

Des Plaines River Trail

The Des Plaines River Trail is a wonderful trail through the forest preserves along the Des Plaines River. It's in the shadow of O'Hare Airport, but you can see a wonderful diversity of wildlife – we've seen deer, coyotes, hawks, snakes, and of course, plenty of Canada Geese on our rides on the trail.

The trail is just on the east side of the Des Plaines River, and you can find the trail crossing at any of the major east-west streets from Golf Road northward.

To get to the trail by bicycle, here's a route that starts from the Wilmette Village Hall, 1200 Wilmette Avenue, Wilmette, Illinois.

Note 1 – some of the streets on the route (portions of Church Street, Shermer Road and Central Road) are busier streets and are recommended for more experienced cyclists.

Note 2 – the Des Plaines River Trail is covered with crushed gravel for most of its length. However, there can be muddy spots, tree roots and fallen trees to contend with. Make sure your bike is capable of handling some light off-road riding before trying the Des Plaines River Trail.

Turn	Direction	Distance (Miles)	Street/Location
	West	0.0	From Wilmette Village Hall onto Wilmette Avenue
Left	South	0.6	Central Park Avenue – follow Central Park south through Evanston into Skokie
Right	West	2.4	Church Street (in Skokie)
Straight	West	5.3	Beckwith Road
Right	North	7.1	Shermer Road
Left	West	8.3	Central Road (in Glenview)
Straight	West	11.2	Follow Central Road west past the underpass for I-294 and pass the entrance to Beck Lake to get to the trail. I recommend following the trail <u>north</u> (turn right) – you can ride all the way to Lake County on the trail.

A round-trip ride from Wilmette to the trail and north along the trail into Lake County can turn into a very pleasant 50-mile day.

Follow the directions in reverse to return home.