

Nachusa Bison – John Deere Loop

Beginning at the historic Oregon Depot, built in 1913, this loop takes you through Oregon, across the Rock River, south through the tiny village of Daysville, and then past the 2,300 acre Lowden-Miller State Forest 1. The forest has 22 miles of trails for hiking, horseback riding, x-c skiing and snowshoeing. These lands once belonged to Frank Lowden, Illinois' 25th governor (1917-1921).

A short distance further you will ride past the 2,200 acre Nachusa Grasslands 2, one of largest restored grasslands in Illinois. This is a great place to stretch your legs, take a hike, or just enjoy the sweeping landscape. Fifteen hundred acres are set aside for a recently introduced bison herd, which might be seen from a viewing. Be sure to pack binoculars and a camera.

The bike loop continues through rolling hills of scenic Illinois farmland, and again you will cross the beautiful Rock River. The loop then goes through Grand Detour, where the river flows south, east, west, north, and south again within a few miles. It is also the original site of John Deere's blacksmith shop 3 where the modern plow was invented in 1837. His home and blacksmith shop have been rebuilt as they may have appeared at the time, and are open to the public for special events and daily tours. With luck, you may find the blacksmith actively hammering out iron implements. The town also has the historic St. Peter's Episcopal Church built in 1849. A gas station offers a variety of refreshments.

Going north on Ridge Rd. you return to wide rolling hills of fields and pastures. At the intersection of Penn Corner Road you will find the small wooded Oak Ridge Cemetery, a nice spot to stretch your legs and search for the Civil War era tombstones.

Finally, you turn right onto Oregon Trail Road leading you back to town. It takes you through wooded countryside and roller-coaster hills before turning right into Oregon Park West 4. This park is the crown jewel of the Oregon Park District. You'll find a sledding hill, restored prairie, multiple ball fields, soccer fields, skateboard park, and – best of all on a hot day – a water splash park. The bike loop continues along the paved path, over an elevated boardwalk through wetlands, past the community gardens, and then returns you to the train Depot.

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

2 Lowden-Miller State Forest:
<http://dnr.state.il.us/lands/landmgt/park/s/r1/lowdenmi.htm>

3 Nachusa Grasslands:
<http://www.nachusagrasslands.org/>

4 John Deere Historical Site:
https://www.deere.com/en_US/corporate/our_company/fans_visitors/tours_attractions/historicalsites.page

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



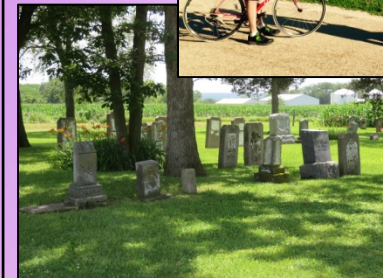
Nachusa Grassland's Bison - Rock River - John Deere Loop		
Leg	Notes	Total
	Turn left onto S 3rd St	0.1
0.9	Turn right onto W Washington St	1
0.7	Turn right onto S Daysville Rd	1.7
2.3	Slight right onto S Lowden Rd	4
8	Turn right onto Naylor Rd	12
3.5	Turn right onto Maples Rd	15.5
0.1	Turn right onto Lost Nation Rd	15.6
0.2	Turn left onto Grand Detour Rd	15.8
0.6	Turn left to stay on Grand Detour Rd	16.5
1.1	Turn right onto IL-2 N	17.6
0.9	Turn left onto Rock St	18.4
0.2	Turn right onto S Green St	18.6
0.4	Continue onto S Ridge Rd	19.1
7.9	Turn right onto W Oregon Trail Rd	26.9
4.7	Turn left onto Rhoads Pl	31.6
0.1	Turn left onto S 8th St	31.7
0.1	Turn right onto Webster St	31.8
0.2	Turn right onto S 5th St	32
0.4	S 5th St turns left and becomes Collins St	32.4



