

DALLAS COUNTY, IOWA WALK HANGING ROCK COUNTY PARK and TOWN OF REDFIELD, IOWA

Description of Walk:

This walk meanders through Hanging Rock County Park and the town of Redfield, Iowa. Along the Middle Raccoon River, the park's namesake is an impressive outcrop of sandstone, while the 469 acres of conservation land includes prairie, savanna, wetland, and riparian areas. The north section is a wildlife refuge and developed park with picnic shelter, modern restrooms, and an astronomical rock clock. The town of Redfield (pop. 731) is small but mighty. It boasts a Museum to the Grand Army of the Republic (GAR), the Redfield Museum, a modern City Hall, several community parks, and a Welcome Center on the Raccoon River Valley Trail. Perhaps best of all, the trail passes by The Dexfield Diner & Pub (open year-round at 11 Tu-Su) and The Dairy Shoppe (open April-Sept, 11-9 M-Sa and 1-9 Su), where weary walkers can refresh with a full meal a snack, cold beverage, and ice cream.

This walk is a loop that combines a paved trail through the park, a mapped route through town center on streets and sidewalks, and a return to the park to finish on a prairie trail for a 5K. This can be doubled to 10K simply by repeating or reversing directions. (The park trail alone is less than 2.5K.)

The walk/trail is rated 2B, including asphalt and concrete paving in the park and sidewalks in the town center. One part of the trail is uphill rocky gravel, but can easily be circumvented on city sidewalks (reducing the 5K a bit). A mowed prairie trail near the park shelter finishes the walk.

Sanction #: 123715 / Y3248

Dates: 4/1 – 10/31

Times: 8:00am – 10:00pm (CT)

Distance / Rating: 5K / 2B

Special Programs: Rails-to-Trails¹, Walking with America's Veterans², Town Halls/City Halls³, and Rockin' Around the (Rock) Clock⁴.

Restrooms: Yes, May 1 – Oct 31

Strollers: Medium

Wheelchairs: Not recommended

Pets: Yes, on leash

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 or 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 log in to your Online Start Box account and 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 the applicable AVA Special Program(s) to generate stamped “virtual” insert cards that you may choose to print out.

Starting Point Location:

Hanging Rock County Park is located at the southwest corner of [Redfield, Iowa](#). The street address is **916 Redfield St.**

From Des Moines, IA: Proceed west from the I-35S/I-80W exchange on I-80W for approximately 22 miles. Take Exit #100 ramp right toward Redfield/Dexter. At the stop sign, merge onto Old Highway 6 and proceed north for five (5) miles. As you approach the edge of town of Redfield, you will see the Casey’s General Store on the left. At the fork, veer left from Old Highway 6 (300th Street on local map) onto 2nd Street. Pass by Casey’s and proceed to Redfield St. Take a left on Redfield St. and the entrance to Hanging Rock County Park will be on your left. Enter the park and proceed to the parking area across from the brick barn and shelter house.

From Council Bluffs, IA: Proceed east on I-80E for approximately 88 miles. Take Exit #100 ramp right toward Redfield/Dexter. At the stop sign, turn left to merge onto Old Highway 6 and proceed north for five (5) miles. As you approach the edge of town of Redfield, you will see the Casey’s General Store on the left. At the fork, veer left from Old Highway 6 (300th Street on local map) onto 2nd Street. Pass by Casey’s and proceed to Redfield St. Take a left on Redfield St. and the entrance to Hanging Rock County Park will be on your left. Enter the park and proceed to the parking area across from the brick barn and shelter house.

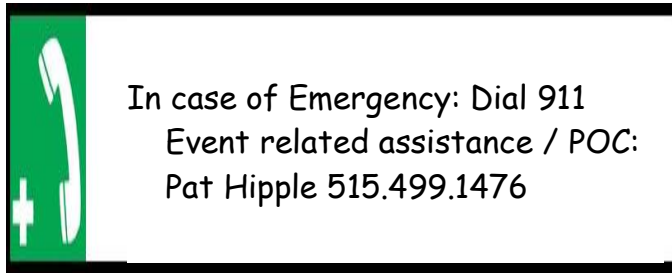
Parking:

Parking is available just inside the park entrance across from the park shelter house. There is additional parking ¼ mile inside the park adjacent to the park trail, and ½ mile inside the park adjacent to the Hanging Rock and Raccoon River.

