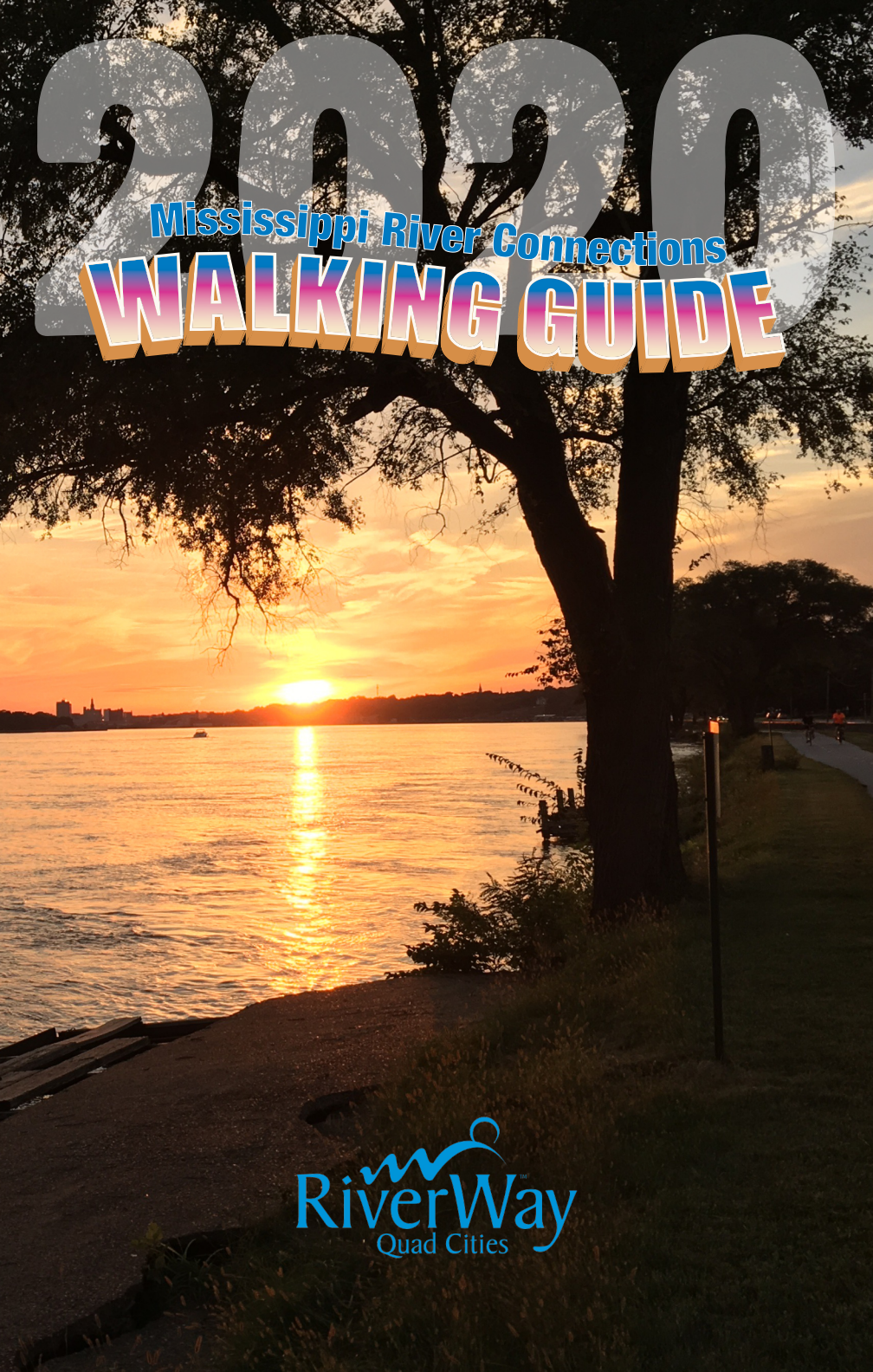


2020

Mississippi River Connections














WALKING GUIDE



Welcome to the RiverWay – the Quad Cities' scenic stretch of the Mississippi River with 65 miles of riverside parks, trails and overlooks between the river bluffs. Enjoy America's most famous river by walking or biking along the paved riverfront trails. Catch the Channel Cat Water Taxi to experience the mighty Mississippi and connect with docks at Davenport's Lower Lindsay Park, Moline's Ben Butterworth Parkway and Isle of Capri Marina in Bettendorf. In 2022, the new I-74 bridge between Bettendorf and Moline will connect the Iowa and Illinois recreation trails and provide an unparalleled mid-river overlook of the river and our scenic RiverWay.

