

Pearl City Walk, Muscatine, IA – Muscatine County

5.5 K (Repeat for 11K)

Registration: Please use the Online Start Box (OSB) to register and complete the event.

Start/Finish location for 5.5K/11K: At the “Mississippi Harvest” sculpture (man with two tall poles) the riverfront, across West Mississippi Drive from the Merrill Hotel at Iowa Avenue. For GPS, use the hotel’s address of 101 W Mississippi Drive, Muscatine, IA.

Driving directions to start point: From I-80, take Exit 271 for US Highway 6 (Wilton and Muscatine). After passing through Wilton, at the intersection with Iowa Highway 38 and County Road F65, continue straight ahead on Hwy 38. In Muscatine, Hwy 38 becomes Park Avenue. Follow Park Avenue to E 2nd Street and turn right. Turn right to enter the rotary circle at Mulberry Avenue and circle to the 3rd and final exit to go south on Mulberry toward the river. Turn right onto E Mississippi Drive. At the stoplight at Iowa Avenue, turn left to cross the railroad tracks and enter the Riverside Park parking lot, where you will see the “Mississippi Harvest” sculpture.

Parking: Ample parking is available in Riverside Park near the “Mississippi Harvest” sculpture, which is the walk’s starting point.

Restrooms: Restrooms are available along the route (approximately the halfway point) at a convenience store at 4th and Cedar Streets. Downtown businesses along the route may also have restrooms available.

Trail Ratings: 2A

Accessibility: The route is along paved city sidewalks and includes some significant hills, which make it unadvisable for wheelchairs. Those with strollers must use their best judgment.

Special Programs: Par for the Course

Walk Description: The walk weaves through the downtown and historic district of Muscatine, passing beautiful homes that once belonged to the leaders of the pearl button industry, as well as historic churches, a school and playground, and a variety of shops and restaurants. The National Pearl Button Museum is housed in a downtown storefront and well worth a stop to learn about the manufacture of pearl buttons and the impact the industry had on the city.

Other Things to Do Nearby:

- Wildcat Den State Park lies 12 miles northeast of Muscatine. One of the most photographed of Iowa’s state parks, it features a series of relatively short but rugged trails to view sandstone bluffs and natural formations such as “Steamboat Rock” and the “Devil’s Punch Bowl.” The 19th century Pine Creek Grist Mill is located in the park and is open to the public May through early October. Visit www.pinecreekgristmill.com to check the hours it’s open.
- The nearby town of Wilton is home to the Wilton Candy Kitchen, one of the oldest ice cream parlors in the world.
- Deep Lakes Park, 5 miles south of Muscatine, is a 435-acre former sand and gravel quarry featuring 120 acres of clear water lakes. The park offers a boat ramp and beach, kayak rentals, a fishing dock, and rental cabins.

- Every Saturday from May through October, you can visit the Muscatine Farmers Market at the corner of 3rd and Cedar Streets.
- While the pearl button industry shut down long ago, the area around Muscatine is now known for growing muskmelons, sometimes called “Muscatine Melons,” which ripen in August. If you’re in the area in late summer, check online for local farms and markets that will be selling fresh melons.
- Another melon in the area isn’t edible but claims to be the “World’s Largest Melon Slice.” You can find the sculpture along the riverfront trail system about five blocks down river from the walk’s start/end point.

IN CASE OF EMERGENCY: Dial 911

Point of contact for walk-related assistance: Robin Madison, 515-238-4536

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

© Copyright 2024, Iowa’s Walking Club

**Start Point: “Mississippi Harvest” Sculpture
on the Riverfront across from the Merrill Hotel
101 W. Mississippi Drive
Muscatine, Iowa
Muscatine County**

5.5K Directions (repeat for 11K)

NOTE: Mississippi Drive is a busy four-lane road. Always use the lighted intersection at Iowa Avenue to cross safely.

1. Take a few minutes to view the “Mississippi Harvest” sculpture at the riverfront. When ready, walk across the parking lot to Mississippi Drive and cross it at Iowa Avenue using the traffic light. Continue on Iowa Avenue to 2nd Street.
2. **Left** on 2nd Street through the downtown business district to Locust Street.

On your right, you will pass a storefront that houses the National Pearl Button Museum, whose exhibits detail the harvesting of mussels and the production of pearl buttons in the late 1800s and early 1900s. By the turn of the century, the city had become the world’s largest manufacturer of freshwater pearl buttons and earned the moniker “Pearl City.” The gift shop offers some nice souvenirs from your trip to Muscatine.

As you walk uphill, you are entering the West Hill Historic District, featuring many beautiful homes from the late 1800s and early 1900s.

3. **Right** on Locust to 3rd Street.
4. **Left** on 3rd Street to Cherry Street.
5. **Left** on Cherry to the end of the dead-end street.

At 205 Cherry is the JCB Warde House built in 1854. In the mid-1900s, it housed a private hospital that closed in the 1970s.

At 206 Cherry is the Clark-Blackwell House, built in 1882. Both homes are on the National Register of Historic Places.

6. Retrace your steps and return to 3rd Street. Continue straight ahead on Cherry to 4th Street.
7. **Right** on 4th Street to Broadway Street, which circles Fourth Street Park and playground.
8. **Left** on Broadway. Walk around the park, taking two right turns, to reach 4th Street on the opposite side of the park.
9. **Left** on 4th Street to Linn Street.
10. **Right** on Linn to 3rd Street.
11. **Left** on 3rd Street to Chestnut Street.
12. **Left** on Chestnut to 4th Street.
13. **Right** on 4th Street to Iowa Avenue.

Restrooms are ahead at the convenience store on 4th between Iowa Avenue and Sycamore.

14. **Left** on Iowa to 6th Street. Take note of the two beautiful old churches on either side of Iowa Avenue between 4th and 5th Streets.

15. **Left** on 6th to Locust Street.
16. **Right** on Locust to 8th Street.
17. **Left** on 8th Street to Broadway Street.
18. **Right** on Broadway, past the playground and school to Maiden Lane.
19. **Right** on Maiden Lane to Roscoe Avenue.
20. **Right** on Roscoe Avenue to 8th Street.
21. **Left** on 8th Street to Sycamore Street. *Take note of another beautiful old church between Pine and Chestnut Streets atop a hill on your left.*
22. **Right** on Sycamore Street to 2nd Street.

Restrooms are available at the convenience store on your right at 4th Street.

Every Saturday morning from May through October, the local farmers market will be on your right at 3rd Street.

23. **Right** on 2nd Street to Iowa Avenue.
24. **Left** on Iowa Avenue. Cross Mississippi Drive at the traffic light and return to the start point at the sculpture.

If you have some energy left, you might want to stroll the riverfront trail system. You'll find the World's Largest Watermelon Slice about five blocks down river from the start point.

Thanks for walking with Iowa's Walking Club.

Don't forget to go back to the Online Start Box and complete your walk at the finish table.

IN CASE OF EMERGENCY: Dial 911

Point of contact for walk-related assistance: Robin Madison, 515-238-4536

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

© Copyright 2024, Iowa's Walking Club

Final Muscatine Route 5.6K

