

GREAT RIVERS COUNTRY Bicycle Trails Guide

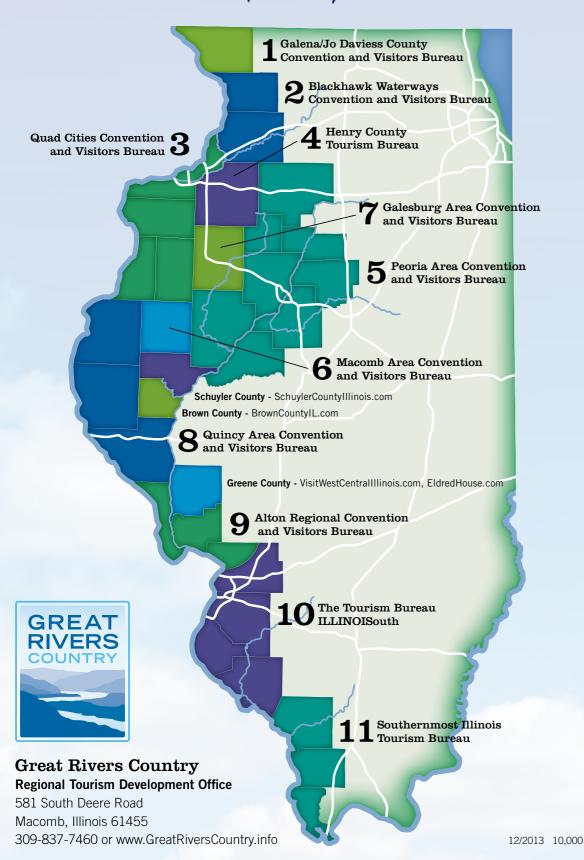






GREAT RIVERS COUNTRY

Bicycle Trails Guide



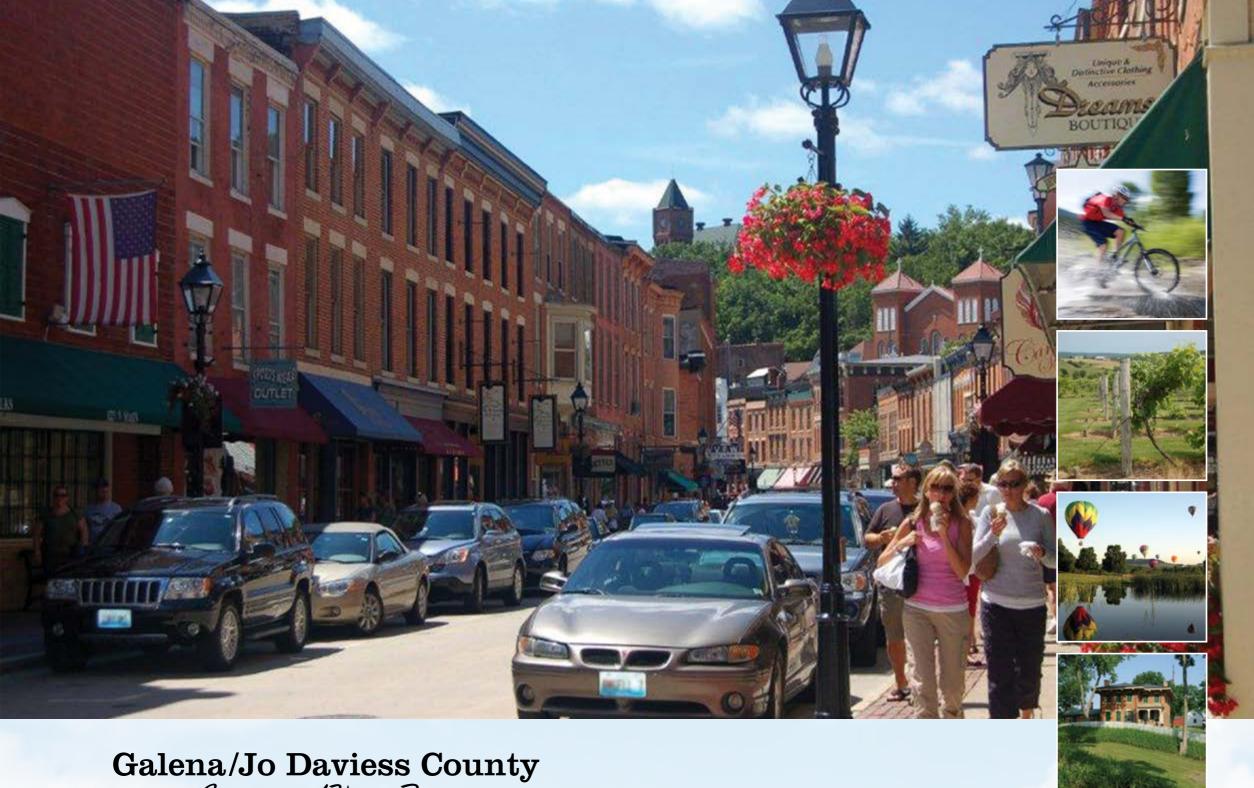
Welcome

Hilly back trails, looming canyon walls, deep shaded forests, amazing waterfalls, and awe-inspiring river ways. These are just a few reasons why thousands of people flock to Great Rivers Country's bicycle trails. Leisure and competitive cyclists can enjoy, explore and master varied bike trails crisscrossing rivers, streams, and beautiful Illinois terrain. Choose from picturesque landscapes located in forest preserves, such as Illiniwek Forest Preserve near Hampton, or take a more challenging course along mixed surfaces, such as Independence Trail in Peoria. Families can enjoy memorable leisure outings on easy trails, such as Spring Valley Trails in Quincy. Serious cyclists can enter dozens of competitive races, such as the Galena Triathlon and Duathlon, or the Annual Wood River Triathlon located in the Alton region.

Whether you want to take a relaxing ride along a short trail, explore a rugged singletrack, or tour along 585 miles of the Mississippi River, it's all here in the Illinois Great Rivers Country Bicycle Trails Guide. Simply turn to any of eleven prime areas for recreational and competitive biking information. You'll find information about the bike trails including area, location, surface, trail length, and degree of difficulty. Happy trails!







Convention and Visitors Bureau

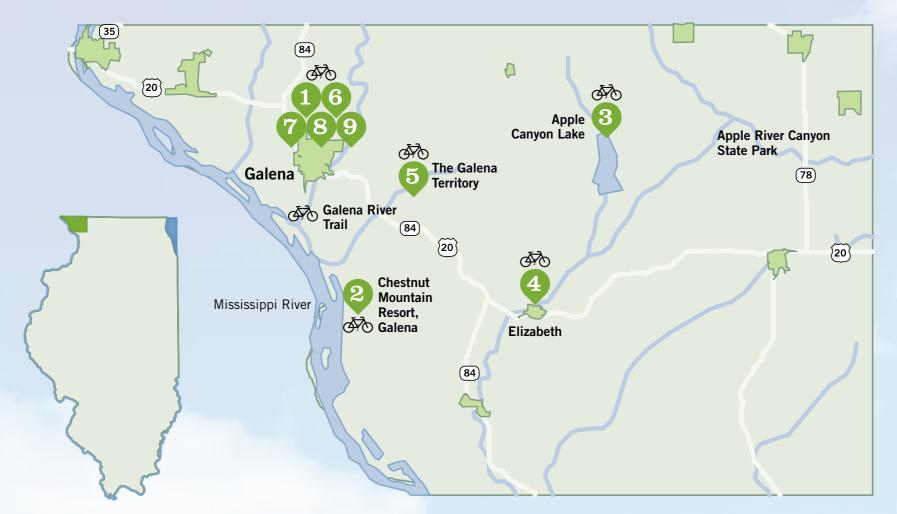
Bicycling in Jo Daviess County is an experience built for the true weekend warrior. Cycling the hills and valleys of this unglaciated area can be a challenge for some, but provides more than enough thrills for any experience level. Put the tires down on stretches of Mississippi River back roads or enjoy a leisurely ride with the family along the Galena River. Notably, most cyclists will go directly for the countryside roads that traverse past historic farmsteads and rolling rises that the Galena area is known for.