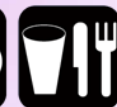
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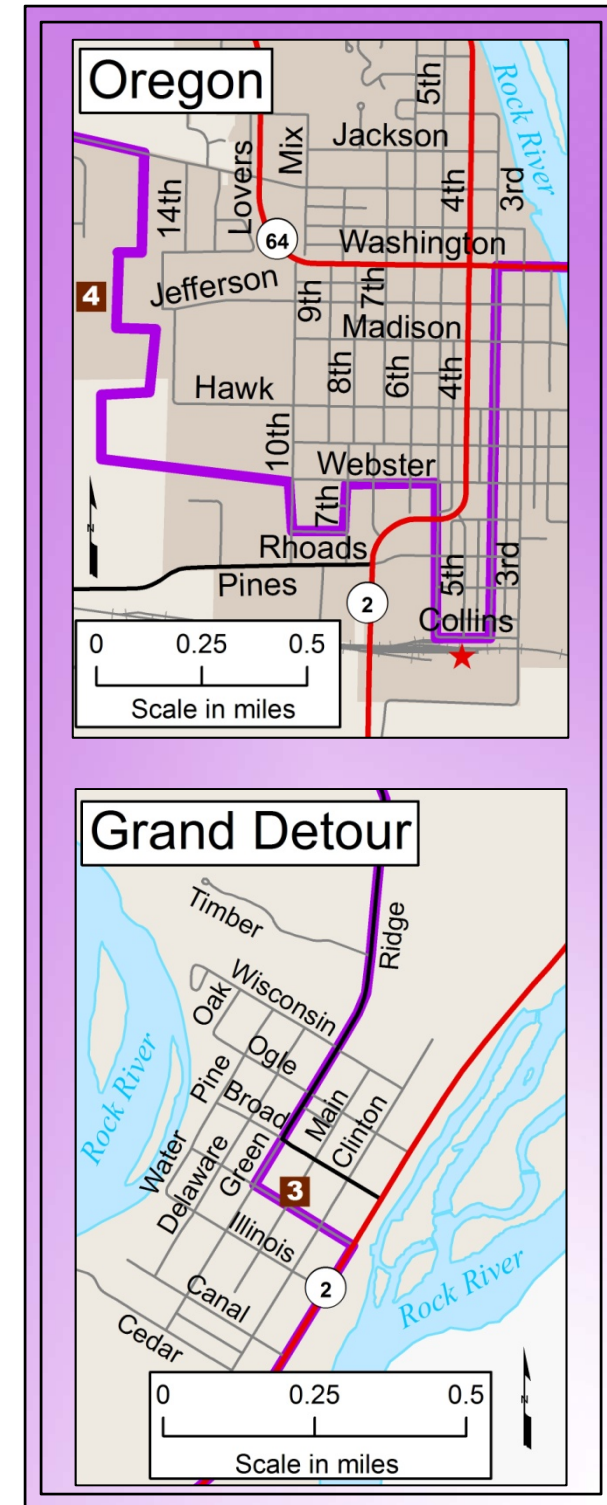
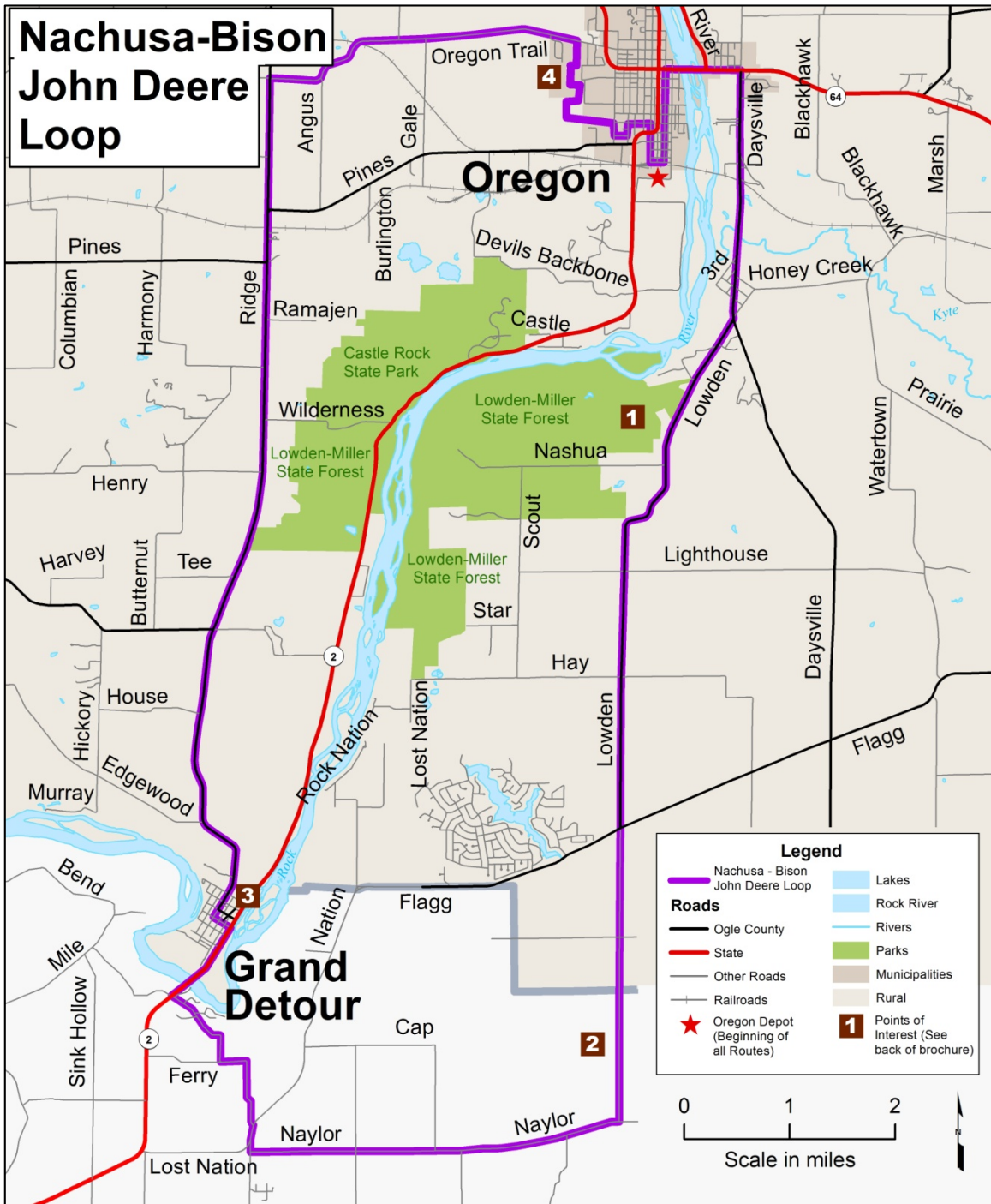
Bike Ogle County, Illinois



Nachusa Bison – John Deere Loop Bike Route
(32.4 mi)



Bike, Eat, Sleep...Oregon, Illinois



To see all of our routes, and to download Garmin turn by turn instructions, go to:
www.bikeogle.org.

All riders need to be familiar with bicycle safety and rules of the road. Cyclists are encouraged to visit <http://rideillinois.org/safety/adults/> for this information.