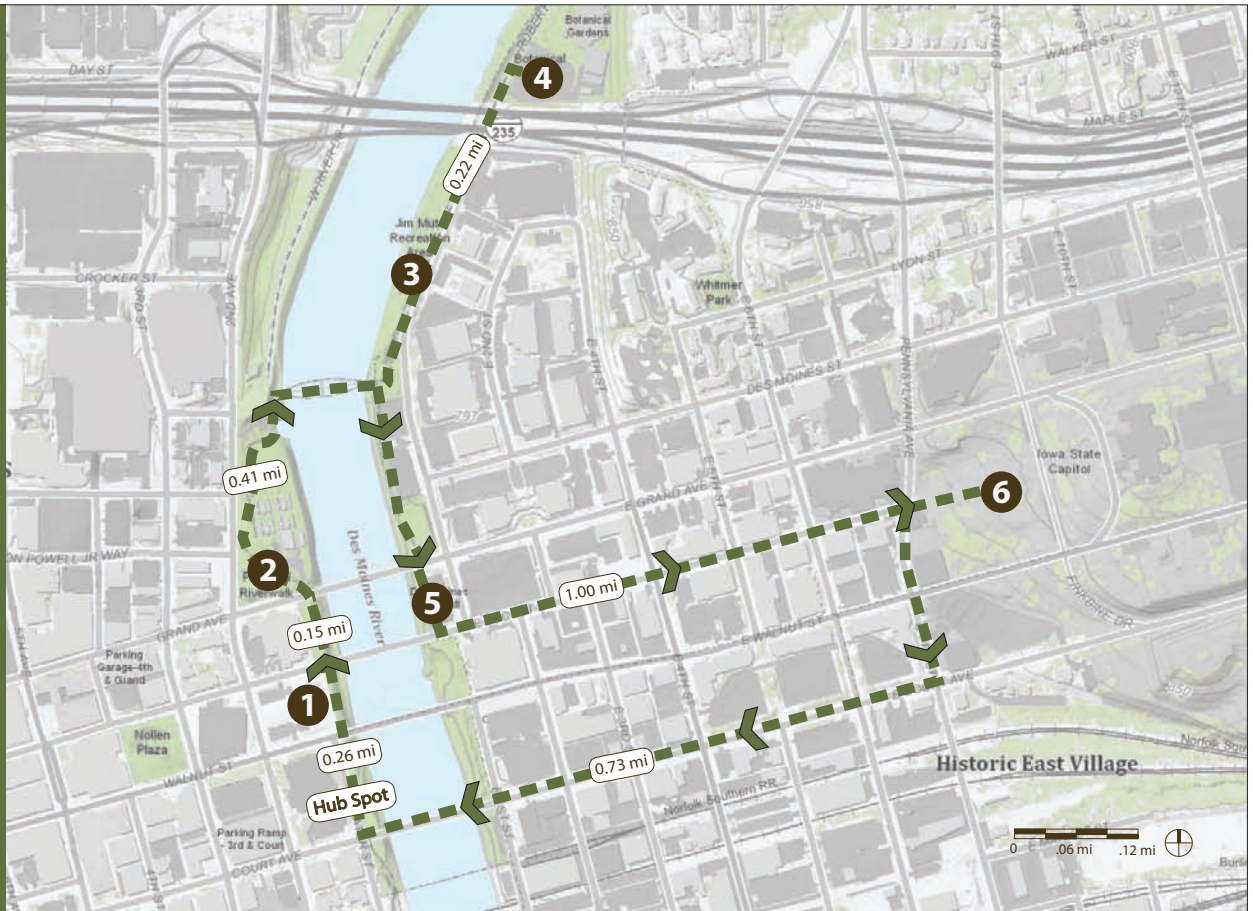




DEB'S GARDEN GAIT

A bloomin' -good walk 3.1 miles



You can't walk anywhere in downtown Des Moines without finding gardens that range in size from seasonally changing containers to full-scale installations. Hardy shrub roses and easy-care, deer-resistant ornamental grasses dot the landscape, along with the latest annuals and perennials.

Operation Downtown flower planters and planting beds More than 850 planters beautify the East Village, The Principal Riverwalk, East Locust Street, Court Avenue, and Western Gateway Park.

World Food Prize Hall of Laureates Garden (1) Located on the west side of the building, a formal garden celebrates the accomplishments of Nobel Peace Prize laureate and native Iowan Norman Borlaug, as well as Iowa philanthropist John Ruan, Sr. worldfoodprize.org

Hansen Triangle (2) A pocket garden along Grand Avenue features a bronze sculpture and fountain, *Quantum Leaf* by artist Sally Pettus. bit.ly/X48cRU

Robert D. Ray Asian Garden (3) A red pavilion surrounded by lanterns, boulders, and water honors the former governor and the contributions Asian-Americans made to Iowa. Signs indicate features that represent specific character values, including responsibility, citizenship, fairness, respect, caring, and trustworthiness. cccaiaowa.org/files/riverfront.htm

Greater Des Moines Botanical Garden (4) With nearly 14 acres, this public garden embarks on a transformational journey in 2013. The first phase, with interior renovations and the building of a water-education garden, shade allée, and more, will be completed in 2014. The geodesic conservatory remains open except July and August 2013. dmbotanicalgarden.com

Long Look Garden on the river side of City Hall (5) A stately garden cascades on a slope toward the river with terraced planter walls, formal landscaping, and a grand staircase. Four-season inspiration dots the container plantings. bit.ly/WzbzQ7

West Capitol Terrace (6) A slope with ramps and steps leads to a Beaux Arts-style garden with five distinct sections. Find ideas for low-maintenance plantings that include ornamental grasses, catmint, rugosa roses, and sedums. bit.ly/ZneHwZ

Side Trip: Better Homes and Gardens Test Garden (15th and Grand; 15 blocks west) Meredith Corporation's publications test new plant varieties and stage photo shoots in this enclosed garden. Open to the public on Fridays from noon to 2 p.m. from May through September. bit.ly/14DFyIZ

Route Scout Deb Wiley, Garden Writers Association member and Greater Des Moines Botanical Garden board of directors