



**COUNCIL BLUFFS, IA –  
BLACK SQUIRREL WALK**  
TRAILS RATED 1A - 5K; 2A - 10K ROUTES  
© Nebraska Wander Freunde Trailblazers 1/1/23  
**SPECIAL PROGRAMS: Town Halls/City  
Halls, Walkin’ Around the Clock,  
Walking with America’s Veterans**



Council Bluffs, Iowa has a rich past and vibrant present that you’ll want to explore. You’re only the latest visitor to this area, following French and Spanish explorers, Potawatomi Indians and Mormon settlers and emigrants, railroad tycoons and railroad workers and the people that developed both elegant residential and working-class neighborhoods and a hub of commercial enterprises in the historic downtown area.

The 5k walk visits the recreated Kanessville Tabernacle, the “Historic 100 Block” with restaurants and bars aplenty, murals, ceramic postcards and sidewalk mosaics celebrating the city’s history, Bayliss Park with its black squirrels and Veterans Plaza, the Union Pacific Museum (free admission and restrooms) and the Squirrel Cage Jail before returning past the tiny Bregant House and modern public library. The 10k walk extends into the Historic Oakland Avenue neighborhood, with its monuments to Abraham Lincoln and to Ruth Anne Dodge (the infamous Black Angel) before returning to downtown. After passing through the Haymarket District, marvel at the General Dodge House and Beresheim Home (admission fee), next to where the “Rock of Gibraltar” once loomed over the neighborhood. The 10k route concludes with a stroll through a modern-era, tree-lined neighborhood before rejoining the 5k route back to its conclusion.

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*This walk is also available through a physical walk box – please do not register at that location or use any materials from that walk box.*

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**Walk Registration:**

Registration takes place online using the AVA Online Start Box, on my.ava.org. Follow the instructions provided to create a user account and sign the AVA waiver (one time). Instructions for payment are also included. Download the directions and print as needed. The POC does not provide event directions or accept alternate payment methods.

**Walk Completion and Walk Credit:**

Once you have physically completed the walk, please login to your Online Start Box account click on the “My Start Box” tab, then the “Finish Table” tab, then click on “Go to Finish Table” button for the event you have completed. Use the displayed entry form to submit the date and distance of your walk as well as select applicable AVA Special Programs to generate stamped “virtual” insert cards that you may choose to print out.

**Table of Contents:**

Use the following table to guide what portion of this document you may wish to print out.

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**Starting Point Location:**

41.270516, -95.835506  
Super Saver Parking Lot  
1141 N Broadway  
Council Bluffs, IA 51501

Park in the Super Saver Lot. You will be exiting the parking area to the southwest.

**From the west:** I-80 to exit 1B/I-29 South/I-80 East **LOCAL** to South Expressway (exit #49). Left (north) on South Expressway to Kanessville (one block N of Broadway). At Kanessville turn right (east) to N. Broadway. Turn left (north) 1/2 block. Super Saver parking lot is on right.

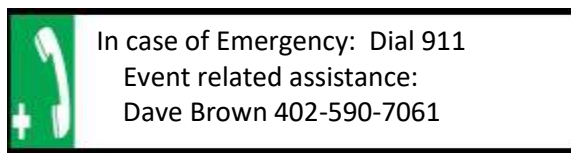
**From the north:** I-29 to exit 51 I-29 South/I-80 East **LOCAL** to South Expressway (exit #49). Left (north) on South Expressway to Kanessville (one block N of Broadway). At Kanessville turn right (east) to N. Broadway. Turn left (north) 1/2 block. Super Saver parking lot is on right.

**From the east and south:** I-29 North/I-80 West **LOCAL** to South Expressway (Exit #49), turn right (north) on South Expressway to Kanessville (one block N of Broadway). At Kanessville turn right (east) to N. Broadway. Turn left (north) 1/2 block. Super Saver parking lot is on right.

**Restrooms:**

Restrooms are available in Super Saver Grocery Store and in the Union Pacific Museum at 200 Pearl St. and Council Bluffs Library at 400 Willow Avenue.

