

GETTING TO THE RIVER TRAILS TO HIKE, BIKE, AND EXPLORE

1. **Prairie Wolf Slough** Deerfield

Located on the south side of Half Day Rd. between Waukegan Rd. and Ridge Rd. A 2.5-mile unpaved loop circles restored wetlands, prairie and oak woodlands.

2. **North Branch Bike Trail** Wilmette to Chicago

A 4.4-mile paved loop between Dundee Rd. and Tower Rd. circles the Skokie Lagoons. It also connects to a 13.0-mile paved trail south to Devon Ave., and the Edgebrook Metra station.

3. **North Shore Channel Trail** Evanston to Chicago

An 8.0-mile paved trail from Green Bay Road south to Lawrence Ave. The south end is just 2½ blocks north of the Francisco stop on the CTA Brown Line.

4. **Bunker Hill** Chicago

Located on the west side of Caldwell Ave. between Harts Ave. and Devon Ave., this 2.3-mile paved segment of the North Branch bike trail travels along (and over) the river. The bike trail begins at Caldwell Ave. and Devon Ave., just west of the Edgebrook Metra station and doesn't cross any roads.

5. **Ronan, River, and Legion Parks** Chicago

Located just east of Jersey/Kedzie Ave. between Devon Ave. and Lawrence Ave. The south end of the bike path is just 2½ blocks north of the Francisco stop on the CTA Brown Line. These three parks encompass a 3.0-mile paved segment of the North Shore Channel Trail.

6. **John Husar I&M Canal Trail** Willow Springs

The parking lot is next to the Willow Springs Metra station near Willow Springs Rd. and Archer Ave. (171). The 8.9-mile paved bicycle trail consists of two 3.3-mile loops with a 2.3-mile connection and follows the historic I&M Canal.

7. **Major Taylor Trail** Chicago

This 6.0-mile paved path is one of the few trails over the Cal-Sag Channel on the south side of Chicago. The path begins in Whistler Woods.

8. **Rubio and Carlson Springs Woods** Midlothian

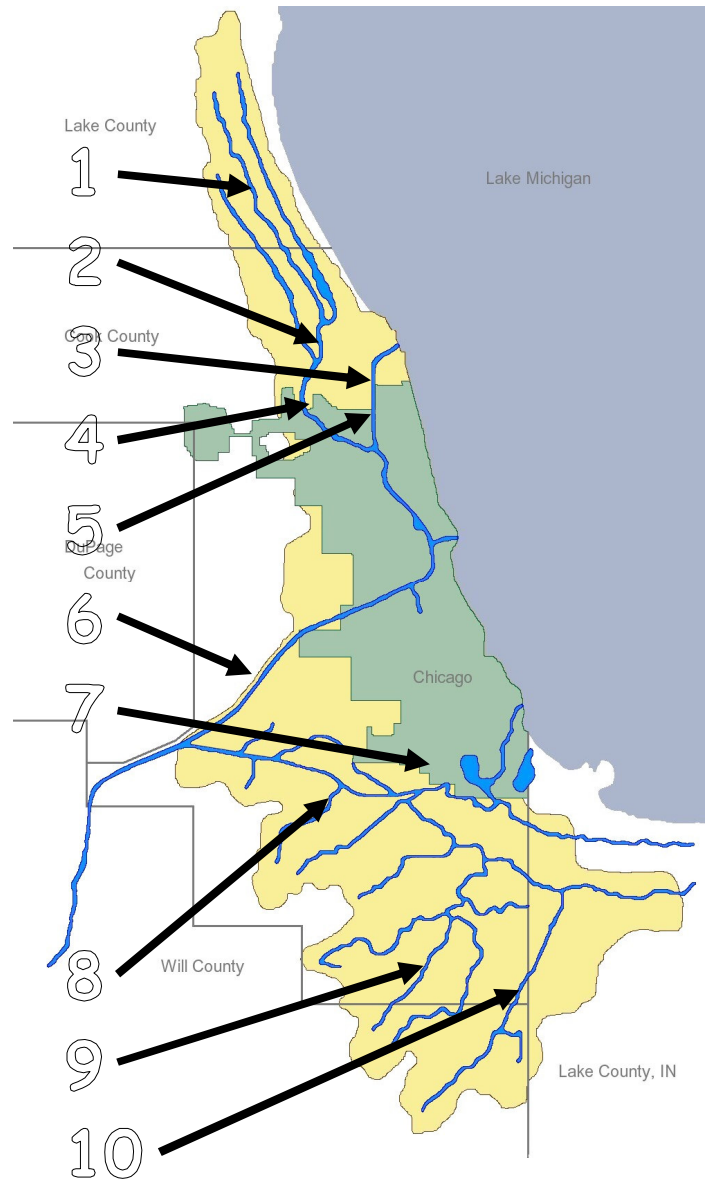
The parking lot is located north of the Midlothian Turnpike between Ridgeland Ave. and Central Ave. The 9.4-mile paved loop of the Tinley Creek red trail takes you through woodland and open grassy meadows.

