

A family of four is walking through tall, golden-brown grass on a beach. The mother is on the left, wearing a dark jacket and a patterned hat. The father is in the center, wearing a blue sweater and a colorful scarf. Two young girls are on the right, one in a striped sweater and the other in a pink sweater and hat. They are all smiling and holding hands. The background shows a sandy beach and the ocean under a cloudy sky.

# EXPLORE

## THE Millennium Reserve and Greater Calumet Region

*A Natural and Cultural Guide to the Region from Bronzeville to the Indiana Dunes*

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*In the beginning,*  
**the greater Calumet region of Illinois and  
Indiana was underwater.**

Eons passed. Evolution brought changes.

There were glaciers, saber-tooth tigers and woolly mammoths. Glaciers gave way to Lake Chicago, the ancestor of Lake Michigan. There were eroding winds and sand dunes. Lake Chicago's boundaries moved, animals and plants came and went and rivers forged new paths.

*And it was good.*

Then American Indians like the Potawatomi explored, built trails and thrived on the region's abundant fish, animals and plants.

European traders followed. Then came trading posts, commerce and settlers. Settlements became cities. Paths became roads. Roads led to canals and train tracks and eventually highways.

Wetlands and prairies became agricultural fields. Farming villages became manufacturing cities.

*And it was booming.*

Opportunities brought conflict, but they also bred more opportunities. Immigrants from around the world and African Americans from the south added new sounds, opinions, experiences, styles and passions to the constantly evolving region. Bronzeville became the happening home of jazz and the blues. Pullman's factory and town became the home of the burgeoning labor union movement.

*And it was exciting.*

Today, the region is more than the sum of all these geological and historical moments.

It is Lake Michigan beaches, rivers, wetlands, prairies, farms, railroads, highways, bridges, the blues, factories, ports, trails and preserves.

But it is also the people, the unique stories of generations and newcomers that have undeniably been shaped by the human and natural history of this area.

From Bronzeville to Flossmoor and Blue Island to Michigan City, nature and people are inextricably entwined here. Because of these connections, this region truly represents a reserve for the new millennium. The mix of protected conservation areas and industry, history and ambitious plans for the future make this an area that should be explored, enjoyed and loved.

This area is our  
**Millennium Reserve.**

*And it is very good.*

# THE Millennium Reserve and Greater Calumet Region

The map on the following page illustrates the geographic area covered in this Guidebook. The **Millennium Reserve** stretches from downtown Chicago, southeast to the Indiana border and southwest to suburban Park Forest. In this Guide, the **Greater Calumet** region is a bi-state designation that overlaps with part of Millennium Reserve.

Millennium Reserve encompasses numerous neighborhoods on Chicago's south side, the southeast lakefront and 37 south suburban municipalities. The boundaries of Millennium Reserve have been established by the State of Illinois along with input from the partnership of nearly 100 public agencies, private businesses and nonprofit organizations that are working together on the initiative. The Greater Calumet region extends south to the Cook/Will County line and east to Michigan City, Indiana. In determining the boundaries for this Guide, we sought to be inclusive wherever possible.

In many ways, this is a region that was built by and is still defined by transportation. From highways and trails to railroads and canals, the area is easily accessible. We've included addresses and nearby intersections for many of the places included in these pages, as well as parking and walking tips to make it as easy as possible to plan a day trip or weekend getaway. Many of the places in this Guide are accessible via public transportation and trains:

- The **CTA** (Chicago Transit Authority) is your best bet for getting around within the city of Chicago. Buses and trains provide service to both Chicago airports (Midway and O'Hare) and run as far north as Evanston and far south as Blue Island. All CTA buses are equipped with exterior bike racks. Bikes are allowed on CTA trains during non-peak times. Visit [www.transitchicago.com](http://www.transitchicago.com) for route planning and schedules.
- The **Metra** system links Chicago to surrounding communities as far north as Kenosha, WI, as far west as Harvard, IL, and as far south as Manhattan, IL. Bikes are allowed except during peak hours and festival days. For more information on bringing a bike onboard, as well as route maps and schedules, visit [www.metrarail.com](http://www.metrarail.com).
- **Pace** is the suburban bus division of the Regional Transportation Authority (RTA) in the Chicago metropolitan area. Bus routes include many Metra stations and provide access to many of the areas included in this Guide. Visit [www.pacebus.com](http://www.pacebus.com) for schedules, maps and more information.
- The **South Shore Line** (part of the Northern Indiana Commuter Transportation District) runs from downtown Chicago to South Bend, IN. Bicycles are prohibited. Visit [www.nictd.com](http://www.nictd.com) for maps and schedules.

*Most of the destinations listed in this Guide that involve buildings (like restaurants, museums, etc.) follow American Disability Act standards for wheelchairs and guests with limited mobility. To find out more about accessibility options at an establishment of interest, we recommend contacting the proprietors before you visit. Many of the forest preserves, parks and wilderness areas have limited infrastructure. If they exist, many wheelchair-accessible sidewalks or trails may be rough or uneven. If you have questions prior to your visit, please contact the park district or forest preserve managers for details.*

# Millennium Reserve and Greater Calumet Region



# Explore the Millennium Reserve and Greater Calumet Region

## *A Natural and Cultural Guide to the Region from Bronzeville to the Indiana Dunes*

Illinois' Millennium Reserve and the bi-state Greater Calumet region are much too great—too vast, too complicated, too *interesting*—to comprehensively cover in one Guidebook. And yet, this region is also so important and so *undiscovered* that it deserves a Guidebook.

In 2014, an intrepid group of people who live, work and explore this region took up the arduous task of synthesizing this broad region into one book and their results are in your hands.

This Guidebook was researched, written and designed to encourage residents and visitors to this region to get out there and explore—to see, smell and touch the fantastic world around them. From birding spots and boat docks to parks and breweries, the Millennium Reserve and Greater Calumet regions are teeming with natural and cultural resources, events and activities. No matter your passion or interest, the region has an activity or place for you!

Unfortunately, too many people in Illinois and Indiana only think of this region as what they see zooming past from car windows on the highway. They think of old factories, rust-belt towns and landfills. But beneath these stereotypes, next to the factories and on top of the old landfills, is a whole other beautiful, natural world.

The **Millennium Reserve and Greater Calumet** region is home to an incredible diversity of plants and animals that still make their home among the people and industries. The area is a rich mix of habitats, everything from Midwestern prairies and wetlands to hardwood forests and dunes. Natural rivers and human-made canals stitch the region together. And, of course, Lake Michigan is there in the background, the epicenter around which all the people, industries and nature gather.



**Cape May warbler**

With these diverse and sometimes rare natural landscapes come opportunities for human exploration and recreation. We can fish, boat, hunt, hike, bike, bird watch, cross-country ski, swim, picnic, wander, daydream, learn and celebrate among the rivers, trails, lakes, preserves, museums and cultural institutions.



**Hegewisch Marsh**

Over the past 200 years, human actions have damaged or threatened much of the original natural diversity of the Greater Calumet region. Wetlands were plowed under for farmland. Landfills filled up and resources were mined. Factories and industries came, polluted and often left their messes behind.

The good news is that humans have also preserved natural areas, restored prairies and wetlands, built cathedrals and museums that celebrate human achievements and established miles and miles of trails. We've made some messes, but we've also made some glorious achievements. This Guidebook celebrates and encourages people to get out and appreciate those achievements.

*Indiana Dunes*



# HOW TO USE THIS BOOK

The goal of this Guide is to inspire people to explore the Millennium Reserve and Greater Calumet region and to make it easy to do so. Throughout these pages, we've identified places to visit, activities to experience and opportunities to try something new.

Because the geographic area depicted on the previous pages and represented throughout this book is vast, we have arranged the content into chapters. Each chapter highlights a geographical area whose boundaries were selected around clusters of places and activities.

To view this guide electronically, visit: [www.MillenniumReserveGuide.org](http://www.MillenniumReserveGuide.org).



The chapters *loosely* follow these boundaries:

## ILLINOIS LAKEFRONT

Roosevelt Road south to 79th Street in Chicago

## CALUMET

79th Street south to I-80 and Pulaski Road east to Indiana's Lake County/Porter County line, including Illinois and Indiana

## SOUTHERN CALUMET

I-80 south to the Cook County line and Pulaski Road/Crawford Avenue east to Indiana's Lake County/Porter County line, including Illinois and Indiana

## PORTAGE & LAPORTE COUNTIES, INDIANA

The Lake County/Porter County line in Indiana east to Michigan City

In addition to lists of favorite natural and cultural places in each chapter, we've included stories that provide context and detail to some of these places. These stories sometimes illuminate important historical information. Other stories provide details to make it easier for explorers to access some of the places listed on these maps. We've done our best to make sure that all information is accurate, but sometimes things change. You may want to call ahead or check websites for up-to-date information before planning your visits.

Finally, this Guidebook is designed to spark interest in the amazing natural and cultural resources available throughout this region. More in-depth information is available on many of these resources, places and activities. We've included links to more information when applicable. Additional information about the geologic and cultural history of this area can be found in the Resource List at the back of the book.

Interested readers may also want to explore the **Chicago Wilderness Atlas of Biodiversity**. The Atlas provides a thorough introduction to the natural history of the Chicago Wilderness region, including more detailed descriptions of the geologic forces, natural processes and human activities that have shaped the region. The Atlas is available at: [www.chicagowilderness.org/resources](http://www.chicagowilderness.org/resources).

Each chapter includes a map of that area. Each map has been populated with points representing places, activities and trails. The points are listed in charts that use the following symbols to help you find the site that best fits your interests.



Beaches & Fishing



Birding Spots



Festivals & Community Groups



Hiking & Biking Trails



Historic Sites



Museums & Public Art



Nature Centers, Gardens & Zoos



Picnic Spots & Family Fun



Preserves & Parks



Restaurants & Breweries



Trains



Water Trails & Boat Launches/Docks



# A Brief Introduction to the *Natural History* of the Millennium Reserve and Greater Calumet Region

**F**rom South Chicago to Michigan City, Indiana, the Millennium Reserve and Greater Calumet region has seen dramatic changes over the last 200 years. It has gone from encompassing some of our country's largest wetlands to being a manufacturing hub during the industrial revolution. What remains today is a diverse network of habitats, plants and animals slowly reclaiming and recovering their original home turf among equally diverse communities of people. However, what makes this region so unique is not just the story of its recent history. The real story of this region begins 13,000 years ago during the last ice age.

## A land carved by glaciers

The rich diversity of habitats—wetlands, moraines, dunes, savannas, prairies, woodlands, lakes, rivers and streams—in the Calumet region is a result of four major ice ages, the first of which began 500,000 years ago. The most recent period of glaciation, called the Wisconsin stage ended 13,000 years ago. At the end of the Wisconsin stage, the final glaciers retreated, revealing the ground, boulders, gravel, silt, sand and clay that we see today. Melt water from the retreating glaciers eventually formed Lake Chicago, the predecessor of Lake Michigan. Lake levels fluctuated dramatically even after the glaciers were gone, but stabilized at their current levels about 2,000 years ago.

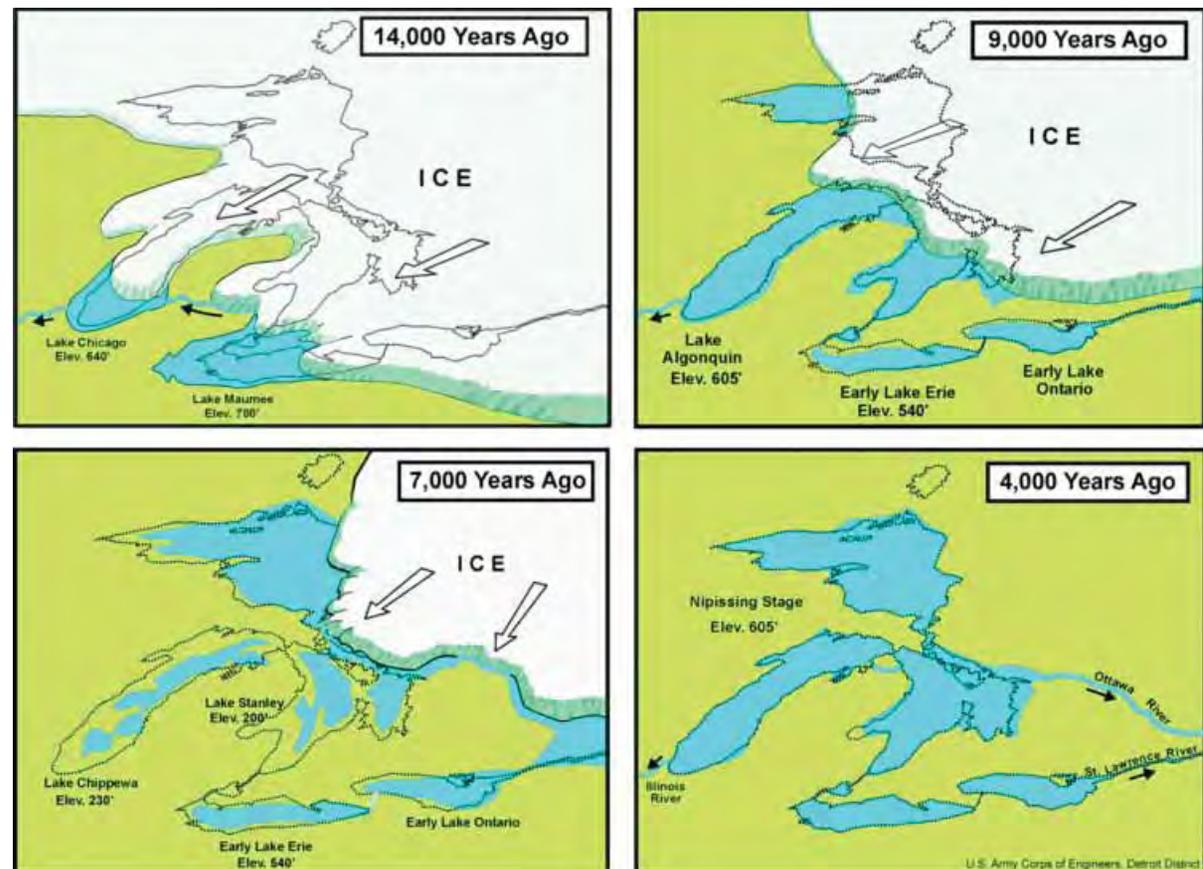
The fluctuation of Lake Chicago's water levels also helped shape today's landscape. Periods of low lake levels interspersed with high lake levels

designed and determined the flow of the Grand Calumet River. This region's dune and swale habitat was formed by layers of sand and silt that were slowly left behind as lake levels dropped.

Species of the northern tundra (a cold and dry habitat) were present after the last glacial retreat, but the landscape continued to evolve, transitioning slowly to form coniferous forests (trees that keep their leaves or needles year-round) and then deciduous forests (trees that shed their leaves

every year). A warmer and drier period followed the deciduous forest establishment and prompted the transition to the grassland and savanna species we see today. Current species such as jack pine, white pine and paper birch are remnants of the cooler climate forests that once dominated and there are even areas where remnant tundra species still exist.

Glaciers played a key role in carving out the landscapes we have today, but fire has long played an important role, too. The plants and trees in the



prairies and savannas that we see today evolved with naturally-occurring fire. Without these natural fires, invasive species have crowded in and have often made areas too shady for native plants. Today, controlled burns diminish invasive plants and stimulate the germination and growth of many native species.

### What the glaciers left behind

The glaciers didn't just sculpt the landscape by depositing and eroding. They also helped create a set of conditions in which, within very close range, visitors can encounter dry and wet landscapes, high and low elevations and a great variety of habitats. These landscape varieties make our region complex, beautiful and biologically diverse.

#### Moraines

Moraines are significant landscape features that get little recognition. They can be found on land in a "U"-shape along the southern tip of Lake Michigan. Defined by a collection of gentle hills made up of unsorted sand, pebbles and boulders, moraines actually are some of the highest points in this flat Midwestern landscape. Though not easy to recognize, moraines are a dominant feature in the landscape. In fact one of the more recognizable moraines is the one that formed Blue Island. When visiting Blue Island note the uncharacteristic up and downs in the town. You may also now begin to notice how the word "moraine" is frequently used in the names of towns, colleges and parks.

#### Dunes

In their wake, the glaciers left ancient mountains of sand rising nearly 100 feet near the lakeshore called dunes. These dunes offer a spectacular, unexpected landscape on their own. Together the Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore and Indiana Dunes State Park encompass roughly 15,000 acres and cover



15 shoreline miles of Lake Michigan. The Indiana Dunes parks offer a great diversity of high-quality natural communities: woodlands, prairies, oak savannas, interdunal ponds, marshes, swamps, fens and bogs. The dunes themselves have their own plant communities depending on their proximity to Lake Michigan. The dunes closest to the lake are dominated by tall, spiky grass and cottonwood trees. A bit farther from the lake, white and jack pines and juniper take over. And still farther back are the black and red oaks that are the backbone of the globally rare oak savanna habitat. The biological diversity within the National Lakeshore is outstanding: more than a quarter of Indiana's threatened and endangered plants can be found in the Indiana Dunes. It also has the third highest plant diversity of any national park.

A short distance from the massive dunes along the lakefront is a less imposing, but highly significant system of habitats that were also formed by the movement of the glaciers. Here the dunes are more gently sloped and each one was separated by an intermittent wet swale. Visitors to dune and swale habitats will notice how slight changes in elevation shift the ground from damp to dry. As a result, the vegetation varies dramatically within short distances. The topography and diversity of plants and animals found in the dune-swale system

### Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore

remain today and can be seen at Powderhorn Prairie. Visitors can find milkweed, buttonbush and sensitive fern in the damp areas and lead plant, rattlesnake master or even the occasional prickly pear cactus in the dry areas.

#### Wetlands

Long before this region was settled, shallow marshes, wet prairies, bogs and other wetlands covered our landscape. Since then, wetland loss has been greater than 90 percent in Illinois and greater than 85 percent in Indiana. Farmers and industrial companies drained and filled wetlands to grow crops and build factories, changing the wetland topography in the process. Yet, many of the remaining wetland acres still contain diverse plant and animal species and provide life-saving habitats for migratory birds.

The Greater Calumet Wetlands, located west of the Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore, encompasses 18 natural communities with 700 species of native plants, 200

bird species and 20 reptiles and amphibians. Of these, 85 plant species, 18 bird species and 8 reptiles and amphibians are recognized as endangered or threatened. One of these species is the Blanding's turtle, an animal that is imperiled nationally

#### Blanding's turtle



and endangered in Illinois and Indiana. Blanding's turtles can live 77 years and can be found along the shores of Lake Calumet. Lake Calumet, located east of the Bishop Ford Freeway on the far south side of Chicago, between 103rd and 130th Streets, is the largest inland body of water in Chicago at 724 acres. Though smaller, it still contains good turtle habitat. You can also find Wilson's phalarope, an endangered bird species, and bald eagles on Lake Calumet.

Hegewisch Marsh, one of Chicago's largest wetlands, is located south of the Ford Motor Plant at Torrence Avenue and 130th Street, near the Little Calumet River. It encompasses almost 130 acres and is home to coyotes, beavers, muskrats and, possibly still, rare yellow-headed blackbirds, among others. Hegewisch Marsh is a breeding ground for wetland birds. At Indian Ridge Marsh (just east of Lake Calumet and just west of the Calumet River), wetland birds such as herons and egrets have established rookeries and can be seen and heard raising their young.

Remnants of the Great Marsh, a vast wetland that once paralleled the shoreline of Lake Michigan from present-day Gary to Michigan City in Indiana, are protected by Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore, Indiana Dunes State Park and local land trusts. The expanse attracts numerous migrating birds during the spring and fall and provides habitat for waterfowl and other wildlife.

Other notable wetland areas include Wolf Lake and Powderhorn Lake. Located on the Illinois-Indiana border, 453-acre Wolf Lake straddles the William W. Powers State Recreation Area on the northwest shore. Directly north of Wolf Lake is Eggers Woods and Marsh, which provides important bird habitat. On the east side of Wolf Lake are Forsythe Park and Wolf Lake Park, both administered by the City of Hammond Parks and

Recreation Department. Powderhorn Lake is located just south of Wolf Lake and is home to the threatened banded killifish. The Illinois Department of Public Health and Indiana Department of Health have information on fishing advisories for these two lakes and other bodies of water.



**Hegewisch Marsh**

Bogs are a rare type of wetland. Bogs are wet, but not under water most of the year. As you walk across a bog, you will notice a slightly bouncy feeling to the ground. Sphagnum, or peat moss, forms the floor of bogs, making them feel spongy and causing the soil to be highly acidic, an environment few plants can tolerate. But those plants that can thrive in acidic soils are specially adapted to these conditions and range from ferns that trace back to prehistoric times to carnivorous plants. In a bog, look for pitcher plants and tamaracks, as well as a variety of ferns. Pinhook Bog, a noncontiguous unit of Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore in LaPorte County, Indiana, is the best example of this habitat within the Calumet region.

## Lake Michigan

As a region established around a Great Lake, we are blessed with wide open water, white cap waves and big fish. Surrounding the only Great Lake entirely within the boundaries of the United States, our region became what it is today—both naturally and culturally—because of Lake Michigan.

The presence of Lake Michigan gives the Millennium Reserve and Greater Calumet region a very rich bird population. The shoreline alone is home to 40 species of shorebirds, including the rare American avocet. Lake Michigan's long north-south shores provide flight paths for many migrating species. Those following the shore from the north are drawn to the Dunes at the toe of the lake. The large flocks that converge at the bottom of the lake are a result of the "funnel effect." The Dunes serve as an autumn portal to the lower Midwest for southbound migrants. The Hammond Lakefront Park & Bird Sanctuary, tucked in between a power plant and a casino boat, entertains an astonishing concentration of bird species in the spring and the fall. Chicago's lakefront parks are also important for migrating birds, and recent changes to these parks—like replacing some turf grass with natural vegetation—make them even more important for birds, tired after a long journey across Lake Michigan.

**Pitcher plant in northern peat bog**



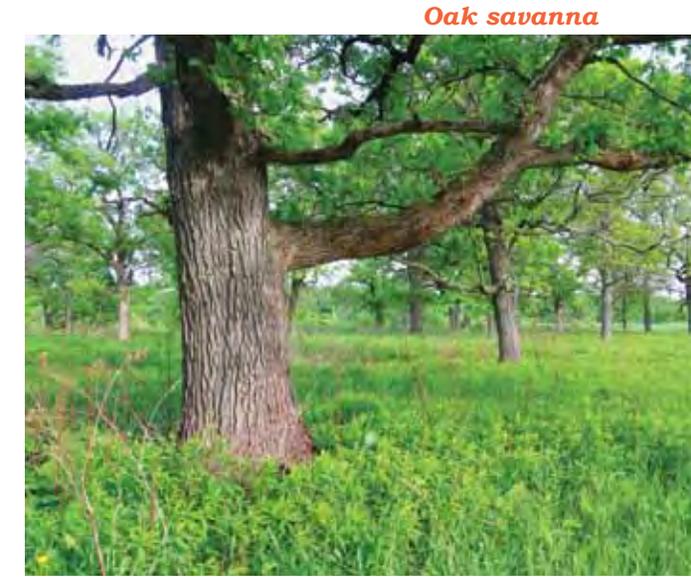


**A Wilson's phalarope stalking through a marsh**

### **Prairies and Savannas**

Buzzing with life and dotted with colorful wildflowers, our region's original prairies and savannas are defined by their ten-foot tall grasses interspersed with majestic oaks. These beautiful flatlands were shocking to European settlers traveling west who had not yet experienced our country's great wide-open spaces. Dependent on natural fires to kill invading trees and shrubs, prairies and savannas have drastically declined in the last 200 years, but fantastic remnants still exist, carefully restored and maintained by volunteers and conservationists.