**Emergency Numbers:**



**Notes on the Directions**

- Walking directions are followed by compass directions in parentheses.
- Council Bluff’s streets west of 1<sup>st</sup> Street run north/south and avenues run east/west with numbered avenues south of Broadway and lettered avenues north of Broadway.

**SPECIAL PROGRAM QUALIFIERS**

Town Halls/City Halls

- The Council Bluffs City Hall is located on both the 5k and 10k walks, across from the Union Pacific Museum, at 209 Pearl Street.

Rockin’ Round the Clock

- A historic clock is located on Broadway between Main and Pearl St. near the First Responders Memorial Plaza and original Bayliss Park Fountain.

Walking with America’s Veterans

- The Veterans Plaza in Bayliss Park, dedicated on July 4, 2003, was sculpted by famed artist John Lajba. The wall lists those who died or are missing in action from the Civil War through Desert Freedom

# 5k Directions

<p>1. <b>EXIT</b> the parking lot west to the street (North Broadway) and <b>LEFT</b> (s) to crosswalk lights.</p>	<p>This is the Old Lincoln Highway. Indian Creek used to start in this area, but has been channelized, re-routed and paved over.</p>
<p>2. <b>CROSS</b> North Broadway with the crosswalk lights and <b>LEFT</b> (s) (Fire Station #6 on your right) to E. Kanesville Blvd.</p>	<p>Kanesville was one of many of the prior names of Council Bluffs. Traders Point, then Miller’s Hollow, was renamed for Thomas L. Kane, who helped to negotiate federal permission for the Mormons to use Indian land here for their winter encampment of 1846-47.</p>
<p>3. <b>RIGHT</b> (w) on Kanesville to Frank Street and <b>CROSS</b>.</p>	<p>CHI Mercy Hospital on your right. Frank Street is named after Judge Franklin Street, elected mayor in 1867. His house is south of here – 310 Frank St.</p>
<p>4. <b>LEFT</b> (s) and <b>CROSS</b> Kanesville one block to E. Broadway.</p>	<p>This area was settled by the Potawatomi Indians in the 1830’s along Indian Creek. They had been moved from their lands near Chicago.</p>
<p>5. <b>RIGHT</b> (w) on E. Broadway to N. 1<sup>st</sup> St. and <b>CROSS</b>.  <i>1<sup>st</sup> Street is the dividing line between east and west in Council Bluffs.</i></p>	<p>The original Kanesville Tabernacle was a 1,000 square foot log cabin built in only 3 weeks in December 1847. Nearly 10,000 members of the Church of Latter Day Saints (Mormons) lived in the area) and needed to meet to chart their future. This is a reconstruction of that structure, as the original warped, shrank and sank(!) in 2 years.</p>
<p>6. <b>CONTINUE</b> (w) on West Broadway to just past 120 W. Broadway to a short walking path accented with bricks.</p>	<p>You have entered the “100 Block of West Broadway Historic District”, developed between mid-1850s and 1928.</p>
<p>7. <b>RIGHT</b> (n) down the path to see picture post cards (“streetscape tiles”) of old Council Bluffs on the low brick walls. At the end of the sidewalk, <b>TURN AROUND</b> (s) and return to W. Broadway.</p>	<p>“Enjoy” the mural!</p>
<p>8. <b>RIGHT</b> (w) on Broadway to N. 2<sup>nd</sup> and <b>CROSS</b>.</p>	<p>More streetscape tiles at the corner of 2<sup>nd</sup> and Broadway.</p>
<p>9. <b>CONTINUE</b> (w) on Broadway to Main Street and <b>CROSS</b>.</p>	<p>On your right is the Omni Centre Business Park. Note the streetscape tiles in the brick wall near the sidewalk.</p>
<p>10. <b>LEFT</b> (s) and <b>CROSS</b> Broadway and <b>CONTINUE</b> (sw) on the sidewalk across from the fountain to where the sidewalk ends, with a crosswalk on the left (just past the clock).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• First Responders Memorial Plaza on your right.</li> <li>• The black, cast-iron Bayliss Fountain dates to 1890.</li> <li>• <b><i>Rockin’ Round the Clock</i></b></li> </ul>

