



2026

TrailLink Unlimited



Guides



# Eagle Points Trail

*Illinois*



## Eagle Points Trail

Illinois

*The Eagle Points Trail is located on the Mississippi River's Chouteau Island—a man-made construct from building the Chain*



part of the canal project to carry traffic between the Illinois mainland and the newly formed island. Now it's the only conduit for road traffic on and off Chouteau Island, open only from dawn to dusk.

At any time along the trail, trail users may encounter barges or other river traffic in the canal. In the long middle section of the trail, there's plenty of time to also look over the vast land expanse to the west. There's farmland, woodlands and waterways. And there's always a chance to see some of the island's abundant wildlife: deer, egrets, herons, and of course its namesake bald eagle.

Approaching the south end of the canal, it widens for a section of barge loading and unloading facilities. Then it's on to Lock #27, the last of the long system of locks and dams on the Upper Mississippi. The trail then descends to near river level at land's end, where there is a great place to rest, view the St. Louis skyline and watch the river.

The Eagle Points Trail is located on the Mississippi River's Chouteau Island—a man-made construct from building the Chain of Rocks Canal to carry river traffic around the rock hazards of the Mississippi's main channel to the west. The trail runs entirely along the top of the levee on the west side of the canal and has no crossroads.

But that doesn't mean the trail is boring. There are interpretive signs and plenty to look at along the way. Starting at the parking lot and returning from the northern endpoint, there's the construction of the new I-270 bridges being built to replace the crumbling older ones just to the south. These are the bridges built in 1966 to carry the Route 66 traffic that for years before had used the [Old Chain of Rocks Bridge](#). Just beyond the old I-270 bridges is the Chain of Rocks Canal Bridge, built in 1949 as



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**States:** Illinois

**Counties:** Madison

Length: 7.2miles

**Trail end points:** Chain of Rocks Canal west  
levee to Chouteau Island's south end

**Trail surfaces:** Asphalt, Crushed Stone

**Trail category:** Greenway/Non-RT

**Trail activities:** Bike, Fishing, Walking,  
Wheelchair Accessible, Cross Country Skiing

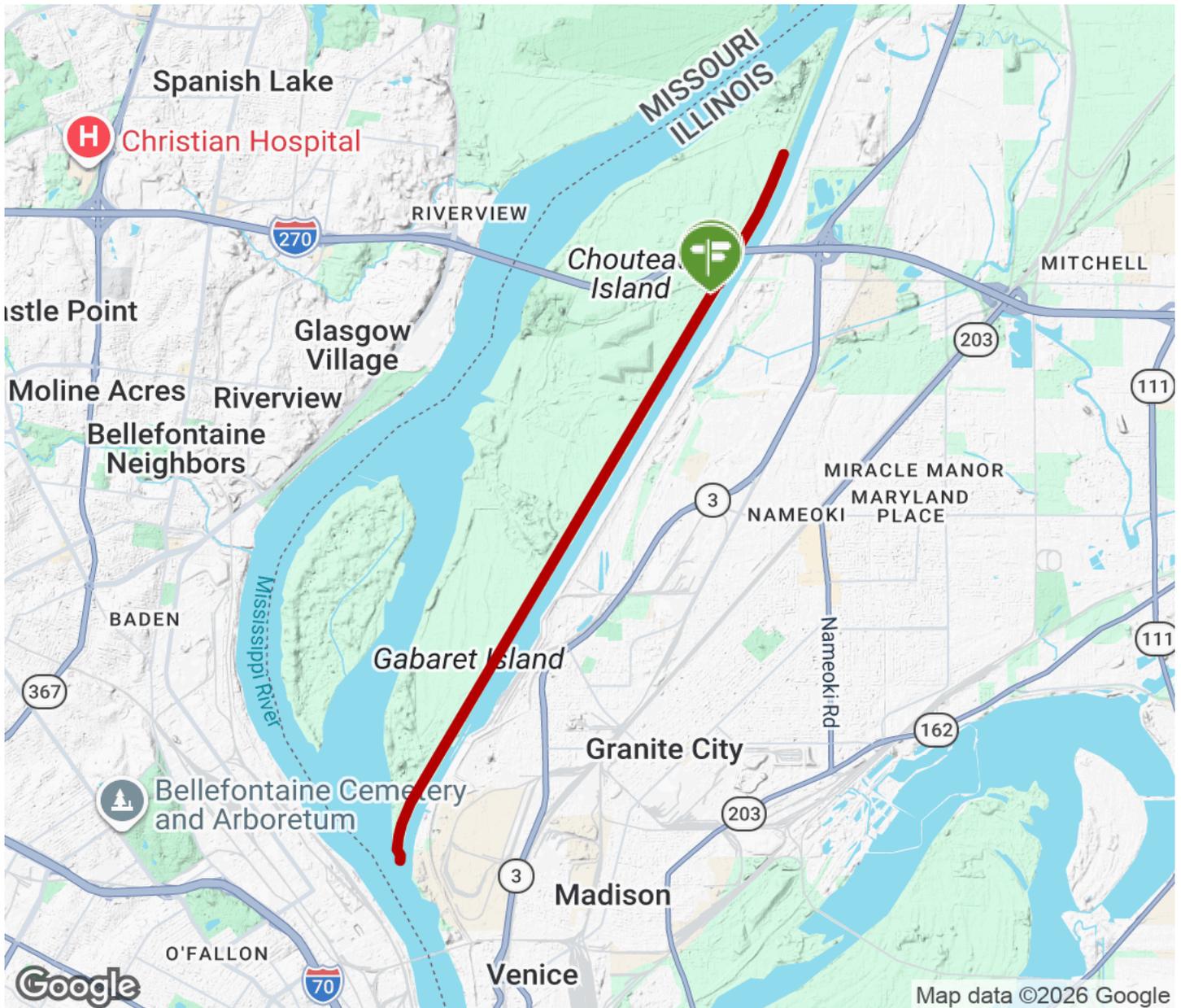
## Parking & Trail Access

Parking for the Eagle Points Trail is available just south of Chain of Rocks Rd., on the east side of the island.



# Eagle Points Trail

Illinois



Trailhead



Restroom



Parking



Water Fountain



Tunnel



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

**TrailLink.com**