

Bison - Reagan - John Deere Loop

Beginning at the historic Oregon Depot built in 1913, this loop takes you through downtown Oregon, across the Rock River and south through the tiny village of Daysville, and the former estate of Governor Lowden. His lands have now been set aside as the 2,300 acre Lowden-Miller State Forest **1**. It has 22 miles of maintained trails through the forest and along the river. Hiking, horseback riding, skiing and snowshoeing are popular activities.

Continuing on, 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 genetically pure bison herd.

The loop continues through hilly farmland with attractive, well-kept farms and country estates until reaching the Rock River at the point it enters Dixon, the boyhood home of Ronald Reagan. A .5 mile paved trail takes you to the Dixon River Walk and downtown. There you can find much more about Reagan sites **3** as well as many restaurants and shops.

To return, retrace your ride until reaching Rte 2 north. A left onto White Oak then takes you beside limestone cliffs along the Rock River before entering low hills and farmland followed by woods. This returns back to Rte 2 just a short distance from the bridge into Grand Detour.

Here the river flows south, east, west, north, and south again within a few miles. It is also where John Deere **4** invented the modern plow which allowed cultivation on land covered by thick prairie grass. His home and blacksmith shop have been rebuilt as they may have appeared in 1837. They are open to the public for special events and daily tours. The Shell station is your best shot for a variety of refreshments.

Going north on Ridge Road returns you to wide rolling hills of fields and pastures. At the corner with Penn Corner Rd, you will find the small wooded Oak Ridge Cemetery, a nice spot to stretch your legs.

The final ride into Oregon is on Pines Rd.; a striped, moderately trafficked county highway with a few moderate hills. *(An optional choice would add a few miles by continuing on Ridge Rd. and turning right onto Oregon Trail Road to enter Oregon.)*



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

- 1** Lowden Miller State Forest:
<http://dnr.state.il.us/lands/landmgmt/park/r1/lowdenmi.htm>
- 2** Nachusa Grasslands:
<http://www.nachusagrasslands.org/>
- 3** Reagan:
<http://www.discoverdixon.org/dixon-community/70-reagan-s-roots.html>
- 4** John Deere Historical Site:
https://www.deere.com/en_US/corporate/our_company/fans_visitors/tours_attractions/historicalsites.page

Nachusa Grassland's Bison - Dixon - Reagan Statue - Rock River - John Deere Site		
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 left onto Maples Rd	15.5
1	Turn right onto Stony Point Rd	16.5
2.9	Turn left onto E River Rd	19.5
0.3	Slight right onto E River Rd	19.8
1.5	Turn left onto IL-2 N/E River Rd	21.3
1	Turn left onto White Oak Ln	22.3
2.2	Turn right onto Mile Rd	24.5
1.1	Turn right onto Grand Detour Rd	25.6
1	Turn left onto IL-2 N	26.6
0.9	Turn left onto Rock St	27.4
0.2	Turn right onto S Green St	27.6
0.4	Continue onto S Ridge Rd	28.1
6.6	Turn right onto W Pines Rd	34.7
3.3	Turn left onto S 13th St	37.9
0.6	Turn left onto Rhoads Pl	38.5
0.1	Turn left onto S 8th St	38.7
0.1	Turn right onto Webster St	38.8
0.2	Turn right onto S 5th St	39
0.4	S 5th St turns left and becomes Collins St	39.4



Created by Ogle County GIS Partnership



Bike Ogle County, Illinois



Bison - Reagan - John Deere Loop Bike Route (39.4 mi)



Bike, Eat, Sleep...Oregon, Illinois