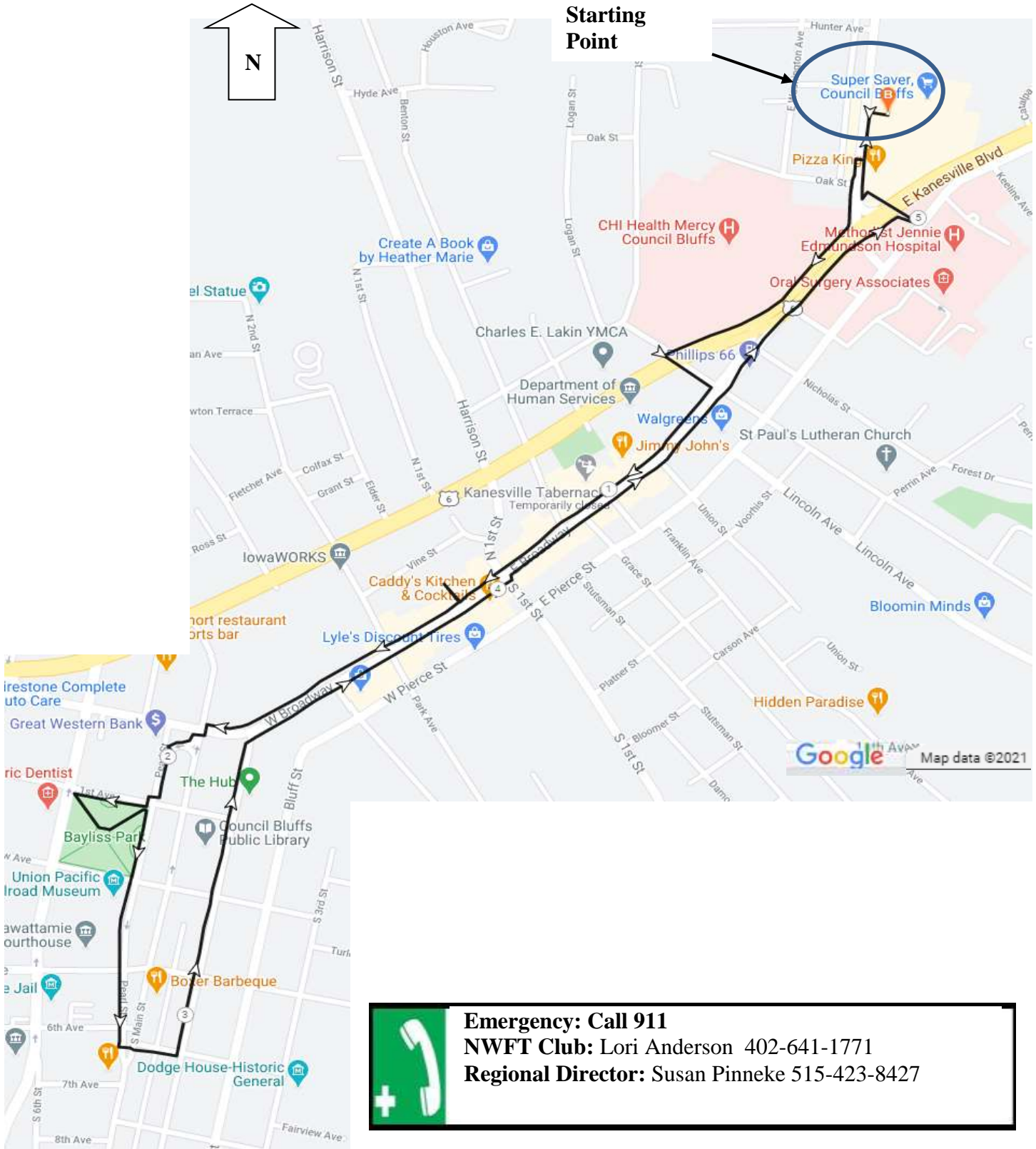
Council Bluffs, IA—Black Squirrel Walk

<p><b>11. LEFT</b> on the crosswalk (to the fountain side) and <b>RIGHT</b> (s) to corner of 1<sup>st</sup> Ave. and Pearl St.</p>	<p>Notice the mosaic squares set into 34 street corners in this area, featuring scenes from local history.</p>
<p><b>12. RIGHT</b> (w) on 1<sup>st</sup> Ave. to S. 6<sup>th</sup> St.</p>	
<p><b>13. LEFT</b> (s) on 6<sup>th</sup> St. and <b>ENTER</b> Bayliss Park on the diagonal path (se) to the fountain.</p>	<p>Keep an eye out for Council Bluff’s mascot – the black squirrel. You can even touch a few – look near the fountain!</p>
<p><b>14. LEFT</b> (ne) away from the fountain on the diagonal path that leads back to Pearl St. and 1<sup>st</sup> Ave.</p>	
<p><b>15. RIGHT</b> (s) on Pearl passing the <b>Veterans Plaza</b>, Union Pacific Museum* (200 Pearl St.), Historic Squirrel Cage Jail (226 Pearl St.), and modern Pottawattamie County Courthouse.</p> <p><i>*Restrooms available at UP Museum, no entrance fee.</i></p> <p>At 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue, you are entering the Haymarket Historic District, which mostly lies to your left (east).</p> <p><b>CONTINUE</b> (s) to 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue, then about ¼ block ahead to the crosswalk on your left that leads between the rabbits.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b><i>Walking with America’s Veterans</i></b></li> <li>• Note the “Riverboat on the Missouri” mural in the parking lot directly across the street from the Veterans Plaza</li> <li>• The Union Pacific Railroad Museum is housed in a 1903 Beaux Arts Carnegie Library building.</li> <li>• Imagine a Lazy Susan divided into pie wedges – that’s the “Squirrel Cage”, where the pie-shaped jail cells were rotated to line up with the one door, as a security measure – and labor saving device.