LEGEND

ARTICLE NUMBERS CORRESPOND WITH MAPS

-  Trail
-  On-street with bike lane
-  Bicycle rental
-  Restrooms
-  Water
-  Shopping
-  Parks
-  Parking
-  Playground
-  RiverWay art
-  Boat launch
-  Marina
-  River mile marker

1

Sunset Park and Marina is located on the banks of the Mississippi River at its confluence with the Rock River. This park, between 18th and 31st Avenues, is the southwest terminus of the **Mississippi River Trail**, part of the larger Great River Trail. Walkers can choose between two routes around Lake Potter – each are approximately one mile in length. Walkers and bikers also can use the trail to connect to downtown Rock Island, the Quad City Botanical Center, Sylvan Island, and the east-west **American Discovery Trail** crossing of the Mississippi River from Rock Island to Davenport. Amenities at Sunset Park include a picnic area, playground, benches and parking for cars and boat trailers. Enjoy fishing from the banks of Lake Potter. Toilets and drinking fountains are available during summer months.

2

Mississippi River Trail, adjacent to the riverfront, showcases a wide variety of culture, wildlife and local history. With ample street parking and a public parking lot at the southwest corner of 20th Street and Illinois 92, you can tailor your walk from as little as a few hundred feet to several miles. The trail is part of Illinois' Great River Trail, extending 60 miles along the Mississippi River between Rock Island (Sunset Park) and Savanna. The trail along the downtown Rock Island riverfront is within minutes of "The District," the city's downtown dining and entertainment area. **Mark Schiebert Riverfront Park** includes a popular water spray area and playground for children, restrooms, picnic areas and a beautiful river promenade. The park and nearby 20th Street Overlook provide excellent eagle viewing during the winter months.

Augustana College was founded in Chicago in 1860 as Augustana College and Theological Seminary, and moved to Rock Island, where the first college building was dedicated in 1875. The school was the flagship educational institution of the Augustana Lutheran Synod, a national church body made up mostly of Swedish immigrants and their descendants. Augustana's campus contains a variety of scenic walking paths, which pass some of the most historic structures in Rock Island. **Sylvan Island Park** lies just northeast of Augustana College along the **Great River Trail**. The small island, once home to a steel-rolling mill, is now a quiet natural area with an interpretive center, a river overlook, and hiking and biking trails. Wintering bald eagles, great blue herons and other water birds often can be seen along the Mississippi River channel known as Sylvan Slough.

Ben Butterworth Parkway along Moline's Mississippi riverfront is among the most popular walking paths in the region. Begin your trip east of the **Celebration Belle riverboat** parking lot in the 2500 block of River Drive. From here to the East Moline border is slightly more than two miles on a paved trail. Along the trail are numerous benches and picnic shelters, as well as playgrounds and restrooms. Look for River Action's RiverWay locator signs and interpretive historical markers about the city's early Belgian and Swedish immigrants and the historic Rock Island rapids that made river navigation difficult and dangerous before the lock and dam system. Next to the Celebration Belle is the **Channel Cat Water Taxi**, which plies the Mississippi River between Davenport, Bettendorf and Moline. Bicycles are welcome.

John Deere Commons along 3rd Avenue between 12th and 17th Streets has been restored to its 1869-1889 era grandeur. **John Deere Pavilion** tells the story of John Deere and agriculture through displays and interactive exhibits. Nearby are a variety of retail shops, restaurants and the MetroLINK Centre Station bus terminal. Two blocks south is downtown Moline with additional shops and restaurants. The **Visit Quad Cities** office at 1601 River Drive offers bicycle rentals during the summer months. A Channel Cat Water Taxi stop on the riverfront provides a water link to Bettendorf and Davenport. Steps away is the TaxSlayer Center, a 10,000-seat entertainment and professional sports center. The 'Spirit of Place' sculpture, just west of the Radisson Hotel/TGI Friday's Restaurant, marks the location of one of the first John Deere factories.

The Quarter in East Moline includes multi-family housing with recreational access to the Mississippi River, a river overlook with restrooms, and a Channel Cat Water Taxi dock. The development provides pedestrian-and bike-friendly paths between the river and downtown East Moline via a natural riparian area. Just west of **The Quarter** at the Moline-East Moline border is a new nine-story **Hyatt Place** hotel, **The Bend Events Center** and an adjacent entertainment and business complex called **The Rust Belt**. The restored manufacturing site includes restaurants and a brew pub.