For those looking to stay the night, Chestnut Mountain Resort and Eagle Ridge Resort & Spa have bicycle trails available. Additionally, outdoor enthusiasts should visit Fever River Outfitters in Galena, which has equipment for rent and sale, as well as suggested trail maps. For more information visit **www.galena.org** and order a free visitors guide, or call the Galena/Jo Daviess County Convention & Visitors Bureau at **877-464-2536**.

Galesburg Area CVB

Galena/Jo Daviess County

Convention and Visitors Bureau



1 Galena

Galena River Trail

Length: 6 miles, soon to be 9 miles

Difficulty: Easy

Surface: Crushed Limestone

Bouthillier Street, Galena

The Galena River Trail opened in 2005 and offers 6 miles of scenic hiking, biking, or cross-country skiing for users. The crushed rock trail is open to the public at no cost. Originating from the Depot Park just below the U.S. 20 Highway Bridge, the forested trail heads north to Buehler Preserve (an 18-acre open space focused on woodland and prairie restoration) and winds south to Galena Junction near the backwaters of the Mississippi River. At the junction, it is common to obtain a close view of a passing train. Parking is available at the trailhead. An additional 2.7-mile expansion south towards Chestnut Mountain Resort is expected to be completed in 2014.

Chestnut Mountain Resort

8700 West Chestnut Road, Galena Length: 2 trails totaling 5 miles

Difficulty: Difficult Surface: Natural/Mixed

Mountain Bikes are also available for rental at the resort during the summer season, 8:00 am until dusk, seven days a week. Full day \$25 or \$10 per hour.

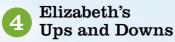


Galena Triathlon and Duathlon

May

The triathlon consists of a 660-yard swim in Apple Canyon Lake, a 16.8-mile bicycle ride on the curvaceous country roads of Jo Daviess County to Recreation Park in Galena and a 4.3-mile run back to the finish line at Recreation Park. The duathlon starts with a 2-mile run, and then finishes on the same bicycle and final run courses as the triathlon.

Galena.org



May

Travel along the scenic, hilly back roads around the village of Elizabeth in Jo Daviess County in this one-day tour of beautiful northwestern Illinois.



Country Bicycle Rides in the Galena Territory

Various Dates

Nestled in the Galena Territory, enjoy exceptional bike rides on scenic country roads with wonderful panoramic views.

Galena.org

6 Fever River Outfitters Organized Rides

Various Dates

Join Fever River Outfitters for one of their organized bicycle rides, like their 12-mile ride to Galena Cellars Vineyard, or ride, kayak, and more during Mississippi Adventure Day!

FeverRiverOutfitters.com

G.O.A.T.S. Cycle Club Organized Rides

Multiple rides around Galena and the surrounding areas.

GoatsCycling.com

Tour of Galena Hosted by xXx Racing

June

Travel to Galena for this omnium stage race. This 3-day event hosts 3 or 4 races, including a circuit race, time trial, road race, and a criterium.

TourOfGalena.com



September

This triathlon consists of a 6-mile paddle, 17-mile bike, and a 3.1-mile run.

FeverRiverTri.com



Blackhawk Waterways

Convention and Visitors Bureau

Located in the heart of scenic northwest Illinois, the Blackhawk Waterways region encompasses the four counties of Carroll, Lee, Ogle and Whiteside... 2700 square miles of unique experiences, attractions, destinations and adventures that await your personal discovery.

The region is an outdoor recreation paradise: 10 state parks, a 2200-acre state forest, great golf, and over 125 miles of superb boating and fishing water courtesy of the scenic Rock River and the mighty Mississippi. We boast exciting wildlife viewing, miles of hiking and biking trails, and unobstructed views that give our pastoral landscape its special flavor.

Significant historical sites, monuments, museums and points of interest are seemingly everywhere retelling stories of our rich heritage and important past. Tour the John Deere Historic Site, witness the birthplace and the boyhood home of Ronald Reagan and travel stretches of the Lincoln Highway and the Great River Road National Scenic Byways.

We're the ideal destination for a weekend getaway escape, a family vacation, or just a scenic drive-in-the-country daytrip. From downtown Chicago we're an easy 2-3 hour drive. To find out more, visit us at www.visitnorthwestillinois.com or call 800-678-2108.

Blackhawk Waterways CVB Photos: Aaron Steinmann

Galesburg Area CVB

Macomb Area CVB

Blackhawk Waterways

Convention and Visitors Bureau



Sinnissippi Dam Walkway

10th Avenue and 2nd Street, Sterling

Length: .4 mile Difficulty: Easy Surface: Paved

The Sinnissippi Dam Walkway provides a link between the ever-expanding trail system in Sterling and the Hennepin Feeder Canal in Rock Falls. The Feeder Canal ties into the main Hennepin Canal and becomes part of the Grand Illinois Trail. The Sinnissippi Dam Walkway offers bicyclists, runners, walkers, and other recreational users a safe and scenic route across the Rock River. Martin's Landing is the welcome point to Sterling and the entry to the ever-expanding trail system in Sterling. It is a place where people can sit, relax and enjoy the beautiful view of the Rock River.



Hennepin Canal Parkway State Park

209 Emmons Avenue, Rock Falls

The Hennepin Canal Parkway Feeder covers 5,400 acres and extends from Rock Falls to Sheffield, Illinois. The Hennepin Canal Feeder opens the door to the parkway with miles of bike and hiking paths, canoeing, fishing, and historical sites along the way. Spend the day and bring a picnic lunch along. There are plenty of picnic tables at the 104.5-mile linear park, which spans five counties. Portions of this trail are in the Quad Cities Convention and Visitors Bureau, Henry County Tourism Bureau and Peoria Area Convention and Visitors Bureau sections of this brochure.

3

Great River Trail

Length: 585 miles Difficulty: Easy to Moderate Surface: Paved/Mixed

The Great River Trail is part of a 10 state, 2,000-mile bicycling route that travels along both banks of the Mississippi River from the headwaters at Lake Itasca, Minnesota to the Gulf of Mexico. The route is a mixture of various trails and stretches of road shoulder along Illinois highways that offers breathtaking views of the Mississippi River, chances to learn about Illinois history, and great dining opportunities. The sections listed in this guide are on designated trails. For information on the entire trail, visit MississippiRiverTrail.org. A portion of this trail is listed in the Quad Cities Convention and Visitors Bureau section of this brochure.

Mississippi Palisades State Park

16327 Illinois Route 84, Savanna

Length: 15 miles

Difficulty: Easy to Difficult

Surface: Mixed

The park offers 2,500 acres of fantastic scenery and vistas. Amenities include restrooms, parking, a dump station, and boat launches. Enjoy biking, camping, fishing, hunting, nature viewing, crosscountry skiing, and more! The trails in the northern part of the park are usually wider and less strenuous. The five trails in the south are narrow, extremely close to the edge of the bluffs, and hazardous when wet.

Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife and Fish Refuge

7071 Riverview Road, Thomson

The refuge offers 55,000 total acres for fishing, canoeing, hiking, biking, and boating. View wildlife and birds at the observation area. Don't miss the Ingersoll Wetlands Learning Center, which is open year round.

