


Routes to Wilderness

Metra lines shown in white
 CTA lines shown in multiple colors
 5 miles 



SITES TO SEE

Public transit serves wild destinations as well as cultural ones. Travel times listed are from Chicago.

ILLINOIS BEACH STATE PARK 4,000-acre lakeside grassland, woodland, and marsh. 90 minutes from downtown.

BUSSE WOODS 3,700 acres of marshes, woodlands, and grasslands. 60 minutes from West Side.

BUNKER HILL WOODS High-quality savanna, prairie, and woods linked to North Branch preserve system and bike trail. 10-30 minutes from North Side.

HARMS WOODS 160-acre woodland known for spring wildflowers, along North Branch bike trail. 60 minutes from North Side.

DAN RYAN WOODS 244-acre woodland with highest point in Chicago. 10-45 minutes from South Side.

EGGERS WOODS 151 acres of woodlands and wetlands and Old Plank Road Bike Trail. 10-45 minutes from South Side.

THATCHER WOODS 300-acre woodland along Des Plaines River. 20-40 minutes from West Side.

CHICAGO BOTANIC GARDEN 385-acre garden with 100-acre McDonald Woods. 40-60 minutes from North Side.

BROOKFIELD ZOO WOODS Woods include Salt Creek Bike Trail. 20-45 minutes from West Side.

SPRING BROOK NATURE CENTER 65-acre nature center with varied natural habitats. 45 minutes from downtown.

PALOS PRESERVES 15,000-acre complex of woods, prairie, and wetland. 40 minutes from downtown, weekdays only.

INDIANA DUNES 15,000 acres of unique dune habitat and beaches. 60 minutes from downtown.

■ For directions to most of these sites, visit fotp.org/downloads/tencityescapesbrochure-smaller.pdf.

■ To plan your trips using buses or trains, visit tripsweb.rtachicago.com.

■ To read preserve profiles for most sites, visit chicagowildernessmag.org, and click on "Into the Wild."

Adapted from "Ten City Escapes" by Friends of the Parks and Friends of the Forest Preserves.