

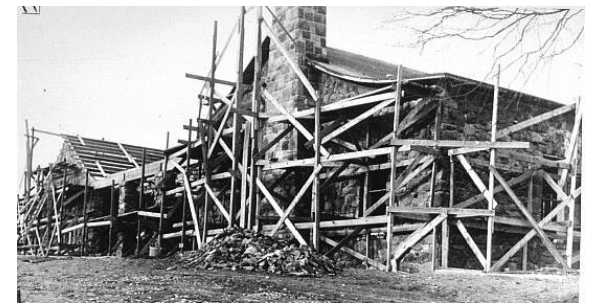


## Welcome to Jackson Hill Historic District and Trails, the capstone of Rome's growing network of walking and biking trails!

With its rich history spanning six centuries, Jackson Hill was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1997 and is today Rome's 58-acre urban wilderness park – ideal for walkers, cyclists, history buffs and nature lovers. It is one of the “seven hills” that symbolize Georgia’s Rome, echoing the city’s ancient Italian namesake.

The Jackson Hill trail network was begun in 2013 by local TRED (Trails for Economic Development) volunteers in partnership with the City of Rome. The park features over five miles of groomed, looping trails, footpaths, and shady forest roads, with easy-to-moderate inclines. Trail goes on the popular 1.8 mile Red Loop (see map) will enjoy a thickly-wooded path crossing two wooden footbridges and several switchbacks. The trail continues around the hill to a gradual descent with beautiful views of Lavender Mountain, the Coosa Valley, and crosses over the Old Stone Bridge before returning to the Boswell Cabin Trailhead at the Civic Center parking lot.

Explorers of the forest roads (Grey and Blue, on map) will pass steps at the crossing, which lead up to the earthen embankments and trenches remaining from the Civil War-era Fort Norton, occupied by both Confederate and Union forces in 1864. Other trails (Beige and Yellow) and Water Works Way (Purple) lead visitors up to the flagpole summit and the old Jackson Hill waterworks reservoir, dedicated in 1893. Adjacent is the 1900 brick filtration plant, recently restored as a pavilion used for TRED and City of Rome special events. Cyclists will especially enjoy the obstacles, jumps and turns of the CCC Trail (Green), while continuing on to the steeper climbs and switchbacks of neighboring Blossom Hill Trails, across the intersection of Dogwood Drive and Vaughn Road.



At the time of its construction 1936-37, the building was the community clubhouse of the WPA-Rome city park. It wasn't until the 1960's when it was remodeled, then known as the Rome Civic Center.

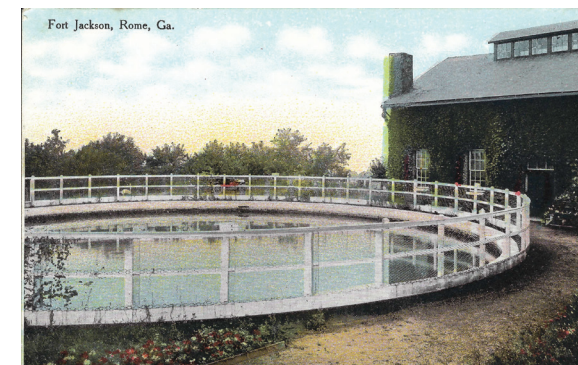
Named for the original property owner, Jackson Hill's history stretches back to the 16th century when Spanish explorer Hernando de Soto passed nearby in 1540. Until the early 19th century, the hill was used as a burying ground by indigenous Creek and Cherokee inhabitants of this area, according to oral tradition.

During the Civil War, Fort Norton (see map, hill rise between Grey and Blue paths) was part of the network of Confederate hilltop fortifications defending Rome, which was then the northernmost navigable river port for Gulf of Mexico commercial shipping. Jackson Hill and Fort Norton were occupied by Union troops on May 18, 1864 under heavy Confederate cannon fire, marking a strategic milepost in Gen. William T. Sherman's “March to the Sea.”

By 1890, Rome's growing population led to the construction of the stone-lined **water reservoir** at the summit of Jackson Hill, used as the public water utility until 1939. In 1935 the City of Rome began construction of “City Park” with labor provided by the Roosevelt-era Works Project Administration and the Civilian Conservation Corps. The Great Depression and World War II halted park completion, but the Old Stone Bridge, stone culverts, and the forest roads at Jackson Hill are beautiful remnants of this era, as are the **Rome Civic Center building** and adjacent **Labyrinth**, once known as the “Irish Rock Garden” and amphitheater.

For more information about Jackson Hill Trails and the Rome/Floyd County ECO Greenway trail network, or to report a safety issue, please contact TRED at 706-844-8509 or at [tredromefloyd.com](https://www.tredromefloyd.com). Volunteers for light trail grooming and litter pickup are always needed.

We hope you enjoy exploring the Jackson Hill Historic District and Trails!