6 Morrison Rockwood State Park

18750 Lake Road, Morrison

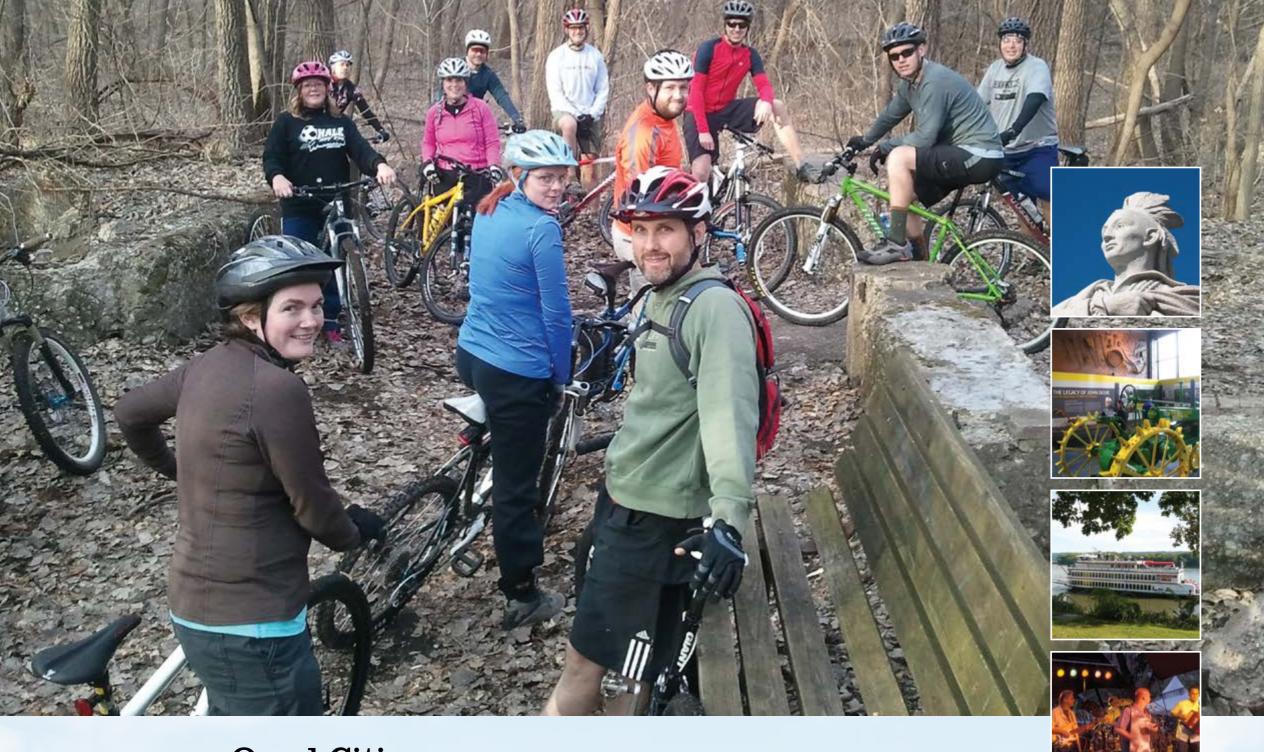
Length: 14 miles Surface: Natural

A variety of outdoor sports are available including hiking and biking trails, boating, fishing, and camping. The biking trails are shared with equestrians.



Blackhawk Waterways CVB Photos: Aaron Steinmann





Quad Cities

Convention and Visitors Bureau

Discover the Many Marvels on the

Join us for a leisurely and affordable Midwestern getaway, where the energy, culture and history of the Mississippi is the inspiration for a cool variety of things to see and do.

You will marvel at our attractions, festivals, dining and shopping opportunities. You'll love our cool vibe and will enjoy everything from riverboat cruises, water taxis, and casinos, to John Deere attractions, historic sites, museums, guided tours and live music venues. Visit our micro-breweries, wineries, or pull up a chair and experience an old fashioned soda fountain.

Mississippi River in the Quad Cities!

The Quad Cities rest on the banks of the mighty Mississippi River and includes Rock Island, Moline/East Moline in Illinois and Davenport, Bettendorf in Iowa. We invite you to discover our many marvels on the Mississippi River!

For more information visit **www.visitquadcities.com** and order a free visitors guide, or call the Quad Cities Convention & Visitors Bureau at **800-747-7800**.

Galesburg Area CVB

Quad Cities

Convention and Visitors Bureau





Ralph B Birks Recreational Trail/ Ben Butterworth Memorial Parkway

2nd Avenue and 2nd Street, Moline

Length: 4.2 miles Difficulty: Easy

Surface: Asphalt/Concrete

Located along the Mississippi River, the Birks Recreational Trail runs the entire span of Moline's 4.2-mile shoreline. Two miles include the Ben Butterworth Memorial Parkway, and the remaining 2 miles are along roads, sidewalks, and separated paths adjacent to downtown Moline and businesses. The trail is perfect for cyclists, walkers, and runners of all abilities. A small portion of the trail utilizes city streets, but it is primarily separated trail. The trail is part of the Great River Trail that connects Rock Island to Savannah. The Ben Butterworth Parkway bike path passes the entrance to Sylvan Island and can be followed roughly one mile east to the Moline Centre downtown or 1.5 miles west to the Rock Island District where visitors can enjoy a number of restaurants, pubs, and gift shops. Please visit MolineCentre.org or RIDistrict. com for more information.

Loud Thunder Forest Preserve

19408 Loud Thunder Road, Illinois City

Length: 12+ miles **Difficulty: Moderate** Surface: Natural

The Illinois Great River Road National Scenic Byway winds through the picturesque landscape of Loud Thunder Forest Preserve. The Sac-Fox Trail is approximately a 12-mile continuous loop, moderate level biking trail. It winds its way throughout the preserve and the adjacent Loud Thunder Boy Scout Camp. There are other shareduse trails located throughout the preserve for mountain bikers, horseback riders, and hikers. Call 309-795-1040 for trail status updates, as the trails can be closed to users during unfavorable weather conditions.

Hennepin Canal Parkway State Park

Visitor Center, 16006 875 East Street, Sheffield

The Hennepin Canal Parkway Feeder covers 5,400 acres and extends from Rock Falls to Sheffield, Illinois. The Hennepin Canal Feeder opens the door to the parkway with miles of bike and hiking paths, canoeing, fishing, and historical sites along the way. Spend the day and bring a picnic lunch along. There are plenty of picnic tables at the 104.5-mile linear park, which spans five counties. Portions of this trail are in the Quad Cities Convention and Visitors Bureau, Henry County Tourism Bureau and Peoria Area Convention and Visitors Bureau sections of this brochure.

Kiwanis Trail

60th Street, Moline Length: 6.5 miles Difficulty: Easy Surface: Mixed

The Kiwanis Trail is located along the Rock River, east from Green Valley Sports Complex at 60th Street and west of the Rock Island border. This trail also provides access to cross the Rock River to Milan via the Rock Island-Milan Beltway Bridge. The terrain is flat and utilizes road, sidewalks, and separated paths on the south side of town. This trail is perfect for cyclists, walkers, and runners of all abilities. This relatively flat trail primarily travels along city streets, but also includes separated trail, including a section that passes through Green Valley Nature Preserve.

Galesburg Area CVB

Macomb Area CVB

Convention and Visitors Bureau





Great River Trail

Length: 585 miles
Difficulty: Easy to Moderate
Surface: Paved/Mixed

The Great River Trail is part of a 10 state, 2,000-mile bicycling route that travels along both banks of the Mississippi River from the headwaters at Lake Itasca, Minnesota to the Gulf of Mexico. The route is a mixture of various trails and stretches of road shoulder along Illinois highways that offers breathtaking views of the Mississippi River, chances to learn about Illinois history, and great dining opportunities. The sections listed in this guide are on designated trails. For information on the entire trail, visit MississippiRiverTrail.org. Another portion of this trail is listed in the Blackhawk Waterways Convention and Visitors Bureau section of this brochure.



Sylvan Island Park

1st Avenue and 2nd Street, Moline

Length: 4 miles

Difficulty: Moderate to Difficult

Surface: Natural

Sylvan Island Park is a great off-road urban trail system located in Moline and is just 34 mile west of John Deere Commons and the iWireless Center (formerly the Mark of the Quad Cities). The island was once home to a steel mill from which remnants can still be seen, such as concrete loading docks and building foundations, railroad tracks, rebar, and loose rock. Despite few elevation changes, the unique nature of the island's trail makes Sylvan Island Park a fun yet challenging and technical place to ride. The soil composition at Sylvan Island allows for quick drying, often making it the first available trail system to ride in the Quad Cities following rain. Sylvan Island, offering 4 miles of unique trails, is always the first venue for the Illinois Homegrown Race Series because of its resilient early-season riding conditions. Sylvan Island is also a favored fishing area because of its prime location between the Mississippi River and Sylvan Slough.