For example, Burnham Prairie and Powderhorn



**Oak savanna**



**Cottonwoods on the shore**

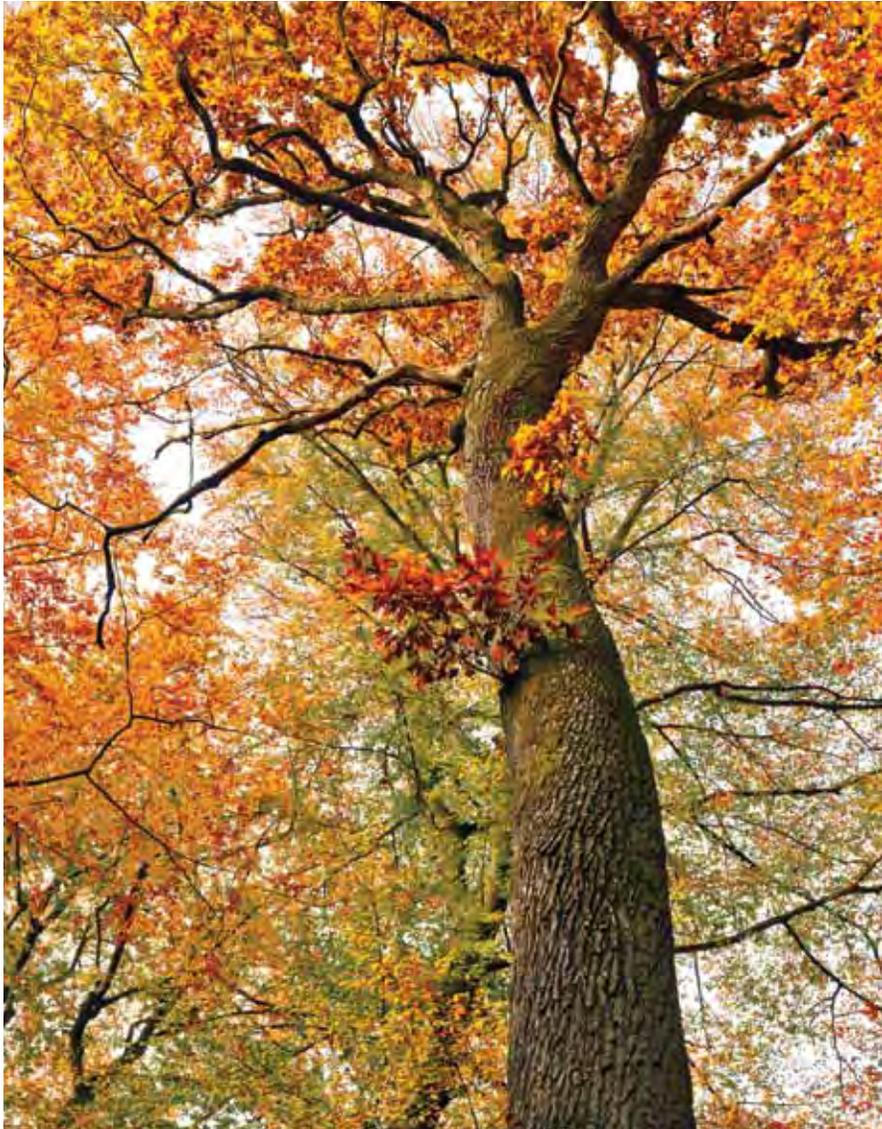
Prairie, designated as Illinois Nature Preserves, and Dolton Prairie are high quality natural areas in the Calumet region. Burnham Prairie is 175 acres and located one mile south of Chicago and one mile west of the Indiana state line, in the village of Burnham. It is not just a native prairie; it also contains burr oak savanna, wetland and one of the last black soil prairies. The high quality and highly diverse Dolton Prairie is privately owned by Ashland Chemical and is currently undergoing a large-scale restoration.

Several excellent examples of tallgrass prairie habitats are protected as Indiana state nature preserves in Lake County. Hoosier Prairie, in the towns of Griffith, Schererville and Highland, is the largest tract of original prairie in Indiana. Other prairie preserves include Cressmoor Prairie in Hobart, Biesecker Prairie near Crown Point and German Methodist Prairie near Cedar Lake.

One of the mysteries of the Calumet region's prairies is the disappearance of the *Thysmia americana*. This plant is non-chlorophyllic (does not contain chlorophyll) and therefore is not green and must obtain energy from a source other than

sunlight. Instead it taps into and obtains its energy from fungi in the soil. It is also significant because all of its closest relatives (members of its genus) are found in the southern hemisphere. This mysterious wet prairie plant hasn't been seen since 1916 and it was found only in the Chicago region.

### *Colorful fall oak tree*



### **Rivers and Streams**

Whether they trickle or roar, rivers and streams have long been the centerpiece of successful human settlements. And the Greater Calumet region is no exception. There are 239 miles of natural and manmade flowing water in the Greater Calumet region, but many of these miles have been severely altered.

The Grand Calumet and Little Calumet Rivers converge to create the Calumet River, which flows into Lake Michigan. In the 1830s, the Grand Calumet was shallow and sluggish and provided habitat to 34 species of reptiles and amphibians. In 1922, engineers reversed the river to keep its high levels of contamination from flowing into Lake Michigan, the region's source of drinking water. As a result, the Grand Calumet River is not safe to swim in or to eat fish from, though largemouth bass, bluegill, carp, crappie and catfish can all still be found in the River.

A multi-year remediation project undertaken by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the Indiana Department of Environmental Management has

removed hundreds of thousands of cubic yards of contaminated sediment from the once-heavily polluted Grand Calumet River. Invasive plants are also being removed from the floodplain as part of the project. As the river becomes cleaner it is hoped that more native plants and animals will return to the area because the right habitat under the right conditions can be a magnet to once scarce species.

**Within the wooded areas of the Calumet region, there are naturally-occurring savannas, open woodlands, flatwoods and forests.**

The 22-mile-long east arm of the Little Calumet River rises from a series of seeps and springs at the Little Calumet Headwaters Nature Preserve in Red Mill County Park in LaPorte County. It flows westward through the Heron Rookery and Bailly Homestead units of Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore before emptying into the Burns Waterway, which feeds Lake Michigan at the Port of Indiana. Regional planners, land trusts and governmental agencies in Northwest Indiana are combining their efforts to preserve habitat along the Little Calumet and promote the river's potential for outdoor recreation.

Around Gary, the Little Calumet flows west and is severely impounded by levees, but as it reaches Chicago's south suburbs, it begins to look more like the meandering prairie stream it always was. In Blue Island, the Little Calumet turns east as it joins the Cal-Sag Channel at Fay's Point. From here, the Little Calumet becomes an industrial powerhouse, dwarfing the Grand Calumet that trickles in to meet it.



## Fays Point



*Showy lady's slipper*

### Woodlands

Within the wooded areas of the Calumet region, there are naturally-occurring savannas, open woodlands, flatwoods and forests. Savannas, often found near or in prairies, can grow in sandy soils or in wet soils. The distinguishing feature of savannas is the widely spaced majestic oaks that dominate the landscape. Open woodlands with trees more closely spaced than in savannas are common in the region. Flatwoods are areas that have a deep bed of clay that restricts water from filtering down into the ground. These are typically wet in the spring, but become dry during the warm summer months. Flatwood trees such as swamp white oak and black ash trees can tolerate being in standing water for long periods of time.

Unfortunately for our region's woodlands—

and the wildlife and people who enjoy them—urbanization has allowed aggressive and invasive plants to move in and choke out sensitive native woodland species in many places. Further habitat destruction has created fragmented forested habitats, which affects the movement of species and genetic diversity.

Thankfully, various high-quality woodland areas are still located throughout the region and can be seen in Gibson Woods Nature Preserve, Whistler Woods and Miller Woods. Gibson Woods is south of the Indiana Toll Road in Hammond. Whistler Woods in Chicago is home to cottonwoods and many bird species, and is currently undergoing restoration. Miller Woods is in the western part of the Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore and is the only part of that area with large forest trees. Stepping into

Miller Woods is like being transferred to the deep northern woods. Its towering tree canopy makes it cool and shady and the centuries of fallen leaves and decomposed trees have left behind a rich black soil teeming with life.

LaPorte County, Indiana, is home to one of the rarest natural communities of northern flatwoods in the region. This ecosystem harbors surviving populations of several plant species that are typical of more northern latitudes. Ambler Flatwoods, an Indiana state nature preserve managed by Shirley Heinze Land Trust, is the largest protected example. The dense, thick woods provide habitat for at least 15 state-listed plant species and 40 plants considered rare in the Chicago region.

# A Brief Introduction to the *Cultural History* of the Millennium Reserve and Greater Calumet Region

**F**or thousands of years, humans have been attracted to the environmental beauty and natural resources of the Calumet region. People have been drawn to the region for different reasons over time. For example, the Potawatomi fished, farmed and hunted along what they originally called the Callimink River. To them, Calumet provided food and sustenance. A century later, factory owners saw transportation potential in the Calumet River to move raw materials and processed goods easily. To them, Calumet proved to be an invaluable tool that they used to drive their industries and reap financial benefits. As immigrant and migrant waves of people from different cultures came to the region to take advantage of the new industries, Calumet became a melting pot, where old-world cultures, varying habits, foods and music blended together. This blending was not always peaceful and cultural tensions have been common. But the end result is one of the most diverse regions in all of the United States.

The cultural and human histories of Calumet are intricately linked to the natural surroundings. This rich history makes the Calumet region and the people who live there the unique place that it is today.

## **American Indians in the region**

Burial mounds, tools and pottery show that the Calumet region has been inhabited for at least 10,000 years. Native people lived in this region over four distinct eras, ending most recently with the Potawatomi, Miami and Sauk tribes. However, it

was the Potawatomi who established dominance in the area starting in the 1600s. In utilizing the land, the seasons greatly affected where the Potawatomi would settle. Summer months would be spent planting crops in easy-to-cultivate riverbanks. The region also provided opportunities to gather cranberries, huckleberries and other wild fruit. They would hunt and fish during the summer months and, prior to fall, they would return to the riverbanks where they could then harvest their crops, which included corn, squash and onions. In the winter, they would head south towards the Kankakee River where weather tended to be a bit milder.

The cultural and human histories of Calumet are intricately linked to the natural surroundings. This rich history makes the Calumet region and the people who live there the unique place that it is today.

American Indian trails like the Sauk Trail and Calumet Beach Trail often follow natural terrain formations like streams and valleys. We continue to benefit from these well-forged trails as many of today's railroads and highways follow in the American Indians' original footsteps.

## **French exploration and trade**

The French were among the first explorers to come to the Calumet region. It is believed that the French heard the Potawatomi name "Callimink" as the much more French-sounding "Calumet," which is where the region gets its name today. However, poor record keeping of the time makes it difficult to pinpoint which European settlers arrived first and when. It is likely that fur traders or missionaries had set foot in Calumet by the mid 1650s. Father Jacques Marquette and Louis Joliet kept better records than many of their predecessors and reached the southern tip of Lake Michigan in 1673. The French commanded the fur trade in a large stretch of the new world, from as far north as Montreal all the way to New Orleans. Forts were set up in strategic places (usually along rivers) to provide a safe haven for traders in the area. In Calumet, Le Petit Fort (The Little Fort) was likely located at the mouth of the Grand Calumet River, but nothing remains of it today. The Potawatomi actively traded furs with the French in exchange for metal tools and firearms and in some ways became economically dependent on the European settlers. They became allies and fought together against the British in the French and Indian War starting in 1754.

The French and Indian War ended in 1763 with the British taking control of the region. This area was relatively unaffected during the battles of the American Revolution. But, as part of the treaty that ended the war, Britain "gifted" a tract of land known as the Northwest Territory to the newly formed United States. This area of land would later be carved into all or part of six states: Minnesota, Wisconsin, Michigan, Ohio, Indiana and Illinois.

## Settlement

Jean Baptiste Pointe DuSable, a black man from Haiti, began farming and trading furs not too far from Lake Michigan in the late 1770s. He is credited as being the first permanent resident of Chicago, however he originally settled closer to Michigan City, Indiana. His settlement in Chicago was near the present day Tribune Tower, a site now immortalized with a statue of DuSable in nearby Pioneer Court. In 1803, construction began on a military base in the Illinois territory. This fort became known as Fort Dearborn, and was located on present day Michigan Avenue in downtown Chicago. If you look on the sidewalk at the intersection of Michigan Avenue and Wacker Drive, you can see the original footprint of the fort. Fort Dearborn became a postal, trade and agricultural hub. With it came many settlers to the surrounding area. Further south in Calumet, Joseph Bailly founded a settlement around a trading post in 1822. The Bailly log cabins are still standing and you can visit them in Porter, Indiana. The influx of settlers eventually led to the formation of new states. Indiana was granted statehood in 1816 and Illinois followed shortly after in 1818. The City of Chicago was founded several years later in 1833.

As more and more people started moving to the Chicago area, conflicts between American Indians and the settlers erupted with more frequency and violence. One of the more intense conflicts resulted in the complete destruction of Fort Dearborn, which was later rebuilt. Between 1832 and 1833, several treaties were signed in which the Potawatomi and other American Indian tribes were forced to give up their land in Indiana and Illinois in exchange for land west of the Mississippi in what would later become Kansas.

Small settlements grew into larger towns and cities and the necessities of pioneer living often dictated which industries formed. Transportation



*Bailly Log Cabin and  
Lake Michigan beach in 1908*

of goods in the 1830s was still slow and expensive, so each small town strived to be as self-sufficient as possible by utilizing nearby resources. Essential businesses like blacksmith shops, butcher shops, inns and distilleries made pioneer life a bit more civilized. Many small sawmills popped up in the Calumet region in the late 1830s, specifically in the timber-rich Indiana forests. As a result, the Indiana side of Calumet got a head start in development. However, in the coming years, industry would come to Illinois in a big way. A canal linking the Illinois River with Lake Michigan was built in 1848 to make transport and trade with Chicagoland more enticing than with rival Michigan City in Indiana.





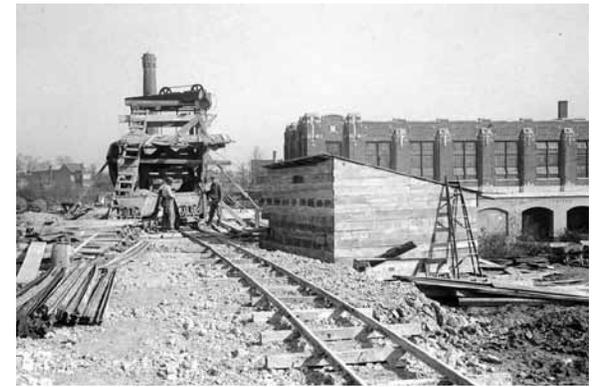
## Railroads pave the way for industry

By the late 1840s, railroads had expanded their reach to Chicagoland to augment the transportation already provided by the lake and rivers. As the United States extended westward, Chicago and the Greater Calumet area became a centrally located railroad transportation hub. The railroads brought with them a huge increase in trade as well as many opportunities for immigrants. Laborers were needed to help build and operate the new railroad lines. Immigrants from Ireland, Sweden, Germany, Italy, Lithuania, Poland, Hungary, Belgium, Russia, Slovakia, Scotland and many other European countries eventually made the Calumet region their home.

18

Heavier industry followed the railroad and Chicago's south side proved to be an ideal location for manufacturing and processing for several reasons. First and most important was the Calumet River and its connection to Lake Michigan and the Chicago River. These connected waterways allowed easy transport of both raw and finished materials. This easy access to water could also be used to cool furnaces and other industrial processes. The land was inexpensive and was close enough to Chicago to provide a workforce, but far enough away so the factories would not impose upon the growing city.

The industrial boom of the late 1800s demanded changes to the local bodies of water as well as the Calumet landscape. In addition to the changes made for rail lines, many canals and ports



*Map of Chicago rail lines and Workers laying train tracks in 1929*

were created, such as the Cal-Sag Channel. To accommodate the influx of shipping barges, the Calumet River was made wider, deeper and cleared of any sand bars. Several ports were added to the existing landscape. Michigan City's port opened in 1836, but proved to be too small to accommodate the traffic that the area would eventually demand. Construction for Calumet Harbor started in 1870, but many additional ports were added to the landscape in the early 1900s. Over time, many of the wetlands of the region would get filled in with sand, industrial waste (slag) or both.

By the mid-1870s, the steel industry started to take hold in the Calumet region starting with the Joseph H. Brown Iron and Steel Company. Many other steel mills and industries followed. The immigrants had come to work for the railroads, but they stayed as other industries emerged. The Pullman Palace Car Company built a factory in the region and even incorporated its own town with housing, entertainment and food for its employees. The town of Pullman was unique in the fact that the company was both an employer and a landlord to the people who worked for the company. Even when the company lowered wages, the price of



**Building the Cal-Sag Channel in 1921**

**Bessie Coleman**

rent and other expenses for the workers often went up, and the workers had little recourse. Eventually in 1894, workers went on strike (without union support). The resulting gridlock of the rail lines and violence led to President Grover Cleveland sending federal troops to end the strike. The Pullman neighborhood has since been nominated for designation as a National Historic Park in recognition of both the planned community and the strikers.



Chicago was experiencing some growing pains with an ever-increasing population. Of most concern was a clean drinking water supply. The Chicago River had become a dumping ground for trash and sewage. With the river flowing into Lake Michigan, city residents were becoming sick as polluted drinking water was pulled from the lake. A rather unique engineering feat was completed

in 1900 that reversed the flow of the Chicago River. This pushed the polluted water downstate, making Lake-sourced drinking water safe again.

By the First World War, the steel industry in the Calumet region rivaled that of Pittsburgh as it produced 20% of the entire steel output in the United States. But steel wasn't the only game in town. The coal industry in Illinois got a boost from the booming steel mills. The mills used a coal product called coke to power its ovens. Sand from the Indiana Dunes was also mined as a hot commodity. Sand could be used as filler to make marshlands more suitable for construction projects or even glassmaking. Cereal maker General Mills built a plant that made Cheerios, Wheaties and other breakfast foods. Model T automobiles were also manufactured along the Calumet when Ford Motors opened a manufacturing plant in 1924.

The First World War brought a shift in the demographics of the steelworkers. Mexicans and African Americans came to make up a large portion of the work force in the Calumet region steel mills. African Americans were leaving the South in record numbers in what came to be known as the Great Migration. Chicago and the Calumet region offered opportunities that the Jim Crow laws of the South made near impossible. Many African Americans ended up settling in what became known as the Bronzeville neighborhood of Chicago. The neighborhood became a center for African American business, music and culture by the 1930s. Musician Louis Armstrong, author Gwendolyn Brooks and Bessie Coleman, the first female African American pilot, made Bronzeville their home. Jazz and the blues had their beginnings in the South, but it was Chicago where the two styles of music became refined and gained mainstream appeal.

Meanwhile, just south of the city, steel workers attempted to unionize. One such attempt ended in tragedy when workers from Republic Steel

went on strike on Memorial Day in 1937. The workers were peaceful at first, and the record is unclear on what necessitated police intervention. The resulting police gunfire ended up killing 10 and injuring nearly 100 steel workers. The strike broke, but unionization was granted in the 1940s. Today, what is known as the Memorial Day Massacre is remembered by a statue located on 117th and Avenue O. The 10 pipes comprising the statue represent both the 10 steel mills that once inhabited the area as well as the 10 victims of the massacre.

The steel industry continued to thrive after World War II. The need for steel was fueled by Chicago's construction boom as buildings like the Willis (Sears) Tower reached for the sky. But by the late 1970s, skyscraper construction hit its peak and with it demand for steel started to decline. In the 1980s, many of the steel mills were consolidated and eventually closed, some with little or no warning. Just as the industries were leaving, people started to get organized to mitigate the impact the factories and mills had on the environment. Formal monitoring of the conservation of wild lands and wild species in the area began in the mid 1980s.

While most of the heavy industries of the area have since shuttered their operations, some still remain. Many spaces have been dedicated to conservation. The area today is a very unique blending of industrial, commercial, residential and natural areas. There are no formal boundaries between these areas like what you might see in other communities. Those blurred lines may have resulted in some missteps along the way, but the future is bright. The Calumet region is very much a place that has been shaped by human hands, but moving ahead, it presents an amazing opportunity to allow humans to live among beautiful natural areas in harmony.

# Millennium Reserve: A Partnership, A Region, An Opportunity



Millennium Reserve is a *partnership* of nearly 100 public agencies, private businesses and nonprofit organizations working together to:

- stimulate economic growth in the Calumet region and Chicago's southeast lakefront
- restore and enhance its natural ecosystems
- improve quality of life for people who live there

Millennium Reserve is also a geographic *region* that stretches from downtown Chicago southeast to the Indiana border and southwest to suburban Park Forest. It encompasses numerous neighborhoods on Chicago's south side, the southeast lakefront and 37 south suburban municipalities.

But more than that, Millennium Reserve is a 210-square mile *opportunity* to transform a region in transition. Through this opportunity, government leaders, stakeholders and citizens recognize that conservation and sustainable land use are inextricably linked to healthy communities and a robust economy. Together, partners and advocates build on existing plans and action agendas such as: Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning's "Go to 2040"; the Center for Neighborhood Technology and South Suburban Mayors & Managers Association's "Green TIME Zone"; Northwest Indiana's lauded "Marquette Plan"; and many others.

By **connecting innovative projects** with the necessary resources, Millennium Reserve is stimulating and stewarding *long-term*, strategic and

focused investment in environmental enhancement and outdoor recreation, economic redevelopment and stronger neighborhoods and communities.

All of this starts with **an environmental and economic renewal plan** for the region that weaves nature into the fabric of healthy communities.

In Millennium Reserve, we measure our success by the numbers of acres restored, natural resources protected and jobs created. Work is guided by local partners who understand community priorities and know how to make the most of the region's assets. That **collaborative process** is what is making Millennium Reserve the new model for urban redevelopment.

## A shared leadership structure for a diverse region

In March 2013, Illinois Governor Pat Quinn appointed a 22-member Steering Committee to galvanize efforts around Millennium Reserve opportunities of regional significance. The shared leadership structure helps ensure diverse stakeholders and interests are represented. The Steering Committee:

- develops an action agenda for environmental restoration, outdoor recreation and economic and community development
- identifies projects and major policy initiatives of regional significance
- identifies resources to carry out projects
- creates and implements short- and long-term work plans
- coordinates and engages with similar efforts in Indiana

## Members include:

- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- Openlands
- ArcelorMittal USA
- CSX Transportation
- Calumet Stewardship Initiative
- The Chicago Community Trust
- Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning
- Chicago Neighborhood Initiatives
- Chicago Park District
- City of Chicago
- Cook County Bureau of Economic Development
- Gaylord and Dorothy Donnelley Foundation
- The Field Museum
- Forest Preserves of Cook County
- Funk Linko Inc.
- Illinois Department of Natural Resources
- Illinois International Port District
- Metropolitan Planning Council
- Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago
- The Pullman Civic Organization
- South Suburban Mayors & Managers Association



The Governor also appointed a 5-member state agency task force to inform and support Steering Committee priorities while aligning and focusing State of Illinois resources and authorities behind the Steering Committee's action agenda. This task force includes:

- Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity
- Illinois Department of Natural Resources
- Illinois Department of Transportation
- Illinois Environmental Protection Agency
- Illinois Historic Preservation Agency

# AMERICA'S GREAT OUTDOORS INITIATIVE

President Obama's *America's Great Outdoors* initiative, established in 2010, offers a new approach to conservation and recreation. This national initiative is the foundation for local Millennium Reserve efforts and is a promise to future generations to:

- reconnect Americans, especially children, to America's outdoors
- build upon existing local efforts and priorities rather than imposing outsider-driven goals for the conservation of land, water, wildlife and historic and cultural resources

- use science-based management practices to restore and protect our lands and waters for future generations
- focus on opportunities for long-term conservation

For more information on Millennium Reserve, visit: [www.millenniumreserve.org](http://www.millenniumreserve.org).



