

A Joliet Trail Connections

The trail is complete between Park Road, in Joliet Township, and Western Avenue, in Park Forest. Trail users can travel street routes westward to link to the 4.5 mile Heritage Trail in downtown Joliet and the over 60 mile I&M Canal State Trail.



D Hickory Creek Junction

Located on Route 30, in Mokena, this site has ample parking and picnic areas, and provides a pedestrian bridge crossing over Route 30 and an asphalt trail that leads one-half mile to the Old Plank Road Trail.

A special feature at Hickory Creek Junction is a playground accessible to children with varying abilities. This special playground has components that appeal to persons with sight, hearing, and mobility challenges.



F Frankfort Main Park

Marked by the new Route 45 bridge, Frankfort Main Park provides playground equipment, baseball and soccer fields, and restroom facilities. The Frankfort Administrative Building is also here where Bicycle Master Plan maps are available. Stop by the Creamery for one of your ice cream favorites or a cool drink.



I Indian Boundary Park

Nestled between Nebraska Street and the Trail, this two-acre community park provides many avenues for outdoor activities with a playground and baseball and soccer fields.



N Caboose Park

Located in historic Matteson, Caboose Park, with its red caboose, is symbolic of the railroad heritage that harkens back to the original settlement of the community in the mid 1800s. Now, this park serves as a parking area to access the trail and often as a starting point for the annual Memorial Day Parade. Venture off the trail here to tour historic Matteson.



B Lions Den/New Lenox Library

Conveniently located next to the Old Plank Road Trail, on Cedar Road, Lion's Den Park is a handy resting spot for trail users. Community residents are encouraged to walk or bike to the New Lenox Library, located next to the park.



E Hickory Creek Bikeway-East Branch

Leaving the Old Plank Road Trail at Wolf Road and traveling one-half mile north then east on Route 30 provides access to the east branch of the Hickory Creek Bikeway at the Frankfort Township swimming pool. The 1.8-mile trail (3.6 round trip) travels through the Forest Preserve's 1800 acre Hickory Creek Preserve. The trail ends at the Forest Preserve's LaPorte Road Access, in Mokena, where visitors can enjoy picnicking and hiking.

A short trail connection leads to Mokena Park District.



G Frankfort Historic District/Breidert's Green

Trail users can relax and enjoy a bite to eat at the many eateries located within a short walk of the Green. Restroom facilities and phones are available in the Trolley Barn, and the Frankfort Community Center is located just south of the trail on Hickory Street.



J Frankfort Library/Fort Frankfort

Use the trail to access the Frankfort Library, located just one-half mile north of the trail on Pfeiffer Road. South of Pfeiffer Road, a future trail connection will lead to Commissioner's Park which features the adventure-style play structure "Fort Frankfort."



K Dewey Helmick Nature Preserve

Restrooms available at Ridgeland Avenue.

This 12.83 acre natural area along the Rich Township section of the Old Plank Road Trail contains 221 different species of prairie plants. The shooting star, wild bergamot, blue flag iris, prairie phlox, and compass plant are just some of the plants growing along the trail. One hundred and seventy five species of birds call the preserve home, as do many different mammals. Be on the lookout for the great blue heron, great egret, coyote, mink, muskrat, and beaver as you enjoy this section of the trail.



O Metra Station

Ride the Metra electric trains from the Old Plank Road Trail to Chicago's Loop and all points in between. Bike racks and bicycle lockers are available at the Park Forest Municipal Parking Lot at this location. For locker availability, call 708-748-1112.

P Logan Park

Construction is underway on a new parking lot, public washroom facility, picnic pavilion, a new playground, and other improvements at Logan Park. Exit the trail here south to Downtown Park Forest.

Q Downtown Park Forest

There is much to visit at this commercial, recreation, and arts complex just .5 mile south of the trail via Orchard Drive. The 90-acre Central Park complex contains a 40-acre wetland restoration project, Park Forest Aqua Center, Freedom Hall (the Village's community cultural center), and Park Forest Library. Across the intersection in downtown, visit live theater, the cinema, art galleries, outdoor concerts, and a variety of commercial establishments.



C Hickory Creek Bikeway - West Branch/ Schmulh School

Within one-half mile north of the Old Plank Road Trail, on Schoolhouse Road, trail users can visit the historic Schmulh School, the last one room schoolhouse in the area. The schoolhouse is located on Forest Preserve property at Schoolhouse Road and Route 30, in New Lenox.

Visitors to Schmulh School can access the 2.8 mile Hickory Creek Bikeway that leads trail users through scenic Hickory Creek Barrens Nature Preserve and onto Brightway Lane or Hickory Creek Junction, both in Mokena.

(Construction complete Fall 2001)



H Prairie Park

The new park with an interpretative trail and fishing pond will open to the public in 2001 and provide a large, greenway along the trail east of White Street.



L Preservation Path

This 1.4 mile path travels directly north through Oakwood Park, which is a central point for the community. Providing a handicapped accessible playground, as well as many other recreational amenities, Oakwood Park also houses the Matteson Parks and Recreation Department's Administrative Offices and the Matteson Historical Museum. Visit the Matteson Public Library, located within walking distance of Oakwood Park.



M Governors Trail Park

With over 20 acres, Governors Trail Park is one of Matteson's largest parks. With two playgrounds, a ball field, a sand volleyball court, and picnic shelter, this is a great resting stop along the Old Plank Road Trail. Trail users can find parking adjacent to St. Lawrence O'Toole Parish on the north end of the park.



R Cook County Trail Connections

Western Avenue is the current eastern end of the trail. Acquisition of the right-of-way east of Western Avenue is underway to connect the trail to existing trails in Cook County Forest Preserve's Sauk Trail Woods, only one half mile to the east.

