

Chicago (North/West/South)

Bloomington Trail (The 606)

Location: Chicago Length: 2.7 miles Trail Surface: Concrete

Not your average "trail", the Bloomington Trail, part of "The 606" park system, is a 2.7-mile, elevated urban rail-trail on Chicago's northwest side. Built on a former rail line, the trail sits nearly 20 feet above four of the city's neighborhoods: Wicker Park, Bucktown, Humboldt Park, and Logan Square with bridges over all the city streets it crosses, and access ramps down to the street level below. The Bloomington Trail has not only improved local parks but also created community artwork displays near many of these lower access points.

Chicago Lakefront Trail

Location: Chicago Length: 18.5 miles Trail Surface: Asphalt/Concrete

Located east of Lakeshore Drive, the Chicago Lakefront Trail is an 18.5-mile linear park along Lake Michigan that includes beaches, volleyball courts, playgrounds, baseball diamonds, tennis courts, and soccer fields. The trail unites a variety of neighborhoods, including South Shore, Hyde Park, Lincoln Park, and Lake View, and serves as both a recreational and transportation resource. The Chicago Lakefront Trail also provides direct access to a number of amenities popular with locals and tourists alike and thus is often crowded on warm days.

Northshore Channel Trail

Location: Chicago Length: 6.7 miles Trail Surface: Asphalt, Concrete, Dirt

A hidden gem on Chicago's northwest side. The North Shore Channel Trail extends from the junction of Green Bay Road and McCormick Boulevard in northern Evanston to the junction of Lawrence Avenue and Francisco Avenue in Chicago. All but the last 0.25 mile runs alongside the North Shore Channel of the Chicago River.

North Shore

Green Bay Trail

Location: Cook, Lake counties Length: 8.9 miles

Trail Surface: Asphalt, Concrete, Crushed Stone

The 9-mile Green Bay Trail runs parallel to Chicago's Metra commuter rail line north of the Chicago city limits. Stretching through North Shore towns such as Kenilworth, Winnetka, Highland Park, and Lake Bluff, the corridor is flanked by restaurants, shops, community parks, and beautiful homes. Because the trail stays generally within a mile of Lake Michigan, you can take any number of on-road side trips for beachfront views of the lake.

Robert McClory Bike Path

Location: Lake County Length: 26.5 miles

Trail Surface: Asphalt, Concrete, Crushed Stone

The Robert McClory Bike Path is notorious for its conglomeration of names over the years. At any given time—and depending on whom you ask—it has been called the Green Bay Trail and the North Shore Bike Path, although those names now refer to separate trails in the area. The trail's formal name, given in 1997, honors a bike-friendly government official. The Green Bay Trail now generally refers to the southern extension of the Robert McClory Bike Path to Wilmette; the two are seamlessly linked in Highland Park. The path strings together the communities of Highland Park, Highwood, Fort Sheridan, Lake Forest, Lake Bluff, Naval Station Great Lakes, North Chicago, Waukegan, Beach Park, Zion and Winthrop Harbor before seamlessly melding into the southern end of the 18.6-mile Kenosha County Bike Trail at the Wisconsin state line.

Western Burbs

Des Plaines River Trail

Location: Lake County Length: 56.3 miles Trail Surface: Crushed Stone

The Des Plaines River Trail and Greenway traverse north-south along the route of its namesake river along its course through both Lake and Cook counties. The corridor protects 85% of the riverine habitat in the county. The 56+ mile trail connects numerous forest preserves, parks, and communities between the Illinois-Wisconsin border and south, well into the western Chicago suburbs.

North Branch Trail

Location: Cook County Length: 20 miles Trail Surface: Asphalt

The beautiful North Branch Trail is named for the North Branch of the Chicago River, along which it winds. At its northern end, the trail begins at the south end of the Chicago Botanic Garden and continues south to circle the Skokie Lagoons and Erikson Woods. It then meanders south through wooded suburbs, beside golf courses, and among open space to the forest preserve at Edgebrook in Chicago. The trail offers several resting areas and public restrooms. For much of the trail's route, there are alternate dirt paths through the woods.



Southern Burbs

Tinley Creek Trail

Location: Cook County Length: 18.8 miles Trail Surface: Asphalt

The Tinley Creek Trail is currently in two segments. This northern segment stretches from Palos Heights to Oak Forest and largely falls with several Cook County Forest Preserve areas, including Rubio Woods, Burr Oak Woods, Turtlehead Lake, Bachelor Grove Woods, Nelson Woods, and St. Mihiel Reservation.

