

SOUTHERN DU PAGE COUNTY REGIONAL TRAIL

In 2001, DuPage County completed a feasibility study to establish a conceptual route for the new Southern DuPage County Regional Trail. Since that time, a cooperative intergovernmental effort has been underway to implement the trail plan. Participating agencies include DuPage County, the Forest Preserve District of DuPage County, area municipalities and park districts. Funding has been provided by countywide and local agencies. Federal and state grants, administered locally by the DuPage Mayors and Managers Conference and statewide by the Illinois Department of Transportation, have provided significant construction funding.

The Southern DuPage County Regional Trail:

* Creates a 46-mile regional trail connecting 6 regional forest preserves containing 5700 acres of open space and the 11 communities of Aurora; Naperville; Woodridge; Darien; Bolingbrook; Downers Grove; Westmont; Clarendon Hills; Willowbrook; Burr Ridge; Hinsdale and unincorporated areas of Naperville, Lisle and Downers Grove Townships, serving an estimated population of 500,000

* Includes a Main Stem trail running from Aurora to Woodridge which then branches into 3 spurs in Woodridge including the Main Stem traveling a northern route, the Greene Valley Spur and the Waterfall Glen Spur

* Is a mixture of off-road trails, on-street signed bicycle routes and striped bicycle lanes

* Is within easy access of 54 schools and 61 local parks

* Is approximately 70% constructed at this time

The Southern Trail begins in Aurora along US Route 34 near the EJ&E tracks and continues east along 75th St. to Washington St. in Naperville where it jogs north to Hobson Road and continues east. At Greene Valley Forest Preserve, the trail splits into a **Main Stem** which continues north along the Woodridge Municipal System and the **Greene Valley Spur** which continues south. At 83rd Street and Woodward Ave., the trail again splits with the **Waterfall Glen Spur** continuing south along Woodward Avenue in Woodridge.

TRAIL USAGE AND ETIQUETTE

The Southern DuPage County Regional Trail is a multi-purpose trail for use by walkers, joggers, bicyclists, equestrians and cross-country skiers (weather permitting). No motorized vehicles are allowed on the off-road segments of the system. Some off-road sections are asphalt and may be less suitable for equestrians but suitable for skaters. Areas most suitable for equestrians are the forest preserves and Hobson Road (see below for parking areas).

There is public parking on numerous side streets that intersect the path through all municipalities and at most local parks (see Parking Locations for suggestions).

RULES OF THE TRAIL

1. Share the trail with pedestrians, bicyclists, horseback riders, and other users.
2. No motorized vehicles are allowed on the system.
3. All users should keep right on the trail. Riders should travel single file and passing should occur on the left.
4. Users should announce their intention to pass.
5. Move off the trail when stopped.
6. No alcoholic beverages or controlled substances are allowed on the system.
7. All animals should be kept leashed and owners should clean up after them.
8. Always wear a helmet when bicycling.

THE DU PAGE COUNTY TRAIL GUIDE

Southern DuPage County Regional Trail

DU PAGE COUNTY
DIVISION OF TRANSPORTATION
421 N. County Farm Road
Wheaton, IL 60187-2533

POINTS OF INTEREST

Local Parks -- 61 parks are located within close proximity to the trail and contain many recreational facilities, amenities and parking (see map insert listing).

***1 Greene Valley Forest Preserve** The pioneer Greene Farm and house date back to 1850. The preserve contains 1425 acres, parking, water, restroom, camping, picnicking, dog area, fishing, 10 miles of trails (including equestrians and horse trailer parking) through woodlands, marsh and prairie/grasslands.

***2 Springbrook Prairie Forest Preserve** 1849 acres, parking, water, restrooms, picnicking, dog area, model aircraft field, fishing, 9 miles of trails (including equestrians)

***3 Waterfall Glen Forest Preserve** 2474 acres, parking, restrooms, camping, fishing, 11.7 miles of trails (including equestrians and horse trailer parking) through woodlands, marsh, rivers, and prairie/grasslands.

***4 Pioneer Park** Site of Bailey Hobson's grist mill constructed in 1830's. This site was the first grist mill in DuPage. Preserved mill stones mark location of the early mill. Site was also an early Potawatomi Indian village.

