



Recommended Road Bike Routes

- Excellent
 - Good
 - Fair, Use Caution
 - National Bike Route
 - Bike Lane
- Trails**
- Paved Trail
 - Unpaved Trail
 - Dirt Trail
 - Walking Trail
 - Opening 2024-2026
 - ⋯ Planned Trail
 - - - Water Trail

About Our Bicycle Route Rating System

- CAR-FREE ROUTES (TRAILS)**
Suitable for bicyclists of all levels and ages. Separated and protected from motor vehicle traffic.
- EXCELLENT**
Suitable for bicyclists of all levels. Smooth riding surface with a marked bikeway, a designated bike route, or preferable conditions for shared lane riding.
- GOOD**
Suitable for advanced and some intermediate bicyclists. Smooth riding surface and good connection. Requires moderate traffic tolerance and riding skills.
- FAIR**
Best available route in the vicinity. Suitable for advanced cyclists. Use caution.

Places

- Outdoor Adventure Sites
- Shirley Heinze Land Trust Site
- Mountain Bike Trail Site
- Boat Launch
- Trail Parking
- South Shore Line Station
- South Shore Line Station (Bike Access Allowed)
- SSL Station Opening 2025 (Bike Access Allowed)
- Amtrak Station
- Metra/CTA Station
- Trails and Transit Bus Stop
- Railroad
- Waterbodies
- Airport
- Parks and Recreational Area
- County Boundaries

Map Sponsors

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The NW Indiana Greenways & Blueways Map has been funded through federal Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) program funds, plus locally generated money. NIRPC receives from its member counties. NIRPC genuinely thanks all sponsors for their local match financial assistance in making this mapping document free of charge to the public!

NIPSCO
nipsco.com

SHIRLEY HEINZE LAND TRUST
heinzetrust.org

SOUTH SHORE LINE
SOUTH SHORE LINE TAKES YOU THERE.
mysouthshoreline.com

TRAILBLAZERS BIKE BARN
trailblazersbikebarn.com

TRAILYARD VALPARAISO
trailyardvalpo.com

VS ENGINEERING
vsengineering.com

Trail & Route Symbol Guide

- American Discovery Trail
- Calumet Trail
- C&O Greenway
- Chesie Trail
- Dunes Kankakee Trail
- Erie Lackawanna Trail
- Grand Illinois Trail
- Great American Rail-Trail
- Lincoln Memorial Trail
- Little Calumet River Levee Trail
- Marquette Greenway
- Monon Trail
- Oak Savannah Trail
- Old Plank Road Trail
- Pennsy Greenway
- Prairie Duneland Trail
- Veterans Memorial Trail
- US Bike Route

Sharing the Trail

Keep to the right.
Yield to people walking and slower moving traffic except when passing. Slow down when there are lots of users on the trail.

Use your path.
Don't bike on designated walking or running paths.

Be careful at crossings.
Look both ways. People biking: yield to through traffic at intersections. Remember, people walking have the right of way. People walking: exercise caution. Be aware that people biking and skating require lots of room to stop.

Advise others when passing.
Sound your bell or horn or call out when approaching people walking or people biking more slowly. Then pass safely on the left.

SAFETY NOTE/DISCLAIMER: The Northwest Indiana Regional Planning Commission (NIRPC) has published this map to help residents of NW Indiana and beyond enjoy our region by non-motorized travel options. Regarding bicycles, while most of the routes on this map are not signed or designated bike routes, Indiana law allows bicyclists on all roads except limited access highways and roads marked as prohibited. Users of this map should be aware that potential hazards and obstructions may exist on the routes shown and that NIRPC in no way warrants the safety or stress of the suggested routes. This map does not expand the liability of NIRPC to bicyclists and paddlers beyond existing law. The user of this map bears full responsibility for his or her safety.