Hampton was an early wood-supply stop for passing steamboats. **Black's Store**, now an historical museum, was built in 1849, and still stands at 601 First Avenue. Nearby **Empire Park** includes a cultural center, playground and picnic pavilions. **Illiniwek Forest Preserve** is a mile upriver, and offers panoramic views of the Mississippi River. **Smith's Island** – just upstream from Lock and Dam 14 between Bettendorf and LeClaire, Iowa – offers hikers a quiet walk with an opportunity to see wildlife and native plants along the 1.5-mile trail through upland and river-bottom land. The marsh side of the trail provides frequent sighting of turtles and ducks. A fishing pier is conveniently located next to the parking lot off Canal Shore Drive.

Rapids City is located at the upper end of the "Rock Island rapids" which made river navigation difficult and dangerous before the lock and dam system. The original town site was settled around a grist mill and a sawmill. Neighboring coal mines employed a number of residents and helped the community thrive in the 1870s and 1880s. **Shuler's Shady Grove**, a riverfront park with a boat ramp, trail and restrooms, is named after the owner of one of the area's first coal mines. Here you can enjoy a short network of trails around a restored stream and woodland.

LeClaire was home to many early riverboat pilots and its historic district includes many mid-19th century homes and businesses with historical landmark designation. Local shopkeepers can provide you with a brochure for a self-guided walking tour. Visit the **Buffalo Bill Cody Museum** (he was born in LeClaire), housed next to an original paddle wheeler, the **LoneStar**, now enclosed in its own building. Visit antique shops, art galleries and restaurants. A craft distillery and brew pub offer public tours and tastings. **Antique Archaeology**, the home of the popular **American Pickers** TV show is on south Cody Street. Across the river is **Port Byron** – named for the English poet Lord Byron. Enjoy a pleasant walk to the riverfront park, boat ramp, restaurants, shops, a bed-and-breakfast and Will B. Ridin.

Cordova was first settled in 1837 by farmers and is located on a wide floodplain. In 1871, the Chicago, Milwaukee, St. Paul and Pacific Railroad was built through the area and bypassed most of the town, giving Cordova a quieter riverfront than most river communities. Cordova's downtown includes a marina and a bed-and-breakfast with a guest dock. Across the river is **Princeton**, a mecca for boaters with its riverfront restaurant and gas pumps. The town was founded around 1835 and grew rapidly. The decline in steamboat traffic and lack of a local railroad line until 1899 made the town less attractive for industries and employment. Today, it's a popular destination for boaters and canoe/kayak enthusiasts with its riverfront park, boat ramps and docks, canoe/kayak rentals as well as an ATM accessible by land or water.

11

To enjoy **Davenport's Riverfront Trail**, begin at **LeClaire Park/Union Station** (corner of River Dr. and Harrison St.) and head west. Bicycles are available to rent at the Visit Quad Cities in Union Station. From Union Station, it's about two miles to Credit Island. On the way, you'll pass Modern Woodmen Park baseball stadium – home of the QC River Bandits baseball team. Just past Centennial Bridge is **Centennial Park** with its river-themed children's playground, water spray park, basketball courts, dog park and skate park. Continuing downstream, the trail winds along the Mississippi River to Credit Island. A bridge links the island to southwest Davenport and future trails to Buffalo and north Davenport. Look for the life-like sculptures recreating Georges Seurat's "Sunday Afternoon on the Island of La Grande Jatte" painting.

12

Take the **Davenport Riverfront Trail** east (upriver) from downtown to Bettendorf's **Leach Park**. Begin at LeClaire Park/Union Station, River Dr. and Harrison St. From there, it's about 1.5 miles upstream to the Village of East Davenport where there's a Channel Cat Water Taxi dock next to the Lindsay Park Yacht Club. The taxi operates on the half hour from Memorial Day through Labor Day, and plies the Mississippi River between Davenport, Bettendorf and Moline. On your way upriver, stop to view the roller dam used to maintain a 9-foot channel for navigation in Pool 15 of the river. Cross the **Government Bridge** – by foot or by bike – to the **Rock Island Arsenal**. Although access to the military facility is restricted, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Visitors' Center and Museum is open to the public and provides a great view of tow boats locking barges through Lock & Dam 15.

13

The **Village of East Davenport** was established in 1851 as a hub for sawmills fed by logging of northern forests. The first railroad bridge to span the Mississippi River was built a short distance downriver in 1856. At the start of the Civil War, a Union training camp – Camp McClellan – was built in the village. It is now the beautiful tree-shaded **Lindsay Park** with magnificent views of the river. Upstream of Lindsay Park Yacht Club is a Channel Cat Water Taxi stop. The trail connects to Bettendorf's **Leach Park** (12th and State Streets) and the **Isle of Capri Hotel and Casino**. Another water taxi dock is next to the casino marina and the city's new **Jetty Park**. The trail extends upstream through the village of Riverdale and connects with the Duck Creek Parkway Trail near State and Bellingham Streets.