*** 5 West Branch DuPage River Trail** The new West Branch DuPage River regional trail is under development and will connect Naperville northward to Hanover Park and extend south into Will County. Naperville portions of the trail are completed north and south of this location and parking is available north of Hobson Road at Pioneer Park.

***6 Bailey Hobson House** Home, tavern and inn of first settlers in DuPage County (private residence)

***7 Argonne National Laboratory** One of the nation's largest federally funded research and development centers. Enrico Fermi and colleagues achieved the world's first controlled nuclear reaction here in 1942.

***8 Site of Ward Woodworking Mill** Mill produced wheels and wagons for Union Army during the Civil War. The mill dam is still visible across Sawmill Creek.

WATERFALL GLEN SPUR

Burr Ridge

P13 Palisades Park

Downers Grove Township South

P14 Waterfall Glen Forest Preserve, Lemont Road trailhead

P15 Waterfall Glen Forest Preserve, Cass Avenue entrance

ACCESS TO PUBLIC TRANSIT

Pace suburban buses are equipped with bicycle racks. For more information on Pace's "Bikes on Buses" program or route service, contact www.pace-bus.com or 847-364-7223.

Metra commuter rail service is available to several communities that are part of the Southern Trail network but there are no Metra stations directly on the trail route. Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railway services downtown Hinsdale, Clarendon Hills, Westmont, Downers Grove, Lisle, Naperville and Aurora.

Bicycle parking is available at all stations and bicycles are allowed on trains at non-rush hours. Contact www.metrarail.com or call 312-322-6777 or 836-7000 for more info. on Metra's Bikes on Trains program.

MORE INFORMATION

For additional information on the current status of trail construction, see www.dupageco.org or call 630-407-6900

***9 Original Clarendon Hills Cemetery** Established in 1859, St. John's Lutheran Cemetery is an IL Natural Heritage Landmark site (privately owned-please respect unique natural areas at this site by not trespassing).

***10 Old Lace School** Much of present day Darien was part of the pioneer community of Lace. The Old Lace School is now home to the Darien Historical Society.

***11 Site of Early Pioneer Town of Gower**

***12 Goodrich Woods Forest Preserve** 14 acre preserve with parking and a half-mile multi-purpose trail

***13 Egermann Woods Forest Preserve** This 92-acre pre-settlement oak forest gives visitors a glimpse of what this part of DuPage looked like in the 1830s including a 1.3 mile trail

***14 Oldfield Oaks Forest Preserve** 97 acres, parking and 2 mile walking trail

***15 Fox Hollow Forest Preserve** 56 acres of undeveloped natural area. No amenities or facilities

***16 Cypress Cove Family Aquatic Park** Recreational water park and pools of Woodridge Park District

***17 Willowbrook Village Hall**

***18 Hinsdale Community House** This non-profit organization provides educational, recreational and support services for residents of the surrounding communities

***19 Indian Boundary YMCA**

TRAIL PARTNERS

DuPage County wishes to thank the following agencies who are participating as partners in the completion of this facility:

City of Aurora
Village of Burr Ridge
Burr Ridge Park District
City of Darien
Village of Downers Grove
Downers Grove Township
Forest Preserve District of DuPage County
Village of Hinsdale
Lisle Township
City of Naperville
Village of Westmont
Village of Willowbrook
Village of Woodridge
Woodridge Park District

Federal funding assistance has been provided by grants administered by the Illinois Department of Transportation and the DuPage Mayors and Managers Conference. Additional funding has been provided by DuPage County, the Forest Preserve District of DuPage County and local agencies along the trail route.

DU PAGE COUNTY BOARD
Robert J. Schillerstrom, Chairman

DU PAGE COUNTY ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE

Jeff Redick - Chairman
Yolanda Campuzano - Vice Chairman
James Healy
Linda Kurzawa
Michael McMahon
Debra Olson

DU PAGE COUNTY TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

Pamela Rion - Chairman
James Healy - Vice Chairman
Thomas Bennington
Paul Fichtner
J.R. McBride
Jeff Redick