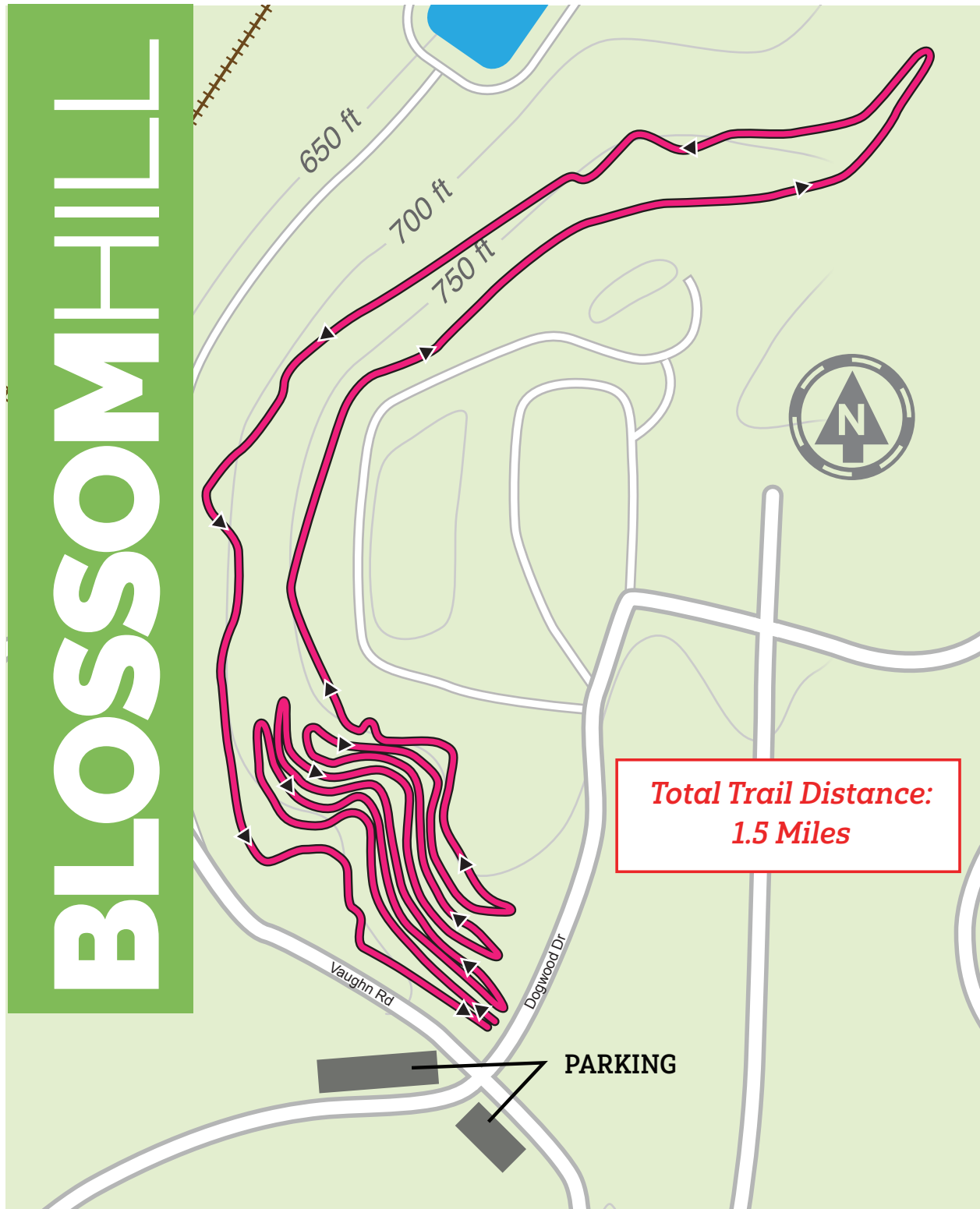
The construction of a water reservoir and filter plant as part of Rome's second waterworks system from 1892 to c. 1939.



The waterworks include a 1899-1900 brick filter building with clerestories and 1915 addition, ca.1926-1936 brick chemical feed house.



Originally built by the Works Progress Administration (WPA) in the 1930s as an erosion control pond.



**Total Trail Distance:  
1.5 Miles**

**Welcome to Blossom Hill Trail, a recent addition to Rome’s growing network of walking and biking trails!**

Adjoining its historic neighbor Jackson Hill Trails, Blossom Hill Trail began in 2018 as a project of TRED (Trails for Economic Development) and the City of Rome. TRED members and community volunteers blazed and groomed the 1.5 mile trail ascent with several descending switchbacks. There are beautiful views of Lavender Mountain and the Coosa Valley at the hilltop. Trail goes will cross stonework culverts built by the Civilian Conservation Corps in the 1930s, during the New Deal era of the Roosevelt Administration.

Blossom Hill was named by an emancipated African American resident of the surrounding North Rome settlements after the Civil War. By oral tradition, Mary Shephard, born enslaved, and her daughter Maggie would pick flower blossoms on the hill, naming it “Blossom Hill.” In the 1800s, both Blossom Hill and Jackson Hill were planted with blooming peach tree orchards.

In addition to the trails, Blossom Hill is also the location of Rome’s Bruce Hamler Water Treatment Facility.

For more information about these trails and the Rome/Floyd County ECO Greenway trail network, or to report a safety issue, please contact TRED at 706-844-8509 or at [tredromefloyd.com](http://tredromefloyd.com). Volunteers for light trail grooming and litter pickup are always needed.

Enjoy Blossom Hill Trail!


**TRAIL RATING:** ◆

**TRAIL ETIQUETTE**

Cyclists, Hikers and Runners Welcome

- No ATV’s, motorcycles or horses
- Be courteous to all other users
- Trails are bi-directional *Watch for others*
- Use trails only in dry conditions
- Wait 24 hours after major rains to ride
- Do not ride in freeze/thaw conditions
- No littering *Pac-it-in, Pack-it-out*
- Do not skid bike tires
- Do not rake or blow off trails
- No unauthorized trail building
- Please toss easily Handled dead fall off trails
- Enjoy and take care of your trails

**In case of emergency, dial 911**

News and volunteer information at:  [TredRomeFloydCounty](https://www.facebook.com/TredRomeFloydCounty)

**ATTENTION DOG WALKERS**  
Use a leash, pick up after your dogs, and use trash cans.

**ATTENTION DOGS**  
Grrrr, bark-bark, woof-woof. Good dog.




**SHARE THE TRAIL**

**PEDESTRIANS HAVE THE RIGHT OF WAY**



BICYCLES RUNNERS WALKERS