9. **Sauk Trail Woods** South Chicago Heights

Located at 26th St. and Ashland Ave., this 3.5-mile paved loop is part of the Thorn Creek trail.

10. **Plum Creek Meadow** Sauk Village

Located east of Burnham Ave. just north of 223rd St. in southeastern Cook County, this forest preserve has a 2.0-mile unpaved trail loop.



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GETTING TO THE RIVER

NATURAL AREAS TO EXPLORE -NORTH

11. Middlefork Savanna Lake Forest

The entrance and parking area are located on Middlefork Dr. west of Waukegan Rd. (43), between Route 60 and Route 176. Once part of a large glacial lake, this forest preserve is home for endangered plant and wildlife species. There are bridges and a 3.5-mile unpaved trail which links to other trails in Lake County.

12. North Park/Florsheim N.P. Lincolnshire

Located near the intersection of W. Everett Rd. and Riverwoods Rd. The entrance to the park is on the east side of Riverwoods Rd. This park is wooded and has many bridges over the West Fork of the Chicago River.

13. Somme and Chipilly Woods Northbrook

The parking lot for this forest preserve is located north of Dundee Rd. just east of Waukegan Rd. It has 3.7 miles of unpaved trail, most right next to the Middle Fork of the North Branch. The green trail is 2.1 miles (looped), and the light blue is 1.6 miles and has a very good wading spot under the railroad tracks.

14. Glenview Woods Glenview

This forest preserve is just west of Harms Rd. just south of Glenview Rd. and not far from the Old Orchard Shopping Mall in Skokie. It has a bridge just south of the parking lot and connects to the 8.5 miles of unpaved trails along the North Branch tan, yellow, and orange trails.

15. Linne Woods Morton Grove

This forest preserve is just north of Dempster St. at Lehigh Ave. not far from the Morton Grove Metra station. It has a bridge and connects to the 8.5 miles of unpaved trails along the North Branch tan, yellow, and orange trails.

