



2026

TrailLink Unlimited 

Guides



**Skokie Valley  
Trail (Lake  
County)**  
*Illinois*



# Skokie Valley Trail (Lake County)

Illinois

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The Skokie Valley Trail connects Highland Park in the south to the northern trailhead in Lake Bluff. The entire trail corridor is a rail-with-trail, paralleled by double tracks that sit about 40 feet to the west of the trail surface. The well-maintained asphalt path offers a nice, smooth experience for a multitude of uses. In addition, the trail shares right-of-way with a major electricity service company, and you will see high-voltage electrical wires overhead.

## About the Route

Even in such an urban environment, nature flourishes along the Skokie Valley Trail. Although the trail passes suburban Chicago life along each side of the corridor, it's not uncommon to come across rabbits, deer,

blackbirds, hawks, and robins among numerous tree and low-brush species. The trail is sandwiched between US 41 and the train tracks for most of its course, and there are several major road crossings. While these are well marked and include crosswalks, use caution when crossing.

The northernmost section of the trail passes through mainly commercial and light industrial developments, and as the trail approaches Lake Bluff, some residential subdivisions. Just before reaching the Deerpath golf course in Lake Forest, the Skokie Valley Trail splits, with a short spur turning east toward the lake and ending at the Laurel Avenue trailhead.

The 200-plus-foot trail bridge over State Route 22 signals the midpoint of the trip. The southern portion of the trail carries trail users south, passing through, Northcroft Park, Heller Park, and Buckthorn Park, before coming to its southern trail endpoint near Woodridge Park.

## Connections

At the northern end of the trail, the Skokie Valley Trail connects to the [North Shore Bike Path](#).

A disconnected section of the trail is open on the same corridor farther south, in Cook County.



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**States:** Illinois

**Counties:** Lake

Length: 9.8miles

**Trail end points:** North Shore Bike Path (Lake Bluff) to Lake Cook Rd (Highland Park)

**Trail surfaces:** Asphalt

**Trail category:** Rail-Trail

**Trail activities:** Bike, Inline

Skating, Walking, Wheelchair Accessible

## Parking & Trail Access

The Skokie Valley Trail (Lake County) runs between North Shore Bike Path (Lake Bluff) and Lake Cook Rd (Highland Park).

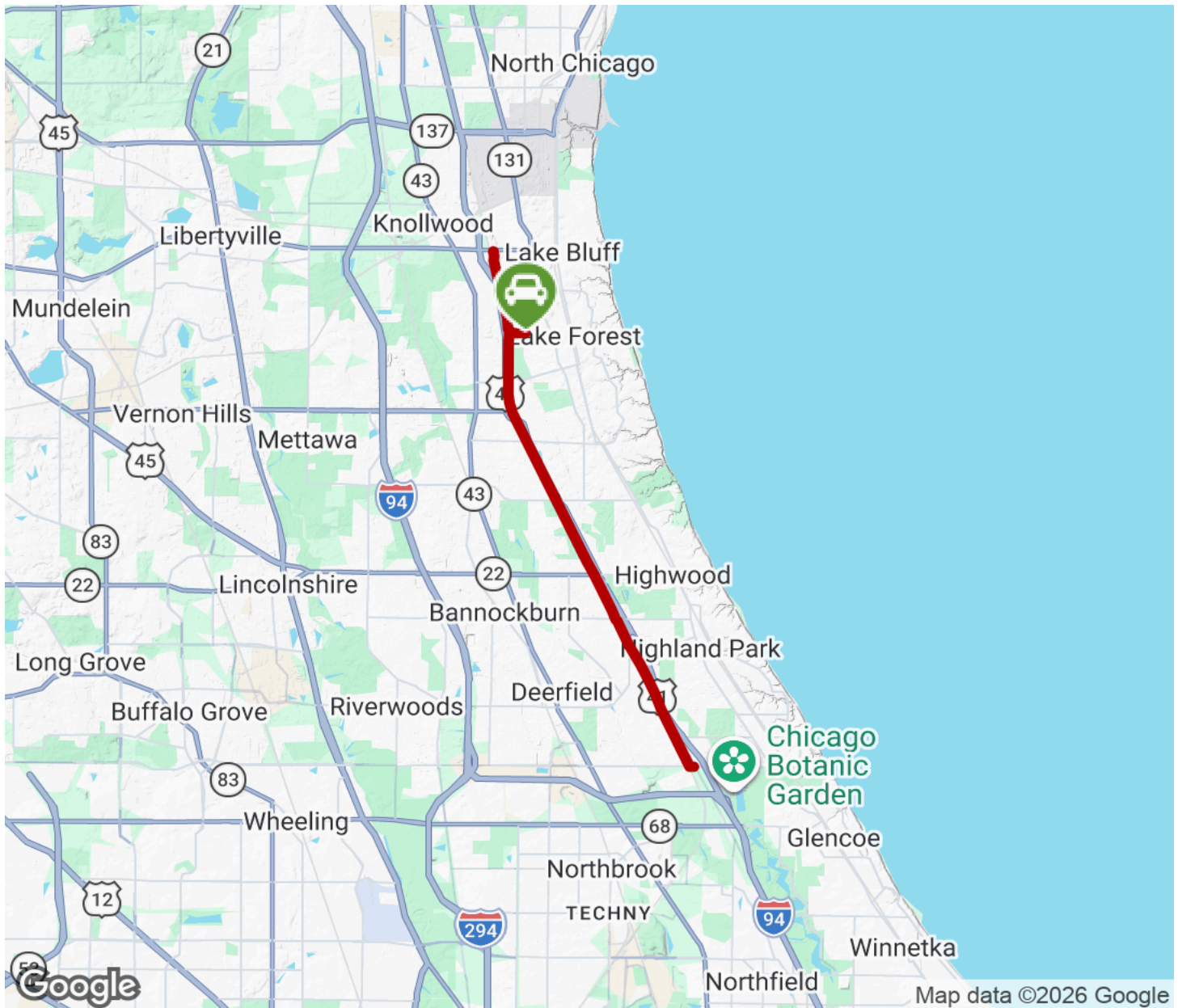
Parking is available at the Skokie River Nature Preserve.

This is an approximate address, please see the [TrailLink map](#) for detailed directions.



# Skokie Valley Trail (Lake County)

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Trailhead



Restroom



Parking



Water Fountain



Tunnel



**TrailLink**  
by Rails-to-Trails Conservancy

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