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MAPS AND DIRECTIONS HEREIN MAY ONLY BE USED IN CONJUNCTION WITH A SIGNED AMERICAN VOLKSSPORT ASSOCIATION ATHLETIC WAIVER. ALL OTHER USES ARE PROHIBITED.

## **Downers Grove, Illinois**

**Start point:** Downers Grove Public Library, 1050 Curtiss Street, Downers Grove, IL

### **Directions to start point:**

Library is ½ block west of Main Street at Curtiss. 4 hour free parking is available on Level 1 of the Downers Grove Parking Deck at 5151 Mochel Dr, or after 11 am and weekends at any commuter parking lot.

From the South: Exit I-55 at the Lemont Rd. North exit 271B and proceed approximately 6 Miles to Curtiss. Lemont Rd. becomes Main St. as you travel north of 75th St.

From the North: Take Ogden Avenue to Main St. and head south approximately 1.5 Miles to Curtiss.

The Burlington Northern Metra commuter train uses the Downers Grove Metra station. Please check the Metra schedule for trains from Chicago or the Western suburbs.

**TRAIL:** Sidewalks with 2k crushed gravel trail through Forest Preserve. The trail is 10 kilometers (6.2 miles); a shorter trails (5k and 6k) are available. The degree of difficulty is a 1B. Restrooms and water are available at the start point and throughout the walk.

**AFTER YOUR WALK,** please be sure to log back into the OSB system to "finish/complete" your online registration after completing the walk. The OSB system does not deduct any walking fee from your Event Bank until you have submitted walk completion info including the date the event was walked; the distance walked; and the selection of applicable special programs you're participating in. (Nevertheless, a fee of \$2 for a downloaded pdf is deducted from your Event Bank when the pdf is downloaded. Later, any pdf fee is credited back to your Event Bank when you submit the walk completion info as a paying-for-credit walker. Note, however, that the \$2 coupon for the downloaded pdf will expire in 60 days).

### **Special Programs:**

**Little Free Libraries:** 1225 Parkway Drive; 1032 Maple

**Rockin' Around the Clock:** Downtown Downers Grove train station - Railroad tracks and Main St.

**Town Halls/City Halls:** 801 Burlington Ave

**Walking with America's Veterans:** Downers Grove Veterans Pavilion (behind Main Street Cemetery, just west of Main Street on Grove Street); Memorial Park - 1600 Maple Ave

**Walking the United States - 50 States**

**Walking the USA A-Z**

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### Downers Grove, IL (Y6411) 10K & 6K

Start Point: Downers Grove Public Library, 1050 Curtiss Street, Downers Grove

If walking Historical Society 6K, Exit Library on Curtiss, turn left on Curtiss to Main Street, Right on Main Street to Maple and go to Step 19. For 10K and 1<sup>st</sup> 5K, go to Step 1.

1. Exit the Library through the main doors to Curtiss Street.
2. RIGHT to Forest (1<sup>st</sup> street).
3. RIGHT on Forest ½ block to Gilbert.
4. LEFT on Gilbert.  
**Sears Catalog Homes (sold as Sears Modern Homes) were ready-to-assemble kit houses sold through mail order by Sears, Roebuck and Company. Downers Grove contains an unusual concentration (over 100) of Sears Catalog Homes including:**  
**1244 Gilbert – Sears Catalog home – Starlight**
5. LEFT on Brookbank, crossing the bridge.
6. LEFT at the “Y” intersection.
7. Continue on this road to the first RIGHT. There is a sign “To Turvey”. Stay to the right, making a loop back to the bridge on Brookbank.
8. LEFT on Gilbert (2K).  
**1340 Gilbert – Sears Catalog home – Lexington**  
**1410 Gilbert -Aladdin Catalog home - Pasadena**
9. STRAIGHT to enter Gilbert Park past Jacqueline (Restrooms, water).
10. Cross **Gilbert Park** passing ballfield on right.
11. LEFT on path to **Maple Grove Forest Preserve.**
12. Cross **bridge** over St. Joseph Creek.  
**One of the oldest forest preserves in DuPage County, Maple Grove is the largest remaining remnant of the vast maple forest that became Downers Grove.**

13. Follow the crushed limestone trail to a major intersection with a trail on your right. There is a bench in honor of Hogan the dog to your left.
14. RIGHT at trail intersection at Hogan memorial bench. Follow this trail to the Forest Preserve parking lot.
15. STRAIGHT through the parking lot to Maple (the first street, no sign), passing ball fields and Veterans’ Memorial on the right.
16. LEFT on Maple. At the traffic light, the street splits into Maple on the left and 55<sup>th</sup> Street straight.
17. LEFT to continue following Maple. (**Avery Coonley School – National Register of Historic Places is on your left**).
18. At Main Street (traffic light), CROSS Main Street.
19. RIGHT to cross Maple.