16. St. Paul Woods Morton Grove

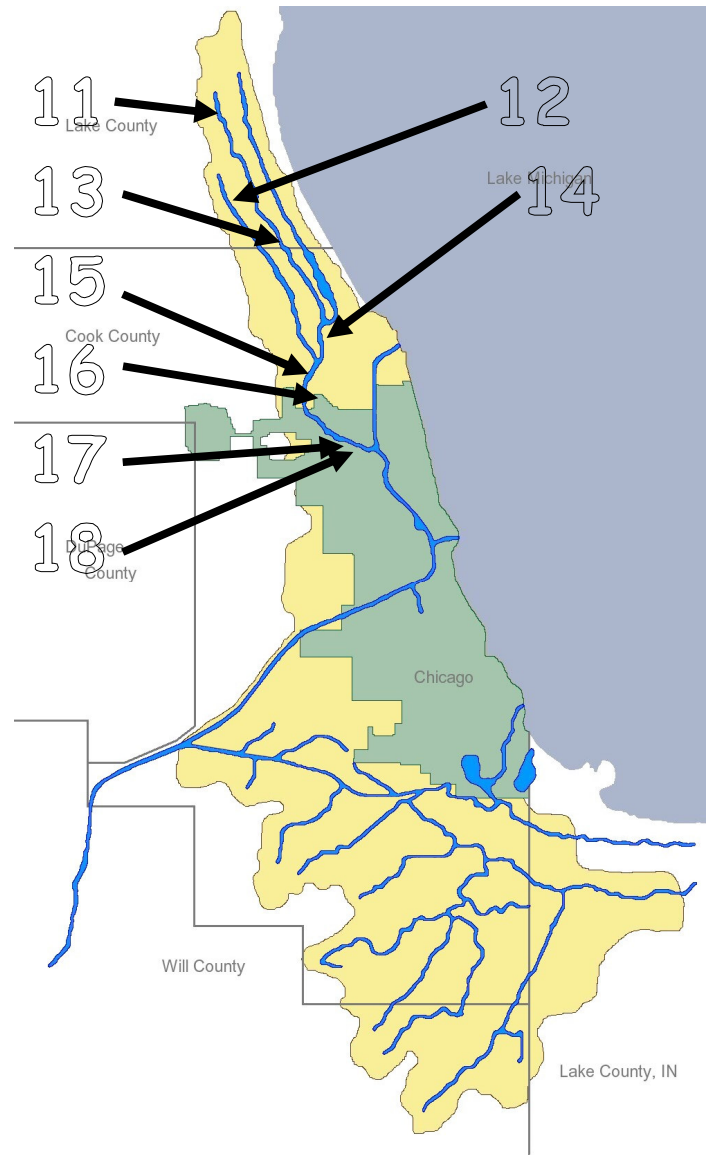
Located near the intersection of Lincoln Ave. and Lehigh Ave. south of Dempster St. and one block west of the Morton Grove Metra station. There are no formal trails, but there are great open woodlands and picnic areas near the river.

17. Irene Hernandez Family Picnic Area Chicago

This forest preserve is located on the north side of W. Foster Ave. at Kilbourn Ave., just east of Cicero Ave. (and east of the railroad tracks). This is a nice open picnic area and is great for wading into the North Branch of the Chicago River.

18. Gompers, Field, and Kiwanis Parks Chicago

Located between W. Argyle St. and W. Foster Ave. not far from CTA Brown Line and Foster Ave. buses. These are great little parks for exploring the Chicago River in the urban environment. Gompers Park has a 0.5-mile paved trail around the lagoons, and all three have bridges.



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GETTING TO THE RIVER NATURAL AREAS TO EXPLORE -SOUTH

19. **McClaghry Springs Woods** Palos Park

Located on the west side of S. Kean Rd. between Cal-Sag Rd. (83) and 119th St. this site has an open grassy area surrounded on three sides by a shallow and wadable Mill Creek. It connects to a 8.1-mile unpaved loop on the Sag Valley yellow trail. You can hike shorter loops as well.

20. **Lake Katherine** Palos Heights

Located at 7402 W. Lake Katherine Dr., Lake Katherine Nature Center & Botanic Gardens includes 125 acres of water, 3.5 miles of paved and wooded trails, gardens and open space for exploring along the Cal-Sag Channel.

21. **Elizabeth Conkey Woods** Midlothian

The most convenient parking lot is located on the west side of Central Ave., north of 135th St. From the parking lot walk along the edge of woods until you come to path leading back to Tinley Creek. This is a good wading spot.

