be a newer throughfare. There were mostly houses and townhouses along this stretch. It was a hilly road. There were no restrooms along this stretch. We found some overgrown bushes near a fence at one point and had to go there.

Just past the 4 mile mark this road became W Jubal Early DR and curved to the east. I bet this one gets changed eventually. There was a wetlands area to the southwest that was an option that we did not take. We would be on W Jubal Early for the rest of the trip. We didn't see a mile 5 marker. There are plans to take the trail one block south at S Loudoun and route it along Featherbed LA and Shopping CTR DR and then bring it out to Millwood AVE. Since we didn't see any signs for this choice,



*Mile marker 3.  
By Mike Calabrese*



*Spring house.  
By Mike Calabrese*



*Mile 4 marker.  
By Mike Calabrese*

we stayed on Jubal Early until we got to Millwood. This was the official beginning/end of this loop.

The trail turned north here. There was a Hampton Inn at this intersection that one could probably park at with permission. There are a few eating establishments in this area. We then took Millwood to University to Wilkins Pond and the end of the hike. We got done around 1:00 PM. We then ate lunch at Zaxbys Restaurant. Good food, facility issues.

I thought that this was a good hike. We got to see a bit of Winchester, met some nice people and spent some money in the city. So the trail worked. There is a lot of history here that deserves to be explored. I had a good birthday and got to hike with Charlie again.

Mike C

*After looking at the top image on the right, it looks like the arrow on that mile marker should have pointed straight or angled slightly to the left. That may have kept us from getting lost at that point.*



*End/Start of loop.  
By Mike Calabrese*



*Me @ mile 0.45.  
By Charlie Johnson*



*Old Town Mall.  
By Charlie Johnson*



*Map of where we hiked.  
By City of Winchester GIS*

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