Call NIRPC at 219-763-6060 to request a copy of this map or other free publications, or visit www.nirpc.org. This map will be updated and reprinted on a regular basis. Suggestions to improve the map and accompanying information are always welcome! Produced by NIRPC Staff. Public Domain Document 2024 by NIRPC.

LIFTOFF!

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Shirley Heinze Land Trust
Connecting Communities to Nature
Visit a preserve near you!
www.heinzetrust.org
LOOK FOR OUR FERN LOGO TO FIND OUR PRESERVES!

Support the Marquette Greenway!

the Marquette GREENWAY

LEGACY FOUNDATION
Lake County's Community Foundation

Your Indiana Dunes hiking, biking, fishing, birding or paddling adventure awaits. Locate the orange Outdoor Adventure icons to find adventure hotspots of all types. Get more details at www.BeachOutdoorAdventures.com

Visit Indiana Dunes National Park!
www.nps.gov/indu

Keep up on the latest Greenways and Blueways Information
Facebook: Greenways & Blueways of NW Indiana

Get Involved

South Shore Trails
NW Indiana's premiere advocacy group for bicycling and walking routes. Please visit them at www.southshoretrails.org

Active Transportation Alliance
Chicago's voice for better walking, biking and transit. Please visit them at www.activetrans.org

NW Indiana Paddling Association
Advocates for paddling opportunities, environmental stewardship and education. Please visit them at www.nwipa.org



The Lake Michigan Water Trail has been designated a National Recreation Trail. This is part of a planned 1,200-mile system that will become the largest water trail facility in the world! For more information, please visit www.lmwt.org.

LAKE MICHIGAN

Michigan City

Long Beach

Town of Pines

Trail Creek

Westville

Wanatah

La Crosse

North Judson

Hanna

Kingsford Heights

Kingsbury

Fish Lake

Rolling Prairie

La Porte

Hudson Lake

Michigan City Municipal Airport

South Shore Line

Trail Creek Fen Nature Preserve

Shirley Heinze Land Trust Site

Mountain Bike Trail Site

Boat Launch

Trail Parking

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Amtrak Station

Metra/CTA Station

Trails and Transit Bus Stop

Railroad

Waterbodies

Airport

Parks and Recreational Area

County Boundaries

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Greenways+Blueways 2024

2024 EDITION
NORTHWEST INDIANA REGIONAL MAP
GREENWAYS+BLUEWAYS

This map was developed by the Northwestern Indiana Regional Planning Commission (NIRPC), in partnership with generous sponsors. Celebrating nearly 60 years of regional collaboration, NIRPC is on the forefront of the Region's transformation into a quality-of-place talent attractor, leveraging the Region's unique assets for the benefit of all the Region's communities by working together for a better future.

NIRPC Represents:

- 3 Counties
- 41 Cities & Towns
- 2 Townships
- 3 County Surveyors
- Governor's Appointment
- Total of 53 Elected Officials at the table

NWI 2050+ Long-range plan for Lake, La Porte and Porter Counties that takes a bold approach by planning at the center of linkages between the environment, land use, and economic development.

Greenways+Blueways 2020 Plan

An integrative planning document that highlights the benefits and relationships of both environmental & non-motorized transportation planning across NWI through three main topics: conservation, recreation, & transportation.

NIRPC is the Metropolitan Planning Organization, Regional Council of Governments and Economic Development District for Northwest Indiana. NIRPC's purpose, as put forth in Indiana state statute, is to "provide a coordinative management process for Lake, Porter and La Porte Counties and to institute and maintain a comprehensive planning and programming process for transportation, economic development and environmental policy."

www.nirpc.org

Bikes on Transit

Bikes on Trains

Bikes are welcome aboard the South Shore Line on ALL trains - ALL year long!

Look for the on the SSL timetable or the Bikes on Trains schedule at mysouthshoreline.com.

When boarding a train, find the bike symbol displayed in the windows of the car. Be sure to enter and exit the bike cars through the center doors and insert your bike into one of the self-locking bike racks.