## MILLENNIUM RESERVE BY THE NUMBERS

**1 million**  
residents

**38**  
Illinois  
municipalities

**15,000**  
acres of  
open space

**1**  
state park

**15**  
county  
forest  
preserves

**2**  
proposed  
National  
Heritage Areas

**2**  
inland lakes:  
Calumet  
and Wolf

**3**  
rivers:  
the Calumet,  
Grand Calumet  
and Little  
Calumet

**6,000**  
acres  
of high  
ecological  
value, as  
identified by  
the Illinois  
Natural Areas  
Inventory

**13**  
sites  
with natural  
communities  
so rare they're  
considered  
globally  
significant

**1**  
barge  
channel  
that connects  
the Great Lakes  
to the  
Mississippi  
River

**5**  
interstate  
highways

**5**  
major railroads

**2**  
short-line  
freight  
railroads

# EVENTS CALENDAR: *No matter the season, opportunities abound in the Millennium Reserve and Greater Calumet region!*

**January** Snow? No problem! Explore the **Glenwood Dunes Trail** in Chesterton, IN, on cross-country skis (Porter and La Porte Counties, Indiana)

Trace the path "Joliet" Jake and Elwood Blues took by visiting **filming locations for *The Blues Brothers*** starting in Harvey, IL. Search for tour information at [www.movie-locations.com](http://www.movie-locations.com) (Calumet)

**February** Celebrate Black History Month at the **DuSable Museum of African American History** in Chicago (Illinois Lakefront)

Test your luck (and endurance) ice fishing at **Wolf Lake** (Calumet)



**March** **Kickapoo Woods** isn't just fun to say, it's also a fun place to visit! Welcome spring by enjoying the biking and hiking trails, flying model airplanes or playing catch in the open field (Calumet)

Share an ice cream sundae in an old train caboose at **Flossmoor Station Brewing Company and Restaurant** in Flossmoor (Southern Calumet)

**April** Face your destiny at **Dark Lord Day** at **3 Floyds Brewery**. This brewpub located in Munster, IN, offers a special Imperial Stout just one day a year: [www.3floyds.com/beer/dark-lord](http://www.3floyds.com/beer/dark-lord) (Southern Calumet)

Catch the beginning of the spring bird migration at **Hammond Lakefront Park & Bird Sanctuary** (Calumet)

**May** The **Miller Beach Farmers Market** in Gary, IN, starts this month and runs through September:

[www.millerbeacharts.org/farmersmarket.html](http://www.millerbeacharts.org/farmersmarket.html) (Porter and La Porte Counties, Indiana)

Try a scavenger hunt by car on the historic **Dixie Highway**: [www.drivingthedixie.com](http://www.drivingthedixie.com) (Southern Calumet)



**June** Roll through Bronzeville at the **Historic Bronzeville Annual Bike Tour**: [www.thebarcc.org/biketour](http://www.thebarcc.org/biketour) (Illinois Lakefront)

Learn the difference between a bog and a fen (and see some wildlife, too!) at **Cowles Bog** in Chesterton, IN (Porter and La Porte Counties, Indiana)



**July** Camp out under the stars at **Dunewood Campground** near Michigan City, IN (Porter and La Porte Counties, Indiana)

Explore the life aquatic and check out the wreckage of the **Silver Spray** at **Morgan Shoal** at 49th Street and Lake Shore Drive in Chicago (Illinois Lakefront)



**August** Connect with wildlife at the **Sand Ridge Nature Center** in South Holland, IL (Southern Calumet)

Wait until the end of August to see amazing wildflowers and butterflies at **Cressmoor Prairie** in Hobart, IN (Porter and La Porte Counties, Indiana)



**September** Get your groove on at the **Hyde Park Jazz Festival**: [www.hydeparkjazzfestival.org](http://www.hydeparkjazzfestival.org) (Illinois Lakefront)

Go kayaking in the Cal-Sag Channel at **Fay's Point in Blue Island** (Calumet)



**October** Hopefully you signed up in time for the once-a-year tour of the 1933 **Century of Progress Homes at Beverly Shores**: [www.nps.gov/indu/historyculture/centuryofprogress.htm](http://www.nps.gov/indu/historyculture/centuryofprogress.htm) (Porter and La Porte Counties, Indiana)

See the past meet the present at the **Historic Pullman House Tour** held two days in October: [www.pullmanil.org/housetour.htm](http://www.pullmanil.org/housetour.htm) (Calumet)

**November** Broadway comes to Bronzeville! See a show at the **Harold Washington Cultural Center** in Chicago (Illinois Lakefront)

How many trains can you count from the **viewing platform in Dolton, IL?** (Calumet)

**December** Try not to shoot your eye out at the **"A Christmas Story" Comes Home** exhibit in Hammond, IN: [www.southshorecva.com/achristmasstory](http://www.southshorecva.com/achristmasstory) (Southern Calumet)

Enjoy the wintery sights and keep an eye out for birds at **Sauk Trail Woods** in Chicago Heights (Southern Calumet)



*Chicago's southside*



*Open this page to view the map for*

# ILLINOIS LAKEFRONT







# ILLINOIS LAKEFRONT

*Stories to help you explore this region*



*Building the Sanitary and Ship Canal in 1894*

## **Who says the river has to flow that way?**

As a deluge of people moved to Chicago in the late 1800s, they created a torrent of problems for the city that was bursting at its seams. One of the most difficult issues the city faced was providing clean drinking water to the growing population. The larger the city grew, the more waste it produced. Sewage, trash and factory byproducts were frequently dumped into the Chicago River. This short-sighted solution proved problematic as the river drained into Lake Michigan, the city's main source for fresh drinking water at the time. Water borne diseases like cholera, typhoid and dysentery took heavy tolls on the city's residents. In 1889, the Sanitary District of Chicago proposed a revolutionary—and controversial—solution. Simply, they would reverse the flow of the Chicago River.

Of course, such a feat is not actually simple. Nine thousand workers labored for eight years to build a canal to connect the southern end of the

Chicago River with the Des Plaines River. Known as the Sanitary and Ship Canal, the 28-mile long marvel opened in the year 1900. As Chicago's sewage, trash and factory byproducts now flowed toward the Des Plaines River, and eventually to the Mississippi River and Gulf of Mexico instead, the city celebrated a near immediate decline in deaths from waterborne diseases.

The canal and its waste were met with protest from downstream communities as far away as St. Louis. Luckily for those cities, there was no significant increase in human disease after the flow reversal. Other canals were later added to help divert wastewater from Chicago, such as the Cal-Sag and North Shore channels. In the years since, water treatment and purification plants have been installed to help remove sewage and other contaminants from the water. Even with modern water treatment measures, Chicago is still one of the largest contributors of pollution to the Mississippi River.

Reversing the flow of the Chicago River saved Lake Michigan—and countless residents from disease. But this major decision to change the natural flow of fresh water has had long-term consequences that current residents—as well as our plant, animal and downstream neighbors—are still dealing with today.

## **Land ho!**

Two years after the *Titanic* sank in 1912, Chicago had its own shipwreck at Morgan Shoal, near 49th Street in Hyde Park. The *Silver Spray* was a wooden steamboat ferry that traveled the waters of Lake Michigan, but met its demise near Morgan Shoal.

**Morgan Shoal** is a large shelf of limestone near the lakeshore, where water depths can range from only three to eight feet deep, meaning the lake gets very shallow very quickly. Unfortunately, the captain of the *Silver Spray* learned this the hard way while en route to pick up a group of University of Chicago students heading for a tour of a steel mill in Gary, Indiana. The boat ran aground on July 15, 1914, and for three days, the crew remained onboard as they tried to pull the ship free. Not long after the crew was finally brought on shore, waves sunk the *Silver Spray*.



*Morgan Shoal*

Depending on lake levels, you can almost always see the top part of the *Silver Spray's* boiler sticking up out of the water. The propeller from the *Silver Spray* can be seen underwater if you make the short swim out to the wreckage. Swimming out to the site also provides an opportunity to see a wide variety of fish and other aquatic life.

## Great migration, great music

The Great Migration was a quiet, but steady, demographic shift that forever transformed America as African Americans moved to the north, searching for opportunity and a better life, free from the south's Jim Crow laws. At the start of the Great Migration, around 1915, Chicago's African American population numbered around 44,000. By the end of the Migration, around 1970, that number was over 1 million, about a half million of whom at one point lived in Chicago's Bronzeville neighborhood. By 2000, thanks to the Great Migrants and their descendants like Michelle Obama, more African Americans lived in Chicago than in the entire state of Mississippi. Thankfully, their culture followed.

Many of these individuals came from Louisiana, the birthplace of jazz, and Mississippi, home of the blues. When settling in Chicago, musicians from throughout the South and around the country met and shared their music. As a result, gospel, soul, jazz and blues musicians cross-pollinated their styles, creating fantastic music that uniquely represented the blending of cultures. The 1930s also brought the birth of the electric guitar and blues musicians in Chicago were some of the first to adopt the new technology. The expanding use of radio entertainment also helped spread Chicago's musical influence across the world.

Bronzeville's nightlife in the 1920s and 30s was second to none. Many of the jazz nightclubs of the era were considered to be "black and tan," meaning both blacks and whites could attend. This led to the occasional tense moment on the dance floor, but was an important step toward integration. Many of the original night clubs, like The Savoy Ballroom and The Sunset Café/Grand Terrace Ballroom are now gone, but many venues and festivals continue the tradition of world class jazz and blues in Chicago:

- **Room 43**  
1043 E. 43rd Street, Chicago, IL
- **New Checkerboard Lounge for Blues 'n' Jazz**  
5201 S. Harper Court, Chicago, IL
- **Hyde Park Jazz Festival**  
[www.hydeparkjazzfestival.org](http://www.hydeparkjazzfestival.org)
- **Harold Washington Cultural Center**  
4701 S. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Drive  
Chicago, IL, [www.broadwayinbronzeville.com](http://www.broadwayinbronzeville.com)
- **M Lounge**  
1520 S. Wabash Avenue, Chicago, IL

## Why drive when you can float?

Whether you travel by boat, kayak, canoe or paddle board, the greater Calumet Region has a wide variety of watery options available to you. The biggest challenge is deciding which waterway to explore first: Lake Michigan, the Chicago River, Calumet River, Kankakee River or the Cal-Sag Channel. Depending on your boat, you have a lot of options!

Lake Michigan is, of course, *the* place for boating. The Lake is especially busy in the summer months and during holidays and festivals like Taste of Chicago. Keep these busy times in mind if you plan on setting out from a lakeside marina. Should you decide to launch your vessel from within the city, be prepared to pay a launching fee (\$20). Lake launches are available at these Chicago Park District harbors:

- **Burnham Harbor**  
1559 S. Lake Shore Drive, Chicago, IL
- **59th Street Harbor**  
5900 S. Lake Shore Drive, Chicago, IL
- **Jackson Park Harbors**  
*inner:* 6400 S. Promontory Drive, Chicago, IL  
*outer:* 63rd Street and S. Lake Shore Drive, Chicago, IL

The Lake Michigan Water Trail Association is currently in the process of creating a guide for the shoreline water trails. For more information on state-specific trails and other upcoming plans and events, visit [www.lmwt.org](http://www.lmwt.org).

Remember, boating on Lake Michigan requires special gear, as the waves can be rough. Research conditions and equipment carefully. For more information about boating in the Millennium Reserve and Greater Calumet region, as well as marinas and docks you can utilize, visit any of these great resources:

- **Openlands Northeastern Illinois Regional Water Trails** [www.openlands.org/nirwt](http://www.openlands.org/nirwt)  
This website offers specific information, including maps, for nine different water trail regions, including the Chicago River Water Trail and the Calumet Area Water Trail.
- **Chicago Harbors** [www.chicagoharbors.info](http://www.chicagoharbors.info)  
This site offers information about boating in Chicago, with a focus on the Lake Michigan harbors.



**Monument to the Great Migration in Bronzeville**

*Lake Michigan*

### **Birding hotspots along Illinois' Lake Michigan Coast**

Lake Michigan acts as a migratory bird funnel, guiding traveling birds in search of greenery and places to rest to the Illinois coast. In addition to the large Lake, smaller lakes, rivers and human-made bodies of water attract migratory ducks and other waterfowl.

In the winter, birders can spot snowy owls that have flown south hunting rabbits and pigeons along Lake Michigan. In addition, Lake Michigan also harbors oldsquaws, mergansers, goldeneyes and scoters, hardy birds that court each other in January and February. With spring come the warblers. Birders have counted forty-one species

of warblers migrating through Illinois. Most of these species can be seen every year, but May is truly the prime time for warbler spotting; sometimes up to thirty warbler species have been spotted in a single outing!

No matter the season, there are great places for birding in Millennium Reserve along the Illinois coast. For example:

- **Jackson Park and Paul H. Douglas Nature Sanctuary (Wooded Island)**

6401 S. Stony Island Avenue, Chicago, IL

Located just south of Chicago's Loop and the Museum of

Science and Industry, this public transportation-accessible park is home to a 16-acre island that has harbored more than 75% of all birds spotted in Illinois. The best times to bird here are early morning in late April through the first three weeks of May and late August through September.

- **Rainbow Beach**

3111 E. 77th Street, Chicago, IL

Located on the southside of Chicago and accessible by public transportation, Rainbow Beach's history is closely tied to the city's turbulent racial history. Managed by the Chicago Park District, today's Rainbow Beach and Park is over 60 acres. In addition to public

beaches, a field house and bathrooms, the park has a natural area located at the northeast end of the beach that protects over 9 acres of dune habitat. Depending on the season, birders at Rainbow Beach have spotted snowy owls, Wilson's plover, white-winged scoters and migrant shorebirds.

*Snowy owl**Female common goldeneye*

*Black-crowned night heron  
in Osaka Garden*



## MY PERFECT DAY IN THE REGION

"I'd start my day early with a dawn jog along the lakefront. As I run, I like to watch wildlife like lake fish or migratory birds. It's enjoyable just taking in the native landscaping. That afternoon, I'd take a bicycle trip through Washington Park, Jackson Park or even all the way up to Grant Park. By the evening, a quiet stroll to the lake or to a local park with my dog would be a great cap to my day."

– Royce Cunningham

## Jackson Park

When Chicago was awarded the honor of hosting the 1893 World's Columbian Exposition, planners needed a place to put it. They selected a sprawling park that offered lake views, prestige and lots of space. That decision forever changed **Jackson Park** and the Chicago lakefront skyline.

Jackson Park was originally designed in 1869 by Frederick Law Olmsted and Calvert Naux, the renowned landscape architects who created New York's Central Park. Olmsted returned to Jackson Park in 1890 as part of the team that designed and built the grounds for the World's Exposition.

In the months leading up to the World's Exposition, Jackson Park was transformed into a "White City" of gleaming plaster buildings, art and oddities from around the world. After the Exposition closed, the site became a park again, with a few changes: the original Palace of Fine Arts was gutted, renovated and, in 1933, became the home to the Museum of Science and Industry. A couple years later, the first public golf course west

of the Allegheny Mountains opened in Jackson Park. A replica of the Statue of the Republic, referred to locally as the Golden Lady, pays homage to the original statue, now located in the middle of Jackson Park on 63rd and Hayes Drive.

Today's Jackson Park offers an incredible range of recreational activities and opportunities to connect with nature without leaving the city. The built structures in the over 540-acre park include a gymnasium, three multi-purpose rooms and fitness center. Green space is available on Wooded Island, which features the Japanese-styled Osaka Garden, Bobolink Meadows and a vegetable and flower garden. Olmsted originally designed Wooded Island as a peaceful respite from the chaos of the Exposition. It is now a popular birding destination; over 250 bird species have been counted as either permanent residents or migrant passers-through. Wooded Island also features over 50 species of trees. The Osaka Garden is the current incarnation of the Japanese exhibit at the World's Fair. The Gardens feature walking trails through ornamental

gardens and over ponds. While the rare bobolink can no longer be found in Bobolink Meadow, it is still a butterfly sanctuary and birdwatcher's paradise along the eastern shore of the East Lagoon, next to the golf driving range. As Jackson Park is on Lake Michigan, it also is home to boat harbors and a public beach.

With its public transportation-accessible location, rich history and fantastic natural setting, Jackson Park truly is an urban oasis. Jackson Park is located at 6401 S. Stony Island, Chicago, IL.



# ILLINOIS LAKEFRONT

## Gone fishin' along the Illinois Lakefront

Whether you do it from a boat, a bridge or from the bank of a river, the many waterways within the Millennium Reserve and Greater Calumet region provide ample opportunities to go fishing.

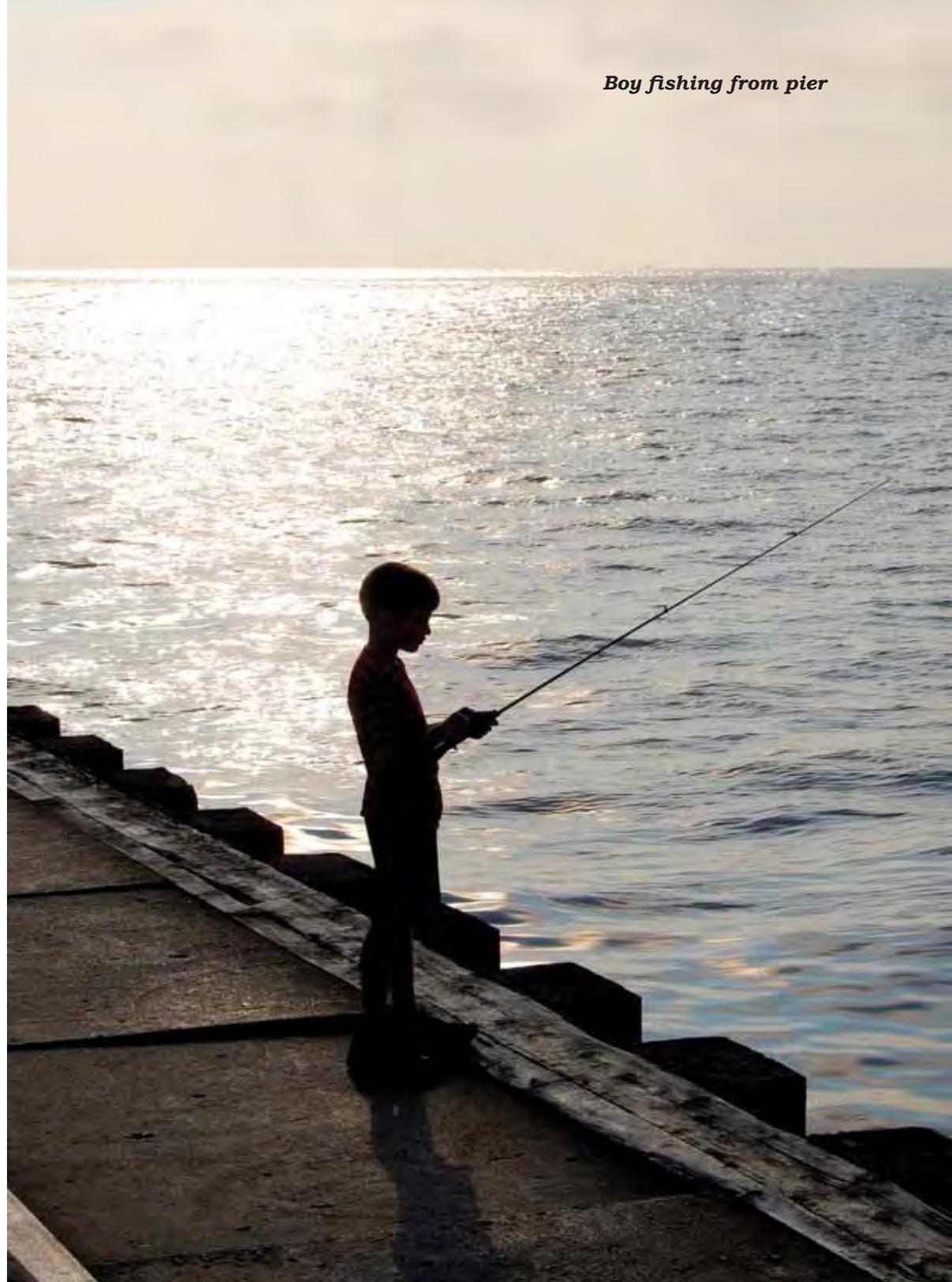
If you plan to fish within the State of Illinois, you'll need a permit. Seasonal permits cost \$15.00 (as of 2014) and they are readily available for purchase at most Chicago Park District field houses as well as online at [www.dnr.illinois.gov/LPR/Pages/default.aspx](http://www.dnr.illinois.gov/LPR/Pages/default.aspx). If you plan to fish for salmon or trout in Illinois, you'll need an additional stamp for your license, which can be purchased via the methods outlined above.

Lake Michigan anglers may encounter perch, bluegill, crappie, channel catfish, carp, large-mouth bass, small-mouth bass, rock bass, silver bass, coho salmon and smelt. Although, depending on your state of

origin, you may have limitations on which species you can catch. If you are fishing from land along the Illinois Lakefront, all harbors and beaches allow shoreline fishing access. Some harbors even have parking passes available for people with fishing licenses.

The Illinois Department of Natural Resources monitors the safety of all fish caught from state waters for human consumption. Industrial and sewage contaminants can render some species of fish dangerous for consumption. It is always a good idea to stay up to date on any fish safety guidelines as issued by the IDNR. Their website has a listing where you can search by body of water for lists of species that are safe for consumption and with what frequency. Visit [www.idph.state.il.us/envhealth/fishadvisory/index.htm](http://www.idph.state.il.us/envhealth/fishadvisory/index.htm) to learn more.

*Boy fishing from pier*





*Easter Sunday in front of Pilgrim Baptist Church*



*Pilgrim Baptist Church*

### **Historic churches**

As people moved to the Calumet Region, butcher shops, gristmills, taverns and other essential services were built to fulfill the settlers' hunger and thirst. But pioneers of the 1800s also needed their spiritual needs met. Churches were often one of the first structures built in new communities of the era. Settlers of shared ethnicity or home country set up homesteads in close proximity to each other. This led to many ethnic neighborhoods with a church as a focal point. The **First Reformed Church** founded by Dutch settlers in Roseland (near present day 107th Street) and others like it continue to define neighborhoods even to this day.

In Chicago, the period around World War I was characterized by a large influx of African American

and Mexican settlers to the city. The Mexican community on the city's southeast side turned old army barracks that had been relocated from Michigan into the first Mexican church in Chicago. This Roman Catholic Church would eventually become known as **Our Lady of Guadalupe**. Four years later, a much larger and impressive brick and stone church at 91st and Brandon replaced the original structure. A national shrine dedicated to St. Jude, the patron saint of lost causes, was instituted at the church in 1929.

Churches often had humble beginnings. The **Pilgrim Baptist Church** began with just a few people gathering at a deacon's house to pray on 45th Street in 1916. The growing crowd at weekly services quickly outgrew the deacon's home. The

church moved to larger quarters several times until 1920 when the parish found a home in a former Synagogue on 3301 South Indiana Avenue. The Synagogue had been designed by renowned architects Adler and Sullivan, however the interior was renovated to reflect the new inhabitants. The church continued to expand as congregants added a community center, gymnasium and housing for some parishioners. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. spoke at the church on several occasions. Tragedy struck in 2006 when a fire completely destroyed the inside of the church, leaving only the stone exterior walls. The congregation is currently working to raise funds to rebuild this historic church.