</li> <li>• Note the horse trough at 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue on your left, a gift to the public in 1907 from General Grenville Dodge (you saw his wife’s memorial earlier).</li> <li>• Yes, those are rabbits up ahead between 6<sup>th</sup> &amp; 7<sup>th</sup>! Artist: Deborah Masuoka, 2007, bronze.</li> </ul>
<p><b>16. LEFT</b> (e) at the crosswalk at Story one block to 4<sup>th</sup> Street and <b>CROSS</b>.</p>	<p><b>Little Free Library</b> at 360 Story St. You’ve entered the Gibraltar Neighborhood, which encompasses the “Willow/Bluff/Third Street Historic District”.</p>
<p><b>17. LEFT</b> (n) on 4<sup>th</sup> St. to W. Broadway.</p> <p><i>Restrooms available at Library at 4<sup>th</sup> &amp; Willow.</i></p>	<p>Note the tiny Historic Bregant House at 517 S. 4<sup>th</sup> St., tucked away between its much larger neighbors. It was built in 1912 for “little people” Jean and Inez Bregant.</p>
<p><b>18. RIGHT</b> (e) on W. Broadway/E. Broadway to Nicholas Street and <b>CROSS</b>.</p> <p><i>Remember that 1<sup>st</sup> Street is the dividing line between east and west in Council Bluffs.</i></p>	<p>You’ll see more streetscape tiles on the low brick walls between Glen Avenue and the “100 Block of West Broadway Historic District”. The striking Broadway United Methodist Church closes the District at 1<sup>st</sup> &amp; E. Broadway before a commercial strip that extends to Nicholas.</p>
<p><b>19. CONTINUE</b> (e) as E. Broadway becomes E. Kaneshville Blvd. to Ridge Street and <b>CROSS</b>.</p>	
<p><b>20. CONTINUE</b> (e) on the sidewalk, as it curves to the right (north) alongside a pedestrian overpass, to a brick landing here. (Pierce Street is in front of you, but stay on the brick).</p>	
<p><b>21. LEFT</b> (nw) on and over the pedestrian overpass to North Broadway and <b>RIGHT</b> (n) to return to the Start Point.</p>	