22. **Thorn Creek Woods** Park Forest

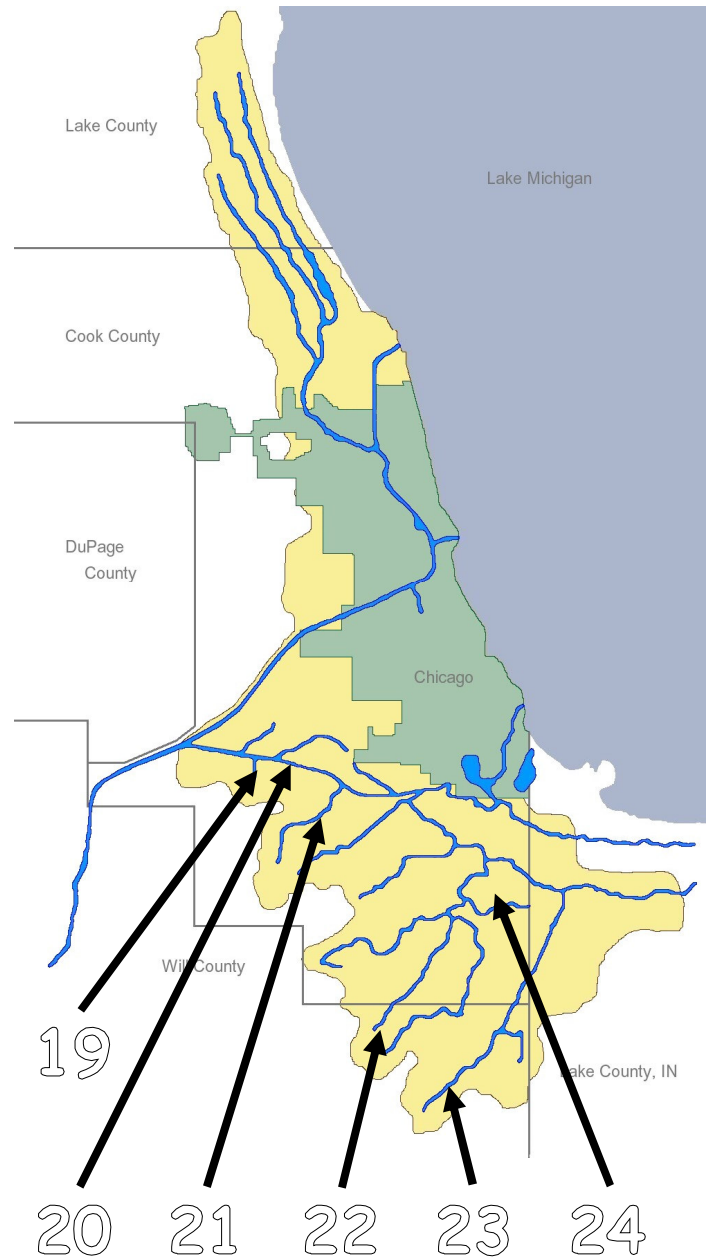
Located at 247 Monee Rd., a 2.5-mile unpaved trail winds through 880 acres of oak hickory forest dominated by 150 year old oak trees, native shrubs and spring wildflowers. Thorn Creek, a tributary of the Little Calumet River, flows through glacial pothole ponds, marshes, and prairie remnants.

23. **Goodenow Grove** Beecher

Located at 27064 S. Dutton Rd., 1.25 miles east of the intersection of Routes 1 and I-394, this preserve has a 2.0-mile looped unpaved trail which includes two 0.5-mile side trails to Plum Creek.

