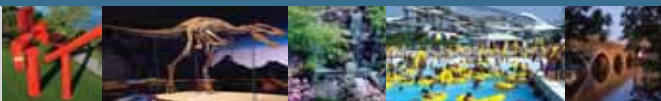


Top Notch, World Class Attractions

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 South Main District

The tour you are taking today will guide you on two separate areas of the South Main area. 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.

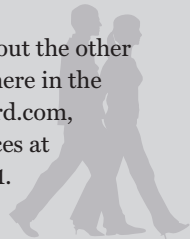


Need More Information?

For more information about the South Main area, call South West Ideas For Today and Tomorrow (SWIFTT) at (815) 965-3606.

Stay A Little Longer

If you would like more information about the other walking tours or spending more time here in the Rockford Region, go to www.gorockford.com, call us at 815-963-8111 or visit our offices at 102 N. Main Street, Rockford, IL 61101.



ROCKFORD Originals NEIGHBORHOOD Walking Tours

Companion Guide & Map South Main District

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



Rockford Area Convention & Visitors Bureau
102 N. Main Street, Rockford, IL USA 61101
815-963-8111 www.gorockford.com



This project is funded by a grant from the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA). SBA's funding should not be construed as an endorsement of any products, opinions, or services. All SBA-funded projects are extended to the public on a non-discriminatory basis.

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 South Main Historical District 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.

B 1010 Ferguson Street, St. Anthony Church

Park your car in the parking lot at the corner of Ferguson and Morgan Street on the grounds of the beautiful St. Anthony Cathedral.

C 828 Cunningham Street, Maria's Italian Café

Walk north two blocks on Corbin Street to the corner of Cunningham and Corbin. Maria's Italian Café has been a Rockford Original since 1913.

D 524 Kent Street, Booker Washington Center

Head east on Blake Street and south on Winnebago Street. This community center is named for Booker T. Washington, an American political leader, educator, author and dominant figure in African American history from 1890 to 1915.

E 411 Kent Street, The Tinker Swiss Cottage Museum

Head northeast to a treasure trove of a time gone by. Rockford businessman Robert H. Tinker built the Swiss-inspired home in 1865, perching it high on a limestone bluff overlooking Kent Creek.

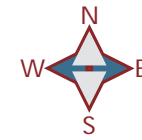
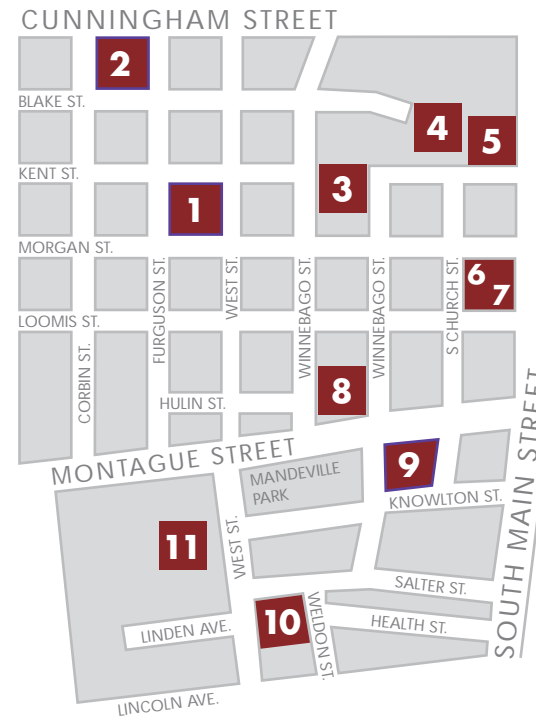
F 917 South Main Street, Youth Build USA

Head east on Kent to South Main Street to YouthBuild, a program for socially excluded youth who have not finished high school and want to rebuild and transform their lives. Notice the old Nelson Knitting Company, original home of the Red "Sock Monkey" socks next door.

G 1115 South Main Street, Graham-Ginestra House

This classic, National Register limestone home was built in 1857 and the interior of the home is preserved virtually intact.

South Main Historic District



H 1129 South Main Street, Ethnic Heritage Museum

This museum is dedicated to representing six of the nationalities that helped shape the culture of Rockford and this region.

Directions to Second Grouping of Sites Return to your car, drive east on Morgan Street two blocks to Winnebago Street. Turn right, south, onto Winnebago Street and go two blocks to the Montague Branch of the Rockford Public Library at the corner of Montague and Winnebago Street.

I 1238 S. Winnebago Street, Montague Branch – Rockford Public Library

This Spanish Renaissance-style building was designed by Architect Chester E. Wolfley. It originally had a circulating capacity of 12,000 books and was built for approximately \$25,000.

J 1306 South Court Street, King Elementary School

The original building was constructed in 1883 and was in use through the early 1970s. You can see a small portion of the old building on the south side of the property.

K 604 Salter Avenue, New Zion Missionary Baptist Church

The Montague House, at the core of the church building, was designed by Arthur G. Eliel in the Georgian Revival style and built 1928.

L 1421 West Street, The Washington Communications Arts & Technology School

This magnet school focuses on all forms of communications including the written and spoken word, audio and video production and computer technology.

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