# COUNCIL BLUFFS, IA – BLACK SQUIRREL WALK– 5K

**Starting Point: Super Saver Parking Lot, 1141 N Broadway, Council Bluffs, IA 51501**

**41.270516, -95.835506**



# 10K Directions

<p>1. <b>EXIT</b> the parking lot west to the street (North Broadway) and <b>LEFT</b> (s) to crosswalk lights.</p>	<p>This is the Old Lincoln Highway. Indian Creek used to start in this area, but has been channelized, re-routed and paved over.</p>
<p>2. <b>CROSS</b> North Broadway with the crosswalk lights and <b>LEFT</b> (s) for short distance to Oak St.</p>	<p>Kanesville was one of many of the prior names of Council Bluffs. Traders Point, then Miller’s Hollow, was renamed for Thomas L. Kane, who helped to negotiate federal permission for the Mormons to use Indian land here for their winter encampment of 1846-47.</p>
<p>3. <b>RIGHT</b> (nw) on Oak St. (Fire Station #6 on your left) a short distance to North Broadway (frontage road).</p>	<p>This area was settled by the Potowatomi Indians in the 1830’s along Indian Creek. They had been moved from their lands near Chicago.</p>
<p>4. <b>RIGHT</b> (n) on North Broadway to end of street- Norton Ave.</p>	
<p>5. <b>LEFT</b> (w) on Norton Ave. one block to E. Washington Ave.</p>	
<p>6. <b>LEFT</b> (s) on E. Washington Ave. to Oak St.</p>	
<p>7. <b>RIGHT</b> (nw) on W. Oak St. uphill to parking area on left</p>	
<p>8. <b>FOLLOW</b> sidewalk on the southerly part of the parking area and a second parking area to Harmony St. (Not Marked)</p>	<p>Note the view to the south. CHI Mercy Hospital on your left.</p>
<p>9. <b>LEFT</b> (s) on Harmony St. which turns <b>RIGHT</b> (w) at Frank St. <b>CROSS</b> Harmony and <b>CONTINUE</b> (w) on north side of Harmony St. to Harrison St.</p>	<p>Frank Street is named after Judge Franklin Street, elected mayor in 1867. His house is south of here – 310 Frank St. You will pass the new Council Bluffs YMCA on Harmony which opened in 2015 and continues to evolve. The YMCA has served the community since 1867. The LFL at 218 Harmony St. is also an art gallery/art exchange with an interior "loft" area which can display small artworks. The exterior structure is covered in a unique and colorful, glass. Also note the art in the yard.</p>
<p>10. <b>LEFT</b> (s) on Harrison St. to Kanesville</p>	
<p>11. <b>RIGHT</b> (sw) on Kanesville to and <b>CROSS</b> Oakland Ave.</p>	<p>Note the Historic photo murals on side of CenturyLink Building.</p>
<p>12. <b>RIGHT</b> (n) on Oakland Ave. uphill to Lafayette.</p>	<p>This is the “Historic Oakland Avenue”, where development began in the 1850’s. Note the large, stylish homes on this long street, most from the late 1800’s. The Oakland neighborhood acquired several nicknames including “Nob Hill,” “Pill Hill,” and during the Great Depression, “Poverty Hill”.</p>
<p>13. <b>LEFT</b> (w) on Lafayette to the Lincoln Monument overlook.</p>	<p>The Lincoln Monument is where Abraham Lincoln stood to get a look at Omaha across the river. Did this view factor into his executive order in 1863 to locate the eastern terminus of the Union Pacific Railroad at Omaha, opposite Council Bluffs?</p>

