



2025

TrailLink Unlimited 

Guides



North Shore Channel Trail

Illinois



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The North Shore Channel Trail extends 8.3 miles from the junction of Green Bay Road and McCormick Boulevard in northern Evanston to the junction of Lawrence Avenue and Francisco Avenue in Chicago.

About the Route

All but the southern-most 0.25 miles runs alongside the North Shore Channel, a drainage and aeration canal built in 1909; the southern-most 0.25 miles follows the North Branch of the Chicago River. For most of the way, a trail occupies both sides of the North Shore Channel.

Just north of North Lincoln Avenue (US Hwy 41), a pedestrian bridge connects the two main sections of the trail. Known as the Lincoln Village Bridge, the bridge

creates a continuous route from Devon Avenue to Argyle Avenue with no street crossings.

On the west side, the paved trail runs south from Green Bay Road through a number of parks, including the City of Evanston's LADD Arboretum, to N Francisco Ave. Crossing several roads including North Lincoln Avenue (US Hwy 41), all street crossings are at grade and all crossings north of Lincoln Ave have traffic lights.

The east side trail runs south from Green Bay Road to Lyons Street (halfway between Emerson St and Church St). Then use McDaniels Avenue to Dempster Street, cutting through the playground on the west side of the grade school at McDaniels or using the alley on the east side. Dempster to Main is asphalt, Main to halfway between Main and Oakton is gravel, then asphalt the rest of the way to Oakton. One block north of Oakton there is a dog park; also nearby is a dock for launching canoes.

The segment from Oakton to Howard is industrial and a fence prevents crossing under the Skokie Swift El tracks. From Howard to Lincoln, trail users can head down Kedzie Avenue. From Touhy to Thillens Little League stadium one block north of Devon, there are some fun dirt paths through the trees that are good for mountain biking.

The paved North Shore Channel Trail continues from North Lincoln Ave to West Lawrence Ave, with one last block on North Francisco Avenue. All street crossings north of Howard are at grade level without traffic lights. From Howard to Devon there are traffic lights at the major cross streets. South of Devon, the trail goes underneath all cross streets except Argyle.



North Shore Channel Trail

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States: Illinois

Counties: Cook

Length: 8.3miles

Trail end points: Green Bay Rd (Evanston) to N Francisco Ave (Chicago)

Trail surfaces: Asphalt, Concrete, Dirt

Trail category: Greenway/Non-RT

Trail activities: Bike, Inline

Skating, Wheelchair Accessible, Mountain

Biking, Walking

Parking & Trail Access

The North Shore Channel Trail runs between Green Bay Rd (Evanston) and N Francisco Ave (Chicago)

Parking is available at:

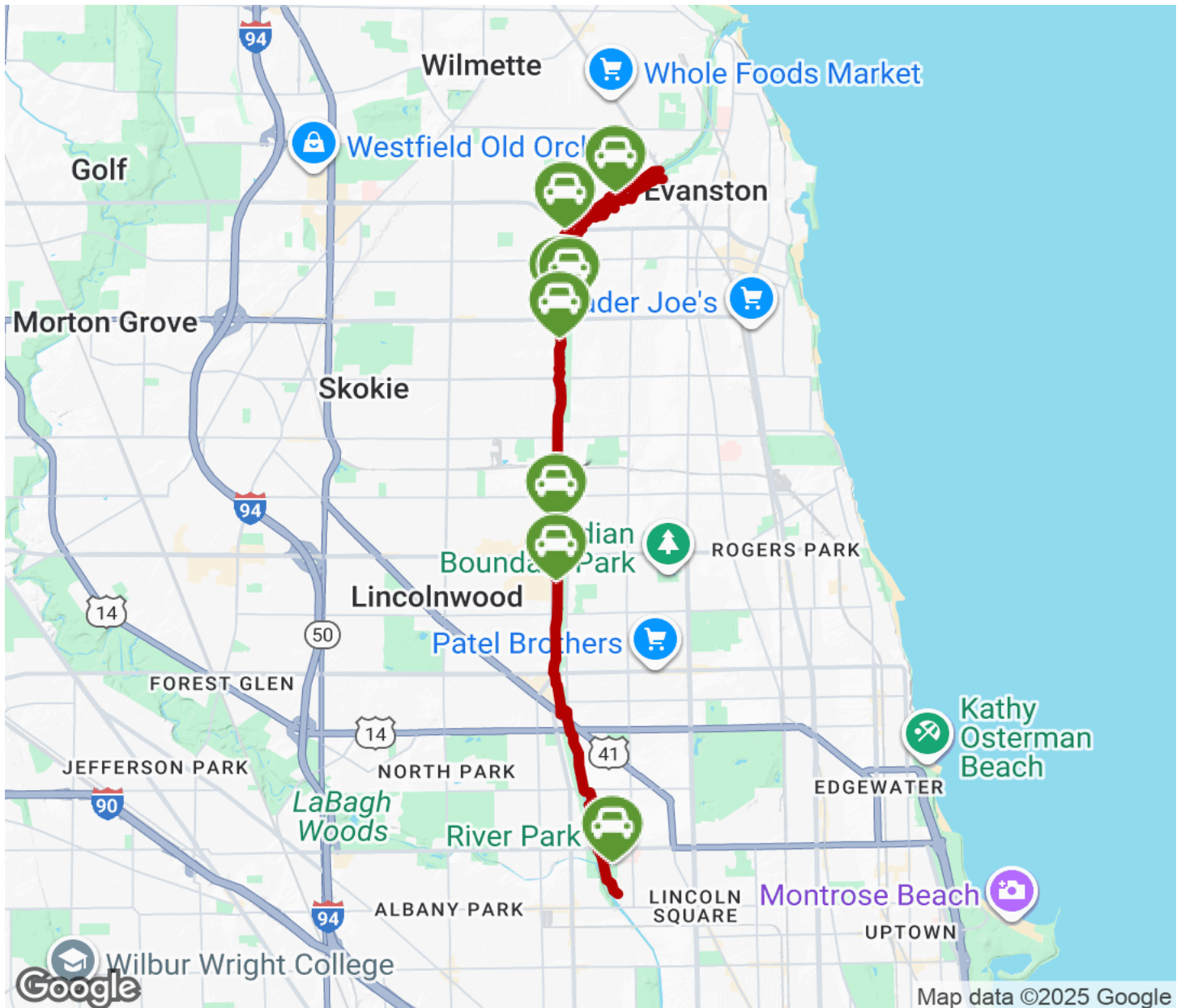
- International Friendship Garden, 2020 N McCormick Blvd (Evanston)
- River Park, 5100 N Francisco Ave (Chicago)

Visit the [TrailLink map](#) for all parking options and detailed directions.



North Shore Channel Trail

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Trailhead



Restroom



Parking



Water Fountain



Tunnel



TrailLink
by Rails-to-Trails Conservancy

TrailLink.com