*Torrence Avenue bridge*

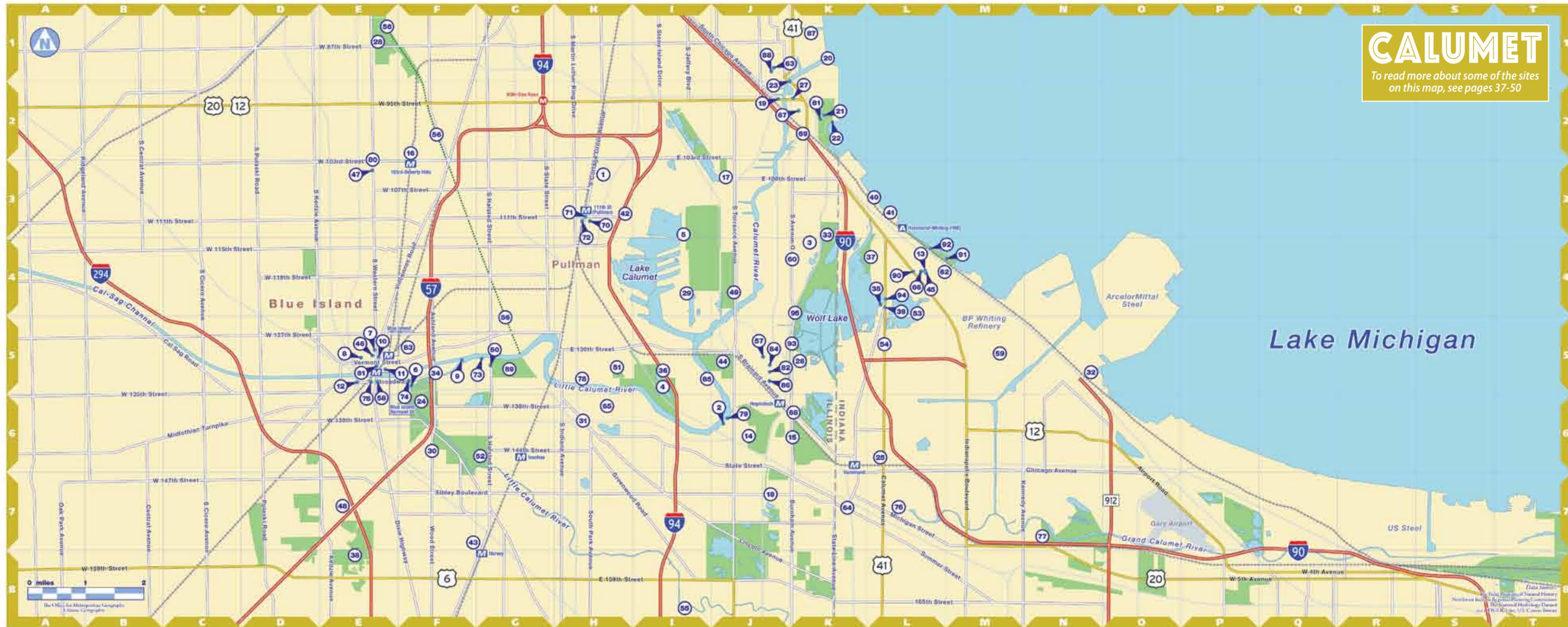


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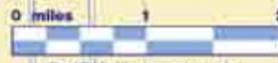
**CALUMET**

# CALUMET

To read more about some of the sites on this map, see pages 37-50



## Lake Michigan



Data Source:  
Northwest Indiana Regional Planning Commission  
U.S. Geological Survey  
U.S. Census Bureau



★ = Read more on this site in the following pages!

| Site Name                                  | Address  | Site Number | Grid Location |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|--|--|-------------|---------------|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| Site Name                                  | Address  | Site Number | Grid Location | Beaches & Fishing  | Birding Spots  | Festivals & Community Groups   | Hiking & Biking Trails   | Historic Sites   | Museums & Public Art   | Nature Centers, Gardens & Zoos   | Picnic Spots & Family Fun  | Preserves & Parks  | Restaurants & Breweries  | Trains   | Water Trails & Boat Launches or Docks  |
| A. Phillip Randolph Pullman Porter Museum  | 10406 S. Maryland Avenue • Chicago, IL             | 1           | H3            |  |  |  |  | X  | X  |  |  |  |  | X  |  |
| ★ Cal Side Marina                          | 14042 Croissant Drive • Burnham, IL                | 2           | J6            | X  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | X  |  |
| Alderman Vrdolyak's house                  | 115th & Avenue J • Chicago, IL                     | 3           | K4            |  |  |  |  | X  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Beaubien Woods Forest Preserve             | 1 W. Doty Avenue S • Chicago, IL                   | 4           | I5            |  | X  |  | X  |  |  |  | X  | X  |  |  | X  |
| ★ Big Marsh                                | 11400 S. Stony Island Avenue • Chicago, IL         | 5           | I3            |  | X  |  | X  |  |  |  |  | X  |  |  |  |
| Blue Bridge                                | 13351 Aulwurm Drive • Riverdale, IL                | 6           | F5            |  |  |  |  | X  |  |  |  |  |  | X  |  |
| ★ Blue Island Historical Museum            | 2433 York Street • Blue Island, IL                 | 7           | E5            |  |  |  |  |  | X  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| ★ Blue Island Historical Society Housewalk | 13018 Maple Avenue • Blue Island, IL               | 8           | E5            |  |  | X  |  | X  | X  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Blue Island Lock and Dam                   | 1518 Broadway Street • Blue Island, IL             | 9           | F5            |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | X  |
| Blue Island Mural                          | Western Avenue at York Street • Blue Island, IL    | 10          | E5            |  |  |  |  |  | X  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Blue Island SEPA Station                   | 2335 Fulton Street • Chicago, IL                   | 11          | E5            |  | X  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | X  |
| ★ Blue Island Train Spotting Site          | Broadway Street • Blue Island, IL                  | 12          | E5            |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | X  |  |
| Bulldog Brewing Company                    | 1409 119th Street • Whiting, IN                    | 13          | L4            |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | X  |  |  |
| Burnham Prairie Nature Preserve            | 2866 E. 142nd Street • Chicago, IL                 | 14          | J6            |  | X  |  | X  |  |  |  |  | X  |  |  |  |
| Burnham Woods Golf Course                  | 14201 Burnham Avenue • Chicago, IL                 | 15          | K6            |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | X  |  |  |  |  |
| Calabria Imports                           | 1905 W.103rd Street • Chicago, IL                  | 16          | F2            |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | X  |  |  |
| Calumet Bakery                             | 2510 E. 106th Street • Chicago, IL                 | 17          | J3            |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | X  |  |  |
| Calumet City Prairie                       | 901-903 Sibley Boulevard • Calumet City, IL        | 18          | J7            |  | X  |  |  |  |  |  |  | X  |  |  |  |
| ★ Calumet Fisheries                        | 3259 E. 95th Street • Chicago, IL                  | 19          | J2            |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | X  |  |  |
| Calumet Harbor                             | S. Lake Shore Drive & E. 87th Street • Chicago, IL | 20          | K1            | X  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Calumet Park                               | 9801 S. Avenue G • Chicago, IL                     | 21          | K2            | X  |  |  | X  |  |  |  | X  | X  |  |  | X  |
| Calumet Park Boat Ramp                     | 9801 S. Avenue G • Chicago, IL                     | 22          | K2            | X  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | X  |
| Calumet River Bridge                       | 92nd Street & Route 41 • Chicago, IL               | 23          | J2            |  |  |  |  | X  |  |  |  | X  |  |  |  |
| Calumet Woods                              | I-57 & Rolls Avenue • Riverdale, IL                | 24          | F6            |  | X  |  |  |  |  |  | X  | X  |  |  |  |
| Cavalier Inn                               | 735 Gostlin Street • Hammond, IN                   | 25          | L6            |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | X  |  |  |
| Club 81 Too                                | 13157 Avenue M • Chicago, IL                       | 26          | K5            |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | X  |  |  |
| ★ Crowley's Yacht Yard                     | 3434 E. 99th Street • Chicago, IL                  | 27          | K2            |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | X  |
| Dan Ryan Woods                             | 87th Street & Western Avenue • Chicago, IL         | 28          | E1            |  |  |  | X  |  |  |  | X  | X  |  |  |  |
| ★ Dead Stick Pond and Heron Pond           | 12200 S. Stony Island Avenue • Chicago, IL         | 29          | I4            |  | X  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Dixmoor Playfield                          | 14099 Wood Street • Dixmoor, IL                    | 30          | F6            |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | X  | X  |  |  |  |
| Dolton Junction                            | 14014 Park Avenue • Dolton, IL                     | 31          | H6            |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | X  |  |
| ★ East Chicago Marina                      | 3301 Aldis Street • East Chicago, IN               | 32          | N5            |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | X  |  | X  |
| ★ Eggers Grove Forest Preserve             | 11201 S. Avenue B • Chicago, IL                    | 33          | K3            |  | X  |  | X  |  |  |  | X  | X  |  |  |  |
| Fay's Point                                | 1518 Broadway Street • Blue Island, IL             | 34          | F5            |  | X  |  |  |  |  |  |  | X  |  |  | X  |
| Festival of the Lakes                      | 2938 S. Calumet Avenue • Hammond, IN               | 35          | L4            |  |  | X  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Flatfoot Lake                              | 1 W. Doty Avenue S. • Chicago, IL                  | 36          | I5            |  | X  |  |  |  |  |  | X  | X  |  |  | X  |

★ = Read more on this site in the following pages!

| Site Name   | Address  | Site Number | Grid Location |  Beaches & Fishing |  Birding Spots |  Festivals & Community Groups |  Hiking & Biking Trails |  Historic Sites |  Museums & Public Art |  Nature Centers, Gardens & Zoos |  Picnic Spots & Family Fun |  Preserves & Parks |  Restaurants & Breweries |  Trains |  Water Trails & Boat Launches or Docks |
|---|--|-------------|---------------|--|--|---|---|---|---|---|--|--|--|---|--|
| Forsythe Park                                       | 117th Street & Caroline Avenue • Whiting, IN                             | 37          | L4            |  | X  |   | X   |   |   |   | X  | X  |  |   |  |
| ★ Gensburg-Markham Prairie                          | Whipple Avenue & 159th Street • Markham, IL                              | 38          | E8            |  |  |   |   |   |   |   |  | X  |  |   |  |
| Hammond Environmental Education Center              | 2405 Calumet Avenue • Hammond, IN  | 39          | L4            |  |  |   | X   |   |   | X   |  |  |  |   |  |
| ★ Hammond Lakefront Park & Bird Sanctuary           | 825 Empress Drive • Hammond, IN  | 40          | L3            |  | X  |   | X   |   |   |   |  |  |  |   |  |
| ★ Hammond Marina                                    | 701 Casino Center Drive • Hammond, IN                                    | 41          | L3            | X  |  |   |   |   |   |   |  |  | X  |   | X  |
| ★ Harborside International Golf Center              | 11001 S. Doty Avenue • Chicago, IL                                       | 42          | H3            |  |  |   |   |   |   |   | X  |  | X  |   |  |
| ★ Harvey, IL  | Harvey, IL   | 43          | F7            |  |  |   |   |   |   |   |  |  |  |   |  |
| ★ Hegewisch Marsh                                   | 13000 S. Torrence Avenue • Chicago, IL                                   | 44          | J5            |  | X  |   |   |   |   |   |  | X  |  |   |  |
| Historic Downtown Whiting                           | Whiting, IL  | 45          | L4            |  |  |   |   | X   |   |   |  |  | X  |   |  |
| Holiday Light Parade                                | Western Avenue • Blue Island, IL   | 46          | E5            |  |  | X   |   |   |   |   |  |  |  |   |  |
| Horse Thief Hollow                                  | 10426 S. Western Avenue • Chicago, IL                                    | 47          | E3            |  |  |   |   |   |   |   |  |  | X  |   |  |
| Indian Boundary Prairie                             | Route 57 & I-294, IL   | 48          | E7            |  | X  |   | X   |   |   |   |  | X  |  |   |  |
| Indian Ridge Marsh                                  | 12200 S. Torrence Avenue • Chicago, IL                                   | 49          | J4            |  | X  |   |   |   |   |   |  | X  |  |   |  |
| Joe Louis "The Champ" Golf Course                   | 13100 S. Halsted Street • Riverdale, IL                                  | 50          | G5            |  | X  |   |   |   |   |   | X  |  |  |   |  |
| ★ Jon Ton Farm (Underground Railroad Historic Site) | 939 E. 132nd Street • Chicago, IL  | 51          | H5            |  |  |   |   | X   |   |   |  |  |  |   |  |
| Kickapoo Woods                                      | 14498 S. Halsted Street • Riverdale, IL                                  | 52          | G6            |  | X  |   | X   |   |   |   | X  | X  |  |   | X  |
| ★ Lake George                                       | 1385 125th Street • Whiting, IN  | 53          | L4            |  | X  |   | X   |   |   |   |  | X  |  |   |  |
| Lost Marsh Golf Course                              | 1001 129th Street • Hammond, IN  | 54          | L5            |  |  |   |   |   |   |   | X  |  |  |   |  |
| Lower Little Calumet River and Calumet River        | Gouwens Park, South Holland Trail South Holland, IL                      | 55          | I8            | X  |  |   |   |   |   |   |  |  |  |   | X  |
| ★ Major Taylor Trail                                | Whistler Woods Forest Preserve in Riverdale to Dan Ryan Woods in Chicago | 56          | E1            |  |  |   | X   |   |   |   |  |  |  |   |  |
| Mann Park   | 3035 E. 130th Street • Chicago, IL                                       | 57          | J5            |  |  |   |   |   |   |   |  | X  |  |   |  |
| Maple Tree Inn                                      | 13301 Old Western Avenue • Blue Island, IL                               | 58          | E5            |  |  |   |   |   |   |   |  |  | X  |   |  |
| Marktown  | 405 Prospect Street • East Chicago, IN                                   | 59          | M5            |  |  |   |   | X   |   |   |  |  |  |   |  |
| Memorial Day Massacre Sculpture                     | 117th & Avenue O • Chicago, IL   | 60          | K4            |  |  |   |   | X   | X   |   |  |  |  |   |  |
| New Years "Rock Around the Clock"                   | Western Avenue • Blue Island, IL   | 61          | E5            |  |  | X   |   |   |   |   |  |  |  |   |  |
| Oil City Stadium                                    | 1700 119th Street • Whiting, IN  | 62          | L4            |  |  |   |   |   |   |   | X  |  |  |   |  |
| Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish                        | 3200 E. 91st Street • Chicago, IL  | 63          | J1            |  |  |   |   | X   |   |   |  |  |  |   |  |
| Paul Henry's Art Gallery                            | 416 Sibley Street • Hammond, IN  | 64          | K7            |  |  |   |   |   | X   |   |  |  |  |   |  |
| ★ Pier II Marina                                    | 826 E. 138th Street • Chicago, IL  | 65          | H6            | X  |  |   |   |   |   |   |  |  |  |   | X  |
| Pierogi Festival                                    | 119th Street & Indianapolis Boulevard • Whiting, IN                      | 66          | L4            |  |  | X   |   |   |   |   |  |  |  |   |  |
| Piotroskey Field                                    | 9650 S. Avenue M • Chicago, IL   | 67          | K2            |  |  |   |   |   |   |   | X  | X  |  |   |  |
| ★ Powderhorn Prairie and Marsh                      | 13800 S. Brainard Avenue • Chicago, IL                                   | 68          | K6            | X  | X  |   |   |   |   |   |  | X  |  |   | X  |
| Pride of East Side/Blues Brothers Mural             | 100th Street & Avenue L • Chicago, IL                                    | 69          | K2            |  |  |   |   |   | X   |   |  |  |  |   |  |
| Pullman Farmers Market at Arcade Park               | 11132 S. St. Lawrence Avenue • Chicago, IL                               | 70          | H3            |  |  | X   |   |   |   |   | X  |  |  |   |  |

★ = Read more on this site in the following pages!

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|--|---|-------------|---------------|--|--|---|---|---|---|---|--|--|--|---|--|
| ★ Pullman State Historic Site                  | 11111 S. Forrestville Avenue • Chicago, IL      | 71          | H3            |  |  |   |   | X   |   |   |  |  |  |   |  |
| ★ Pullman Visitor Center                       | 11141 S. Cottage Grove Avenue • Chicago, IL     | 72          | H3            |  |  |   |   | X   | X   |   |  |  |  |   |  |
| Riverdale Marina                               | 13100 S. Halsted Street • Riverdale, IL         | 73          | G5            |  |  |   |   |   |   |   |  |  |  |   | X  |
| Riverside Tap                                  | 13351 Aulwurm Drive • Blue Island, IL           | 74          | F5            |  |  |   |   |   |   |   |  |  | X  |   |  |
| Rock Island Public House                       | 13328 Olde Western Avenue • Blue Island, IL     | 75          | E5            |  |  |   |   |   |   |   |  |  | X  |   |  |
| Roxana Marsh                                   | Roxana Drive • East Chicago, IN                 | 76          | L7            |  | X  |   |   |   |   |   |  |  |  |   |  |
| Seidner Dune and Swale Preserve                | 5501 Kennedy Avenue • Hammond, IN               | 77          | N7            |  | X  |   | X   |   |   |   |  |  |  |   |  |
| ★ Skipper's Marina                             | 13421 S. Vernon Avenue • Riverdale, IL          | 78          | H5            |  |  |   |   |   |   |   |  |  |  |   | X  |
| ★ Croissant Marina                             | 14002 S. Croissant Drive • Burnham, IL          | 79          | J6            |  |  |   |   |   |   |   |  |  |  |   | X  |
| South Side Irish Parade                        | 103rd Street and Western Avenue • Chicago, IL   | 80          | E3            |  |  | X   |   |   |   |   |  |  |  |   |  |
| Southeast Chicago Historical Museum            | 9801 S. Avenue G • Chicago, IL                  | 81          | K2            |  |  |   |   |   | X   |   |  |  |  |   |  |
| Southeast Environmental Task Force (Eco-Tours) | 13300 S. Baltimore Avenue • Chicago, IL         | 82          | J5            |  |  |   | X   | X   |   |   |  |  |  |   |  |
| St. Donatus Festival                           | 1939 Union Street • Blue Island, IL             | 83          | F5            |  |  | X   |   |   |   |   |  |  |  |   |  |
| Steve's Lounge                                 | 13200 S. Baltimore Avenue • Chicago, IL         | 84          | J5            |  |  |   |   |   |   |   |  |  | X  |   |  |
| ★ Thomas J. O'Brien Lock and Dam               | E. 134th Street • Chicago, IL                   | 85          | I5            |  |  |   |   |   |   |   |  |  |  |   | X  |
| Tony Piet Sculpture                            | 13416 S. Baltimore Avenue • Chicago, IL         | 86          | J5            |  |  |   |   |   | X   |   |  |  |  |   |  |
| US Steel Historic Site                         | E. 79th Street & Route 41 • Chicago, IL         | 87          | I5            |  |  |   |   | X   |   |   |  |  |  |   |  |
| Vietnam Veteran's Mural                        | 3200 E. 91st Street • Chicago, IL               | 88          | J1            |  |  |   |   |   | X   |   |  |  |  |   |  |
| Whistler Woods Forest Preserve                 | 678 W. 134th Street • Riverdale, IL             | 89          | G5            |  | X  |   | X   |   | X   | X   |  |  |  |   |  |
| Whiting Community Center                       | 1938 Clark Street • Whiting, IN                 | 90          | L4            |  |  |   |   | X   |   |   | X  |  |  |   |  |
| Whiting Park                                   | E. 119th Street & N. Front Street • Whiting, IN | 91          | M4            |  | X  |   | X   |   |   | X   | X  |  |  |   |  |
| Wihala Beach                                   | 1561 Park Road • Whiting, IN                    | 92          | L4            | X  |  |   |   |   |   | X   |  |  |  |   | X  |
| ★ William W. Powers State Recreation Area      | 12949 Avenue O • Chicago, IL                    | 93          | K5            | X  | X  |   | X   |   |   | X   | X  | X  |  |   |  |
| ★ Wolf Lake Park                               | 2405 Calumet Avenue • Hammond, IN               | 94          | L4            | X  | X  |   | X   | X   |   |   | X  | X  |  |   | X  |
| ★ Wolf Lake NIKE Missile Monument              | 126th Street & Avenue O • Chicago, IL           | 95          | K4            |  | X  |   |   | X   |   |   | X  |  |  |   |  |

### The fastest civil rights pioneer on two wheels

Marshall Taylor was born just outside Indianapolis in 1878. As a preteen, Taylor was given a bicycle, a gift that had a great impact on his life. He excelled at performing cycling stunts, which garnered the attention of Tom Hay, a local bike shop owner, who hired Marshall to promote his shop by performing tricks outside the front door. Hay gave Marshall a red military uniform to perform in, which quickly earned him the nickname "Major" Taylor.

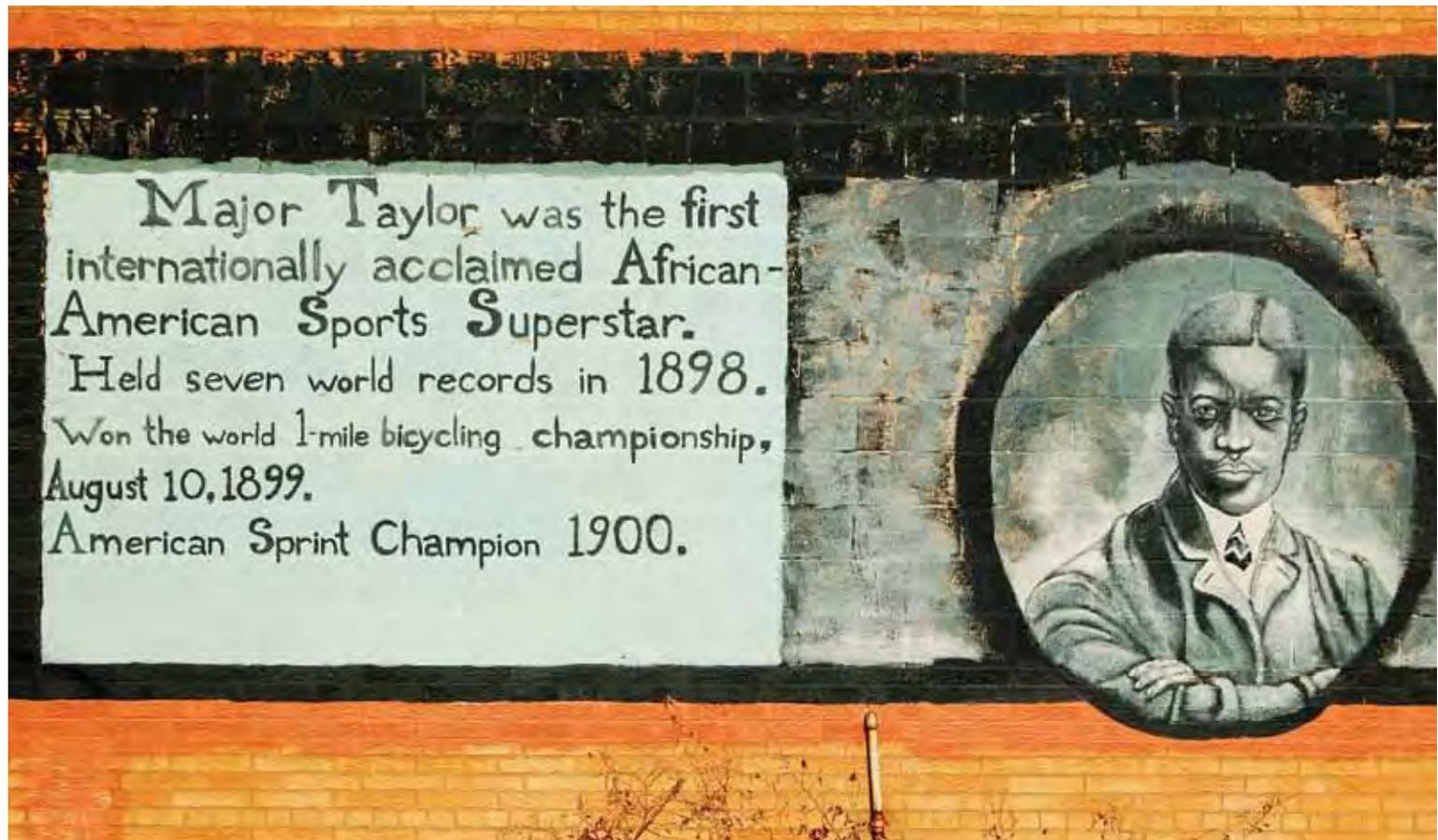
Major Taylor began to enter bicycle races and set several world records. But, as an African American in a predominately white sport, he encountered severe racism and discrimination. Some race organizers would ban him from competing and other cyclists would work together to "box him in," preventing him from advancing in a race. In his autobiography (*The Fastest Bicycle Rider in the World*), he recounts being strangled to the point of unconsciousness by another cyclist. But his athletic ability and determination to receive fair treatment won out;

Major Taylor went on to compete in and win races all around the world.

Taylor retired from racing at the age of 32 after a very successful and profitable career. Life after cycling proved to be difficult, however, and his investments and business ventures failed. By 1930, he was broke and had taken up residence at a YMCA shelter in the Bronzeville neighborhood of Chicago. Two years later he died in a Cook County Hospital and was buried in an unmarked grave.

Major Taylor is memorialized by the **Major Taylor Bicycle Trail** in Chicago, a 7.2 mile trail that connects the neighborhoods of Brainerd, Gresham, Beverly, Morgan Park, Roseland, West Pullman and the village of Riverdale. You can begin your ride at West 83rd Street by the Dan Ryan Woods Forest Preserve and continue south until you cross the Calumet River and reach Whistler Woods Forest Preserve.

*Major Taylor Bicycle Trail mural*





### The missile on a stick

As the Cold War raged after World War II, the United States developed the Nike-Ajax missile to defend itself in the event of a Soviet bomber

attack. Nikes were anti-aircraft guided missiles set up in strategic places throughout the United States. As a transportation and industry hub, Chicago was considered a possible Soviet target. To protect the city and its residents, a solid perimeter of 22 missile bases was established from Libertyville to Naperville, Homewood and east through northwest Indiana into Porter County. In 1958, the Nike-Ajax missiles were phased out in favor of Nike-Hercules missiles, but these became obsolete when the Soviets introduced missiles that were impossible for the Hercules to track. By the mid-1970s, the Nike missile batteries were fully decommissioned.