Council Bluffs, IA—Black Squirrel Walk

<p><b>14. TURN AROUND</b> (e) on Lafayette (low brick wall on your right) uphill to N. 2<sup>nd</sup> Street (brick pavement).</p>	<p>Fairview Cemetery on your left holds the area’s oldest grave, dating to 1826, the resting place of Francois Guittar, the area’s first European settler in 1824.</p>
<p><b>15. RIGHT</b> (s) on N. 2<sup>nd</sup> St. downhill one block to Sherman Ave.</p>	<p>Across the street at Lafayette and N. 2<sup>nd</sup> is the Ruth Anne Dodge Memorial, aka “The Black Angel”. Its bronze surface has darkened with age and is the subject of local spooky stories.</p>
<p><b>16. RIGHT</b> (w) on Sherman Ave. one block to Oakland Ave.</p>	
<p><b>17. LEFT</b> (s) on Oakland downhill to W. Kanesville Blvd.</p>	
<p><b>18. RIGHT</b> (w) on Kanesville to Main St and <b>CROSS.</b></p>	<p>You’ll be walking on the west side of the street that you came up before.</p>
<p><b>19. LEFT</b> (s) on Main St. to Broadway and <b>CROSS.</b></p>	
<p><b>20. CONTINUE</b> (sw) on the sidewalk across from the fountain to where the sidewalk ends, with a crosswalk on the left (just past the clock).</p>	<p>First Responders Memorial Plaza on your right. The black, cast-iron Bayliss Fountain dates to 1890. <b>Rockin’ Round the Clock</b></p>
<p><b>21. LEFT</b> on the crosswalk (to the fountain side) and <b>RIGHT</b> (w then s) on Pearl St. to corner of 1<sup>st</sup> Ave. and Pearl St.</p>	<p>Notice the mosaic squares set into 34 street corners in this area, featuring scenes from local history.</p>
<p><b>22. RIGHT</b> (w) on 1<sup>st</sup> Ave. to S. 6<sup>th</sup> St.</p>	
<p><b>23. LEFT</b> (s) on 6<sup>th</sup> St. and <b>ENTER</b> Bayliss Park on the diagonal path (se) to the fountain.</p>	
<p><b>24. LEFT</b> (ne) away from the fountain on the diagonal path that leads back to Pearl St. and 1<sup>st</sup> Ave.</p>	<p>Keep an eye out for Council Bluff’s mascot – the black squirrel. You can even touch a few – look near the fountain!</p>
<p><b>25. RIGHT</b> (s) on Pearl passing the <b>Veterans Plaza</b>, Union Pacific Museum* (200 Pearl St.), Historic Squirrel Cage Jail (226 Pearl St.), and modern Pottawattamie County Courthouse.</p> <p><i>*Restrooms available at UP Museum, no entrance fee.</i></p> <p>At 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue, you are entering the Haymarket Historic District, which mostly lies to your left (east).</p> <p>At 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Pearl Street becomes Main Street.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Walking with America’s Veterans</b></li> <li>• Note the “Riverboat on the Missouri” mural in the parking lot directly across the street from the Veterans Plaza</li> <li>• The Union Pacific Railroad Museum is housed in a 1903 Beaux Arts Carnegie Library building.</li> <li>• Imagine a Lazy Susan divided into pie wedges – that’s the “Squirrel Cage”, where the pie-shaped jail cells were rotated to line up with the one door, as a security measure – and labor saving device.</li> <li>• Note the horse trough at 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue on your left, a gift to the public in 1907 from General Grenville Dodge (you saw his wife’s memorial earlier).</li> <li>• Yes, those are rabbits between 6<sup>th</sup> &amp; 7<sup>th</sup>! Artist: Deborah Masuoka, 2007, bronze.</li> </ul>
<p><b>26. CONTINUE</b> (s) on Main Street about ¾ block to the crosswalk at Worth St.</p>	<p>YMCA Healthy Living Center on your right.</p>
<p><b>27. CROSS</b> (e) Main St. and immediate <b>LEFT</b> (n) on Main St. one block to Story Street and <b>CROSS.</b></p>	<p>Council Bluff’s oldest extant commercial building (1867) at 621 Main (St. Joe House). Note the cast-iron elements on the 1880’s building at 620 Main.</p>
<p><b>28. RIGHT</b> (e) on Story two blocks to Bluff Street.</p>	<p>You’ve entered the Gibraltar Neighborhood, which encompasses the “Willow/Bluff/Third Street Historic District”.</p>
<p><b>29. LEFT</b> (n) on Bluff St. one block to 5<sup>th</sup> Ave.</p>	