7 Illiniwek Forest Preserve

Along Route 84, Hampton

Length: 5 miles Surface: Natural

Illiniwek Park is the newest of the FORC (Quad Cities Friends of OffRoad Cycling) trail systems with the greatest elevation changes and flowing corners in the area. The park is made up of two large loops: one on the north end of the park and the other on the south end. Both loops can be reached from the north parking lot off Illinois Route 84. Due to the newness of the park, no signage is yet available. Park in the north parking lot with your car facing the woods and you will be looking out your windshield at the trail. If you go right, the trail will take you to the south loop. If you go left, you will be headed to the north loop.

Ride the beautiful "mountains" of upper Rock Island County, Illinois. Leg-burning up-hills and brake-burning down-hills (What goes up, Must come down!), sandwiched in between beautiful flowing trails overlooking deep ravines. Illiniwek offers approximately 5 miles of singletrack trails.



Loud Thunder Forest Preserve

19408 Loud Thunder Road, Illinois City

Length: 16 miles Difficulty: Moderate Surface: Mixed

Travel along biking trails or shared use trails throughout the picturesque landscape of this 1,621 acre preserve.

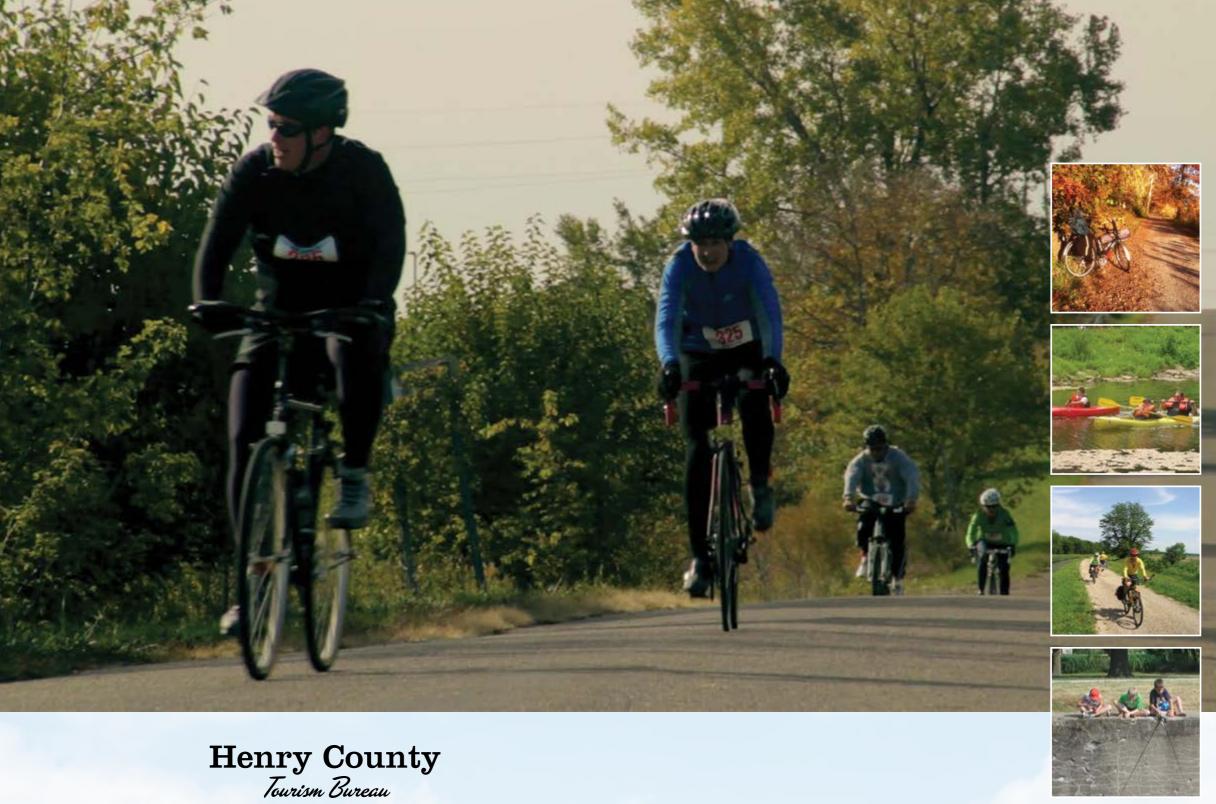


Ride the River

June

Travel along riverfront bike trails and cruise on the Celebration Belle Riverboat while enjoying this bi-state tour of the Quad Cities.

RiverAction.org



Renew your spirit along our back roads! Relive our heritage; recreate rural relaxing fun while you hike, bike, boat, and angle. Connect with old and new friends with a warm, friendly hello in our restaurants and specialty shops. Sleep under the stars and stay at one of the seven campgrounds in Henry County. Pitch a tent, sleep in cabins, a yurt or in your RV at one of the many RV sites. There is no shortage of fun in any season when you visit Henry County. Colorful blossoms line the road in spring. Summertime brings homegrown festivals and

warm weather to explore our communities. In the autumn season we gather our bounty of harvest. Families visit for rural recreation to pick pumpkins and learn about our agricultural roots at fall festivals. Winter provides a landscape to invigorate your soul. We invite you to Henry County during any season, have a great time and come back often.

To find out more about Henry County, visit us at visithenrycounty.com or call us at 877-436-7926.

Henry County Tourism Bureau



Hennepin Canal Parkway State Park

Visitor Center, 16006 875 East Street, Sheffield

The Hennepin Canal Parkway Feeder covers 5,400 acres and extends from Rock Falls to Sheffield, Illinois. The Hennepin Canal Feeder opens the door to the parkway with miles of bike and hiking paths, canoeing, fishing, and historical sites along the way. Spend the day and bring a picnic lunch along. There are plenty of picnic tables at the 104.5-mile linear park, which spans five counties. Portions of this trail are in the Quad Cities Convention and Visitors Bureau, Henry County Tourism Bureau and Peoria Area Convention and Visitors Bureau sections of this brochure.

Annawan Canal Ambush Mini-Triathlon and More

Experience the stunning Hennepin Canal on a beautiful autumn day. Run on the multipurpose trail, bike along Patriot Way, and paddle down the Hennepin Canal to victory!

AnnawanIllinois.org

Adventure Cyclist Association

Northern Tier Bike Trail, Section 8

Trail meanders through Henry County communities of Orion and Cambridge. You will ride some of the finest rolling prairie country highways dotted with centennial farms. Visit spring to late fall and experience a blossoming spring to spectacular fall colors. Towns are equipped with services and campgrounds are available in Orion and Cambridge. Plan ahead and experience Henry County at its finest!

AdventureCycling.org







Quad Cities CVB

00



Trails Full of Adventures

The Peoria Area has a variety of nature-based adventure hot spots that are one-of-a-kind and are a must to explore. From technical mountain biking trail systems, scenic biking trails, recreational walking trails and adventurous backpacking, the Peoria Area has it all! With the Illinois River in our backyard and several kayaking lakes and rivers within our eight counties, perhaps you'll need to extend your stay to explore it all! You won't want to miss

biking on the many trails in our 8 county region. From the Pekin Bike Trail, Hennepin Canal Parkway State Park, River Trail of Illinois, Rock Island State Trail to Wildlife Prairie Park's newest mountain bike trail you will not be disappointed with all of the options available. For more information on biking trails and additional outdoor recreation areas, please visit www.enjoypeoria.com.

Peoria Area

Convention and Visitors Bureau



East Peoria to Morton Trail

360 Veterans Drive, East Peoria

Length: 7.5 miles

Difficulty: Easy to Moderate

Surface: Asphalt

Travel through the tall grass prairie, bluff, and forest habitats of the Illinois River Valley.



Hennepin Canal Parkway State Park

Visitor Center, 16006 875 East Street, Sheffield

The Hennepin Canal Parkway Feeder covers 5,400 acres and extends from Rock Falls to Sheffield, Illinois. The Hennepin Canal Feeder opens the door to the parkway with several miles of bike and hiking paths, canoeing, fishing, and historical sites along the way. Spend the day and bring a picnic lunch along. There are plenty of picnic tables along the 104.5-mile linear park, which spans five counties. Portions of this trail are in the Quad Cities Convention and Visitors Bureau, Henry County Tourism Bureau and Peoria Area Convention and Visitors Bureau sections of this brochure.



