

ATHENS QUEER MAP



↑ AUDIO LINKS+MORE!

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THANKS TO THE SUPPORT
OF THE WILLSON CENTER,
HISTORIC ATHENS, &
ATHENS PRIDE+QUEER
COLLECTIVE! ♥

1 FINE ARTS

255 Baldwin Street
Edward C. Crouse, founder of UGA's Department of Dramatic Art, started drama courses in 1939 and became the drama director. He was in love with another man of the same name, Edward Wormley, an interior designer, and they became lovers in 1925. Crouse's love letters to Wormley from his time in Athens are extensive, and you can listen to them by scanning the QR code on the front.



2 MEMORIAL HALL

101 Sanford Drive
On March 10th, 1972, the first gay dance at a southeastern university occurred at Memorial Hall thanks to the resilience of Bill Green and John Hoard, founders of the Committee on Gay Education. This was the first gay student group at UGA made in '71 that went on to file a lawsuit against UGA to hold the dance. Their case was won less than 2 hours before the dance began yet 500 people showed up!



3 RICKY WILSON'S MEMORIAL

Oconee Hill Cemetery, 297 Cemetery Street
The HIV/AIDS epidemic resulted in the devastating loss of remarkable individuals in Athens like Ricky Wilson, guitarist of the B-52's. Following the loss, his family made a significant \$10,000 donation, leading to the establishment of Live Forward (then AIDS Athens), supporting AIDS recovery and research. Wilson's grave is located in Section G of the cemetery.



4 THE HOBBIT HABIT

146 E Clayton St
The Hobbit Habit was a queer owned and operated book store that was open from 1969 until the late 1980's. Julia Penelope (left), lesbian linguist and co-founder of the Lesbian Herstory Archives in NY, and Bruce Hamerslough (below), an out and proud gay astrologer, ran the bookstore and started the first Gay Book section in Athens, GA.



5 CLOUD 9

215 Tallassee Road
In February 1985, Cloud 9, Athens' **first** gay-owned and operated bar opened. They held special nights in the week, including lesbian night. This was a "welcomed relief from the tedious one-night-a-week gay bars" according to Bruce Hamerslough.



6 BONESHAKERS

433 E Hancock Ave
Boneshakers bar opened in 1993 and was deemed a "gay bar" due to it being owned by Greg Martin, a gay man. Located on the fringe of downtown, the bar played disco and dance music, along with hosting drag shows, AIDS benefits, and dance classes. Boneshakers closed in 2005 and the building it was in was torn down. In it's place, the Hyatt currently stands.



7 LAY PARK

297 Hoyt Street
Lay Park was the second location of the Athens Pride picnic and first location of where the first Athens Pride Parade ended! The first Pride began in 1998 when GLOBES held a Pride Picnic at Lake Herrick. Annette Hatton started this group in 1994 alongside Nancy MacNair and Vernon Wall. GLOBES stands for Gay, Lesbian, or Bisexual Employees and Supporters. The picnic turned into the annual Athens Pride Festival and now exists as Athens Pride & Queer Collective!



8 40 WATT

285 W Washington Street
The 40 Watt Club, named after a 40-watt lightbulb in Curtis Crowe's loft in Athens, Georgia, became a legendary venue, hosting influential punk bands like Pylon, R.E.M., and Love Tractor. The club has had 5 locations and has continuously been supportive of queer musicians and events. One in particular is the annual Boybutante Ball, which has raised over a million dollars for HIV/AIDS organizations such as Live Forward.