24. **Sweet and Jurgensen Woods** Glenwood

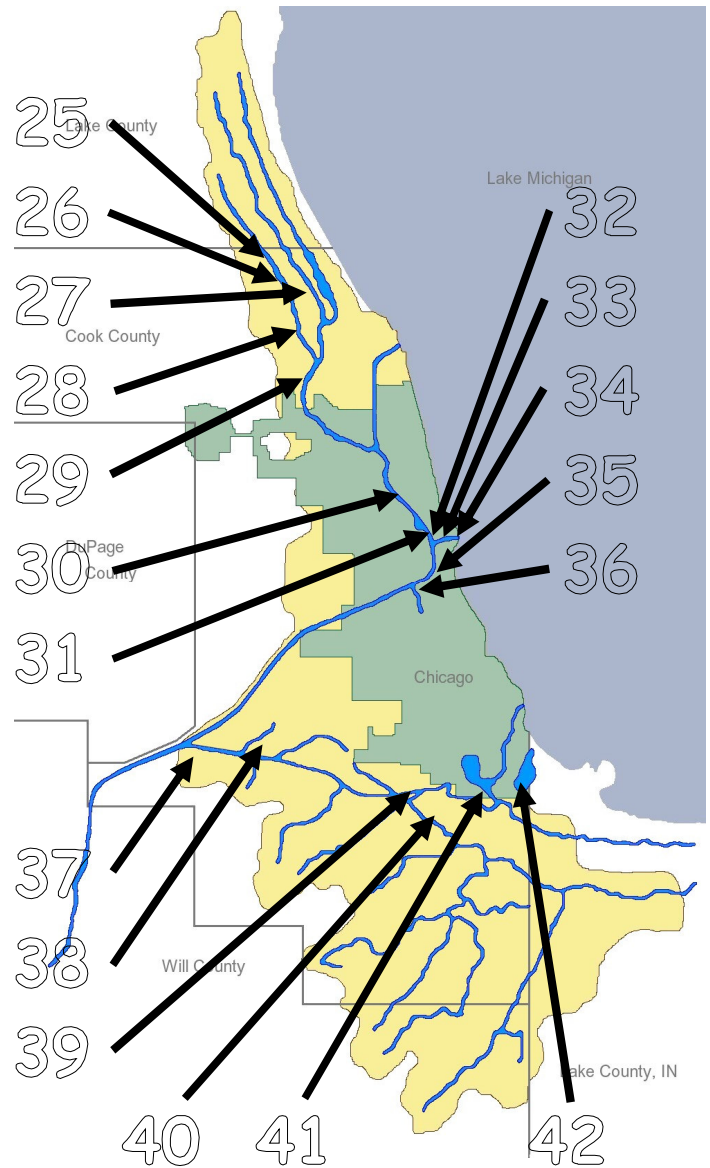
This unpaved trail snakes back and forth through wooded areas along North Creek, a tributary of Thorn Creek. The black trail is 1.4 miles and takes you near the confluence. The yellow trail is 3.5 miles and goes east to Torrence Ave.



Chicago River Action-Adventure Pocket Guides

GETTING TO THE RIVER SOME OTHER GREAT SITES IN THE CHICAGO RIVER WATERSHED

25. **Northbrook Village Green**
1344 Shermer Rd., Northbrook
26. **Techny Prairie/Meadowhill Park**
1800 Techny Rd., Glenview
27. **Willow Park**
2600 Greenwood Rd., Glenview
28. **Sleepy Hollow Park**
1300 Sleepy Hollow Rd., Glenview
29. **Miami Woods**
6740 Dempster St., Morton Grove
30. **Clark Park**
3400 N. Rockwell, Chicago
31. **Erie Park**
630 N. Kingsbury St., Chicago
(between Erie & Ontario)
32. **Wolf Point**
306 N. Orleans St. (Franklin St.), Chicago
33. **Vietnam Veterans Memorial Plaza**
40 E. Wacker Dr., Chicago
(between State & Wabash)
34. **McCormick Tribune Bridgehouse &
Chicago River Museum**
376 N. Michigan Ave., Chicago
(Michigan & Wacker)
35. **Ping Tom Park**
300 W. 19th St., Chicago
36. **Canal Origins Park**
2900 S. Ashland Ave., Chicago
37. **Sag Quarries**
11000 South Archer Ave., Lemont



38. **Crooked Creek Woods**
10400 S. Kean Ave., Palos Hills
39. **Blue Island SEPA Facility**
2288 Fulton St., Blue Island
40. **Kickapoo Meadows**
14566 S. Halstead Ave., Riverdale
41. **Beaubien Woods**
1340 E. 132nd St., Chicago
42. **Wolf Lake**
12600 S. Ave. O, Chicago

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