Pekin Bike Trail

Court Street, Pekin Length: 4.3 miles Difficulty: Easy

Surface: Asphalt/Mixed

The Pekin Park Bike Trail traverses more than 4 miles between Allentown Road and the Illinois River at the Pekin Bridge. The trail does a loop in Coal Miners' Park and passes through Mineral Springs Park, making for a nice family outing. The trail links parks, neighborhoods and businesses. For parking and trail access: Park at the lot under Pekin Bridge at the trail's west end, at Broadway and 14th Street, at the park at Coal Car Drive and Red Bud Memorial Drive or at Coal Miners' Park off Parkway Drive.



River Trail of Illinois

East Peoria Length: 6.6 miles Difficulty: Easy

Surface: Asphalt/Gravel

Enjoy hiking and biking along the 4.8 mile paved stretch of the old Illinois Railway line

located in East Peoria. The 1.8-mile trail continuation (accessed from both Cooper Parks and Spindler Marina) is a six-foot wide boardwalk with three large decks overlooking the wetland area adjacent to the Illinois River, ending with a gravel walkway.



Rock Island Greenway

Peoria

Length: 29 miles Difficulty: Easy Surface: Paved

Come ride the "backbone of Peoria's trail system." This newly developed trail will lead you to the Rock Island Trail or to the River Trail of Illinois that rides through East Peoria to Morton with plenty to see along the way! You'll ride over bridges, through the rolling hills of Springdale Cemetery, and near the unique shops and restaurants on Prospect Road in the Peoria Heights area.



Rock Island State Trail

311 East Williams Road, Wyoming

Length: 26 miles Difficulty: Easy Surface: Natural/Mixed

Beauty and solitude await you on a 26 mile stretch of natural and architectural attractions in a tree-canopied corridor that is only 50-100 feet wide. The Rock Island Trail State Park stretches from Alta to Toulon, encountering Dunlap, Princeville and Wyoming along the way. The park office, located in the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy Depot in Wyoming, can be reached from I-80 and I-74. Improved access points to the Rock Island Trail are at Alta. Wyoming and Toulon. Parking, water and pit toilets are located at access areas. Parking-only facilities are located at Dunlap (on Parks School Road) and Peoria/Stark County line (North Cedar Bluff Road, 00N). Where the trail intersects the small towns along its route of city streets and sidewalks, directional signs are utilized. A Class D (primitive) camping area is located between Alta and Dunlap in the Kickapoo Creek Recreation Area and accessible only by trail, with a selfpay camping station located off Fox Road at the overnight parking lot.

Peoria Area

Convention and Visitors Bureau



Wildlife Prairie State Park

3826 North Taylor Road, Hannah City

Length: 8 miles Surface: Natural

Wildlife Prairie State Park is the newest trail system in the Peoria area. It consists of nearly 8 miles of flowing singletrack with lots of rock and shale left over from the land's strip mining days. NOTE: Park requires either a membership to the park, or a day use fee to ride.

8

Independence Trail

608 Lasalle Boulevard, Marquette Heights

Length: 12 miles Difficulty: Difficult Surface: Mixed

Independence Trail or "Indy" is often is sometimes referred to as Marquette Heights Trail because the trailhead is near the Welcome to Marquette Heights sign just off Route 29 after I-474. Indy consists of 12 miles of pure singletrack. It has many challenging hills and descents, and plenty of logs and natural obstacles.



Black Partridge Park

Coal Bank Road, Metamora Length: Approximately 15 miles Difficulty: Easy to Difficult

Surface: Natural

Black Partridge Park is a relatively new trail system, and trails are still being created. PAMBA is working with the Metamora Park District to create a multi-use trail system. When complete, this park will host over 15 miles of singletrack.



Dirksen Park

McNaughton Park Drive, Pekin Length: 3-7 miles

Difficulty: Easy to Difficult

Surface: Natural

These trails were built primarily by folks at Little Ade's Bike Shop in Pekin. It became famous for its wooden stunts, but they have since been removed. However, this park still offers grinding climbs, tight singletrack, and screaming descents.



Farmdale Reservoir West Bittersweet Road, Washington Length: Approximately 20 miles Difficulty: Moderate to Difficult

Surface: Natural/Mixed

Farmdale Reservoir is owned by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. The Corps' site manager has allowed the creation of a very nice system of trails. The approximately 20-mile trail system is an excellent mix of fast open stretches and tight, twisty singletrack, with a lot of vertical distance for climbers. Farmdale also hosts a sweet downhill run, a MTX/dirt jump course and a stunt loop. Farmdale regularly hosts races in the I-74 Race Series, as well as the annual PAMBA fall festival.



Jubilee College State Park

13921 U.S. Highway 150, Brimfield

Length: 40+ miles

Difficulty: Easy to Moderate

Surface: Natural

Jubilee College State Park, located west of Kickapoo, is a popular place for Peoria mountain biking enthusiasts. It houses the largest single trail system in the area. Much of it is non-technical doubletrack, and the park is frequented by both mountain bikers and equestrians. There is an area on the south side of the park with plenty of intermediate singletrack dedicated to hikers & bikers only. This park offers a taste of everything, from blazing fast downhills, gutwrenching climbs, to easy flowing sections. Jubilee also hosts one of the annual I-74 series races.

Peoria Area

Convention and Visitors Bureau





Ride of Silence

May

309-686-7000 or sschafer@ peoriariverfrontmuseum.org

Largest one-day event held globally to remember bicyclists who have been injured or killed while riding.

RideofSilence.org or IVWheelMN.org



Grandview Ride

May

309-686-7000 or sschafer@peoriariverfrontmuseum.org

Stop to view Lindbergh's airmail flight plaque or enjoy the views from Grandview Drive and Prospect Road.



History Ride

May

309-686-7000 or sschafer@peoriariverfrontmuseum.org

Highlights along the ride include the Peoria Riverfront, Springdale Cemetery, Randolph, Roanoke, and High Street homes, Giant Oak Park, Moss Avenue homes, and a Frank Lloyd Wright home.



Sculpture Ride

June

309-686-7000 or sschafer@ peoriariverfrontmuseum.org

View public sculptures from all around Peoria, including Sonar Tide, Peace & Harvest, Mother Theresa, Ingersoll, as well as various Riverfront Park and Bradley University sculptures.



Prairie to Prairie Ride

June

309-686-7000 or sschafer@peoriariverfrontmuseum.org

Visit two prairie restorations inside the city plus selected historic sights.



Morton Community Bank Cycling Classic

July

Downtown Morton

This flat, fast criterium course in the historic downtown district of Morton will be host to this event.

PeoriaBicycleClub.com



Eric's West Peoria Ride

July

309-686-7000 or sschafer@ peoriariverfrontmuseum.org

See West Peoria, Pettengill-Morron House, Moss Avenue homes, and Glen Oak Park.



50's Soft Serve Ride

July

309-686-7000 or sschafer@ peoriariverfrontmuseum.org

Visit 3 classic soft serve ice cream stands ending at Lou's Drive-In.



Garden Ride

August

309-686-7000 or sschafer@ peoriariverfrontmuseum.org

Enjoy the Luthy Botanical Gardens and other city gardens.



Springdale Cemetery Ride

August

309-686-7000 or sschafer@ peoriariverfrontmuseum.org

Discover how large the cemetery really is, and how much of Peoria's history is hidden within, as we ride ALL of the loops of the cemetery.



No Baloney Bicycle Ride

August

Routes will be 25 miles, 50 miles, 75 miles, and 100 miles. Check the website for specific ride information on starting points.

IVWNoBaloney.com



Triangle of Opportunity Bike Ride

August

Bike to benefit the Heart of Illinois Down Syndrome Association and the Triangle of Opportunity Scholarship Fund. Routes are mapped out at 25, 50, 75 and 100 miles.

TriangleofOpportunity.com

S Quad Cities CVB



Convention and Visitors Bureau

Bring your bike and visit Macomb's Historic Downtown where you will find the Western Illinois Museum, the Historic Courthouse, unique shops and local eateries. Enjoy the great outdoors! Spring Lake Park, located 5 miles from downtown, is home to a 230-acre lake, areas for camping, and three mountain bike trails. Spring Lake is the fresh water reservoir for the city of Macomb and is noted for superb bass fishing.

