



Canadian National Railway's "Ida Grove Subdivision" is a 25 mile branch line that starts near Carnavon, Iowa and runs west to Ida Grove, serving several grain elevators and an ethanol producing plant at Arthur, Iowa.

The "Ida Grove Sub." connects with CN's "Omaha Subdivision" near Carnavon. The towns located along this 25 mile route are: Wall Lake, Odebolt, Arthur and Ida Grove. ALL Canadian National trackage in Iowa was formerly that of Illinois Central Railroad, before the purchase and official take over in July of 1999. Prior to Illinois Central's ownership, This line was owned by the Chicago and North Western Railway. At Carnavon, the C&NW line ran east to Farnhamville, Iowa. Also at Ida Grove, the line continued west to Onawa. Both those original lines were abandoned in the early 1970s, and later the trackage and road bed were removed. The remaining 25 mile segment was then purchased by the Illinois Central, and the Ida Grove branch (Subdivision) was created. The remaining ex-C&NW (now "Ida Grove Sub".) dates back to 1876.

On the west end of Ida Grove is a hand car, rest bench, and a paved hike and bike trail, as well as a railroad crossing sign and historic markers.

Darrell D. Wendt (Photos taken 11-29-12)



The grain elevator at Ida Grove is the final grain loading facility on the line, as the route ends here. This particular elevator is served by two switcher locomotives of BN/BNSF heritage.

View from the bumper post looking east toward the elevator and holding tracks.

