

Forreston – Mt. Morris – Loop

Your ride begins at the historic Depot and takes you the length of Oregon through quiet neighborhoods. As you leave town, you'll travel on the wide shoulder of Rte 2 which has exceptional views of the Rock River **1**, the newest National Water Trail (2010). A large lot and ramp for recreational boaters is on your right. On the left is the public entry to Stronghold Church camp, site of Stronghold Castle **2**. Further ahead on your left is the scenic Silver Ridge Golf Course nestled in the hills along the river.

Turning left onto Town Hall will lead you on a slow climb out of the valley. Terrain now consists of hills, valleys, oak groves and pastures. West of Leaf River Rd. the route straightens out into flat fertile farmland. The ride becomes fast and easy. There are two pleasant spots on West Grove Rd. to perhaps stop and rest. The first is Silver Creek Cemetery just west of Leaf River Rd. The other is the stone St James church built in 1850 nearer to Forreston.

The final stretch to Forreston is on Rte 26, a flat, moderately trafficked highway with good visibility. Forreston itself has a number of service stations, restaurants and bars to allow for a nice pause during the day's ride.

The return trip begins on Hwy 26 south. Turn left onto Haldane which, much like West Grove Rd., is straight, fast, and mostly flat. Willow then takes you to Rte 64 just a short distance from the town of Mt. Morris. *[Note: If a rider wishes to avoid a few miles of highway, they may return on West Grove, then turn south on Adeline Rd. to rejoin the described loop].*

Downtown Mt. Morris is just two blocks to the right on Wesley Ave. The loop, however, continues on Rte 64 through town and then south on Ridge Rd. Ridge is a striped county highway with a modest paved shoulder. You are once again traveling longer, deeper valleys and hills on this last leg to Oregon. The final stretch on Oregon Trail Rd. curves through woods and pastures before finishing with a set of roller coaster hills. The ride then takes you through Oregon's Park West **3** with its sledding hill, Splash Park, ball parks, tennis courts and soccer fields. You go through prairie wetlands on an elevated boardwalk, a community garden, and residential streets to finish where you began.

★ Oregon Depot:
<http://www.oregondepot.org/>

1 Rock River Trail:
<http://rockrivertrail.com/>

2 Stronghold Castle:
<http://www.strongholdcenter.org/>

3 Oregon Park West:
<http://www.oregonpark.org/park-west>

Forreston Loop		
Leg	Notes	Total
	Turn left onto S 3rd St	0.1
1.2	S 3rd St turns slightly left and becomes Illinois St	1.3
0.1	Turn right onto N 5th St	1.4
0.3	Turn right onto Fair St	1.7
0	Turn left onto N 4th St	1.7
3.8	Turn left onto W Town Hall Rd	5.5
1.7	Turn left onto W West Grove Rd	7.2
3	Turn right onto W W Grove Rd	10.2
0	Turn left onto W West Grove Rd	10.3
6.5	Keep left to stay on W West Grove Rd	16.8
2.9	Turn right onto IL-26 N	19.7
1.9	Turn right onto E Main St	21.6
0.3	Continue onto E Main St	21.8
0	Turn left onto IL-26 S/1st Ave	21.9
4.7	Turn left onto W Haldane Rd	26.6
7	Turn right onto N Willow Rd	33.5
1	Turn left onto IL-64 E	34.5
2.6	Turn right onto N Ridge Rd	37.1
1.9	Turn left onto W Oregon Trail Rd	39
3.0	Turn right into Park West	42
1.5	Turn right onto S. 10th St.	43.5
0.2	Turn left onto Rhoads Pl	43.7
0.1	Turn left onto S. 8th St.	43.8
0.1	Turn right onto Webster St	43.9
0.2	Turn right onto N 5th St	44.1
0.4	S 5th St turns left and becomes Collins St	45.5



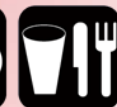
Created by Ogle County GIS Partnership



Bike Ogle County, Illinois



Forreston – Mt. Morris
Loop
(45.5 mi)



Bike, Eat, Sleep...Oregon, Illinois