Not much remains of the many Chicagoland Cold War missile sites, but in **Hegewisch**, you can see what is left of site C-44. A monument of a Nike warhead (sometimes referred to as the “Missile on a Stick”) pays tribute to the site’s former military purpose. Today, most of the paved areas and foundations of the former base are in ruins and partially reclaimed by nature. The site, at the north end of Wolf Lake, is now part of the **William W. Powers State Recreation Area**. In addition to the military history, Wolf Lake, which straddles the state line, provides ample fishing, boating, winter sports activities, bike trails, picnic areas and waterfowl hunting. If you stop in for a picnic, be sure to keep an eye out for memorial stones honoring U.S. war veterans near the entrance at 126th Street and Avenue O. Together, this area’s military history, beautiful views, animal habitat and recreational possibilities make it a must-see destination.



### Michael Jackson’s childhood home

### The Region

**The Region** or “Da Region,” is the nickname given to the neighborhoods and historic industrialized landscape of the south shore of Lake Michigan in Northwest Indiana. Its industrial feel is a testament to how thoroughly the boundaries between industry, residents, commerce and nature are blurred in this unique region.

The four industrial cities at the heart of The Region are Hammond (stockyards), Whiting (oil), East Chicago (steel) and Gary (steel). Many residents of The Region were originally called “millrats” because of the long hours they worked in the steel mills and factories that have defined this area, although, at the time, this was considered a derogatory name. Over time, as many of

the industries left, the moniker was altered slightly to reflect geographic location instead of occupation and many Region Rats reclaimed the term with pride. Today, the cultures, cuisines and languages of this melting pot make The Region the unique place that it is today. To many, The Region is a state all its own. The Region’s history is inseparable from Chicago, but it quickly developed its own personality with long-standing traditions and proud residents. Famous Region residents include: Apollo astronaut Frank Borman, comedian Jim Gaffigan, Avery Brooks, Alex Karras, and the King of Pop himself, Michael Jackson. Visitors to the region can see **Michael Jackson’s humble origins** at his childhood home, 2300 Jackson Street in Gary.

## MY PERFECT DAY IN THE REGION

“I’d start my perfect day volunteering at the Rainbow Beach Dunes and, while I’m there, I’d also stop by the farmers market. I’d pick up lunch at Calumet Fisheries and have a picnic on Calumet Beach. Then I’d drive over to Indiana Dunes State Park or one of the Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore beaches for some hiking and swimming. After all that, I’d have dinner and some beers at 3 Floyds Brewpub.”

— Katie Larson

## Cal-Sag Channel and Trail

In 1922, the newly completed Cal-Sag Channel reversed the flow of the Calumet River so sewage and pollution would flow away from Lake Michigan, the region's drinking water supply, to the Illinois and Mississippi River system instead. As with many other canals built around this time, the Cal-Sag also allowed barge traffic to go directly from the Calumet River industries to the Illinois River, enhancing the area's efficiency in distributing raw materials.

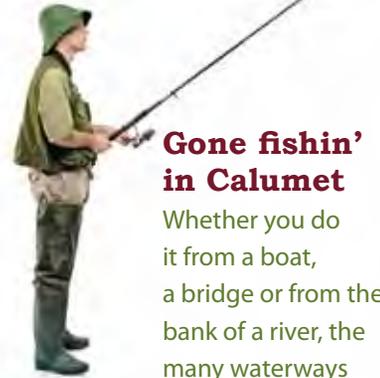
The name Cal-Sag comes from the words Calumet (named for the river) and Saganashkee (a large swamp that once stretched between Blue Island and the Des Plaines River before it was drained). While the Channel has had problems with pollution in the past, its future is bright

as the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District recently agreed to clean up the pathogens in its discharges. Its Calumet waste water treatment plant is one of the largest in the world and the district has designed award-winning oxygenation waterfalls in beautiful mini-parks. Habitat restoration work in the forest preserves along the channel has created refuges for deer, snakes, fish, birds and people!

A new 30-mile trail will be built along the Cal-Sag Channel beginning in 2014. The **Cal-Sag Trail** will connect more than 185,000 people from Lemont to Burnham who live within 1 mile of the trail in fourteen communities, providing access to transit systems, retail areas, parks, forest preserves (including Calumet Woods and Whistler Woods), marinas and nature

centers. The trail will connect users to other trails creating a 10-mile trail loop around the southern suburbs, as well as linking to the 500-mile Grand Illinois Trail looping all of northern Illinois. For more information and maps of the Cal-Sag Trail, visit [www.CalSagTrail.org](http://www.CalSagTrail.org).

**Cal-Sag Channel bridges**



## Gone fishin' in Calumet

Whether you do it from a boat, a bridge or from the bank of a river, the many waterways within the Millennium Reserve and Greater Calumet region provide ample opportunities to go fishing.

Many of the best places to fish from the shoreline along the Cal-Sag Channel and Calumet rivers are marinas and boat docks, but bridges and public parks are often good bets as well. Be sure to stay away from private properties and restricted access piers. Some great fishing spots include:

- **Wolf Lake and Lake George:** Wolf Lake on the Illinois/Indiana border is home to largemouth bass, northern pike, bluegill, redear sunfish, crappie, bullhead, carp, walleye, hybrid muskie and yellow perch. From the William W. Powers Recreation Area in Illinois (12949 South Avenue O) and Wolf Lake Park in Indiana (2405 Calumet Avenue, Hammond, IN)

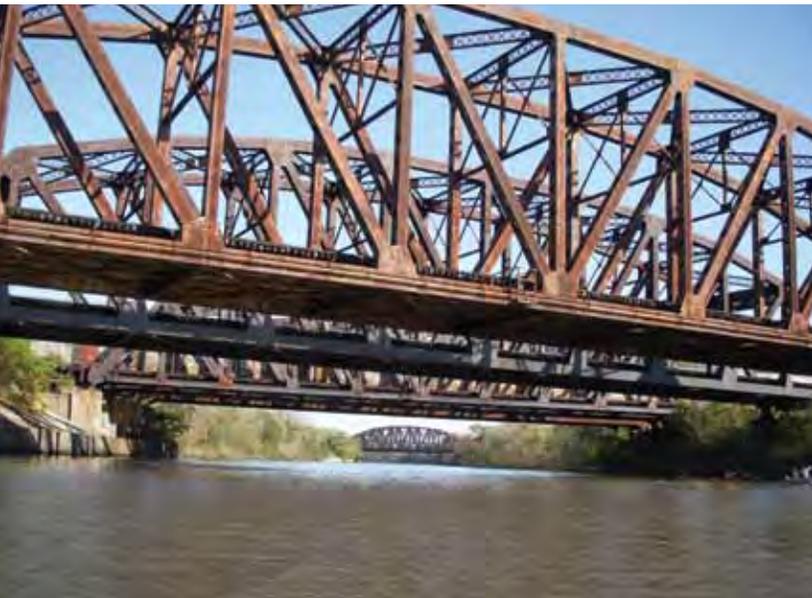
you can fish along the shores of Wolf Lake. Or visit nearby Lake George, located just on the other side of Calumet Avenue at 1385 125th Street, Whiting, IN.

- **Hammond Marina**  
701 Casino Center Drive, Hammond, IN
- Additionally, parks in **Hammond, Whiting, East Chicago** and **Lake County** each have shoreline access points for anglers.

Since the waterways found in Millennium Reserve are all connected by one way or another, the fish species you will find are quite consistent. However, seasonal changes may influence where fish tend to be most common. During the summer months, fish often head deep into Lake Michigan to find cooler waters. For a list of seasonal catches, visit [www.chicagoparkdistrict.com/facilities/fishing-areas](http://www.chicagoparkdistrict.com/facilities/fishing-areas).



**Bluegill**



## MY PERFECT DAY IN THE REGION

“In the morning, I’d go fishing or canoeing in the Little Calumet River. That afternoon I’d spend hiking through Sand Ridge Nature Preserve. A dinner on Old Western Avenue in Blue Island would be a perfect cap to my day.”

— Mark Henning

### Harvey, Illinois

Before the **City of Harvey** was the City of Harvey, it was called South Lawn. After a series of transactions and business dealings, a tract of about 1,700 acres originally owned by the nearby Illinois Central Railroad fell into the hands of Mr. Turlington W. Harvey. Harvey quickly set up a land association in 1889 and started recruiting industries to set up factories and residents who could staff them. Harvey planned the growth of the city the way Mr. Pullman planned his nearby city, but with an important twist—this new city would be dry (alcohol-free) and Harvey would attempt to build a community through commonly-held Christian values.

### Northern pike



*Calumet Fisheries  
at night*



The town grew up with the nearby railroad, the tracks acting as a border keeping residential and industrial areas separate. Within three years, what had once been native Illinois prairie had turned into a city of 5,000 residents, thanks in part to the arrival of people from around the world to take part in the World’s Columbian Exposition held in Chicago in 1893. As the city grew, so did its thirst, putting an end to the short-lived temperance aspect of the city in 1895.

The City of Harvey has earned a reputation among film buffs as the home of one of the most memorable scenes in “The Blues Brothers.” Dixie Square Mall, which closed in 1978, was rented by filmmakers to shoot the scene where Jake and Elwood crash through the mall while being pursued by the police. The mall interior was completely trashed during the filming, and the entire building was eventually demolished.

### Calumet Fisheries

The greater Chicago area may be known for its Chicago-style hot dogs and deep dish pizza, but on 95th Street, you can grab some of the tastiest fish you’ll ever find. **Calumet Fisheries** was started by brothers-in-law Sid Kotlick and Len Toll in 1948 and to this day is still family owned and operated. Shrimp, salmon, catfish, trout, herring and more are marinated and smoked on site in a unique process that is impossible to find anywhere else in the city. The fish is fresh, the flavors are full-bodied and the family members working the fryer are friendly. Don’t expect to sit down and be waited on, however. The smokehouse has no seating or bathrooms, but just outside, the 95th Street bridge, made famous by Joliet Jake and Elwood Blues, makes a great backdrop to enjoy a meal in your car. You owe it to yourself to eat at a Chicago institution! Calumet Fisheries is at 3259 E. 95th Street Chicago, IL. View the full menu online at [www.calumetfisheries.com](http://www.calumetfisheries.com).

## One man's trash is another man's golf course

The abandoned industrial landscape and closed landfills of the Calumet area are being re-imagined for new commercial and "green" industrial developments, as well as habitat restoration, historic heritage parks and active recreation. With proper remediation, closed landfills can become fantastic parks, green space and even golf courses. The **Harborside**

**International Golf Center** (11001 S. Doty Avenue) is case in point. It's a former landfill not too far from the historic Pullman neighborhood that boasts two 18-hole Scottish links-style courses (Port and Starboard). Both courses have been ranked by *Golfweek* as among the best places to tee off in Illinois. Harborside also boasts a clubhouse and a restaurant that serves American classics as well as great views of Lake Calumet's diverse aquatic birds.



*Harborside International Golf Center*

## *Harborside International Golf Center*



## Blue Island

According to some local legends, as early settlers came to the Calumet area, they saw a blue hill rising above the verdant green prairie. Since then, the aptly named Blue Island has been instrumental to the growth of its northern neighbor, Chicago. From its start, Blue Island was a center for transportation. It became known as a comfortable resting point for visitors, farmers and new immigrants weary after fording the Little Calumet River with a full day's journey to Chicago still ahead of them.

As new canals expanded Blue Island's shipping, transportation and industrial opportunities, its population expanded, too. Today, Blue Island continues to boast an impressive transportation infrastructure with several Metra stations and

access to Interstate 57 and the Dixie Highway. Its downtown and surrounding neighborhoods are noteworthy for their architectural integrity and significance.

Over the last 20 years or so, Blue Island has found success in embracing its past and the natural and built resources that have defined it since it was first settled in 1836. From boat races and collegiate rowing competitions to breweries and historic home tours, Blue Island has fully embraced its past as it plans for the future. To learn more about Blue Island's history, architecture or famous residents, visit the **Blue Island Historical Society** (by appointment only) at 13018 Maple Avenue or the **Blue Island Historical Museum**, which is in the public library on 2433 York Street. Blue Island is accessible by Metra from Chicago.

## MY PERFECT DAY IN THE REGION

“After breakfast I would play 18 holes of golf at The Meadows Golf Club. It’s peaceful, challenging and a pleasant way of getting exercise while experiencing nature.

After golf, I would take a walk in Blue Island’s “Silk Stocking” district and follow A Walking Tour of the City on the Hill, produced by the Historic Preservation Commission and written by Ken Jellema (which can be found at [www.blueisland.org/landmarks](http://www.blueisland.org/landmarks)). This tour features homes designed by prominent architects including George Washington Maher, Bertrand Goldberg and Blue Island’s very own Robert E. Seyfarth. After my walk I would stop

for a lively feast of authentic Cajun food at the Maple Tree and enjoy some of their featured craft beers.

That is only one example of my perfect day in Blue Island, but there’s no such thing as just One Perfect Day... in Blue Island every day is Perfect!”

— Mary Poulsen

*Downtown Blue Island*



### Underground Railroad

The Underground Railroad was a secret network of safe houses for runaway slaves searching for freedom and a new life up North. Many slaves had set their sights on crossing the U.S. Canada border. Chicago and the Calumet Region contained many safe houses that served as rest stops along the two-to six-month journey. Underground Railroad “conductors” helped escort escaped slaves from safe house to safe house. The secret nature of the Underground Railroad operation, plus the Chicago fire of 1871, can make tracing exactly who and what places were involved in the Underground Railroad challenging.

But it is well known that at least one station along the Underground

Railroad was provided by Holland immigrant Jan Ton and his wife Aggie. The two established a 50-acre farm for their family, a farm that eventually became one station along an Underground Railroad route that led to Hammond, Indiana, and up to Michigan where former slaves could then enter Canada as free men and women. Several other Dutch settlers in the area joined Ton’s cause and also offered up their homes as safe houses. No structures remain at the John Ton Farm site (Jan Americanized his name to John). Advocates have proposed creating a museum documenting the Underground Railroad at the site or in some manner protecting the site and celebrating its historic and civil rights significance.



**Train crossing at Dolton Junction**

of the best sites in the United States for train watchers. Right next to the Dolton City Hall and police station is a massive train yard where, at one point, four different railroad

lines met. Up to 120 trains can pass through the junction a day. You'll see trains from Union Pacific, CSX, Indiana Harbor Belt (IHB) and Metra. You can see the train yard from the City Hall parking lot, 14014 Park Avenue, Dolton, IL.

Dolton may win the prize when it comes to sheer number of trains, but just 5 miles away is another rail nexus. **Blue Island's rail yards** aren't quite as busy as Dolton's (only 80-90 trains daily), but it does boast a much more diverse range of train lines. Most of the train traffic is around Broadway Street, as car traffic crosses 5 separate lines moving north to south. CSX, Metra, IHB, Canadian National (CN) and Iowa Interstate (IAIS) trains can often be spotted. The pedestrian sidewalks along Broadway Street offer great views of the crossings, but take heed as some trains travel at high speeds. Be aware of your surroundings!

## Train spotting

Bird watchers are often stealthily hiding out in tall grass as they hold a Sibley guide in one hand and binoculars in the other. If there is an equivalent to the bird watcher in the post-industrial era, it is probably the train spotter. While bird watchers are looking for sandhill cranes or red-bellied woodpeckers, train watchers often look for different engine models from a variety of train lines and freight companies.

The Greater Calumet region has a rich history of rail transportation that continues to this day. In busy rail centers, like Calumet, many rail lines cross paths. When a dual track is intersected by a 3rd track, the rails come together to make two diamond shapes or a "double diamond." There are quite a few spots to take in the elusive mechanical life that chugs across the state.

**Dolton Junction** is probably one

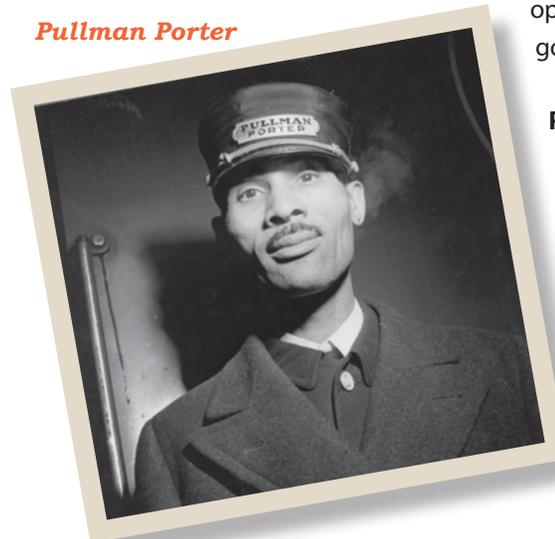
## Pullman labor disputes

In 1880, George M. Pullman built a factory near Lake Calumet to build sleeping rail cars. To help attract workers to his factory—and to manage how his workers would live—he also built a small town of company-owned housing, entertainment and city services around the factory. Pullman named the town after himself and required his workers to live there, becoming not only everyone's boss, but also their landlord.

Over time, Pullman increased his workers' rent without increasing their pay. And, since workers weren't allowed to move out of Pullman City while employed at the factory, they went on strike in 1894. The strike caused many rail shutdowns that affected not only the Chicagoland area, but also the nation. Eventually the President sent in federal troops to end the strike.

Another history-making labor dispute affected the Pullman Company

## Pullman Porter



in the 1920s. Pullman Porters were African Americans who worked on the rail cars. Often working nearly 20 hours a day and only earning around \$800 a year (\$7,500 by today's standards), they united, demanding better working conditions and wages. It took nearly 12 years, but in 1937 the "Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters" gained recognition as one of the first African American unions to collectively bargain with their employer. Their efforts are now recognized as an important first step in the civil rights movement.

Not long after George Pullman died in 1897, Pullman was annexed by the City of Chicago. Much of historic Pullman still exists today, including the Factory Clock Tower, Florence Hotel, marketplace and the residential community. The **Pullman Visitor Center** is located at 112th Street and Cottage Grove. There you'll find exhibits detailing the Pullman Historic District, guided and self-paced tour opportunities. For more information, go to [www.PullmanIL.org](http://www.PullmanIL.org).

The nearby **A. Philip Randolph Pullman Porter Museum** promotes and celebrates the contributions African-Americans have made to America's labor movement, with a significant focus on African-American railroad employees. For more information, visit [www.aphiliprandolphmuseum.com](http://www.aphiliprandolphmuseum.com).

## MY PERFECT DAY IN THE REGION

“If I could spend one perfect day in Calumet, I’d start my morning with a row through Lake Calumet. After lunch, I’d explore the neighborhoods of Pullman and take a walking tour. That evening, I’d go to Argus Brewery to enjoy a few drinks.”

— Mark Carroll

### Birding hotspots in the Calumet

The marshes, lakes and prairies of the Calumet region are home to common moorhen, Virginia rail, yellow-headed blackbirds, ring-billed and herring gulls and, recently, a large breeding colony of black-crowned night-herons. Birders have counted 30 species of shorebirds and 25 endangered birds in this area. Spring birders look for the herons and egrets returning to their rookeries or establishing new ones in April. The **Chicago Audubon Society** ([www.chicagoaudubon.org](http://www.chicagoaudubon.org)) and the **Chicago Ornithological Society** ([www.chicagobirder.org](http://www.chicagobirder.org)) offer bird walks within this region. But, even without expert guidance, there are great places to bird watch in Calumet. Parking areas are not always provided, so you may need to improvise parking in off-road locations.

• **Lake Calumet:** There are a cluster of birding spots surrounding Lake Calumet that are best to visit from late April through mid June.

#### – Big Marsh

11400 S. Stony Island Avenue, Chicago, IL

#### – Indian Ridge Marsh

12200 S. Torrence Avenue, Chicago, IL

#### – Hegewisch Marsh

13000 S. Torrence Avenue, Chicago, IL

#### – Powderhorn Prairie and Marsh

13800 S. Brainard Avenue, Chicago IL

#### – Deadstick Pond

12200 S. Stony Island Avenue, Chicago, IL

The best time to bird here is July into mid-September.

#### • Thomas J. O’Brien Lock and Dam

134th Street and Calumet River, Chicago, IL

The best time to bird here is December through February.

#### • Eggers Grove Forest Preserve

11201 S. Avenue B, Chicago, IL

Right along the Illinois-Indiana border, 241-acre Eggers Grove is a rich, wet woodland perfect for wildflower and bird spotting. The large marsh to the southeast is one of the few remaining local wetlands where Virginia rails nest. Other bird species include gray catbirds, yellow warblers, song sparrows, eastern kingbirds and red-eyed vireos. The varied woodland and wetland landscape attracts spring and fall migrations of waterfowl and songbirds. Ongoing restoration work helps maintain this ecologically significant area.

#### • Wolf Lake

2405 Calumet Avenue, Hammond, IN

A walk/bike path parallels the entire east shore of the lake, offering great birding opportunities, especially for waterfowl. On the Illinois side, the lake remains the only place within Chicago city limits where duck hunting is allowed, but only from designated duck blinds.

#### • Lake George: 1385 125th Street, Whiting, IN

Lake George is another great place to view migrating waterfowl, including tundra swan, in the Calumet Region. The parking lot is at the corner of 125th and Calumet Avenue.



*Powderhorn Prairie and Marsh and Yellow-headed blackbird*



### Hammond Lakefront Park & Bird Sanctuary

Nestled between the Indiana/Illinois state line and the Hammond Marina, the **Hammond Lakefront Park & Bird Sanctuary** is a rest stop for birds migrating along the Lake Michigan flyway. The Sanctuary is only 16 acres in size, but offers a great variety of habitats. Even birds like to have options! Aside from the beach along the lakeshore, there are small forest patches and areas of tall grass. The birds attracted to these diverse habitats include piping plovers, barn owls, Connecticut warblers, clay colored sparrows and LeConte’s

sparrow. Sites like this are very important as they provide refuge for birds to find shelter, food and water during their seasonal migration. The migrations are your best bets for spotting the biggest variety of birds; spring migration happens April-May and the fall migration happens August-October.

The trails on site are very accessible, even for people in wheelchairs. The Hammond Lakefront Park & Bird Sanctuary is located at 825 Empress Drive, Hammond, IN. Parking is available on site as well as at the casino across the street. You’ll need to show ID to park in the Sanctuary parking lot.

## A watery perspective

Boats, kayaks and canoes are fun ways to bring a new perspective to areas that we think we already know really well. In the Calumet region, boaters or paddlers can launch on the Calumet River from the southern or western suburbs and take in the historical and natural sights there or even travel by canal to the lake.

From Lake Michigan, you can enter the Calumet River near what landlubbers call 95th Street at Calumet Harbor. The Calumet River attracted many industries to the area in the late 1800s because it could be used for shipping both raw materials and finished goods. That continues today, so if you plan on boating in the Calumet River, be prepared to encounter traffic from industrial barges and remember to keep your distance! The banks of the Calumet offer evidence of the region's industrial side, from landfills to abandoned steel mills and working factories. In contrast, narrower portions

### *Man-made waterfall on the Cal-Sag Channel*



of the Calumet River and the Little Calumet River flow through much more natural settings, like Beaubien Woods, Kickapoo Meadows and Gouwens Park. During the spring and summer, bring your binoculars to look for animals and birds along the banks. There are many places to launch in the Calumet and Little Calumet Rivers, including:

- **Cal Side Marina**  
14042 Croissant Drive, Burnham, IL
- **Croissant Marina**  
14002 Croissant Road, Burnham, IL
- **Pier II Marina**  
826 E. 138th Street, Chicago, IL
- **Skipper's Marina**  
13421 S. Vernon Avenue, Riverdale, IL
- **Crowley's Yacht Yard**  
3434 E. 95th Street, Chicago, IL
- **Hammond Marina**  
701 Casino Center Drive, Hammond, IN
- **East Chicago Marina**  
3301 Aldis Street, East Chicago, IN

The Calumet River gradually becomes what is known as the Cal-Sag Channel, a man-made extension of the Calumet River. You'll see many residential suburban areas while on the Cal-Sag as well as some man-made waterfalls that help aerate the water. The town of Worth has a convenient boat launch site with plenty of parking on 115th Street, 2 blocks west of Harlem Avenue at the Village Boat.

For more information about boating in the Millennium Reserve and Greater Calumet region, as well as marinas and docks you can utilize, visit any of these great resources:

- **Openlands Northeastern Illinois Regional Water Trails** ([www.openlands.org/nirwt](http://www.openlands.org/nirwt)): This website offers specific information and



*Little Calumet River*

maps for nine water trail regions, including the Chicago River Water Trail and the Calumet Area Water Trail.