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If walking 5K, turn Left at Main Street to Curtiss. Turn Left at Curtiss to the Finish at the Downers Grove Public Library.  
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20. LEFT to continue along Maple, passing the Downers Grove History Museum (5K) – Underground Railroad site, to Fairmount.  
**The Museum is located on the grounds of Wandschneider Park in the historic Blodgett House. The gracious Victorian structure was built in 1892 as the 11-room home of the Charles Blodgett family, descendants of one of the Village's first settlers. There are interpretive signs about the house being a stop on the Underground Railroad.**  
**Sears Catalog home – 744 Maple – Ivanhoe**
21. RIGHT on Fairmount to Randall.
22. RIGHT on Randall to Washington.  
**Sears Catalog home – 819 Randall – Starlight m**

23. RIGHT on Washington to Maple.
24. LEFT on Maple to Main, passing Lincoln Center. (Rest rooms, entrance on west side of building).

**Once the historic Lincoln School from 1867 – 1974, the building was purchased by the Park District and renovated to what is now the Lincoln Community Center.**

25. RIGHT on Main to Curtiss. You are now walking through downtown Downers Grove. Cross Main at the crosswalk at Grove (Emmett’s Ale House)
26. RIGHT to continue on Main. You will pass the Main Street Cemetery on your left. The Downers Grove Veterans Memorial Pavilion can be accessed via the Cemetery path.

**Located in downtown Downers Grove, Main Street Cemetery is one of only two cemeteries in the United States still located in a central business district. This small cemetery contains nearly 100 graves dating back to the earliest settlers of the village in 1856. The last person was interned here in 1939. Considered a historical landmark, the Village of Downers Grove and the Downers Grove Historical Society now maintain the cemetery.**

27. CROSS Curtiss and Main to continue walking on the right side of Main Street to Warren, carefully crossing the Railroad tracks.  
**In April 1947 the wreck of a Burlington Railroad Twin Cities Zephyr passenger train killed three people, including the engineer. The streamliner struck a large tractor which had fallen from a freight train and two of the train’s passenger cars crashed through a wall of the Main Street Station.**
28. RIGHT on Warren to Washington. The Tivoli Theater is on your left.  
**Built in 1928, the Tivoli Theatre has been showing first run feature films since its inception. It opened on Christmas Day 1928. It is home to the After Hours Film Society, Midwest Ballet Theatre Co. and other live entertainment.**

29. RIGHT on Washington, crossing RR tracks. (7K). Cross Burlington at the crosswalk. The Village Hall is across the parking lot on your Left.
30. RIGHT on Burlington.
31. LEFT on Washington to Curtiss.  
**The Post Office at 920 Curtiss (WPA) contains a Section of Fine Arts mural “Chicago, Railroad Center of the Nation” painted by Elizabeth Tracy in 1940. The mural is to your right as you enter the PO.**
32. LEFT on Curtiss to Forest, passing Downers Grove Library (Rest Rooms).
33. RIGHT on Forest over RR tracks to Warren.
34. LEFT on Warren to Linscott.
35. RIGHT on Linscott to Franklin, passing Prince Pond.

**Prince Pond, previously known as Grove Lake, was first constructed in 1892 as a part of the E. H. Prince subdivision that surrounds it. In 1894, a season ticket for ice skating at the Grove Lake Skating Pond could be had for \$1 for children 10 years and younger.**

**4905 Parkway – Sears Catalog home - Brookwood model (across pond).**

36. RIGHT on Franklin to Saratoga.
37. LEFT on Saratoga to Prairie.
38. RIGHT on Prairie to Prince.
39. RIGHT on Prince to Franklin. (9K)
40. LEFT on Franklin to Main Street.
41. RIGHT on Main to Curtiss.
42. RIGHT on Curtiss to the Library/Finish.