Restrooms:

Modern restrooms are available at the starting point at the Shelter House across from the parking area. There are also modern restrooms at the Raccoon River Valley Trail Welcome Center at 624 1st St and the local Casey’s General Store at 425 2nd St.

Emergency Numbers:



Walking Instructions:

These walk directions and maps may only be used in conjunction with a signed American Volkssport Association athletic waiver. All other uses are prohibited.

Abbreviations used:

St. – Street

RRVT – Raccoon River Valley Trail (multi-use trail)

Note: A few streets on the route through Redfield town have no, or only partial, sidewalks. When you encounter these, take care to walk on the left, facing traffic.

Walking Directions:

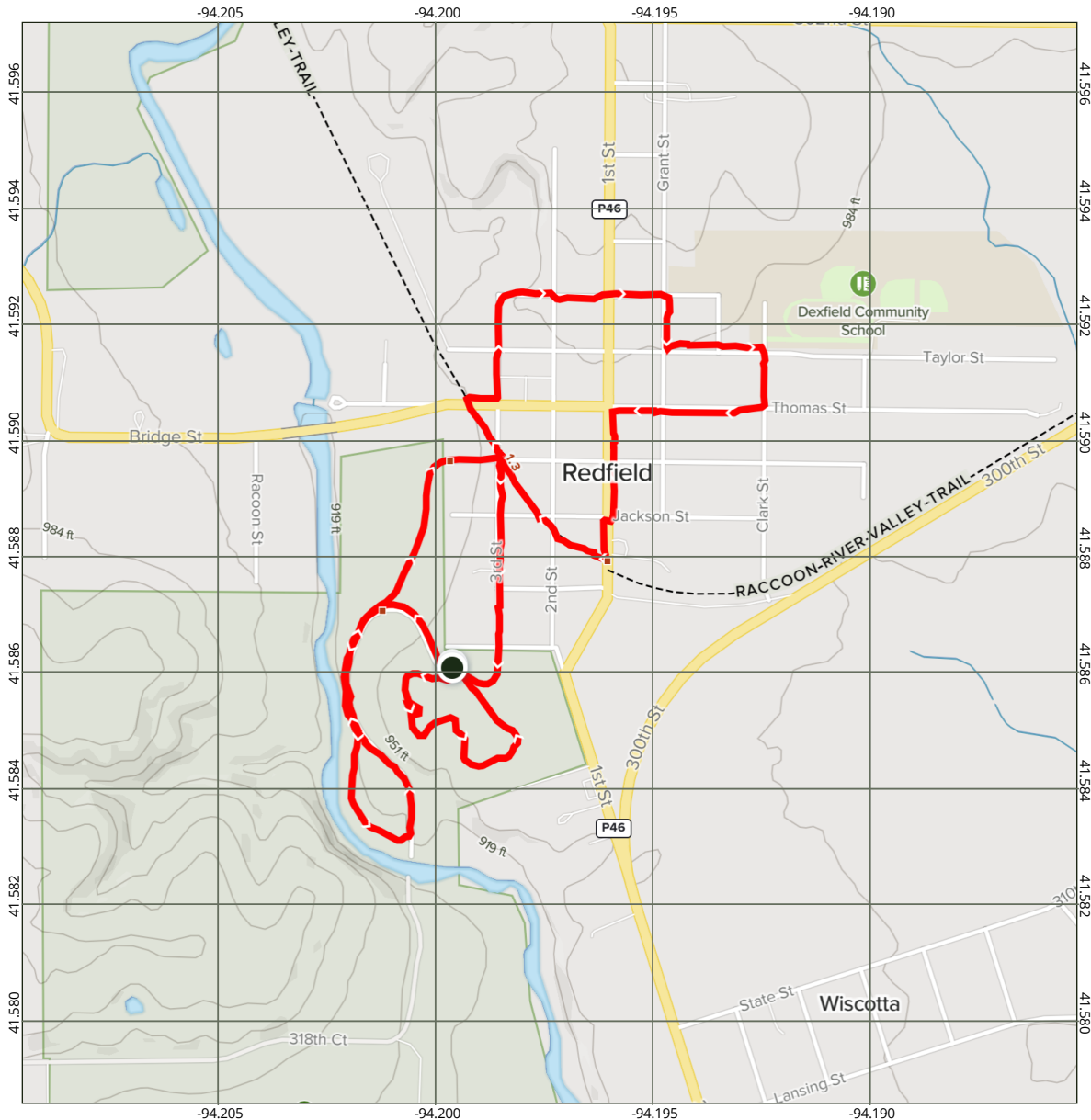
1. The trail head is adjacent to the parking area across from the park shelter. The trail follows the park road away from the park entrance. Proceed from the parking area, down the hill on the asphalt sidewalk. (The park road will be on your left.)
2. Follow the trail bearing left $\frac{1}{2}$ mile to Hanging Rock, the park's namesake, and enjoy the view along the Raccoon River.
3. Continue on the trail past another parking lot and proceed on the roadway for about a block to loop back and rejoin the asphalt trail.
4. Once you've rejoined the asphalt trail, proceed to the right, heading back in the direction from which you came, and proceed beyond the mowed prairie trail(s) until you come to a fork in the asphalt trail.
5. Veer left at the fork. This fork will take you less than $\frac{1}{2}$ mile to a park exit which opens into a residential neighborhood of Redfield, Iowa.
6. Proceed beyond the park exit to the first stop sign at the corner of Jefferson and 3rd Streets.
7. Take a sharp left onto the **Raccoon River Valley Trail (RRVT)**¹ spur and follow the spur to the next cross-street (it's Thomas Street/Bridge Road, but no sign will tell you that).
8. Cross Thomas St. on the RRVT and immediately turn right onto the city sidewalk, then proceed to the corner of 3rd St.
9. Take a left on 3rd St. and proceed up the gravel/rock incline – YES, IT IS A PUBLIC ROAD – and follow the curve at the top of the hill onto High Street.