- **The Indiana Department of Natural Resources** ([www.in.gov/dnr/outdoor/4484.htm](http://www.in.gov/dnr/outdoor/4484.htm)): This website details some of the nature preserves along the Kankakee River in Indiana and provides several canoe trip itineraries.



## GREAT RESTORATION!

### **Hegewisch Marsh**

**Hegewisch Marsh**, the largest wetland in Chicago, has survived undeveloped in the shadow of the industrial revolution. It was not developed by the steel mills that populated the area, but it did receive some slag deposition from nearby factories. Visitors can still find spotted salamanders, yellow-headed blackbirds, pied-billed grebes, common moorhen and bullfrogs, as well as coyotes, beavers and muskrats in the preserve.

Led by the City of Chicago who owns the site, a concerted effort to remove much of the industrial slag and other waste from Hegewisch has been ongoing for several years. Invasive plants such as buckthorn are especially targeted for removal. Hegewisch Marsh is located at 13000 S. Torrence Avenue, near the intersection with 130th Street, in Chicago.



**Inset: Downy woodpecker • Above: Birdwatching at Hegewisch Marsh**

### **Gensburg-Markham Prairie**

Imagine a natural, untouched prairie. Who waters the grasses? Who pollinates the wild flowers? Who plants the seeds? Nature takes care of all of those responsibilities, but one of the biggest challenges for conservationists is knowing when it is time for humans to intervene to protect a wild habitat.

A man by the name of Dr. Robert Betz came across what he believed to be native prairie in Markham, IL, in the 1960s. This island of prairie hadn't been touched by development, but it was in need of attention due to invasive shrubs and trees. Thanks to years of hard work by volunteers who seeded, implemented controlled burns and removed invasive plants, the prairie is now a healthy and restored bustling ecosystem, one of the

rarest in the world. **Gensburg-Markham Prairie** is home to a diverse assortment of plants and animals including Henslow's sparrows, Franklin's ground squirrels, leadplant moths, white fringed orchids, grape fern, colic root and hundreds of other species.

Gensburg-Markham Prairie has since been named a National Natural Landmark. The Prairie's 105 acres are owned in part by The Nature Conservancy, Northeastern Illinois University and the Natural Lands Institute. To visit Markham Prairie, exit eastbound from Interstate 57 or westbound from Interstate 294 onto 159th Street (U.S. Route 6). Continue on 159th Street east about 1 mile to Whipple Avenue. Turn north onto Whipple and enter the small parking lot of the Markham Prairie Complex.



**Bikers on the Lake George Trail**

### **Lake George Trail**

Right next door to Wolf Lake in Hammond, Indiana, is **Lake George**, home to a former railroad corridor that has since been turned into a three-mile biking and walking trail. The trail runs from the northern shore of Lake George to the eastern shore of Wolf Lake. You can park your car and hit the trail either at **Forsythe Park** (117th Street and Caroline Avenue) or at **Wolf Lake Park** (121st Street and Calumet Avenue). The trail is also a popular spot for dogs, but make sure your pooch is on a leash!

Be on the lookout for the **Festival of the Lakes**, usually held in July. This festival in Hammond takes place between the trifecta of Lake Michigan, Lake George and Wolf Lake. Take family and friends to enjoy music, a carnival, a fishing derby and lots of great food. For more information visit: [www.southshorecva.com/events/festival-of-the-lakes/](http://www.southshorecva.com/events/festival-of-the-lakes/).

## One lake, two worlds

**Wolf Lake** and the **William W. Powers State Recreation Area** on the Illinois side and Hammond's **Wolf Lake Memorial Park** on the Indiana side have been created by nature and shaped by industry. They now represent high quality aquatic habitat surrounded by many recreational opportunities. The lake itself was once larger, but dikes and steel mill slag deposits have reduced the lake's size considerably. Several rail lines divide the lake and the remnants of a Cold War-era missile launch site have also altered the landscape. Even with all these human-caused changes, local flora and fauna have proved surprisingly resilient, making the area a haven for biodiversity.

Wolf Lake can teach us a lot about how the urban and natural worlds can co-exist. Many steps have been taken to right past environmental wrongs, and visitors to William Powers and Hammond's Wolf Lake Memorial Park have a lot of nature to enjoy.

Bridges and dikes that once isolated fish populations within the large Wolf Lake have since been altered to allow fish free passage. Animals such as deer, opossums, garter snakes, Fowler's toad, American bullfrogs, rabbits, coyote and many other furry or scaly critters call the lake area home. Willow, cottonwoods, maple and even native orchids grow here.

Bird species range from the mascots of America's favorite pastime (cardinals, orioles and blue jays) to ballet muses (trumpeter swans, mute swans and tundra swans) and national symbols (bald eagles). The monk parakeet, a South American parrot in residence here, gives birdwatching an exotic flavor. Other species you might see include finches,

woodpeckers, teal, mallards, Canada geese, little blue herons, yellow crowned night herons and the endangered yellow-headed blackbirds and black-crowned night-herons.

In addition to its natural wonders, William Powers provides many recreational opportunities, some of which you can't experience anywhere else within Chicago city limits:

- Three **boating** ramps make it easy for water crafts of 10hp or less to enjoy the open water of Wolf Lake.
- Anglers enjoy both summer and winter (ice) **fishing** on Wolf Lake where they can catch largemouth bass, northern pike, bluegill, sunfish, crappie, bullhead, carp, walleye, hybrid muskie and yellow perch.
- **Picnic** sites provide shelter and grills for families and large groups.
- Former rail lines that served area industries have been turned into **bike trails**. Trails here connect to the **Burnham Greenway Trail** and the extensive Hammond/Whiting trail system.
- **Eggers Grove Forest Preserve**, a high quality dune/swale savanna is easily reachable from the trails at its 112th Street entrance.
- William Powers is the only area open to **waterfowl hunting** in Chicago. For more information on hunting, visit [www.dnr.illinois.gov/hunting/Documents/HuntTrapDigest.pdf](http://www.dnr.illinois.gov/hunting/Documents/HuntTrapDigest.pdf).

William Powers is named for an Illinois state legislator who was enthusiastic about outdoor recreation. Approximately 160 acres of what is now the William W. Powers State Recreation Area was first set aside in 1947, but it has since grown to over 620 acres. The William W. Powers State Recreation Area is located at 12949 Avenue O, Chicago, IL, and additional information is available at [www.dnr.state.il.us/lands/landmgt/parks/r2/wmpow.htm](http://www.dnr.state.il.us/lands/landmgt/parks/r2/wmpow.htm).



*Historic homes in Pullman*

## Pullman: A national park in the making

When we think of national parks, many Americans think of things like Old Faithful, grizzly bears and the Smoky Mountains. However, the National Park Service (NPS) works to preserve both natural and *cultural* resources and in recent years has opened many urban sites across the U.S. The Pullman neighborhood on Chicago's far south side has a rich, nationally significant, history in both labor and civil rights. As a community built around a factory, the workers' employer and landlord were the same entity: the Pullman Rail Car Company. Disputes over pay and rent led to a massive strike that paralyzed rail transportation in the 1890s. This strike played a major role in the eventual creation of Labor Day as a national holiday.

The site, which features many buildings with rich Victorian architecture such as Hotel Florence and the former Administration and Factory Complex, has been designated a **National Historic Landmark**. Naming Pullman a National Park would focus additional funding and resources to preserve, restore and enhance the existing buildings and museums. Studies by the NPS have shown that Pullman meets the suitability and significance requirements to be named a National Park.

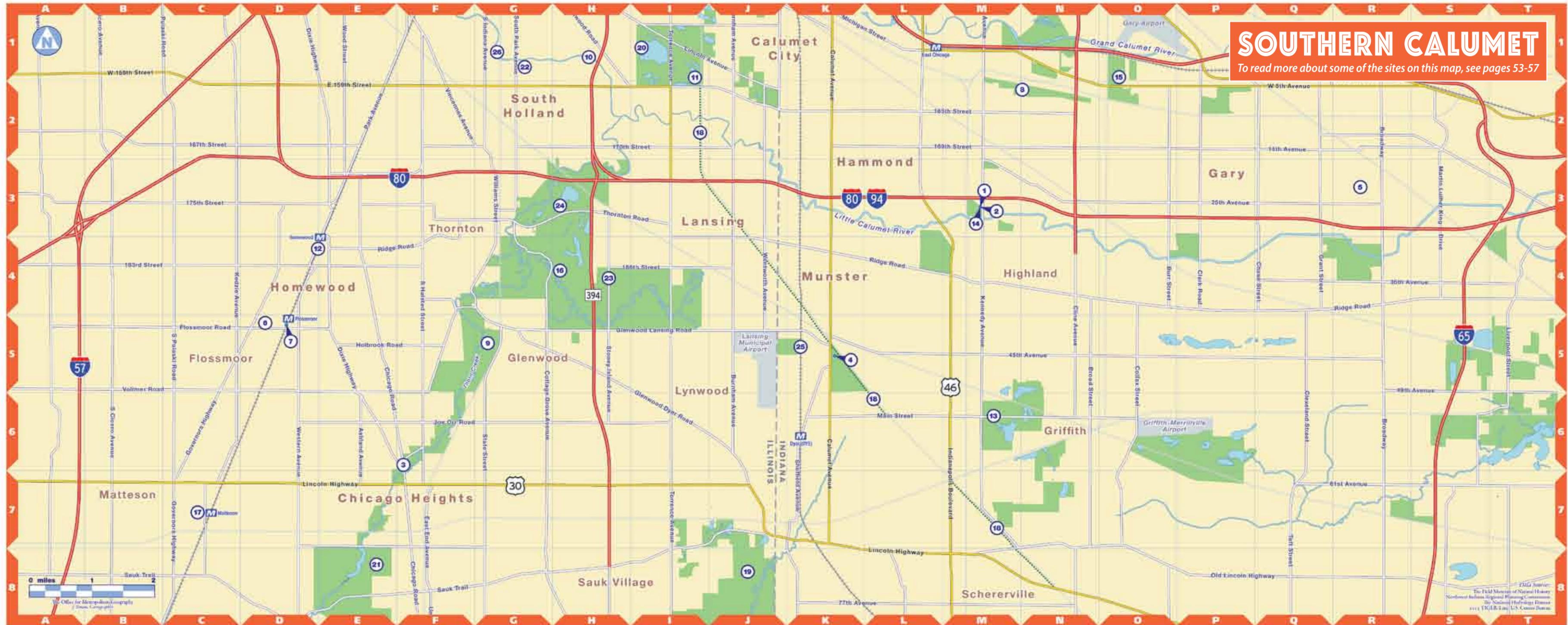
Legislation has been introduced to name the historic Pullman neighborhood a National Park. For updates on the legislation as well as information on visiting Pullman, go to [www.pullmanIL.org](http://www.pullmanIL.org).

*Open the page to view the map for*

# SOUTHERN CALUMET

# SOUTHERN CALUMET

To read more about some of the sites on this map, see pages 53-57





# SOUTHERN CALUMET

Sites to explore

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| Site Name   | Address   | Site Number | Grid Location |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|---|---|-------------|---------------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
|   |   |             |               | Beaches & Fishing   | Birding Spots   | Festivals & Community Groups  | Hiking & Biking Trails  | Historic Sites  | Museums & Public Art  | Nature Centers, Gardens & Zoos  | Picnic Spots & Family Fun   | Preserves & Parks   | Restaurants & Breweries   | Trains  | Water Trails & Boat Launches or Docks   |
| ★ "A Christmas Story" Comes Home Celebration                      | 7770 Corinne Drive • Hammond, IN                                  | 1           | M3            |   |   | X   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| ★ "A Christmas Story" Pole Licker Statue                          | 7770 Corinne Drive • Hammond, IN                                  | 2           | M3            |   |   |   |   |   | X   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| ★ "Driving the Dixie" Historic Highway                            | 1527 Otto Boulevard • Chicago Heights, IL                         | 3           | F6            |   |   |   |   | X   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| Centennial Park   | 900 N. Centennial Drive • Munster, IN                             | 4           | K5            |   |   |   | X   |   |   | X   | X   | X   |   |   |   |
| Childhood Home of Michael Jackson                                 | 2300 Jackson Street • Gary, IN                                    | 5           | R3            |   |   |   |   | X   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| Flossmoor Sculpture Gardens                                       | 2800 Flossmoor Road • Flossmoor, IL                               | 6           | D5            |   |   |   |   |   | X   | X   |   |   |   |   |   |
| ★ Flossmoor Station Brewery & Restaurant (Flossmoor Station Stop) | 1035 Sterling Avenue • Flossmoor, IL                              | 7           | D5            |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   | X   | X   |   |
| Gibson Woods Nature Preserve and Environmental Awareness Center   | 6201 Parrish Avenue • Hammond, IN                                 | 8           | M2            |   | X   |   | X   |   |   | X   |   | X   |   |   |   |
| Glenwood Woods  | 345 Glenwood Road • Chicago Heights, IL                           | 9           | G5            |   |   |   | X   |   |   |   | X   | X   |   |   |   |
| Gouwens Park  | 16170 Seton Drive • South Holland, IL                             | 10          | H1            |   |   |   | X   |   |   |   | X   | X   |   |   | X   |
| Green Lake Family Aquatic Center                                  | 1100 River Oaks Drive • Calumet City, IL                          | 11          | I1            |   |   |   |   |   |   |   | X   |   |   |   |   |
| Homewood Railroad Park (Homewood Station Stop)                    | Ridge Road & Harwood Avenue • Homewood, IL                        | 12          | E4            |   |   |   |   | X   |   |   |   |   |   | X   |   |
| Hoosier Prairie State Nature Preserve                             | Kennedy Avenue • Schererville, IN                                 | 13          | M6            |   | X   |   | X   |   |   |   |   | X   |   |   |   |
| Indiana Welcome Center  | 7770 Corinne Drive • Hammond, IN                                  | 14          | M3            |   |   |   |   |   | X   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| ★ Ivanhoe Nature Preserve   | Hobart Street & U.S. 20 • Gary, IN                                | 15          | O1            |   | X   |   | X   |   |   |   |   | X   |   |   |   |
| ★ Jurgensen Woods Nature Preserve                                 | 183rd Street & Cottage Grove Avenue • Thornton, IL                | 16          | H4            |   |   |   | X   |   |   |   |   | X   |   |   |   |
| Park Forest Railfan Park (Matteson Station Stop)                  | North & Main Street • Matteson, IL                                | 17          | C7            |   |   |   |   | X   |   |   |   |   |   | X   |   |
| Pennsy Greenway Trail   | Calumet City, IL to Schererville, IN                              | 18          | K5            |   |   |   | X   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| Plum Creek Nature Center  | 3298 E. 223rd Street • Chicago Heights, IL                        | 19          | J8            |   | X   |   | X   |   |   | X   | X   | X   |   |   |   |
| ★ Sand Ridge Nature Center  | 15891 Paxton Avenue • South Holland, IL                           | 20          | I1            |   | X   |   | X   |   | X   | X   |   | X   |   |   |   |
| ★ Sauk Trail Woods Forest Preserve                                | 3026 Forest Preserve Drive • Chicago Heights, IL                  | 21          | E8            |   | X   |   | X   |   |   |   | X   | X   |   |   |   |
| South Holland Memorial Day Parade                                 | South Park Avenue (170th Street to 160th Place) South Holland, IL | 22          | G1            |   |   | X   |   |   |   |   | X   |   |   |   |   |
| Thorn Creek Model Airplane Flying Field                           | Stony Island Avenue & 186th Street • Lansing, IL                  | 23          | H4            |   |   |   |   |   |   |   | X   | X   |   |   |   |
| Thornton-Lansing Road Nature Preserve                             | Wampum Lake Woods • Lansing, IL                                   | 24          | H3            |   | X   |   | X   |   |   |   |   | X   |   |   |   |
| 3 Floyds Brewery  | 9750 Indiana Parkway • Munster, IN                                | 25          | K5            |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   | X   |   |   |
| Upper Little Calumet River  | South Holland, IL   | 26          | G1            | X   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   | X   |

### A Calumet Christmas Story

Of all the holiday movies, there really is only one that is so beloved and so kitschy that it is played on cable television for 24 hours straight every Christmas. “A Christmas Story” has become a cult classic. The film follows a young boy named Ralphie in his quest to convince someone—anyone—to get him a shiny new Red Ryder BB gun for Christmas. Based on a book by Jean Shepherd called *In God We Trust, All Others Pay Cash*, the story is a somewhat autobiographical account of Shepherd’s life growing up in Hammond, Indiana.

The film takes place in the fictional Indiana town of Hohman, named for a downtown street in Hammond, Indiana. The real town of Hammond celebrates the film every year from



November to January at its **“A Christmas Story” Festival**. Festivities include “Oh, Fudge!” tire-changing relay races, ugly lamp contests and appearances by the film’s cast. If you are unable to make a pilgrimage during the holiday season, the Indiana Welcome Center has installed a **bronze statue immortalizing the much-loved “triple dog dare” scene** by their flagpole. Open year-round, the Welcome Center is located at 7770 Corinne Drive, Hammond, IN.

### Jurgensen Woods Nature Preserve

Part of what was once Lake Chicago, **Jurgensen Woods** is a dedicated Illinois Nature Preserve with moist soils that are home to red oak,

### Thorn Creek Trail

white oak and other hardwood trees. Shrubs and plants like purple chokeberry, huckleberry, low bush blueberry, Kalm’s St. John’s wort, sweet fern, pink orchid and narrow-leaved sundew can also be found here. Jurgensen Woods Nature Preserve and **Thornton-Lansing Road Nature Preserve**, next door, hold some of the only remaining natural vegetation of the southern lake plains of Lake Chicago. The preserves offer unpaved hiking trails, paved bike trails and picnic shelters. The parking lot for Jurgensen Woods is accessed from 183rd Street between Cottage Grove Avenue and IL-394 in Lansing.

### Dixie Highway

Americans have always been on the move, but how we’ve gotten from Point A to Point B has gone through quite an evolution. American Indians forged trails using what nature had simply put into place. Dirt roads, railroads and canals followed

in the 1800s. By 1912, a relatively new invention required a new kind of trail. The paved road would replace the bumpy and disconnected dirt roads to accommodate automobiles. The first organized multi-state road was the **Lincoln Highway**, an ambitious road that linked New York City with San Francisco. In 1915, a second paved road, known as the **Dixie Highway**, connected Chicago to Miami. In Illinois, the Dixie Highway followed many trails originally forged by American Indians and fur traders.

Both roads were game changers for the areas they traversed. No longer did motorists need to bring extra gas, tools or a sleeping bag on their journeys. Instead, gas stations, mechanics and hotels set up shop along the budding highway system. Over time, Dixie Highway grew from just a single road into a network of roads with western, central and eastern routes linking cities from as far north as Michigan and south to Florida. As the number of roads in the Dixie Highway system and other systems across the nation increased, it became clear that a formal system of naming interstate roads was needed to avoid mass confusion. In the mid 1920s, many roads were renamed with a number and the U.S. Highway shield sign was introduced.

In Illinois, much of what was the Dixie Highway is now Illinois Route 1. It cuts through Chicago Heights, Harvey, Homewood, Blue Island and eventually Chicago where it becomes Western Avenue. Few of the original red and white “DH” signposts remain, but if you find yourself on a road trip, keep your eyes peeled for signs that mark a road as a part of the former Dixie Highway.

## Sauk Trail Forest Preserve

American Indian tribes such as the Sac, Potawatomi, Kaskaskia and Peoria used trails that often followed natural formations, such as rivers or ridges. These trails were usually only wide enough to walk single file and were created by many feet constantly trampling dirt and grasses into a narrow path. The **Sauk Trail** is one such trail. It originally stretched from the Mississippi River, near present day Rock Island, and extended eastward all the way up to Detroit. Parts of this trail were eventually widened for wagons and later paved for automobiles.

In today's world, a portion of the original Sauk Trail is bordered by the **Sauk Trail Woods Forest Preserve** and **Thorn Creek**. Thorn Creek was dammed to create Sauk Trail Lake. The forest preserve is on very uneven terrain with deep valleys and steep ravines adding beautiful topographic interest. Oak forests and wildflowers like bergamot and mountain mint provide groundcover. Seasonal bird viewings provide opportunities to see osprey, brown thrashers, white-eyed vireos, yellowthroats and wood thrush.

Nearly four miles of paved bike and walking trails, picnic pavilions and accessible parking make the Sauk Trail Woods Forest Preserve a great escape in south eastern Cook County. To get to the forest preserve, take I-394 South to Sauk Trail. Turn right on Sauk Trail and continue west four miles through South Chicago Heights to Forest Preserve Drive. Turn right and continue north to the two preserve entrances on the west.

## Grand Illinois Trail

The **Grand Illinois Trail** is grand in many ways. It has a grand *scope*, traveling through northern Illinois in a 525-mile loop from Lake Michigan to the Mississippi River. It has a grand *purpose*, to link existing and proposed state and local trails, forming

the state's longest continuous trail. And it has a grand *use*, providing recreational opportunities for long-distance and race cyclists, serious hikers, casual walkers, birders and nature lovers.

Traveling along the Grand Illinois Trail leads visitors from the Lake Michigan shoreline, through personality-rich Chicago neighborhoods, into small towns and state parks, along canals, to the shimmering banks of the Mississippi River. In case 500-plus miles is not enough trail for you, the southern portion of the trail is part of the **American Discovery Trail**, a 4,700-mile trail that stretches from Delaware to California.

Adventurers who complete the entire Grand Illinois Trail over the course of a year can be recognized through a **Trail Blazer program**. And, if you'd like to experience the entire trail with a large group, you may want to participate in the annual **Grand Illinois Trail and Parks Ride (GITAP)**, a week-long cycling adventure held every June.

Whether you plan to take on the entire trail in a week or just want to experience a tiny portion, the Grand Illinois Trail user's guide is a great place to start. You can access the guide and learn more about the Trail Blazer program and GITAP from the Illinois Department of Natural Resources site at:

[www.dnr.illinois.gov/recreation/  
greenwaysandtrails/pages/  
grandillinoistrail.aspx](http://www.dnr.illinois.gov/recreation/greenwaysandtrails/pages/grandillinoistrail.aspx).



Red-bellied  
woodpecker



## Flossmoor Brewery

The railroads are largely responsible for creating the Greater Calumet region as we know it today. In 1906, the Illinois Central Railroad built a station to serve the sleepy resort town of Flossmoor. The station spurred the small town to grow, but after a while, the train station was abandoned in favor of a larger, more modern one. Later on, the decaying train station was renovated and turned into what is now called **Flossmoor Station Brewing Company**. The recycled train station is a triple

treat, home to a brewery, restaurant and (seasonal) ice cream parlor. Rail and beer enthusiasts alike will get a kick out of on-site brews such as Station Master or Zephyr Golden Ale. If you're looking to refuel, check out the Brew-schetta and Roundhouse Beer-B-Que Ribs. Then you can top it all off with some ice cream at a renovated caboose just outside the main restaurant building. For more information and full menus visit [www.flossmoorstation.com](http://www.flossmoorstation.com). Flossmoor Station Brewing Company is located at 1035 Sterling Avenue, Flossmoor, IL.

# SOUTHERN CALUMET

## Illinois Nature Preserves

When you look at Illinois today, you'll see something vastly different than what the first American Indian tribes and early European settlers saw. Even areas that may seem to be "natural" have been altered or changed in some way through agriculture or clearing. In fact, only 0.1% of the state remains untouched, the way it was 200 years ago. The Illinois Department of Natural Resources founded the **Illinois Nature Preserves Commission** to protect and oversee the little bit of original land that we have left.



*Exploring Hegewisch Marsh*

There are approximately 650 sites in Illinois that are considered undisturbed natural communities. Approximately half of them are currently protected. Each year, 10-15 additional sites are named official nature preserves by the Illinois Nature Preserves Commission. The Commission promotes the preservation of these significant lands and provides leadership in their stewardship, management and protection.