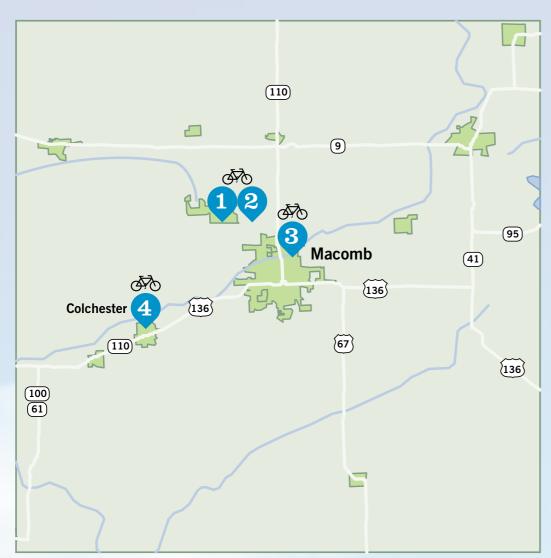
Fisherman's delight, Argyle Lake State Park, has a full complement of recreational opportunities. Located just 9 miles from Macomb, Argyle Lake also offers picnicking, camping, hiking, biking and boating in a scenic, natural setting.

For more information visit www.makeitmacomb.com or call 309-833-1315.

Quincy Area CVB

Macomb Area

Convention and Visitors Bureau





Spring Lake Park

595 Spring Lake Park Road, Macomb

Length: 10+ miles

Difficulty: Moderate to Difficult

Surface: Natural

Spring Lake has 3 different trails (Deer, Fox, and Rat). The Fox starts on the south side of the dam just off the parking lot. It is a short fun loop back out almost to where you started. Then you can cross the dam and start the Deer/Fox trail. From there you can follow the signs. To go on the Rat trail, take the Deer trail and a ways back you can go left onto it. Rat is a very tough 3.5-mile loop back out to Deer. The trails are tight in some spots and have some ladder bridges, log piles, and a teeter-totter. This is a challenging and hilly trail.

Spring Lake Singletrack Classic 309-333-4035 or bike-n-percy@hotmail.com

The Singletrack Classic offers five race categories for riders to test their skills in the hilly woodlands surrounding beautiful Spring Lake, just a few miles north of Macomb. The course is a fast, technical, tight singletrack with plenty of steep climbs and bridges. There are several stretches of doubletrack mixed in for passing. Race is held under a USA Cycling permit.

www.macmtbc.org

3 Gumbart Woods

North Randolph Street, Macomb

Length: 1-2 miles Difficulty: Easy Surface: Natural

Gumbart Woods contains 1 to 2 miles of trail. Located just east of Glenwood Park and north of the Macomb Country Club, these trails are beginner friendly and make for a great place for club events or the whole family.

Argyle Lake State Park

640 Argyle Park Road, Colchester

Length: 7 miles

Difficulty: Moderate to Difficult

Surface: Natural

This 7-mile loop around the park provides unparalleled scenic enjoyment! Power through the steep climbs and smooth straight aways as you wind your way through mature trees and rolling hills. Enjoy this ride year round with wildflowers in the spring, sunny summer days, and











Galesburg Area Convention and Visitors Bureau

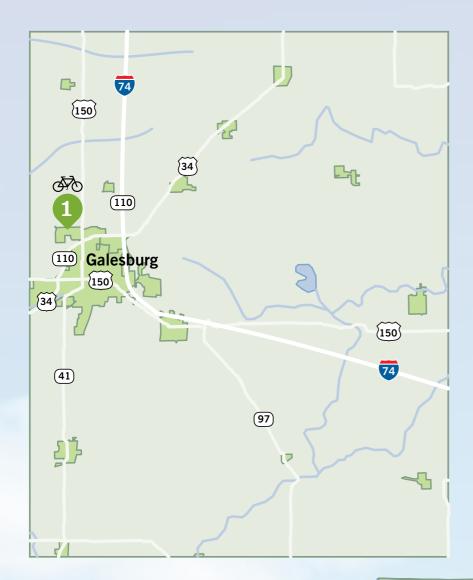
Galesburg, in Knox County, is a community at the intersection of many roads. From Amtrak, to interstate, to the road less traveled, Galesburg is easy to find. Surrounded by farmland and between two major rivers, we are a part of a modern Mesopotamian valley. The black earth of our countryside is some of the most fertile in the world.

The adventurous explorer can discover Lake Storey Park in Galesburg or Snakeden Hollow State Fish and Wildlife Area near Victoria. Travel the brick paved streets of Galesburg and enjoy the varied examples of 19th century architecture.

Visit Remembrance Rock at the Carl Sandburg Birthplace State Historic Site. Or, wander around Knox College and walk in the footsteps of Abraham Lincoln. Visit our Railroad Museum and find out how Galesburg is intertwined with the Iron Horse.

Exploring can make you hungry and Galesburg has many local restaurants with over 20 choices in our downtown alone. From the shops of Seminary Street to many antique dealers, you'll find many reasons to explore Galesburg and Knox County. Plan to stay for a while in one of our Bed and Breakfasts or friendly hotels. For more information, travel to www.visitgalesburg.com.

Galesburg Area Convention and Visitors Bureau



Cabeen Hiking and **Biking Trail**

Lake Storey Park, 1572 Machen Drive, Galesburg

Length: 2.5 miles - out and back 5 miles

Difficulty: Easy Surface: Paved

The Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe Railway constructed Lake Storey in the late 1920's so that locomotives would have soft water to run through them. The Lake was originally named Santa Fe and was later renamed Lake Storey for W.B. Storey, president of the railway. In 1952, the Santa Fe Railway Company deeded the lake over to the City of Galesburg. The 130-acre lake is now part of Lake Storey Park, which offers a public beach and water slide, boat rentals, fishing, camping, playground, and a paved biking/ walking path.

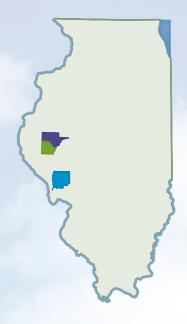












Greene, Brown and Schuyler Counties

Head to Greene, Brown and Schuyler Counties and relax while riding the winding back roads of Illinois.

Take time to visit Mt. Sterling, in the heart of Brown County, where you can try a round of golf at Rolling Greens Golf Course, a magnificent 18 -hole facility designed by Bill Phillips. Take a stroll along Mt. Sterling's historic downtown area. Don't miss the view from the patio at Ridge View Winery and sample some of their Illinois wine. Find out more about Brown County by visiting www.browncountyil.com.

Take a leisurely drive in Greene County along the Hillview Scenic Bluff Road past the hi-style limestone homesteads built by early English settlers. Sweeping views of the natural landscape await. Make sure to visit in the summer for the annual Greene County Days where events, festivals and a Civil War reenactment are all part of the celebration. Plan your visit at www.visitwestcentralillinois. com and www.eldredhouse.com.

Schuyler County offers visitors hometown charm in the city of Rushville. Its historic downtown is home to quaint specialty and antique shops. Foodies will love the local restaurants. Have an afternoon? Take the family to Scripps Park and cool off in the outdoor swimming pool, or hit the links with a round of golf. Check out Schuyler County at www.schuylercountyillinois.com.



Quincy Area Convention and Visitors Bureau

The best architecture outside of Chicago, mature tree-lined avenues, and a pristine setting overlooking the Mississippi, make Quincy the dream city to tour via bicycle. Its 28 wellmanicured parks and beautiful riverfront provide ample natural settings to explore. Not to mention the Lincoln Heritage Trail with 18 storyboards dotting the streets in historic downtown, telling the tale of Lincoln and his time in Quincy.

Along with self-guided historical and architectural tours, plenty of foodie & cultural experiences are to be had. Quincy has loads of locally owned eateries and pubs along the way to keep any appetite in good spirits, as well as cool art, food and wine fests.

Spring ushers in the time-honored Dogwood Festival, splashing renowned Maine Street with a backdrop of gorgeous blossoms.

Summer holds free Blues in the District concerts in historic Washington Park, and winter welcomes the majestic bald eagle to behold at diverse stopping points along the river. Hourly and daily bike rentals are offered through Tour Quincy Bikes, located at Quincy's Tourist Information Center, stop #26 on the Great River Road. Tandem and automatic Trek Limes are available for rent by calling 800-978-4748.

