



ATHENS LOCAL TOURS

Two local tours are being organized in collaboration with UGA organizations, local community advocates, and local groups. These tours will focus on the historical, community, and socio-ecologies of these spaces, alongside eco-environmental justice dimensions.

I. UGA CAMPUS WALKING TOUR

This tour will take us through a walking journey across the UGA campus, visiting locations of social, ecological, and/or geographic significance, engaging with geo-ecological, Indigenous, Black and migrant histories, transformations over time, and contemporary socio-environmental contexts.

The tour will integrate the environmental history of this landscape before UGA, the becoming of the campus, significant social and ecological sites and contexts, and eco-environmental justice concerns, alongside reflecting on how diverse communities (people and others) relate to the UGA campus. We will also get to witness select photovoice exhibits shared by Athens locals and ICON community at places where the images were taken.

Duration - 2 hours 30 mins

Approx. Mileage - 3 miles, slow paced, with stops.

Accessibility Information - We will be walking around on campus sidewalks and streets, along greenway paths and bike trails. There are spots where we have steep inclines and declines on campus.



An emerald jumping spider looks out from his perch atop a fallen leaf on a UGA sidewalk

II. OCONEE RIVERS & BASIN TOUR

This tour will be a start and stop tour within the Athens area, traversing locations along the North Oconee River, Middle Oconee River, and within their basins. We will visit locations of social, ecological, and/or geographic significance, and consider how change has been manifesting in our 'home' basins. We will also get to visit the confluence of these two rivers, where they come together to flow onwards as the Oconee River.

We will engage with community and land-water ecologies, socio-ecological relationships, and spatio-temporal transformations in the basin, alongside reflections on how we can better advocate for and serve our river basins and our communities of people and beyond. We will get to learn from Athens locals who have been taking action and affecting change on the ground. We will also get to witness select photovoice exhibits shared by Athens locals and ICON community at places where the images were taken.

Duration - 3 hours 30 mins

Accessibility Information - We will be using a van to move between the sites, but we also welcome those who may need to use their personal vehicle for accessibility reasons. We will walk along sidewalks, greenways, and trails at the various locations to further explore the spots, these will be short walks (< 500m).



Butterweed flowers bloom in early spring along flooded banks of Sandy Creek just upstream of its convergence with the North Oconee River