Many of these nature preserves are accessible to nature lovers to explore and enjoy. One example is the Forest Preserves of Cook County **Sand Ridge Nature Preserve** (Sand Ridge Prairie) and the adjoining **Sand Ridge Nature Center** where you can find the remains of an ancient beach (1129 Pulaski Road, Calumet City, IL). At the end of the last Ice Age, melting glaciers formed Lake Chicago, a giant lake that covered most of Cook County. This water stood 40 feet deep over what is now the Sand Ridge Nature Center. Over time, the water levels rose and fell. These fluctuations formed low beaches and higher sand dunes. Eventually, as the waters receded to the current boundaries of Lake Michigan, prairies and woodlands grew in the sandy soils of the higher ridges, while wetlands developed in the lower areas between the ridges. Thanks to these geologic processes, Sand Ridge Nature Center is now surrounded by a mosaic of landscapes, including small sand prairies, wetlands and woodlands. With diverse landscapes comes a variety of birds. Visitors can watch bird feeders from an indoor classroom, cruise a boardwalk or search for kingfishers in the marsh from an observation

*Black eastern tiger swallowtail on a cardinal flower*



*Northern saw-whet owl*



**Below: Belted kingfisher**  
**Inset: Snowy egrets**



platform. A human-made pond draws egrets and great blue, black-crowned and green herons in the spring and early summer. The woodlands are home to downy, hairy and red-bellied woodpeckers. Great horned, screech and saw-whet owls have also been sighted here. Whether exploring on your own or as part of a naturalist-led walk, birds are plentiful at Sand Ridge year-round.

The Nature Center has over three miles of trails where visitors can encounter a wide variety of plant and animal life. Red-bellied woodpeckers, white oak trees, tiger salamanders, coyotes and even prickly pear cactus call the preserve home. The Nature Center hosts many free educational programs for both kids and adults ranging from bird watching to pioneer history re-enactments. The Sand Ridge Nature Center is located at 15891 Paxton Avenue, South Holland, IL.

One mile south of Chicago and approximately one mile west of the Indiana state line, in the Village

of Burnham, is the **Burnham Prairie Nature Preserve**. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is currently removing invasive woody plants and improving the hydrology of this 93-acre site. Prescribed burns and clearing of non-native shrubs have allowed rare native wetland plants to grow and have attracted migratory birds to use the area as a breeding habitat. You might be able to spot some neotropical cormorants and snowy egrets if you visit in the spring. Work is ongoing and restoration should be complete by 2016. Burnham Prairie Nature Preserve is located at 2866 E. 142nd Street, Burnham, IL.

*Burnham Greenway Biking*



*Marquette Park*

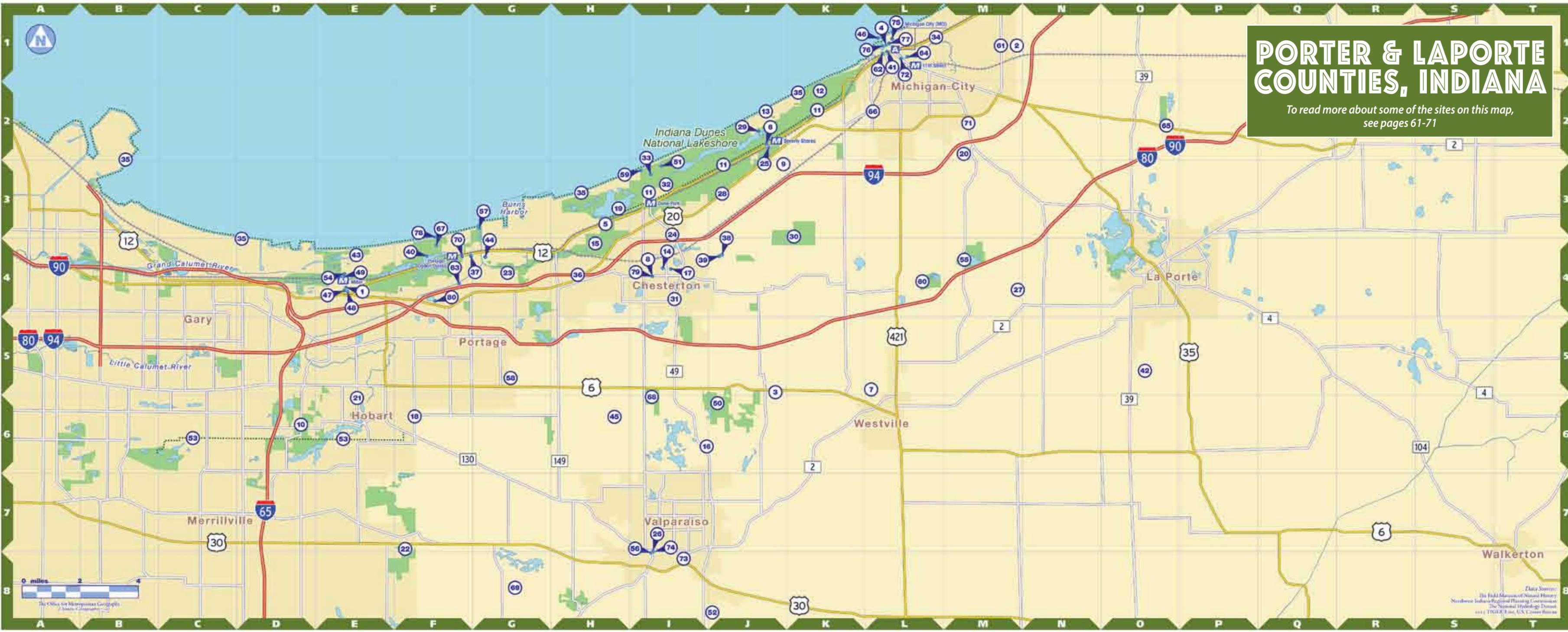


*Open the page to view the map for*

# PORTER & LAPORTE COUNTIES, INDIANA

# PORTER & LAPORTE COUNTIES, INDIANA

To read more about some of the sites on this map, see pages 61-71



0 miles 2 4  
The Office of Metropolitan Geography  
2010-2011

Data Source:  
The Field Museum of Natural History  
Northwest Indiana Regional Planning Commission  
The National Hydrology Dataset  
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★ = Read more on this site in the following pages!

| Site Name   | Address   | Site Number | Grid Location |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|---|---|-------------|---------------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
|   |   |             |               | Beaches & Fishing   | Birding Spots   | Festivals & Community Groups  | Hiking & Biking Trails  | Historic Sites  | Museums & Public Art  | Nature Centers, Gardens & Zoos  | Picnic Spots & Family Fun   | Preserves & Parks   | Restaurants & Breweries   | Trains  | Water Trails & Boat Launches or Docks   |
| 18th Street Brewery   | 5725 Miller Avenue • Gary, IN                                     | 1           | E4            |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| Ambler Flatwoods  | Meer Road • Michigan City, IN                                     | 2           | M1            |   | X   |   | X   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| Anderson Winery   | 430 East U.S. 6 • Valparaiso, IN                                  | 3           | J5            |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| ★ B & E Marine  | 31 Lakeshore Drive • Michigan City, IN                            | 4           | L1            |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   | X   |   |
| Bailly Homestead and Chellberg Farm Trail System (Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore) | 1100 N. Mineral Springs Road • Porter, IN                         | 5           | H3            |   |   |   | X   | X   |   |   | X   |   |   |   |   |
| Beverly Shores Train Station  | W. Dunes Highway • Beverly Shores, IN                             | 6           | J2            |   |   |   |   | X   |   |   |   |   | X   |   |   |
| Bluhm County Park   | 3855 S. 1100 W. • Westville, IN                                   | 7           | L5            |   |   |   | X   |   |   | X   | X   |   |   |   |   |
| ★ Brauer Museum of Art at Valparaiso University                                     | 1709 Chapel Drive • Valparaiso, IN                                | 8           | I4            |   |   |   |   |   | X   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| Brincka Cross Gardens   | 475 E. Furness Road • Michigan City, IN                           | 9           | J3            |   |   |   | X   |   |   | X   |   | X   |   |   |   |
| Bur Oak Woods   | N. Liverpool Road • Hobart, IN                                    | 10          | D6            |   | X   |   | X   |   |   |   |   | X   |   |   |   |
| Calumet Trail (Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore)                                    | W. Dunes Highway • Beverly Shores, IN                             | 11          | I3, J3, K2    |   |   |   | X   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| Central Avenue Beach  | Central Avenue & Valley Avenue • Michigan City, IN                | 12          | K2            | X   | X   |   |   |   |   | X   |   |   |   |   |   |
| ★ Century of Progress Homes   | Lakefront Drive between Dunbar & Derby Avenues Beverly Shores, IN | 13          | J2            |   |   |   |   | X   | X   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| Chesterton European Market  | Broadway & 3rd Street • Chesterton, IN                            | 14          | I4            |   |   | X   |   |   |   |   |   | X   |   |   |   |
| Chesterton Prairie Duneland Trail   | S. Jackson Avenue • Chesterton, IN                                | 15          | H4            |   |   |   | X   |   |   |   | X   |   |   |   |   |
| ★ Chustak Public Fishing Area   | W. 600 North Road • South Haven, IN                               | 16          | I6            | X   |   |   | X   |   |   |   | X   |   |   | X   |   |
| Coffee Creek Watershed Preserve   | E. 1050 N. & Calumet Road • Chesterton, IN                        | 17          | I4            |   | X   |   | X   |   |   |   | X   |   |   |   |   |
| County Line Orchard   | 200 S. County Line Road • Hobart, IN                              | 18          | F6            |   |   |   |   |   | X   | X   |   | X   |   |   |   |
| ★ Cowles Bog (Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore)                                     | 1100 N. Mineral Springs Road • Chesterton, IN                     | 19          | H3            |   | X   |   | X   | X   |   |   |   | X   |   |   |   |
| Creek Ridge County Park   | 7943 W. 400 N. • Michigan City, IN                                | 20          | M2            |   |   |   | X   |   |   | X   | X   |   |   |   |   |
| Cressmoor Prairie   | Lukes Court & N. Lake Park Avenue • Hobart, IN                    | 21          | E6            |   | X   |   | X   |   |   |   |   | X   |   |   |   |
| Deep River Park   | 9410 Old Lincoln Highway • Hobart, IN                             | 22          | F7            | X   |   |   |   |   |   | X   |   | X   |   |   |   |
| ★ Deer Trail Park   | AmeriPlex Drive • Porter, IN                                      | 23          | G4            | X   |   |   | X   |   |   |   | X   |   |   |   |   |
| Dorothy Buell Memorial Visitors Center  | 1215 N. State Road 49 • Porter, IN                                | 24          | I3            | X   |   |   |   |   | X   | X   |   | X   |   |   |   |
| ★ Dunewood Campgrounds  | U.S. Highway 12 & Broadway • Chesterton, IN                       | 25          | J2            |   |   |   | X   |   |   | X   |   |   |   |   |   |
| Figure Eight Brewery  | 50 S. Washington Street • Valparaiso, IN                          | 26          | I7            |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   | X   |   |   |
| Garwood Orchard   | 5911 W. 50 S. • LaPorte, IN                                       | 27          | M4            |   |   | X   |   |   | X   | X   |   | X   |   |   |   |
| Glenwood Dunes Trail (Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore)                             | U.S. Highway 20 & Brummitt Road • Chesterton, IN                  | 28          | J3            |   |   |   | X   |   |   | X   | X   |   |   |   |   |
| ★ Great Marsh   | 500 S. Broadway • Beverly Shores, IN                              | 29          | J2            |   | X   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| Heron Rookery   | N. County Road 600 E. • Michigan City, IN                         | 30          | K3            |   | X   |   |   |   |   |   |   | X   |   |   |   |
| Hunter's Brewing  | 1535 S. Calumet Road • Chesterton, IN                             | 31          | I4            |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   | X   |   |   |   |

# PORTER & LAPORTE

## Sites to explore

★ = Read more on this site in the following pages!

| Site Name   | Address   | Site Number | Grid Location |  Beaches & Fishing |  Birding Spots |  Festivals & Community Groups |  Hiking & Biking Trails |  Historic Sites |  Museums & Public Art |  Nature Centers, Gardens & Zoos |  Picnic Spots & Family Fun |  Preserves & Parks |  Restaurants & Breweries |  Trains |  Water Trails & Boat Launches or Docks |
|---|---|-------------|---------------|---|---|--|--|--|--|--|---|---|---|--|---|
| ★ Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore  | 1215 N. Indiana 49 • Porter, IN                                       | 32          | I4            | X   | X   |  | X  |  | X  | X  | X   | X   |   | X  |   |
| ★ Indiana Dunes State Park  | 1600 N 25 E • Chesterton, IN  | 33          | I3            | X   | X   |  | X  | X  | X  | X  | X   | X   |   | X  | X   |
| International Friendship Gardens  | 2055 U.S. 12 • Michigan City, IN                                      | 34          | L1            |   |   |  | X  |  | X  | X  |   |   |   |  |   |
| ★ Lake Michigan Water Trail   | Chicago, IL to Michigan City, IN                                      | 35          | F3            | X   |   |  |  |  |  |  |   |   | X   |  | X   |
| ★ Lakeland Park   | 1200 Lakeland Park Drive • Burns Harbor, IN                           | 36          | H4            | X   |   |  | X  |  |  | X  | X   |   |   | X  |   |
| ★ Lefty's Coho Landing  | 6161 Burns Waterway • Portage, IN                                     | 37          | F4            |   |   |  |  |  |  |  |   |   |   | X  |   |
| Little Calumet Nature Preserve  | S. Holmesville Road & Snyder Road • LaPorte, IN                       | 38          | J4            |   |   |  | X  |  |  |  | X   |   |   |  |   |
| Little Calumet Wetlands   | Brummit Road & Indian Boundary Road<br>Chesterton, IN                 | 39          | J4            |   | X   |  | X  |  |  | X  | X   | X   |   |  |   |
| ★ Long Lake (Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore)  | East County Rd 600 N • Valparaiso, IN                                 | 40          | F4            |   | X   |  |  |  |  |  | X   |   |   |  |   |
| Lubeznik Center for the Arts  | 101 W. 2nd Street • Michigan City, IN                                 | 41          | L1            |   |   |  |  |  | X  |  |   |   |   |  |   |
| Luhr Park Nature Center   | 3178 S. 150 W. • LaPorte, IN  | 42          | O5            |   |   |  |  |  | X  | X  | X   |   |   |  |   |
| Marquette Park  | 1 N. Grand Boulevard • Gary, IN                                       | 43          | E4            | X   | X   |  | X  | X  |  | X  | X   | X   |   |  |   |
| ★ Marquette Yacht Club  | 1218 N. Crisman Road • Portage, IN                                    | 44          | G4            |   |   |  |  |  |  |  |   | X   |   | X  |   |
| Meadowbrook Nature Preserve   | 109 W. 700 North • Valparaiso, IN                                     | 45          | H6            |   | X   |  | X  |  |  |  |   | X   |   |  |   |
| ★ Michigan City Pier  | 115 Lakeshore Drive • Michigan City, IN                               | 46          | L1            | X   | X   |  |  |  |  |  |   | X   |   |  |   |
| Miller Beach Arts and Creative District   | 540 S. Lake Street • Gary, IN   | 47          | E4            |   |   | X  |  |  | X  |  |   |   | X   |  |   |
| Miller Beach Farmers Market   | 667 S. Lake Street • Gary, IN   | 48          | E4            | X   |   | X  |  |  |  |  |   | X   |   |  |   |
| Miller Woods (Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore)   | 100 N. Lake Street • Gary, IN   | 49          | E4            |   | X   |  | X  |  |  | X  | X   | X   |   |  |   |
| Moraine Nature Preserve   | C.R. 750 N • Valparaiso, IN   | 50          | J6            |   | X   |  |  |  |  |  |   | X   |   |  |   |
| Mount Tom (Indiana Dunes State Park)  | 1600 N. 25 E. • Chesterton, IN  | 51          | I3            | X   |   |  | X  |  |  |  | X   | X   |   |  |   |
| Northwest Indiana Earth Day (Valparaiso)  | 15 E. Division Road • Valparaiso, IN                                  | 52          | J8            |   |   | X  |  |  |  |  |   |   |   |  |   |
| Oak Savannah Trail  | Oak Ridge Prairie County Park to<br>Hobart Prairie Grove • Hobart, IN | 53          | C6, E6        |   |   |  | X  |  |  |  |   |   |   |  |   |
| ★ Paul H. Douglas Center for Environmental Education (Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore) | 100 N. Lake Street • Gary, IN   | 54          | E4            | X   | X   |  | X  |  | X  | X  | X   |   |   | X  |   |
| ★ Pinhook Bog   | 856-902 N. Wozniak Road • Michigan City, IN                           | 55          | M4            |   | X   |  | X  |  |  |  | X   |   |   |  |   |
| Popcorn Festival (Valparaiso)   | Valparaiso, IN  | 56          | I7            |   |   | X  |  |  |  |  |   | X   |   |  |   |
| ★ Portage Lakefront and Riverwalk   | Riverwalk Drive • Portage, IN   | 57          | G3            | X   |   |  | X  |  |  |  |   |   |   |  |   |
| ★ Portage Public Marina   | 1200 Marina Way • Portage, IN   | 58          | G5            |   |   |  |  |  |  |  |   |   |   | X  | X   |
| Porter Beach  | 127th Street • Porter, IN   | 59          | I3            | X   |   |  |  |  |  |  |   |   |   |  |   |
| Red Mill County Park  | 0185 S. Holmesville Road • LaPorte, IN                                | 60          | L4            |   | X   |  | X  |  |  | X  | X   |   |   |  |   |
| Shady Creek Winery  | 2030 Tryon Road • Michigan City, IN                                   | 61          | M1            |   |   |  |  |  |  |  |   | X   |   |  |   |
| Shoreline Brewery   | 208 Wabash Street • Michigan City, IN                                 | 62          | L1            |   |   |  |  |  |  |  |   | X   |   |  |   |
| ★ South Shore Marina  | 1700 Marine Street • Portage, IN                                      | 63          | F4            |   |   |  |  |  |  |  |   |   |   | X  |   |

★ = Read more on this site in the following pages!

| Site Name  | Address  | Site Number | Grid Location |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|--|--|-------------|---------------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| ★ Sprague Point Marina                                 | 200 East Street • Michigan City, IN              | 64          | L1            |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   | X   |   |
| Springfield Fen  | Route 20 & Wilhelm Road • LaPorte, IN            | 65          | O2            |   |   |   | X   |   |   |   |   | X   |   |   |   |
| Striebel Pond  | Earl Road & Hitchcock Street • Michigan City, IN | 66          | L2            |   | X   |   | X   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| Succession Trail<br>(Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore) | N. County Line Road • Portage, IN                | 67          | F4            |   | X   |   | X   |   |   |   |   | X   |   |   |   |
| ★ Sunset Hill Farm County Park                         | 775 N. Meridian Road • Valparaiso, IN            | 68          | I6            |   | X   |   | X   |   | X   |   | X   |   |   |   |   |
| Taltree Arboretum & Gardens                            | 450 W. 100 N. • Valparaiso, IN                   | 69          | G8            |   | X   |   | X   |   | X   | X   |   |   |   |   |   |
| Tolleston Dunes  | Hillcrest Road & Dunes Highway • Portage, IN     | 70          | F4            |   | X   |   | X   |   |   |   | X   | X   |   |   |   |
| Trail Creek Fen  | 5408 Johnson Road • Michigan City, IN            | 71          | M2            |   | X   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| ★ Trail Creek Marina                                   | 700 E. Michigan Boulevard • Michigan City, IN    | 72          | L1            |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   | X   | X   |
| Valparaiso University Center for the Arts              | 1700 Chapel Drive • Valparaiso, IN               | 73          | I8            |   |   |   |   |   | X   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| Valpo Brewfest   | Central Park Plaza • Valparaiso, IN              | 74          | I7            |   |   | X   |   |   |   |   |   | X   |   |   |   |
| Washington Park  | 115 Lakeshore Drive • Michigan City, IN          | 75          | L1            | X   |   |   |   |   | X   | X   | X   |   | X   | X   |   |
| ★ Washington Park Marina                               | 200 Heisman Harbor Road • Michigan City, IN      | 76          | L1            |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   | X   | X   |
| Washington Park Zoo                                    | 115 Lakeshore Drive • Michigan City, IN          | 77          | L1            |   |   |   |   |   | X   | X   |   |   |   |   |   |
| West Beach (Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore)          | N. County Line Road • Portage, IN                | 78          | F3            | X   | X   |   | X   |   |   |   | X   |   |   |   |   |
| ★ Westchester Township History Museum                  | 700 W. Porter Avenue • Chesterton, IN            | 79          | I4            |   |   |   |   | X   | X   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| ★ Yogi Bear's Jellystone Park                          | 5300 Old Porter Road • Portage, IN               | 80          | F4            | X   |   |   | X   |   |   | X   |   |   |   | X   |   |

# PORTER & LAPORTE COUNTIES, INDIANA

Stories to help you explore this region



## You pack the sleeping bags, I'll pack the s'mores

Whether you prefer starting your own fire and sleeping under the stars or sleeping in an air-conditioned log cabin, there are many options for

camping out in the Greater Calumet region. Here are just a few campgrounds to consider:

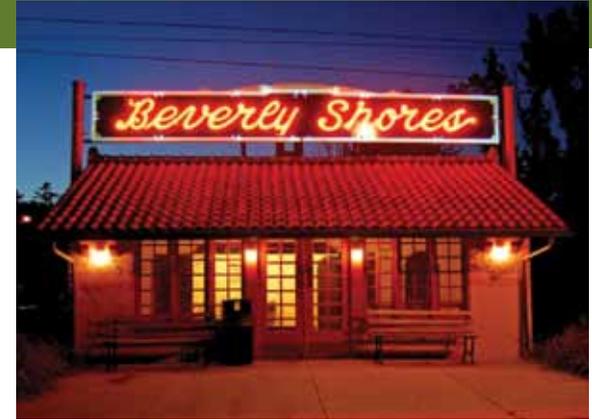
- **Indiana Dunes State Park**, in Chesterton, Indiana, offers great opportunities for outdoor recreation and learning about wildlife. Aside



*West Beach Trail, Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore*

from the impressive sand dunes, there are a wide variety of trails and stunning views of Lake Michigan. The Indiana Dunes State Park is located at 1600 North 25 E. Chesterton, IN. Check in for the camp is at the Gatehouse when you first enter the park. The Indiana Dunes State Park Nature Center on site provides workshops on birding as well as naturalists who can provide more information on local plant and animal wildlife. Camp sites include 50 amp electrical hook ups, indoor outhouses and a small store for supplies. Reservations for this and other state parks in Indiana can be made at [www.camp.IN.gov](http://www.camp.IN.gov). For more information, visit [www.in.gov/dnr/parklake/2980.htm](http://www.in.gov/dnr/parklake/2980.htm).

- **Yogi Bear's Jellystone Park**, in Portage, Indiana, provides an environment where there are plenty of activities for kids and plenty of nature and relaxation for adults. While the Indiana Dunes and other natural and cultural attractions aren't far away, Jellystone also has boat and bike rentals, fishing, wagon rides, basketball courts, volleyball courts and live bands that play on the beach. There are tent sites, RV sites and, if you need a little bit more civilization in your camping, they have cabins as well. All necessary electrical, garbage and restroom services are provided. Visit [www.campjellystone-portage.com](http://www.campjellystone-portage.com). Yogi Bear's Jellystone is located at 5300 Old Porter Road, Portage, IN.



*Beverly Shores station at night*

- Want to go camping, but don't have the wheels to get you out of Chicago? No problem! **Dunewood Campgrounds**, in Chesterton, IN, is within walking distance of the South Shore Railroad. From Millennium Station in downtown Chicago, you can reach Dunewood in a little over an hour. Take the train to Beverly Shores Station. From there, just walk a quarter mile south to reach the campground. Dunewood is 1.5 miles away from the lakeshore and the Indiana Dunes State Park. There are restrooms and showers at camp sites, however electricity is not provided. If you are visiting by car, a golf course, restaurants and Michigan City are just a quick drive away. Check out [www.nps.gov/indu/planyourvisit/campgrounds.htm](http://www.nps.gov/indu/planyourvisit/campgrounds.htm) for details on the campsite and visit [www.nictd.com](http://www.nictd.com) for details on the South Shore Line. Dunewood Campground is located at U.S. Highway 12 & Broadway in Chesterton, IN.

