

Top Notch, World Class Attractions

While you are here, we encourage you to check out some of the many attractions and events that make the Rockford area Original. Don't miss Jane, the world's best-preserved and most complete juvenile *T. rex*, at the Burpee Museum of Natural History. Head next door and explore the Discovery Center, the 4th best children's museum in the nation or visit the top-rated Rockford Art Museum. A trip to Rockford wouldn't be complete without a stop at North America's #1 Japanese garden, Anderson Japanese Gardens. Our region also offers entertainment options from theaters to water parks to golf courses and racing. When you're in the Rockford Region, you're in for one Original experience.



About the North End Commons

The tour you are taking today will guide you through a series of stops in the North End Commons area of Rockford. This area offers a variety of historical sites and buildings of architectural interest reflecting the early years of Rockford. As is true of any tour of this kind, it will only give you a glimpse into this area. We hope you will spend more time after this tour to drive around and visit other points of interest in this area.



Need More Information?

For more information about the North End Commons area, go to their web site at www.rockfordnorthend.com.

Stay A Little Longer

If you would like more information about other walking tours or spending more time in the Rockford Region, visit www.gorockford.com, call us at 800.521.0849 or stop by our office at 102 N. Main St., Rockford, IL 61101.

ROCKFORD Originals NEIGHBORHOOD Walking Tours

Companion Guide & Map
North End Commons

This self-guided, narrated walking tour was developed by:

Rockford, Illinois USA 

Rockford Area Convention & Visitors Bureau

102 N. Main Street, Rockford, IL USA 61101

815-963-8111 www.gorockford.com

in cooperation with

North End Commons

www.rockfordnorthend.com

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A SELF-GUIDED, NARRATED WALKING TOUR

Take a Walk.

There's no better way to see Original Rockford than on foot. So, grab your MP3 player or cell phone, put this handy guide in your pocket and let your feet do the walking!



About the Technology

These tours are self-guided walking tours that use either MP3 players or your cell phone. The tours are free and easy to use.

MP3 Player – If you own a MP3 player, go to www.gorockford.com and download the audio files for any of the tours. Preloaded MP3 players can be checked out at the RACVB offices. Follow the easy to understand directions at the beginning of each tour to get started.

Cell Phone – Call 815-749-8687 and you will be to given directions on how to select the tour you want and how to access the narration for each stop. There is no charge for the call except for your cell minutes.

Welcome To The Rockford Region...

We hope you enjoy this Rockford Originals Walking Tour covering the North End Commons in Rockford. We hope you will check out the other walking tours that have been developed. These tours provide a snap shot of the rich heritage of our city.



1 1400 Block of North Main Street, West Side of Street

Park your car in the lot behind these stores and walk to the south end of the lot to start the tour.

2 1313 Auburn Street, Table 13 Restaurant & Salon 13

This unique Swiss Tudor style building was an A & P Grocery Store in the 1930's, and then it became Tally Ho Restaurant and Saddle and Cycle Restaurants during the 1950s.

3 NE corner N. Main & Auburn Streets, Civil War Memorial

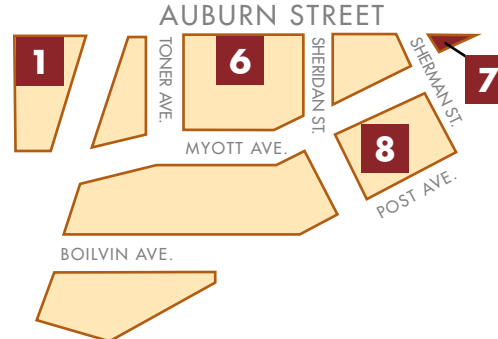
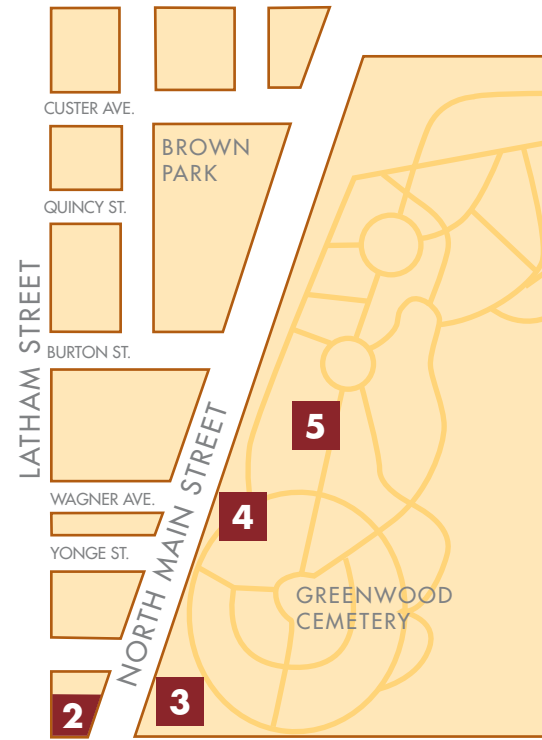
The soldier statue was originally created and dedicated to the city in 1877 by the GAR. It was relocated to this site in 1984 after standing proudly at the entrance of Camp Fuller for many years.

4 Greenwood Cemetery, Lewis Lemon Gravesite

Lewis Lemon came to Rockford as a slave of Germanicus Kent. He was given the opportunity to buy his freedom by working for Kent over a period of six years and seven months.



North End Commons



5 Greenwood Cemetery, Thatcher Blake Gravesite

After helping Germanicus Kent establish the first saw mill in the area, Blake actually worked as a business manager for Kent.

6 SE side of Auburn & N. Main Streets, Der Rathskeller Restaurant

This building was constructed in 1931 and the design is based on a restaurant of the same name in Madison, Wisconsin.

Auburn Movie Theater

This 1950's Art Deco building with its impressive curved brink and glass work must have been an inviting place for kids of all ages to see movies, especially the children's matinee on Saturdays.

7 505 Sherman Street, Fire Station Number Eight

The unique Ionic columns and peaked roof line is reminiscent of Greek revival architecture.

8 1520 Post Avenue, P. R. Walker Elementary School

The school is named for Professor P.R. Walker who was superintendent of Rockford Schools for 29 years. Ironically, Walker used to march on the same piece of ground during his training at Camp Grant in 1862.

Look for a Rockford Originals Walking Tour Sign in windows of each of the featured locations.