



2026

TrailLink Unlimited



Guides



Major Taylor Trail

Illinois



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The rest of the trail and street crossings are at ground level. The busier street crossings are all assisted with traffic lights or stop signs. At the 95th Street crossing, there's a cluster of fast food restaurants, making this a popular rest stop along the trail. From 95th to 105th Streets, the trail is on city streets, passing through a very nice, tranquil neighborhood.

The rail-trail portions of the trail show ample evidence of their purposed past: tree-lined corridors, nearby industries, and wide right-of-ways. The trail crosses I-57 on an old railroad bridge, and it crosses the Little Calumet River on a cantilevered trailway beside a railroad bridge still in use.

Along its route, the trail has many connections with other modes of public transportation. There are CTA bus stops at or near the busier street crossings, and there are METRA train stations at or near two of the railroad crossings. The southern end of the trail in Whistler Woods Forest Preserve connects a short disconnected stretch of the [Cal-Sag Trail](#) which runs through the adjacent Joe Louis Golf Course.

The Major Taylor Trail is named after legendary African American cyclist Marshall “Major” Taylor, who was one of the most celebrated bicycle racers of the late nineteenth century, setting several world records and winning numerous races all over the world. One of Chicago's few truly urban trails, the Major Taylor Trail connects several neighborhoods on the city's southwest side.

The trail starts and ends in areas managed by the Forest Preserves of Cook County: Dan Ryan Woods in the north and Whistler Woods in the south. The northernmost section of the trail—from Dan Ryan Woods to 87th Street—is on an elevated portion of the former train line. Its only street crossing (at 83rd Street) is an overpass with the street below.



Major Taylor Trail

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States: Illinois

Counties: Cook

Length: 7.6miles

Trail end points: Dan Ryan Woods north of W. 83rd St. at S. Western Ave. (Chicago) to Whistler Woods north of W. 134th St. at S. Halsted St./SR 1 (Riverdale)

Trail surfaces: Asphalt

Trail category: Rail-Trail

Trail activities: Bike, Inline Skating, Walking, Wheelchair Accessible, Cross

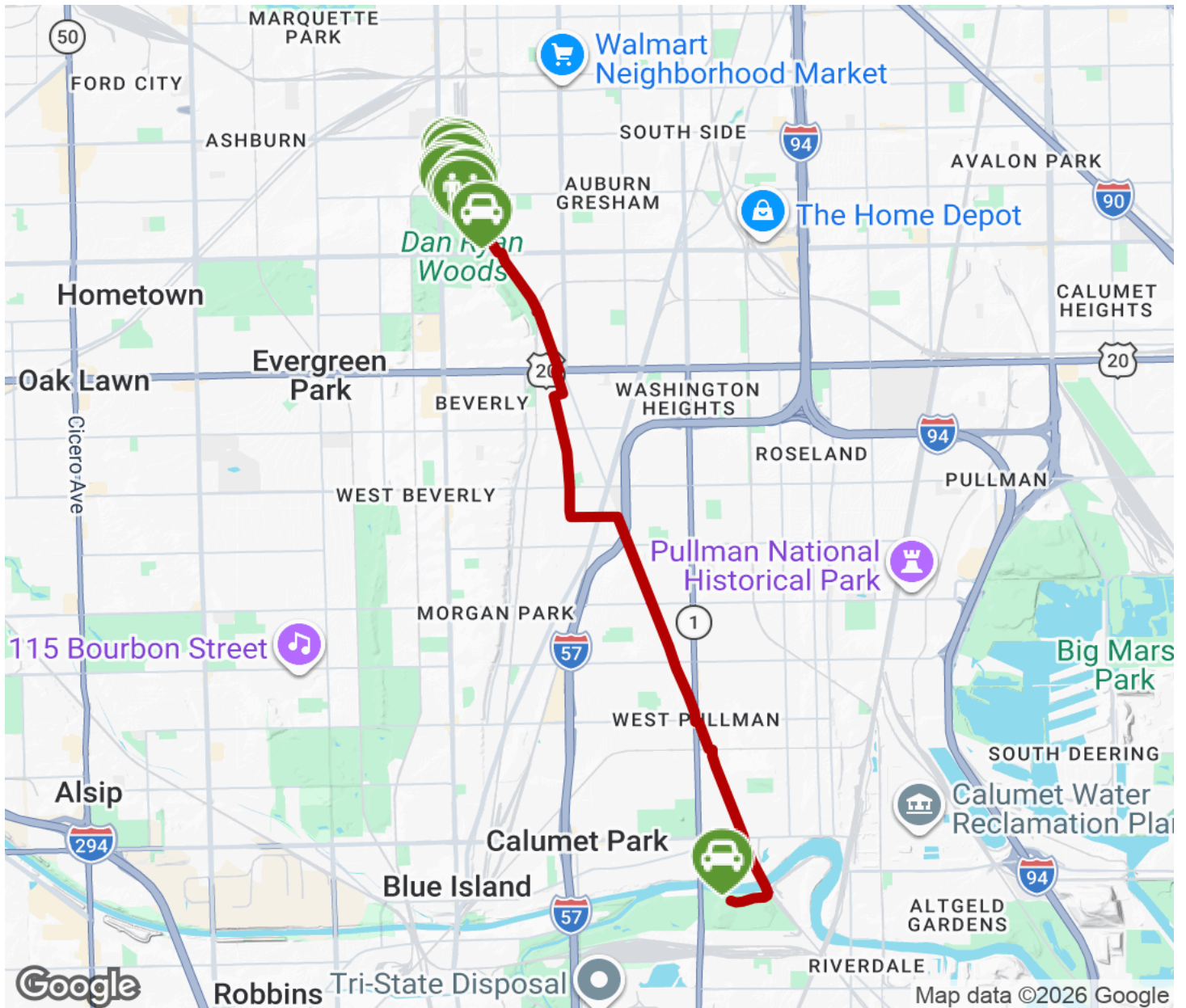
Parking & Trail Access

Parking is available on either end of the trail: on the north side at Dan Ryan Woods (S. Western Ave. and W. 87th St., Chicago) and on the south side at Whistler Woods Forest Preserve (off Forest View Ave., east of S. Halsted St., in Riverdale).



Major Taylor Trail

Illinois



Trailhead



Restroom



Parking



Water Fountain



Tunnel



TrailLink
by Rails-to-Trails Conservancy

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