To find out more about what Quincy has to offer, visit us at www.seequincy.com.

9 Alton Regional CVB

Peoria Area CVB

Quincy Area Convention and Visitors Bureau



Spring Valley Trails Arboretum and Nature Classroom

1301 South 48th Street, Quincy

Length: 2 miles Difficulty: Easy Surface: Natural

The John Wood Community College Spring Valley Trails Nature Classroom encourages students of all ages to connect with nature through its three trails and hands on interactive play. The nature classroom provides a safe environment along with the learning tools to prepare young explorers before they head out on the 2 miles of trails in this 63-acre arboretum. The arboretum is handicap accessible with wood chipped trails and is free to the public. The nature classroom includes; a stage and metallophone, outdoor game table, nature art table, messy woods area, perennial nature beds, animal track hopscotch, and solar powered stream table.



Siloam Springs State Park

Park is located 11 miles south of Clayton off Route 24, or 6 miles north of Route 104 in Adams and Brown Counties.

Length: 12+ miles

Difficulty: Easy to Moderate

Surface: Natural

Nature's bounty has conspired to produce a natural beauty and source of recreation greatly prized by generations of Midwesterners at Siloam Springs State Park. The park, just minutes east of Quincy, is home to beautifully wooded terrain, a sparkling lake, and carefully maintained facilities, making this 3,323 acre site one of the most beautiful parks in Illinois. It's an ideal setting for outdoor visits, whether your interest is hunting, fishing, camping, boating, picnicking, hiking, mountain biking, or bird watching. The park is surrounded by luxuriantly forested gullies and scenic crests alive with wild roses, black eyed Susans, white false indigo, and snapdragons.



Bill Klingner Trail

Runs along Cedar Creek from 12th to 18th Streets, Quincy

Trail length: .5 mile Difficulty: Easy Surface: Paved

www.FriendsOfTheTrails.org

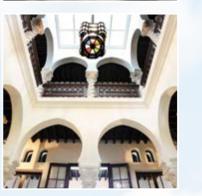
The Bill Klinger Trail runs along Quincy's beautiful Cedar Creek Corridor. Tucked along the creek, visitors can escape the noise of the roadways and enjoy nature. With large trees, natural landscaping, and exquisite views of the creek, this half-mile trail is truly unique. Fundraising efforts are currently underway to complete the trail, which will eventually run from 36th Street to the riverfront.













It's time to leave the chaos of everyday life behind and unwind as you coast along the 33-mile stretch of the Meeting of the Great Rivers National Scenic Byway. Slow down and ease your way along the Great River Road embraced by the majestic bluffs and the expansive calming waters of the Mississippi River - the country's longest waterway. Once you're here, relaxing on the river is easy to do. Visitors to the Meeting of the Great Rivers National Scenic Byway can begin their adventure on the byway at Pere Marquette State Park. For one of the most scenic views of the Mississippi River, visitors love hopping on a bicycle and pedaling

their way along the river on the 22-mile Sam Vadalabene Bike Trail from Pere Marquette to Alton. Continue your ride on the Confluence Bike Trail, which will take you from Downtown Alton along the River Heritage Parkway past the National Great Rivers Museum to the Lewis & Clark State Historic Site at the confluence of the Missouri and Mississippi rivers. Within miles of Alton, visitors can enjoy more than a dozen bike trails winding through Southwestern Illinois and Missouri along rivers, across ferries and through some of the most beautiful scenery in the Midwest.

Great Rivers Byway Bird & Bike Trail

Illinois Route 100, Alton Length: 42 miles Surface: Paved

Endorsed by the Missouri Audubon, follow the bike trails along the Meeting of the Great Rivers National Scenic Byway to view migrating warblers, herons, egrets, and hundreds of other bird species native to the region. The Great Rivers Byway Bird & Bike Trail contains the Sam Vadalabene, Alton, and Confluence Bike Trails.

(267)

(255)

Alton

(255)

Wood River

Granite City

(67)

4 (100) 4

Mississippi River

Sam Vadalabene Bike Trail

Illinois Route 100, Alton Length: 20 miles

Surface: Paved

Beginning at Piasa Park, this 20 mile paved trail runs parallel to the Meeting of the Great Rivers Scenic Byway from Alton to Pere Marquette in Grafton. Towering bluffs and rolling waters of the Mississippi River make this one of the most scenic trails in Illinois.

Wood River Bike Ramble

June

Roundhouse at Central Park 633 Wood River Avenue, Wood River 618-251-3130

Parents and children will be able to participate in Wood River's annual Bike Ramble. The route begins and ends at the Roundhouse. Lineup is at 7:00 pm and the ride begins at 7:30 pm. Directly following the ride there will be a movie in Central Park. Register at the Roundhouse or City Hall. Fee \$3 per person or \$6 per family. Entry fee includes a t-shirt, bike light, and refreshments.

(159)

(140)

Alton Bike Trail Landmarks Boulevard, Alton

Length: .78 mile Difficulty: Easy Surface: Paved

This trail is located in Riverfront Park as a connector between the Confluence and Sam Vadalabene Bike Trails. Cross the Clark Bridge for access to the Riverlands Migratory Bird Sanctuary and Katv Trail in Missouri.

Confluence Bike Trail

Russell Commons Park

Length: 21 miles Surface: Paved Difficulty: Easy

Features spectacular views of the Mississippi River, the Clark Bridge, and a 900-foot bridge over Wood River Creek, which offers trailgoers some of the Riverbend's best scenery. Points of interest include the National Great Rivers Museum, Lewis and Clark Interpretive Center, downtown Alton, Clark Bridge, and The National Great Rivers Research and Education Center. A portion of this trail is in The Tourism Bureau



Illinois River

Pere Marquette

Ø₽

(100)

State Park

Grafton

(100)

Two Rivers National

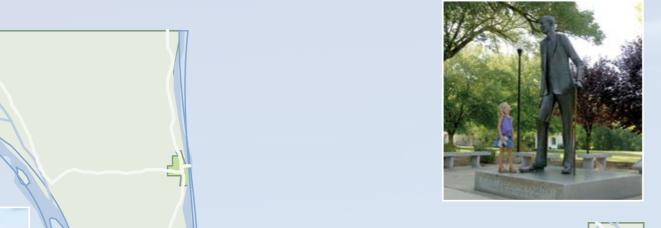
Wildlife Refuge



23

ILLINOISouth section of this brochure.

Alton Regional Convention and Visitors Bureau



Illinois River

₫ 100

Pere Marquette

Ø₹

State Park

Grafton

(100)

Two Rivers National

Wildlife Refuge

6 Biking for Birds

Various Dates
Two Rivers National Wildlife Refuge
HCR 82 Box 107, Brussels
618-883-2524

"Biking for Birds," a series of free, beginner bird watching and bicycling events. Join in these leisurely 6-mile bike rides through Two Rivers National Wildlife Refuge and Pere Marquette State Park, and learn some techniques for watching birds along the way. Expert bicyclists will provide instruction on biking skills and safety. Free bike rentals will be available courtesy of the wildlife refuge.



Wood River Triathlon

August

670 Whitelaw Avenue, Wood River 618-251-3130

Are you physically fit and up for a challenge? Be a part of the Annual Wood River Triathlon. The event will begin with a swim at the Aquatic Center, followed by a bike ride and run through the streets of Wood River.

American Diabetes Association Tour de Cure

May

(67)

(100)

Mississippi River

Alton Riverfront Amphitheater

1 Henry Street, Alton

1-888-DIABETES, X6824

Tour de Cure is more than just a cycling event; it's a life changing event. A day full of fun and excitement where riders of all levels join forces in the fight to Stop Diabetes® and raise critical funds for diabetes research, education, and advocacy in support of the American Diabetes Association. The Tour is a ride, not a race. Whether you are an occasional rider or an experienced cyclist, there is a route just for you. For more information, call or email Shawn Martin at smartin@diabetes.org.

