



2026

TrailLink Unlimited 

Guides



Willow Creek Path

Illinois



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The Willow Creek Path is a pleasant, tree-lined trail that follows its namesake creek for most of its journey through the communities of Machesney Park and Loves Park in the Rockford metropolitan area. It extends from Harlem High School into Rock Cut State Park, one of the most-visited state parks in Illinois. As you enter the park, you can also connect with the [Perryville Path](#), which travels about 6 miles south through residential and commercial areas.

The pathway runs adjacent to the Dennis Johnson Memorial Park as well, which offers volleyball, tennis and basketball courts.



Willow Creek Path

Illinois

States: Illinois

Counties: Winnebago

Length: 2.6miles

Trail end points: Rock Cut State Park at Pierce Lake (near Loves Park) to Harlem High School at N. Alpine Rd. (Machesney Park)

Trail surfaces: Asphalt

Trail category: Greenway/Non-RT

Trail activities: Bike,Inline

Skating,Walking,Wheelchair Accessible

Parking & Trail Access

The western end of the trail begins south of the Harlem High School parking lot (1 Huskie Circle, Machesney Park).

The eastern trail endpoint is located in Rock Cut State Park (7318 Harlem Road) at the Lake View Trailhead and picnic area on the west side of Pierce Lake. Note that the park closes at 10 p.m. during the spring and summer and 5 p.m. during the winter. Visit the [park's website](#) for details.



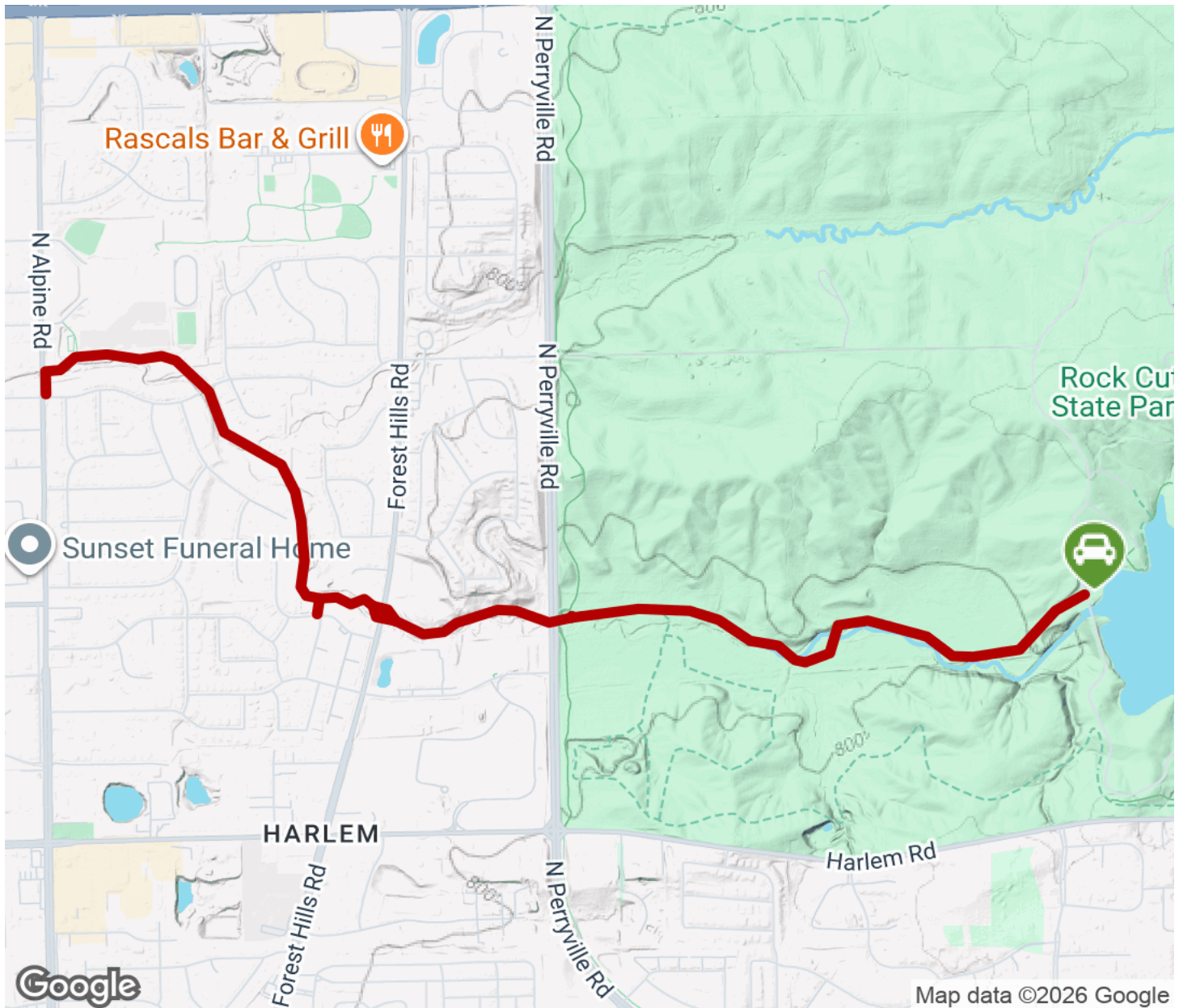
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Willow Creek Path

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Trailhead



Restroom



Parking



Water Fountain



Tunnel



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