14

Duck Creek Parkway Trail in Bettendorf affords many enjoyable walking or biking routes. A convenient start is Middle Park Lagoon with ample parking and restroom facilities. Head upstream (westerly) about 2.25 miles to the Kimberly Road underpass. For a more challenging 8-mile round-trip, start at the eastern terminus of the trail at the Riverdale turnaround (off State St. at S. Kensington St.). The route follows Duck Creek with a small waterfall, limestone bluffs and native plants in **Devils Glen and Middle Parks**. Another route option along Duck Creek is to head easterly from **Middle Park Lagoon** (downstream) to Devil's Glen Park, about 1.75 miles one way. The trail now extends through Riverdale, past the Arconic aluminum rolling mill plant to the Scott Community College Campus.

For a westerly 4-mile round-trip along Duck Creek, begin at **Duck Creek Park** and head upstream (west), passing through a variety of parks, open space and playgrounds along the way. Pedestrian crossing lights protect bikers/walkers at Eastern, Division and Marquette Street intersections. The trail ends at **Emeis Park**, an approximate 12-mile route out and back. As you head west from Duck Creek Park, a fork of the trail (on your right) will take you north and then east into Bettendorf.

Duck Creek Parkway Trail's origin dates back to the 1930s when it was initially planned as a road to connect Davenport's city parks. During the 1970s, it was redesigned to be a bicycle and pedestrian trail. The trail through the heart of Davenport and now Bettendorf has become a very popular destination for walkers and cyclists. For a 2-mile route (4-mile round trip), begin at Brady Street and travel west/upstream. To cross busy Marquette and Division Streets use the pedestrian crossing lights. Return to Brady Street to complete your round trip. For additional mileage, keep heading west. **Emeis Park**, approximately 3.5 miles, is near the western terminus of the 12-mile trail.

The entrance to **Pigeon Creek Park** is off Highway 67, just east (upriver) from the Arconic aluminum rolling mill. There's ample parking and handicapped accessible restroom facilities at the trail head. The length of trail is approximately one-half mile and includes a variety of woodland, savanna and riparian habitat. About 150 yards east of the parking area is a gazebo overlooking a cattail marsh. Walking toward the river from the parking area, the trail cuts through a wetland that is mostly submerged during high water, primarily in the spring each year. The trail bends left and proceeds about one-fourth mile to Pigeon Creek. Once across the bridge, turn right and proceed directly ahead for a scenic overlook of the Mississippi River.

Crow Creek Park has a 3-mile route that winds through the park and includes several challenging hills. The course is primarily a well-maintained grass trail. Along the path are athletic fields, picnic areas, playgrounds, natural areas and a scenic old stone quarry (now filled with water) with shaded overlooks and a dock for fishing. The trail now extends east past Crow Creek Park to just past Middle Road. Interconnected trails along Middle Rd., Devils Glen Rd., 53rd Ave., Forest Grove Rd. and Spruce Hills Drive enable users to travel north-south and east-west throughout the city, as well as access Davenport's Duck Creek Parkway and the Mississippi River Trails. The new I-74 Bridge (scheduled for completion by the end of 2022) will include an elevator at Leach Park to connect walkers/bikers to the bridge recreation trail that will feature a mid-span overlook.

ROCK ISLAND ARSENAL

Sylvan Island Park

Rock Island Arsenal National Cemetery

Mississippi River Trail

Sylvan Slough

To downtown Rock Island

To downtown Moline

92

1st St.

River Dr.

MOLINE

Railroad Ave.

6th Ave.

4th Ave.

5th Ave.

7th Ave.

5th Ave.

6th Ave.

30th St.

Augustana College

Lincoln Park

38th St.

44th St.

McCandless Park

Deere-Wiman Home

Butterworth Center

Vellie Park

Stephens Park

7th St.

12th Ave.

14th Ave.

16th Ave.

ROCK ISLAND

3

18th Ave.

N

1-1/2 inch = 1 mile

Rock Island - Moline border

Channel Cat Water Taxi Route

To East Moline

Sylvan Island Park

National Cemetery

Bass Street Landing Visit Quad Cities

Sylvan Gateway Park

To Rock Island

Mississippi River Trail

Channel Cat Water Taxi Dock

Taxslayer Center

1st St.

River Dr.

Railroad Ave.

4th Ave.

5th Ave.

6th Ave.

7th Ave.

12th Ave.

16th Ave.

MetroLINK Transit Center

5th Ave.

6th Ave.

7th Ave.

12th Ave.

16th Ave.

John Deere Commons

3rd Ave.

5th Ave.

7th Ave.

12th Ave.

16th Ave.

MOLINE

74

25th St.

Riverside Park

4

8

N

1-1/2 inch = 1 mile