Council Bluffs, IA—Black Squirrel Walk

<p><b>30. RIGHT</b> (e) on 5<sup>th</sup> Ave. uphill one block to 3<sup>rd</sup> Street (brick pavement).</p>	<p>Here’s where the original 250’ high “Gibraltar” loess formation once stood, before it was leveled in 1955 for housing expansion.</p>
<p><b>31. RIGHT</b> (s) on 3<sup>rd</sup> St. downhill two blocks to Worth Street.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Historic General Dodge House at 605 3<sup>rd</sup> Street – 1869 French Second Empire style built by Grenville Dodge, Civil War veteran and railroad tycoon, who met with Abraham Lincoln during this visit to the Bluffs.</li> <li>•August Beresheim House next door at 621 3<sup>rd</sup> St., built in 1899 in Dutch Colonial Style, is included in the admission fee for the Dodge House.</li> </ul>
<p><b>32. RIGHT</b> (w) downhill on Worth St. (brick pavement) two blocks to 4<sup>th</sup> Street.</p>	<p>Note the mural on the south side of the building on the NW corner (Pottawattamie Genealogical Society) depicting Council Bluff’s history.</p>
<p><b>33. RIGHT</b> (n) on 4<sup>th</sup> St. to W. Broadway.  <i>Restrooms available at Library at 4<sup>th</sup> &amp; Willow.</i></p>	<p>Note the tiny Historic Bregant House at 517 S. 4<sup>th</sup> St., tucked away between its much larger neighbors. It was built in 1912 for “little people” Jean and Inez Bregant.</p>
<p><b>34. RIGHT</b> (e) on W. Broadway/E. Broadway to Nicholas St. (west side of gas station) and <b>CROSS</b>.  <i>Remember that 1<sup>st</sup> Street is the dividing line between east and west in Council Bluffs.</i></p>	<p>You’ll see streetscape tiles on the low brick walls between Glen Avenue and the “100 Block of West Broadway Historic District” developed between mid-1850s and 1928. The striking Broadway United Methodist Church closes the District at 1<sup>st</sup> &amp; E. Broadway before a commercial strip that extends to Nicholas. At Grace St., note the Kanesville Tabernacle described below.</p>
<p><b>35. RIGHT</b> (se) on Nicholas St. to Pierce St.</p>	<p>The original Kanesville Tabernacle was a 1,000 square foot log cabin built in only 3 weeks in December 1847. Nearly 10,000 Mormons lived in the area.</p>
<p><b>36. LEFT</b> (ne) on Pierce St. to crosswalk at Ridge St.</p>	
<p><b>37. RIGHT</b> and <b>CROSS</b> Pierce at crosswalk.</p>	
<p><b>38. LEFT</b> and <b>CONTINUE</b> (ne) on the other side of Pierce, passing Jennie Edmundson Memorial Hospital complex, to Keeline Avenue and <b>CROSS</b>.</p>	<p>This hospital established the nation’s first nursing school west of the Mississippi, in 1889. The 4-story brick building with its narrow end facing the street is original to the move to this location in 1907.</p>
<p><b>39. RIGHT</b> (se) on Keeline, staying on the sidewalk as it curves to the left (east, then north) and the street becomes Kenmore Avenue (no sign).</p>	<p>This is an unbroken stretch of sidewalk and does not cross any streets.</p>
<p><b>40. CONTINUE</b> (n) on Kenmore Ave to Pierce Street and <b>CROSS</b>.</p>	
<p><b>41. LEFT</b> (w) to the crosswalk lights in front of Jennie Edmundson Hospital. There’s a brick landing here and a narrow pedestrian overpass on the right.</p>	
<p><b>42. RIGHT</b> (nw) on and over the pedestrian overpass to North Broadway and <b>RIGHT</b> (n) to return to the Start Point.</p>	

# COUNCIL BLUFFS, IA – BLACK SQUIRREL WALK– 10K

**Starting Point: Super Saver Parking Lot, 1141 N Broadway, Council Bluffs, IA 51501**

**41.270516, -95.835506**