## Exploring Indiana by boat

If you are launching a boat into Lake Michigan in Indiana, there are many marinas in Porter and LaPorte Counties, including:

- **Marquette Yacht Club**  
1218 N. Crisman Road, Portage, IN
- **Lefty's Coho Landing**  
6161 Burns Waterway, Portage, IN
- **Portage Public Marina**  
1200 Marina Way, Portage, IN
- **South Shore Marina**  
1700 Marine Street, Portage, IN
- **B & E Marine**  
31 Lakeshore Drive, Michigan City, IN
- **Sprague Point Marina**  
200 E. Street, Michigan City, IN
- **Trail Creek Marina**  
700 E. Michigan Boulevard  
Michigan City, IN
- **Washington Park Marina**  
200 Heisman Harbor Road  
Michigan City, IN

For more information about boating in Porter and LaPorte Counties, visit these great resources:

- **The Indiana Department of Natural Resources** ([www.in.gov/dnr/outdoor/4484.htm](http://www.in.gov/dnr/outdoor/4484.htm)): This website details some of the nature preserves along the Kankakee River in Indiana and provides several canoe trip itineraries.
- **Northwest Indiana Paddling Association** ([www.nwipa.org](http://www.nwipa.org)): This website lists paddling events, locations to paddle and other related information for sites all around Northwest Indiana.

## MY PERFECT DAY IN THE REGION

"For the evening of my perfect day, assuming there was good moonlight, I would launch my kayak from the Indiana Dunes State Park. Just as everyone else is heading off of the beaches, my fellow kayakers and I would be headed down with our boats to hit the water. We'd get on and paddle the shoreline, watching for bonfires on the shore, fireworks and the occasional bat flying overhead. Perfect evening!"

— *Natalie Johnson*



*Portage Lakefront and Riverwalk*

## GREAT RESTORATION!



### Portage River Walk

The National Park Service and the City of Portage, Indiana, transformed a former National Steel industrial site to a 57-acre lakefront gem. The **Portage Lakefront and Riverwalk** provides new and unprecedented access to the lake and Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore habitats. National Steel previously had used this site as a sewage treatment facility and to settle out industrial byproduct. Now, thanks to a partnership between public and private groups, it is a brownfield reclamation success story.

The Portage Lakefront and Riverwalk provides access to the lake and beach, a fishing pier and hiking trails. A restored 900-foot breakwater now has handrails, providing easy access for fishing, birdwatching, exploring and sightseeing. A new public pavilion has restrooms, a seasonal snack bar and a glass-walled classroom/meeting space. The pavilion is a LEED Gold certified building, which means the facilities were designed and developed to minimize their impact on the reclaimed landscape.

Open daily, sunrise to dusk, the Riverwalk offers year-round opportunities to observe migrating birds or the encroaching winter ice. Trails lead visitors along restored lagoons and showcase dune plant succession—the process by which landscapes change over time as new plants take the place of ones that had been there before.

On sunny summer days, the Riverwalk parking lot is often full by mid-morning, so plan accordingly. Park only in designated parking spots to help protect the fragile dune ecosystem along the roadside.

## The Indiana Dunes

Sun bathers and sand castle builders rejoice! Midwesterners don't need to travel all the way to Hawaii or Florida to enjoy one of the best beaches in the country. The **Indiana Dunes**, a 15-mile stretch of beaches along the shores of Lake Michigan in Indiana, offer so much more than sun, sand and surf. Visitors can hike trails, ride bikes and explore diverse landscapes ranging from sand dunes and bogs to marshes and prairies.

The Dunes themselves are the most iconic feature of the area and are proof of a constantly changing planet. During the last ice age over 13,000 years ago, glaciers retreated and advanced, depositing lots of debris. Over time that debris built the Dunes. Winds off of Lake Michigan have shaped the Dunes over the years, while the roots from plants and vegetation act to stabilize the sandy soils. While the Dunes seem like impervious monoliths (especially when climbing a particularly steep one!), they are constantly changing from a dynamic mix of weather, plant life and water. Some Dunes approach 200 feet tall, but as nature takes its course, they may grow and they may shrink.

Swales, the low and often wet areas between dunes, add to the unique terrain and ecology of the Indiana Dunes, which provide a sheltered habitat for animals and plants. As such, the Indiana Dunes have some of the richest biodiversity in North America. The Dunes are a birder's paradise as the home to 350 different species of year-round and migratory birds. Aside from birds, a wide assortment of beasts from the entire animal

kingdom can be found in this region. Be on the lookout for white tailed deer, ribbon snakes and the endangered Karner blue butterfly.

Plant life is equally as diverse and you can find flora ranging from little bluestem to juniper trees and pitcher's thistle. Henry Cowles, a professor at the University of Chicago, studied the diverse plants of the Indiana Dunes in the 1800s. In his studies, he noticed how the communities of plant species in the area changed over time. He is credited with being the first person to formally study and describe this process, known as ecological succession. His classes in ecology often involved extended field trips to sites like the Indiana Dunes. For his work, Cowles is often referred to as the "father of plant ecology." Cowles was also a conservationist and he campaigned to have areas like the Dunes spared from industrial development for the enjoyment of all people. Cowles wasn't

successful, but his efforts did spur movements that eventually led to the formation of the Indiana Dunes State Park in 1925 and the Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore in 1966.

There's a lot to see and do at the Indiana Dunes State Park and the Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore. A great place to start is **Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore Visitor Center** located at 1215 N. Indiana 49, Porter, IN. There you can learn about camping, hiking trails, beaches, special events and even historic landmarks like the Bailly Homestead. The Chicago South Shore train runs from the city to the Dunes State Park. Just get off at the Dune Park stop! For more information on the Indiana Dunes State Park, visit: [www.in.gov/dnr/parklake/2980.htm](http://www.in.gov/dnr/parklake/2980.htm). For more information on the Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore, visit: [www.nps.gov/indu](http://www.nps.gov/indu).



*Dunes Creek entering Lake Michigan,  
Indiana Dunes State Park*

## Beyond the Beach Trail

Lake Michigan provides Indiana with one of the most impressive freshwater beaches in the world. But if you get tired of sand, surf and sun, there is still a lot to see and do. The **Beyond the Beach Discovery Trail** is a comprehensive guide to the three distinct regions in Northwest Indiana that provide opportunities for hiking, bird watching, paddling, museum visiting and taking in the region's wide variety of cultural and natural treasures. Stretching from Michigan City in the east to Hammond and the state line in the west, the Beyond the Beach Discovery Trail has a fantastic mix of history and ecology to explore. This is a very large area to cover and it's good to keep in mind that you can't see everything in just a weekend. Some highlights are listed below; visit [www.BeyondtheBeachDiscoveryTrail.com](http://www.BeyondtheBeachDiscoveryTrail.com) for more information about these places, detailed maps, itineraries and updates via social media.

The Dunes region covers the area just south of the shoreline. There you can visit the **Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore Visitor Center** to learn more about the ever-changing ecology of the region. The **Little Calumet River trail** has over 120 acres of restored tall grass prairie that you can hike through. The **Westchester Township History Museum** provides family-friendly activities relating the human history of the area as well as free concerts in the summer. This area even has some of the model homes from the 1933 Chicago World's Fair that were relocated here after the exhibition.

Just south of the Dunes is the Moraine Region. This area was formed by glaciers that cut through this area over 15,000 years ago. As the glaciers moved, they brought and deposited all kinds of debris, ranging from microscopic sand



*Ivanhoe Dune & Swale Nature Preserve*

pieces to gigantic boulders. **Pinhook Bog** near LaPorte contains Indiana's only true bog. Park rangers guide visitors along trails containing carnivorous plants and blueberry bushes. If you are more interested in art than bogs, the **Brauer Museum of Art in Valparaiso** contains American works from the 19th-21st century from artists such as Georgia O'Keeffe and Frederic Edwin Church.

The Kankakee Region is the southernmost part of the Beyond the Beach Trail and is mostly defined by the valley carved by the Kankakee River. Here you can pass over the river in Kouts, Indiana, via **Dunn's Bridge**, thought to have been constructed out of steel salvaged from the Ferris Wheel of the 1893 World's Columbian Exposition. The **Jasper-Pulaski Fish and Wildlife Area** is a rest stop for migrating birds; species like sandhill cranes and Canada geese can number in the thousands between September and December. The **Grand Kankakee Marsh County Park** in Hebron provides many opportunities for hunting, fishing, boating and even horseback riding. The County Park is also home to **Voyageur Rendezvous**, a re-enactment of a 17th century American Indian and French fur trading post in May.

## GREAT RESTORATION!

### Ivanhoe

If you fly over **Ivanhoe Dune and Swale** in Gary, Indiana, you'd see a pattern of alternating stripes parallel to the lakeshore. These stripes are made of high sand dunes and low narrow wetland corridors called swales. This fascinating topography is sometimes difficult to discern on the land when grasses and wildflowers can mask the ups and downs of the land. The forests, wetlands, prairies and savannas of the area all interact with each other. Because of these interactions, Ivanhoe is home to a very diverse range of species, including one of the highest percentages of butterflies in the region, like the columbine duskywing and Delaware skipper.

Much of the original expanse of Ivanhoe Dune and Swale has since been urbanized, but 120 acres have been protected from residential development. The Nature Conservancy, an environmental organization that has organized many of

the efforts to save Ivanhoe, coordinates the restoration of the land. Their restoration efforts include burning the landscape to simulate naturally-occurring wildfires and manually removing invasive species. Restoration efforts to re-establish populations of the endangered Karner blue butterfly through breed and release programs are ongoing as well.

Ivanhoe Dune and Swale is open to the public and there is an interpretive trail available to hikers. From the I-80/94 and I-65 interchange, travel west on I-80/94 approximately 7 miles to the Cline Avenue North exit (S.R. 912). Travel north roughly 2 miles to U.S. 20 E (W. 5th Avenue). Continue traveling east on U.S. 20 E, about one mile to Hobart Street, and turn north. Drive north until Hobart Street ends; move the barrier, drive in, park and move the barrier back. You may want to place a sign on your front dashboard indicating that you are there to visit the preserve.



*Wild blue lupine at  
Ivanhoe Dune and Swale*

## Protecting an endangered butterfly's Indiana home

The Karner blue butterfly, an endangered species, is a small butterfly that lives in oak savannas and pine barren ecosystems from eastern Minnesota to the Atlantic coast. The wild blue lupine is a flowering plant that grows in dry sandy soils, like those found in oak savannas and pine barren ecosystems. Because Karner blue caterpillars *only* eat wild blue lupine leaves, the future of this beautiful butterfly depends entirely on the future of this one plant.

Karners are found along the northern part of the places where lupines grow, including along the Indiana Dunes. Karners are small, with a wingspan of only about one inch, and the males and females look different. The topside of the male is silvery or dark blue with narrow black margins. The female is grayish brown, especially on the outer portions

of the wings, to blue on the topside, with irregular bands of orange crescents inside the narrow black border. The underside of both is gray with a continuous band of orange crescents along the edges of both wings and scattered black spots circled with white.

These butterflies, and the wild blue lupine plants they depend on, have suffered severe habitat loss and degradation. Land development has destroyed much of the original habitat. Remaining habitat is often unhealthy because natural factors like wildfires and the grazing done by large animals no longer keep encroaching forests at bay. Without these natural disturbances, lupine and other flowering plants get taken over by large, shady trees.

To keep this endangered species around for future generations to enjoy, conservation experts and volunteers are dedicated to actively managing established habitats to simulate the historic role of wildfires in maintaining oak savanna and pine barren habitats.

This butterfly can be spotted in the Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore in early June and July. Please note, that because existing numbers of these butterflies are so low, the collection of even a few individuals could harm the entire butterfly population. Collection is illegal without a permit from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Start your visit at the **Indiana Dunes National**

**Lakeshore Visitor Center** located at 1215 N. Indiana 49, Porter, IN.



*Karner blue  
butterfly*

## Birding hotspots in Indiana

More than 350 bird species live or migrate through the Dunes region of Indiana. These birds are drawn by the diversity of landscapes—everything from dunes and woodlands to wetlands and prairies—and Lake Michigan's waters. The Indiana Dunes region hosts multiple Audubon-designated Important Bird Areas, places that provide essential habitat for one or more bird species.

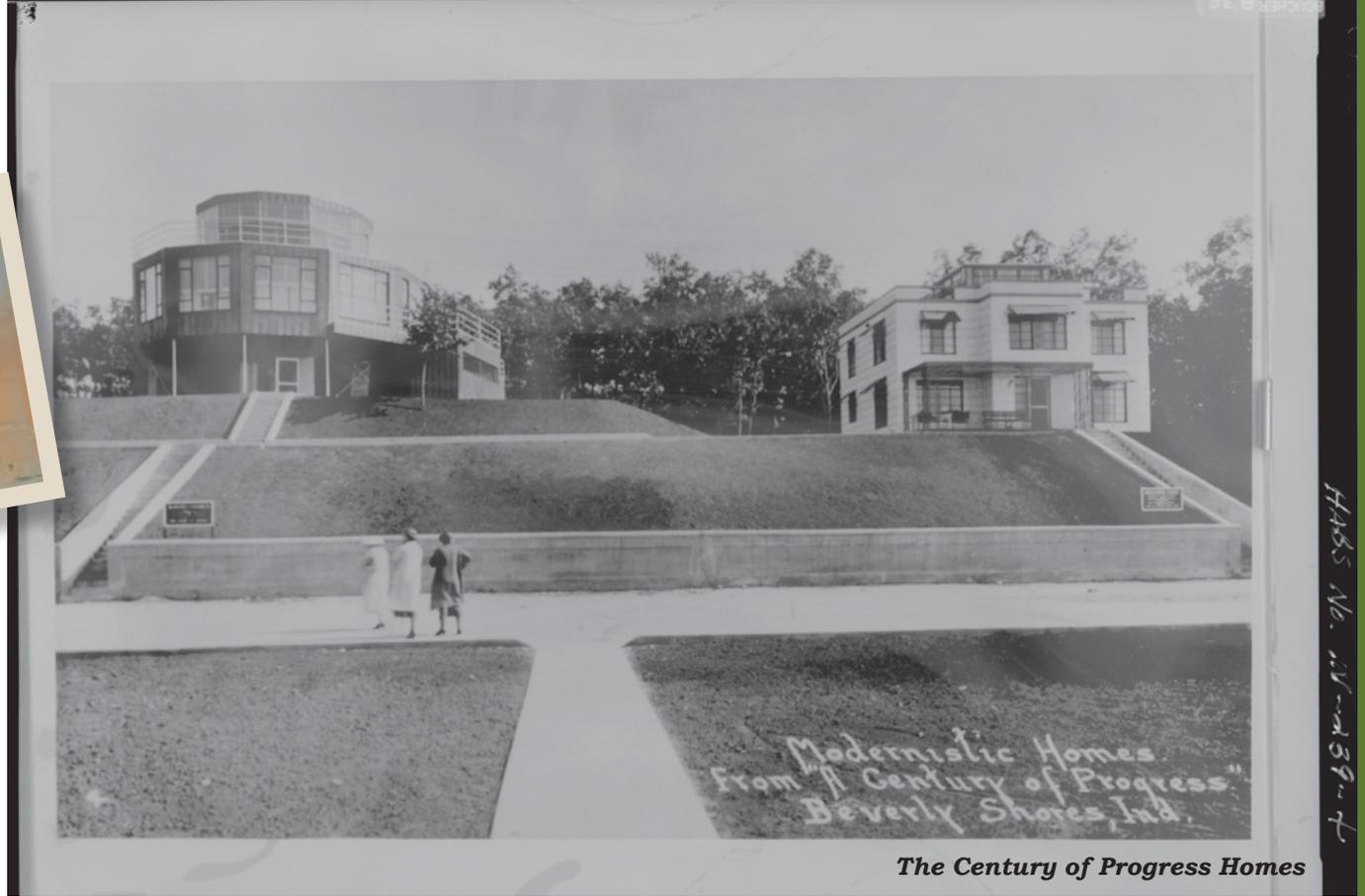
Birders from around the country visit this area to witness the sandhill crane migrations, during which visitors in the fall can see ten thousand cranes in a single day. Peregrine falcons and other large birds of prey follow the Lake Michigan coast to the Indiana Dunes as part of their fall migrations as well. Birders have also spotted kinglets, wood thrushes, woodpeckers and warblers.

Some popular birding spots in this region include:

- **Great Marsh at Beverly Shores**  
500 S. Broadway, Beverly Shores, IN
- **Hammond Lakefront Park & Bird Sanctuary**  
825 Empress Drive, Hammond, IN
- **Indiana Dunes State Park**  
1600 N 25 E. Chesterton, IN
- **Long Lake**  
East County Road 600 N., Valparaiso, IN
- **Portage Lakefront and Riverwalk**  
Riverwalk Drive, Portage, IN
- **Sunset Hill Farm County Park**  
775 N. Meridian Road, Valparaiso, IN

For more information about birding in Northern Indiana, visit the **Indiana Audubon Society** website ([www.indianaudubon.org](http://www.indianaudubon.org)). The **Beyond the Beach Discovery Trail** ([www.BeyondtheBeachDiscoveryTrail.com](http://www.BeyondtheBeachDiscoveryTrail.com)) offers detailed lists of places to bird, where to go to find certain key species and tips for beginner birders.

**Sandhill cranes and Kayakers  
on Lake Michigan near Indiana  
Dunes National Lakeshore**



*The Century of Progress Homes*

HABS No. 11-1-39-7

**A town surrounded by a national park**

What started with aspirations to create a resort community along the Indiana lakeshore has since become a must-see destination for beachcombers and birdwatchers. Now a town of just over 600 people, **Beverly Shores** is surrounded by the Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore.

While founders were still developing the Beverly Shores resort community, Chicago held its second World's Fair. This Fair, held in 1933-34, was dedicated to "A Century of Progress," but it also looked forward to the future. The Fair's Homes and Industrial Arts exhibit contained full-sized concept homes and housing developments. The developers bought several of these houses and transported

them (some by barge) to Beverly Shores to attract potential buyers to the Beverly Shores market with their unique architecture, vibrant colors and new (for the time) building techniques. They also featured such modern marvels as air conditioning and dish washers. The World's Fair homes did not entice as many buyers as the developers had hoped. Today, the homes have been placed on the National Registry of Historic Places and are being restored. Tours of the properties are available once a year, usually in October.

Aside from the retro futuristic architecture showcased in **The Century of Progress Homes**, a diverse birding opportunity awaits you at Beverly Shores. Since the community is located within the Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore, the dunes

and marshland habitats provide the chance to see flycatchers, loons, northern shrikes, prairie warblers, white eyed-vireos and yellow breasted chats. The **Beyond the Beach** birding guide (available at [www.BeyondtheBeachDiscovery Trail.com](http://www.BeyondtheBeachDiscoveryTrail.com)) suggests parking in the Lake View Picnic Area, which is located in Beverly Shores, to bird the open water and the beach. Biking or birding from your car along Beverly Drive will allow you to observe the birds that reside in the habitats between the dunes. The Century of Progress Homes are located between Dunbar and Derby Avenues on Lake Front Drive in Beverly Shores, IN. For more information on touring these homes, visit [www.nps.gov](http://www.nps.gov).

# PORTER & LAPORTE



## Gone fishin' in Indiana

Whether you do it from a boat, a bridge or from the bank of a river, the many waterways within

the Millennium Reserve and Greater Calumet region provide ample opportunities to go fishing.

Indiana fishing licenses can be purchased online at [www.in.gov/ai/appfiles/dnr-license/](http://www.in.gov/ai/appfiles/dnr-license/). Day licenses and lifetime licenses for seniors are available in addition to the cost of a seasonal license. If you plan to fish for salmon or trout in either Illinois or Indiana, you'll need an additional stamp for your license, which can be purchased via the methods outlined above. There are many places in northwest Indiana where anglers can fish, including:

- **Chustak Public Fishing Area:** For fishing access to Salt Creek, follow Indiana State Route 149 south of U.S. Route 6 for 2 miles. Turn west (right) at West 600 North Road and look for the

entrance on the south (left) side of the road.

- **Deer Trail Park:** This park provides fishing access to the Little Calumet River, which has Skamania steelhead trout, bass and salmon, and is popular among fly anglers. Ameriplex Drive, Portage, IN

- **Lakeland Park:** 1200 Lakeland Park Drive, Burns Harbor, IN



- **Michigan City Pier:** 115 Lakeshore Drive, Michigan City, IN
- **Port of Indiana / Burns Harbor:** 6625 S. Boundary Road, Portage, IN
- **Portage Lakefront and Riverwalk:** S.R. 249 and the bridge over U.S. 12 to U.S. Steel and PreCoat Metals in Portage, IN



**Pinhook Bog**

## Who are you calling a swamp?

The Greater Calumet region is home to many natural wetlands. But while a bog, marsh, fen or swamp may seem at first glance to all be the same thing, they are actually quite different.

**Marshes** have very moist soils that frequently experience flooding. Marsh vegetation is well adapted to very wet soils. Trees and other woody plants are few and far between. The source of water for marshes and the periodic flooding that occurs can come from a variety of sources ranging from precipitation and streams to groundwater and tidewater. **Indian Ridge Marsh**, located just north of the Calumet River at the intersection of 116th Street and Torrence Avenue on the southeast side of Chicago, is an example of a marsh.

**Swamps** in this region have mostly woody plants and get their water from surface streams or rivers. Like marshes, they undergo periodic flooding. Depending on the water source, swamps can be freshwater

or saltwater. This water composition greatly influences the plant and animal life that can live there. The area around what is now Lake Calumet is a swamp.

**Bogs** are freshwater wetlands whose source of water is exclusively from precipitation. Bogs usually contain a large number of trees and shrubs and have mossy groundcover. Acidic conditions in bogs favor the production of peat, a compacted and decayed organic material that is sometimes used as a fuel. **Pinhook Bog** (856-902 N. Wozniak Road, Michigan City, IN) is an example of a bog at the Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore through which visitors can take park ranger-led tours of the rare landscape.

**Fens** get water from creeks, streams and groundwater. Fens host mostly wildflowers, grasses and herbaceous vegetation; however, some trees that are tolerant of wet soils can take up residence as well. Peat is also produced in fens. Despite the name, **Cowles Bog** (1100 N. Mineral Springs Road, Porter, IN) is a great example of a fen.



*Hikers at  
Cowles Bog*

## GREAT RESTORATION!

### **Cowles Bog**

Cowles Bog is actually not a bog. Officially a fen (see “Who are you calling a swamp?” for the difference), this restored marshland provides a glance into the past of the Northern Indiana region.

A large marshland once stretched from Gary to Michigan City. Industry, agriculture and urban development have greatly reduced the scope of the marshland and divided it into several isolated tracts. **Cowles Bog** is one of those tracts. With over 4.5 miles of trails to explore, the Bog is a great place to go bird watching for horned grebes, night herons and buffleheads. Some of the trails are quite steep, so be sure to bring your hiking boots. In case you work up a good appetite hiking, the trail leads to a rather secluded beach where you can enjoy a shoreline picnic.

Despite the beautiful landscape, Cowles Bog still faces some challenges. Invasive plants like the

narrow leaf cattail are hybridizing with the native broad leaf cattail. These resulting invasive and hybrid plants endanger the native broad leaves. That one small change can alter the dynamics of the Bog and have implications on animal life and other plants. The hydrology of the area also has been significantly altered from development, reducing water flow and the resulting natural filtering processes.

To combat these invasive species and preserve the original ecology of the area requires a comprehensive plan and a great deal of work. This includes removing invasive cattails as well as other invasive shrubs and trees. It also means fostering native species and restoring water flow.

To protect this rare area, all visitors should stay on the trails. Parking and bathrooms are available on site, however both are quite limited. Cowles Bog is located at 1100 N. Mineral Springs Road, Porter, IN.

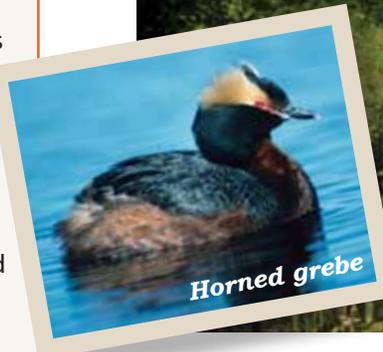
## MY PERFECT DAY IN THE REGION

“In the morning, I’d take a bike ride from my home to Calumet Park, following the lakefront the whole way past amazing architecture and archaeology. I would stop along the way to break out binoculars and look for birds, and then relax in a fine field of flowers. In the afternoon, I’d go to the Indiana Dunes and hike the entire inland trail in Furnessville, which leads past Edwin Way Teale’s childhood home. If I was lucky enough, there’d be a passing thunderstorm to enjoy in the shelter of the Schoolhouse shop.”

— Kathleen Soler



*Cressmoor Prairie*



*Horned grebe*

# RESOURCE LIST

For more information on the natural and cultural history of the Millennium Reserve and Greater Calumet region, or for more information on recreational opportunities, check out any of these recommended sources.

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