



2026

TrailLink Unlimited



Guides



**Robert
McClory Bike
Path**
Illinois



Robert McClory Bike Path

Illinois

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The Robert McClory Bike Path runs the length of Lake County, knitting together a string of communities on the north shore of Chicago all the way to the Wisconsin border. In 1997, the trail was named after a congressman who served the area for 20 years.

The trail surface consists of asphalt in the south; concrete where the path leaves the rail corridor and follows city streets; and a finely screened limestone that offers a good, hard base for most trail uses in the north. It's hemmed in by residential and commercial districts, though it does pass some parks and forest preserves.

About the Route

The northern section of the route is full of parks and open

spaces. Also north of Waukegan, trail users will be able to see a number of mile markers on the route heading south. Another unique feature is the number of community gardens that appear mile after mile, adding a charming country touch to the urban atmosphere. For the next 12 miles heading south, the bike path is wide and spacious.

In Lake Bluff, just after the trail crosses the North Shore Bike Path, the trail loses the rail corridor for a minute and enters a warehouse and light-industrial district for a few blocks. The next section of the rail-with-trail corridor travels alongside the metra-rail corridor between Lake Bluff and Lake Forest.

For the next 1.5 miles, the trail skirts old Fort Sheridan, a historical garrison decommissioned by the U.S. Army and transformed into a fashionable neighborhood. Here, trail users will find hiking and biking trails within the 230-acre historic district; another 250 acres are in Forest Preserve.

Heading south towards the Braeside Metra Station, trail users will pass through several parklike corridors and Metra stations including Highland Park, Ravinia, and Ravinia Park. This southernmost section entirely follows the tracks until reaching Braeside Metra Station.

Connections

At the northern end of the trail, trail users can continue along the [Kenosha County Bike Trail](#).

In Lake Bluff, the trail crosses the [North Shore Bike Path](#).

Trail History

The Robert McClory Bike Path primarily follows the route of the Chicago North Shore and Milwaukee Railroad, which expanded all the way to Milwaukee in 1919 as an electric interurban freight and passenger railroad. It ceased operations in 1963 after ridership declined. The trail also uses



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Illinois

States: Illinois

Counties: Lake

Length: 25.4miles

Trail end points: Kenosha County Bike Trail (WI-IL State Line) to Braeside Metra Station

East, 10 St Johns Ave (Highland Park)

Trail surfaces: Asphalt, Concrete, Crushed Stone

Trail category: Rail-Trail

Trail activities: Bike, Inline

Skating, Walking, Wheelchair Accessible, Cross

Parking & Trail Access

The Robert McClory Bike Path runs between Kenosha County Bike Trail (WI-IL State Line) and Braeside Metra Station East, 10 St Johns Ave (Highland Park).

Parking is available at:

- Larsen Nature Preserve, 1720 Western Ave (Waukegan)
- Lake Bluff Metra Station, 600 Sheridan Rd (Lake Bluff)
- 1698 1st St (Highland Park)

See [TrailLink Map](#) for all parking options and detailed directions.