Diabetes.org/stltour

9 Mississippi Earthtones Festival

September Alton Riverfront Amphitheater 1 Henry Street, Alton 618-463-1016

Come celebrate life on the Mississippi River through art, music, and conservation. The event will kick-off with a river clean up beginning at 9:00 am. The festival is part of a statewide celebration of our rivers and an opportunity to learn more about the environmental issues in our region and solutions. The festival will feature information booths on ecology, native plants and animals, and recycling, as well as arts and crafts, food vendors, litter cleanups, organized hikes and bike rides, and live music! Free admission.

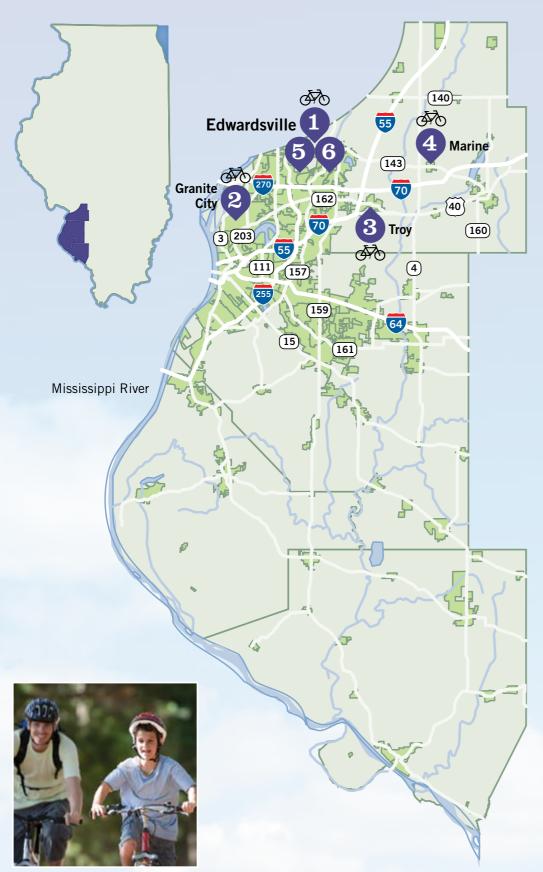


MetroBikeLink in St. Clair County connects riders to MetroLink stops, communities, restaurants and paved trails. And don't forget the wonderful views of the Mississippi River along the bluffs in Monroe and Randolph Counties.

For more information on all of our great outdoor opportunities in ILLINOISouth, please visit **www.thetourismbureau.org** or call us at **800-442-1488**.

10 The Tourism Bureau ILLINOISouth

The Tourism Bureau ILLINOISouth





MCT Bluff Trail

New Poag Road, Edwardsville

Length: 2 miles Surface: Paved Difficulty: Easy

Travel alongside the Great American Bottoms' ancient bluff line on the campus of Southern Illinois University-Edwardsville, past prairie grass restoration areas, and university athletic fields. Points of interest include SIUE Korte Stadium and Simmons Baseball Complex. Parking is available.



Confluence Bike Trail

Russell Commons Park, Alton and 20th Street, Granite City

Length: 21 miles Surface: Paved Difficulty: Easy

Features spectacular views of the Mississippi River, the Clark Bridge, and a 900' bridge over Wood River Creek offers trailgoers some of the Riverbend's best scenery. Points of interest include the National Great Rivers Museum, Lewis and Clark Interpretive Center, downtown Alton, Clark Bridge, and The National Great Rivers Research and Education. A portion of this trail is in the Alton Regional Convention and Visitors Bureau section of this brochure.



MCT Goshen Trail

Troy Road near North Wilson Heights Road, Troy

Length: 8.5 miles Surface: Paved Difficulty: Easy

Connecting six trails and providing access to neighborhoods through central Madison County, featuring 10 tunnels and a 175-foot long bridge, providing safe travel for trailgoers.





MCT Heritage Trail Extension

Black Oak Road, Marine

Length: 4.8 miles Surface: Paved Difficulty: Easy

Pass endless fields and connect to Madison County's newest park, Marine Village Park, in the easternmost reaches of the MCT (Madison County Transit) Trail system.



MCT Nature Trail

Illinois Route 159, Edwardsville

Length: 14.2 miles Surface: Paved Difficulty: Easy

Expect to see rabbits, turkeys, and deer on this well-traveled wooded path that spans creeks and connects to neighborhoods, schools, and parks. Points of interest include Edwardsville High School, University Park, Southern Illinois University-Edwardsville, Horseshoe Lake State Park, and Wilson



MCT Nickel Plate Trail

Fruit Road, Edwardsville Length: 21.6 miles

Surface: Paved/Crushed Limestone

Difficulty: Easy

Travel through a combination of woods and farmland, with access to parks, neighborhoods, and historic districts in both Edwardsville and Glen Carbon. Points of interest include Edwardsville Township Park, Glen Carbon Miner Park, Lewis and Clark Community College's N.O. Nelson Campus, and Edwardsville Children's Museum.

The Tourism Bureau ILLINOISouth





MCT Quercus Grove Trail

Schwarz and Springer Streets, Edwardsville

Length: 18.4 miles

Surface: Paved/Crushed Limestone

Difficulty: Easy

Connects historic downtown Edwardsville's shops, cafes, and government center with miles of fields, and the communities of Hamel, Worden, and Staunton.



MCT Schoolhouse Trail

Illinois Route 162, Troy Length: 15.9 miles Surface: Paved Difficulty: Easy

This trail features old-growth forests, fields, Collinsville neighborhoods, and Horseshoe Lake State Park, offering a diverse array of scenic views. Points of interest include Horseshoe Lake State Park, Metro East Park and Recreation District Office (MEPRD) and rest stop, and a 1-mile on road connector to Gateway Center, Splash City Water Park, and Drost Park.



MCT Watershed Trail

West Union Street, Edwardsville

Length: 5.1 miles Surface: Paved Difficulty: Easy

Situated on Edwardsville's oldest railroad alignment, this trail passes the Watershed Nature Center and travels over vintage railroad trestles, offering dramatic views of historic Cahokia Creek.



Delyte W. Morris Trail

Stadium Drive, Southern Illinois University,

Edwardsville Length: 2.5 miles

Difficulty: Easy to Moderate

Surface: Mixed

Primarily paved route on the Southern Illinois University-Edwardsville campus.



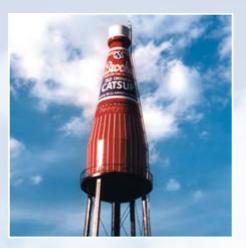
MEPRD Eagle Points Trail

Near Chain of Rocks Road, Granite City

Length: 7.2 miles

Surface: Paved/Crushed Limestone

Difficulty: Easy









Tourism Bureau

Whether you're looking for one-of-a-kind art, wine, antiques, or exploring the great outdoors, Southernmost Illinois can take you there.

The trails begin in the rolling Southern Illinois countryside where you can sip your way along and discover truly surprising and authentic wine culture on the Shawnee Hills Wine Trail. Bed and Breakfasts, cabins and cottage rentals dot the region and are great launching pads for wine tasting, hiking or biking enthusiasts.

Nearby, the Shawnee National Forest offers hiking, horseback riding, rock climbing, and some of the best fishing.

Breathtaking. Natural Beauty. And Adventure.

www.southernmostillinois.com

Southernmost Illinois

Tourism Bureau





Tour de Shawnee

October

618-776-5893

The best little ride in the Midwest starts in Olive Branch! Route options include 15, 30, 45, 62, and 100 mile rides that wind through Horseshoe Lake and the Shawnee National Forest. Unique rest stops provide free food and drinks to registered riders all along the way.

TourdeShawnee.com

Union County Colorfest Biathlon Race

October

Biathlon consists of 3.1-mile run and 17.5mile bike. The race is open to the first 50 teams and 300 individuals age 16 and older.

ColorfestBiathlon.com









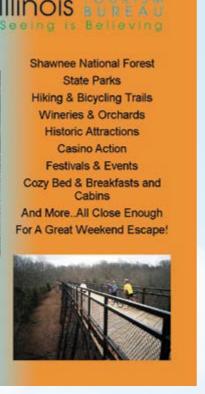




For more information. including a free brochure, visit Southernmostillinois.com or call 1.800.248.4373







Southernmost

