Sandersville Historic Walking Tours:  
“Sandersville Walks!”  
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In 2013, the Sandersville Downtown Development Authority (DDA) and the Washington County Historical Society expressed interested in creating walking trails in downtown Sandersville. The DDA was focused on trails as a way to promote a healthy lifestyle, while the Historical Society wanted trails to promote citizen and visitor tourism in downtown Sandersville.

The DDA and Historical Society members reached out to the Washington County Archway Partnership with their ideas, and the projects were combined intoSandersville Walks! a collaborative effort that met the goals of both groups.

Archway Professional Kim David led the efforts by facilitating meetings, creating citizen-based committees and overseeing the development of the program’s plans. To create the actual design plans, David enlisted Mario Cambardella, a Master of Landscape Architecture candidate at the University of Georgia College of Environment and Design (CED). Cambardella’s vision included a series of walking trails throughout the downtown and surrounding area, some focusing on fitness and others indicating points of interest ranging from architecture, shops, trees and other historic landmarks.

"Sandersville Walks! is a way to bring all this collaborative effort into one program that the City of Sandersville can offer for tourists, schools in the local area, people who want to seek out exercise routines, or other organizations that want to get involved," said Cambardella.

The history trail includes points of interest such as the Brown House Museum where General Sherman headquartered overnight, the Old Jail Museum featuring original locking mechanisms, and the Old City Cemetery which is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Students from the UGA Lamar Dodd School of Art and the Theatre Department of Georgia College and State University were also involved in the creation of an audio walking tour and brochure.

The fitness walk encompasses two types of trails: a 5K and a One-Mile trail. The routes traverse downtown Sandersville and connect with the existing Washington County Regional Medical Center’s walking trail. Numerous trail designs have been created by CED students over the years, including signage specific to Sandersville Walks! and the community at large.

Advancing Community Priorities
Public health and tourism are key priorities in Sandersville and Washington County. Both are addressed through the Sandersville Walks! program. Through these trail systems, Sandersville and Washington County can become a more walkable, livable and healthy community.