9 ATOMIC VINTAGE & THE CALEDONIA LOUNGE

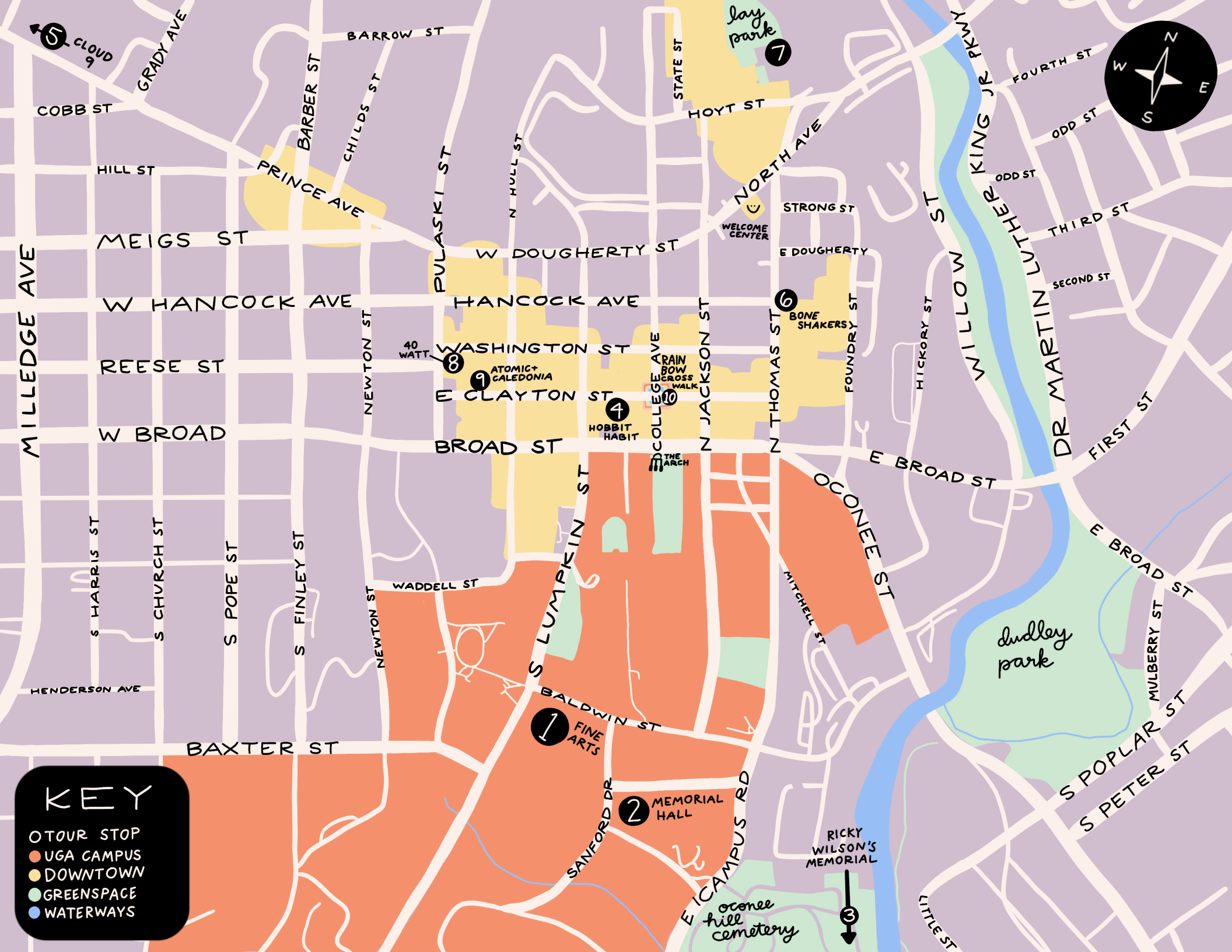
256 W Clayton St
Atomic Vintage and the Caledonia Lounge were two staples for the queer and punk communities of Athens that closed in 2020. Remembered for unique drag shows, punk music, political benefits, and "Quaint" queer art gallery popups, the Caledonia made space for eccentric community, carrying on the legacy of being a former 40 Watt location. Atomic Vintage, right next door, employed queer and trans people, loaning pieces to drag performers to use at the Caledonia for a drag show.



10 RAINBOW CROSSWALK

Intersection of College Ave & Clayton St
The rainbow crosswalk was installed in October 2022. A petition was made in 2019 by Cameron Jay, former President of APQC, to advocate for the crosswalk. It received 8,000 signatures and was approved by commission, now serving as a key part of queer visibility in Downtown Athens!





KEY

- OTOUR STOP
- UGA CAMPUS
- DOWNTOWN
- GREENSPACE
- WATERWAYS

