



2024

TrailLink Unlimited



Guides



Eagle Points Trail

Illinois



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Caution: While construction continues on the new I-270 bridge over the Mississippi River, be alert for trail restrictions or closings north of the parking lot access. The trail will remain open from the parking lot south.

The Eagle Points Trail is located on the Mississippi River's Chouteau Island—a man-made construct from building the Chain of Rocks Canal to carry river traffic around the rock hazards of the Mississippi's main channel to the west. The trail runs entirely along the top of the levee on the west side of the canal and has no crossroads.

But that doesn't mean the trail is boring. There are interpretive signs and plenty to look at along the way. Starting at the parking lot and returning from the northern endpoint, there's the construction of the new

I-270 bridges being built to replace the crumbling older ones just to the south. These are the bridges built in 1966 to carry the Route 66 traffic that for years before had used the [Old Chain of Rocks Bridge](#). Just beyond the old I-270 bridges is the Chain of Rocks Canal Bridge, built in 1949 as part of the canal project to carry traffic between the Illinois mainland and the newly formed island. Now it's the only conduit for road traffic on and off Chouteau Island, open only from dawn to dusk.

At any time along the trail, one may encounter barges or other river traffic in the canal. In the long middle section of the trail, there's plenty of time to also look over the vast land expanse to the west. There's farmland, woodlands and waterways. And there's always a chance to see some of the island's abundant wildlife: deer, egrets, herons, and of course its namesake bald eagle.

Approaching the south end of the canal, it widens for a section of barge loading and unloading facilities. Then it's on to Lock #27, the last of the long system of locks and dams on the Upper Mississippi. The trail then descends to near river level at land's end, where there is a great place to rest, view the St. Louis skyline and watch the river.



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States: Illinois

Counties: Madison

Length: 7.2miles

Trail end points: Chain of Rocks Canal west levee to Chouteau Island's south end

Trail surfaces: Asphalt, Crushed Stone

Trail category: Greenway/Non-RT

Trail activities: Bike, Fishing, Wheelchair Accessible, Walking, Cross Country Skiing

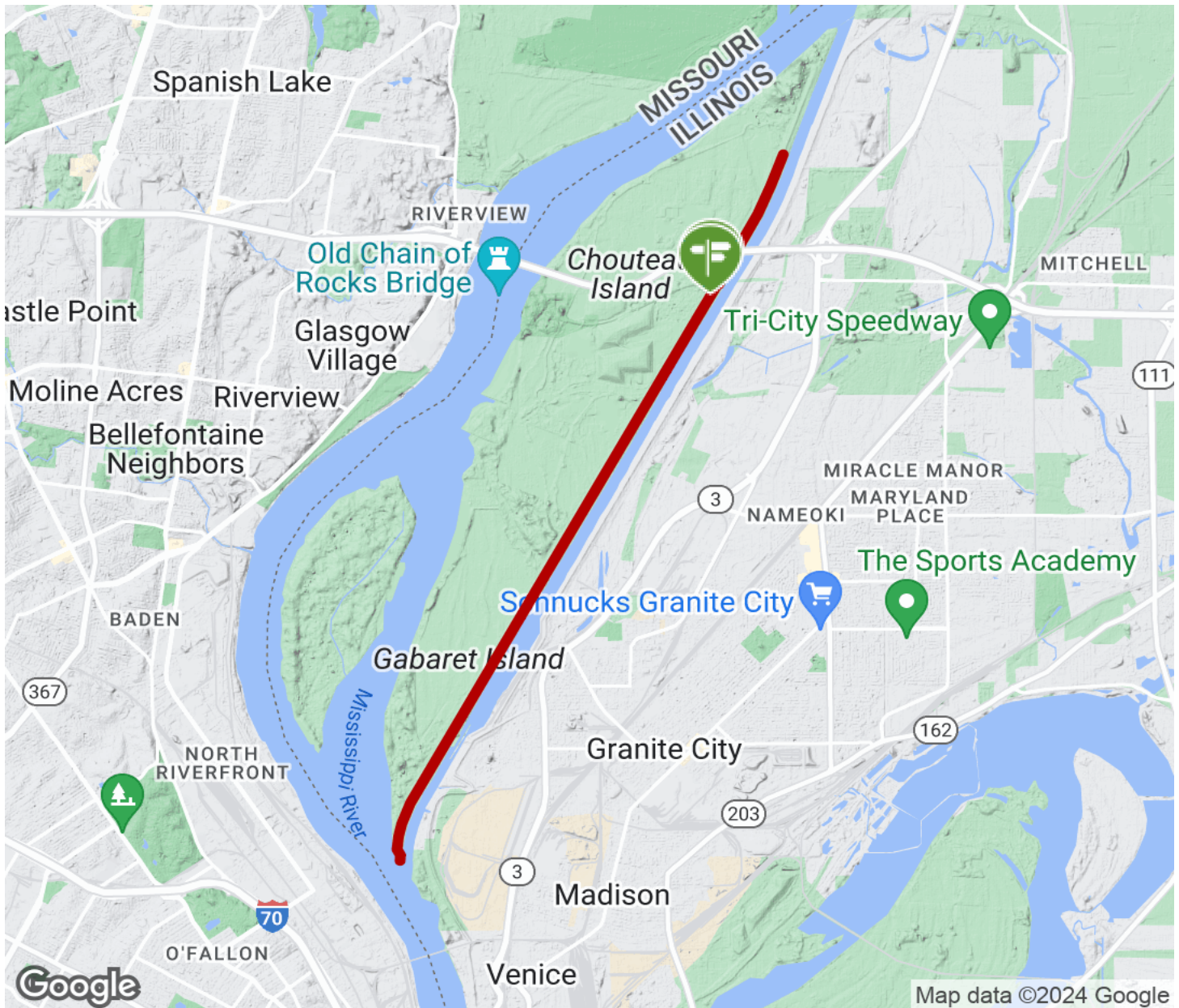
Parking & Trail Access

From I-270, take Exit 3 onto State Route 3 South/Lewis and Clark Boulevard. At the first stoplight, turn right onto Chain of Rocks Road and proceed for 1 mile, over the Chain of Rocks Canal Bridge, to Levee Road on the left. Turn there and follow the road to parking and trail access on the top of the levee.



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Trailhead



Restroom



Parking



Water Fountain



Tunnel



TrailLink
by Rails-to-Trails Conservancy

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