(To avoid the hill and gravel, strollers should proceed on the sidewalk to 2nd St, take a left on 2nd St, and follow the sidewalk to High St.)

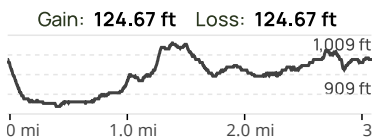
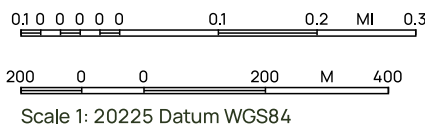
10. Stay on High Street for two (2) blocks to Grant Street. Take a right on Grant St, following the sidewalk for one block.
11. Turn left on Taylor (east) and proceed two (2) blocks to Clark St.
12. Turn right onto Clark St.
13. Proceed one block and take a right on Thomas, following the sidewalk back to Grant St.
14. Cross Grant St on Thomas and spend some time at the [Grand Army of the Republic \(G.A.R.\) Post and Museum at 1213 Thomas St.](#)²
15. When leaving the G.A.R. Post and Museum, turn right and proceed on Thomas to 1st St. (Don't turn right on 1st UNLESS you want a delicious meal at the Dexfield Diner and Pub, otherwise ...)
16. Take a left on 1st St. (The American Legion will be across the street on your right.)
17. On the left you'll pass the Redfield Museum, the Redfield Fire Department, and **Redfield City Hall**,³ with its Dedication Bell and the Original City Jail.
18. Proceed one more block before crossing 1st St at Jackson St. to enjoy refreshment at The Dairy Shoppe.
19. When leaving The Dairy Shoppe turn to your right, proceed cautiously on the 1st

St roadway to the RRVT (multi-use trail), taking care because there is no sidewalk here.

20. Take a sharp right turn onto the RRVT. (The RRVT Welcome Center, where modern restrooms are also available, will now be at your back.)
21. Follow the RRVT past the elevator and grain silos on your left, mindful of possible bicycle traffic on the trail. I think of these elevators and silos as "The Skyscrapers of the Prairie."[©]
22. Cross 2nd St, staying on the RRVT and proceed to the corner of Jefferson St. at 3rd St.
23. Take a sharp left turn (not quite a U-turn) onto 3rd St, and proceed for three blocks, crossing Jackson, Omaha, and Redfield Streets to the Hanging Rock Park entrance.
24. Proceed to the Park Shelter which is within view.
25. Behind the Park Shelter you will find a mowed prairie grass trail. Follow the grass trail and stop along the way to consider go "Rockin..." with several **Astronomical Rock Clocks**.⁴
26. Continue on the grass trail, circumnavigating the prairie, back to the Park Shelter and parking lot where our trail ends. (The grass trail has a number of spurs to explore; keep an eye on the brick barn cupola and you'll end up right back at the shelter and parking lot. 3.2 miles (5K)



12/28/2022



Hanging Rock County Park & Redfield, IA
Redfield, IA