Learn more at mysouthshoreline.com

Bicycle Racks on Buses

Bicycle racks are available on most buses. Racks accommodate two bicycles at a time. Remove large accessories from your bike before loading. If you are concerned about the security of your bicycle, lock your bicycle's front wheel to your frame before the bus arrives.

Bike trails along our electric and gas corridors serve the purpose of community connectivity and provide families with the opportunity to enjoy a safe place for recreation throughout the region. NIRPC is proud to support this initiative and our local communities.

Water Safety Tips

General Safety Advice

Always wear a personal flotation device (PFD). Be prepared for changing weather conditions. Keep spare clothing in a sealed bag. Bring adequate food and water. Water is not available at most access sites. Don't overload your canoe. Know your abilities and physical limitations. Leave a trip plan with friends/family.

River Courtesy

All other dikes and shorelines are privately owned and should not be accessed unless in an emergency. Don't leave litter. Be a river steward and clean up litter. Respect the rights of anglers and hunters. Always be courteous.

Communicate

State Law (IC 9-21-11-2) requires cyclists to obey all the same traffic laws as motorists. This means cyclists should stop at signs and stop lights and yield to pedestrians in crosswalks.

Use hand signals so that drivers know where you're going. Signal all your turns and stops ahead of time. Also, before turning, look over your shoulder for any traffic. Check and only move when it's safe.

Confirm your presence with motorists. Eye contact is good, a wave is even better. If you are unsure if a motorist sees you, use extra caution before proceeding.

See, Be seen, Be heard. Use lights at night or when visibility is poor. A white headlight and rear reflector or taillight are required by state law (IC 9-21-11-9). Flashing lights are especially effective. Use bike reflectors, reflective clothing and a bell.

Never use earphones because you won't be able to hear what's going on around you. Using earphones is not only dangerous, it's illegal.

Always wear a bicycle helmet to reduce the risk of permanent injury or death from a crash. To make sure your helmet fits correctly, put it on and use the "eyes, ears, mouth" test. EYES: When you look up, you should see the front rim. If not, your helmet won't protect your forehead. EARS: The side straps should come to a "Y" just below each ear. MOUTH: When you open your mouth wide, you should feel the helmet push down on your head. If your helmet doesn't pass the test, adjust its buckles.

Bikeway Types

Bike Lanes

A portion of the roadway designated by striping, signing, and pavement markings for the preferential or exclusive use of people riding bikes.

Marked Shared Lanes & Bike Routes

A portion of the roadway open to both bicycle and motor vehicle travel designated by pavement markings and signing as a preferred route for people riding bikes. Marked shared lanes are typically installed when there is insufficient roadway width for a bike lane.

Multi-use Trails

Paved paths separated from the road and marked for use by people walking, cycling, running, or skating.

Sharing the Road

Obey all traffic regulations. Riding predictably and following the law are the keys to safe bicycling. Knowing and following the rules help all road users properly anticipate and react to each other.

When necessary, use entire travel lane. Move toward the center when the lane is too narrow for motorists to pass safely or when you're moving at the same speed as traffic.

Ride in a straight line. Avoid weaving between parked cars. Ride in a straight line at least 4 feet away from parked cars to avoid the door zone.

Never ride against traffic. Riding against traffic is dangerous and illegal. Motorists and pedestrians are not looking for cyclists riding the wrong way down a street.

Don't ride on the sidewalk. Each municipality has different laws about biking on a sidewalk. In many cases, if you are 12 years old or greater, you are not permitted to bike on the sidewalk unless it is marked as a bike route.

To cross an intersection, use the lane farthest to the right that points to where you are going. Follow lane markings to cross an intersection. If you can't change lanes to turn left, ride across the street to the other side and align your bike with traffic. Then, proceed with your signal.

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Connecting Communities to Nature. Visit a preserve near you! www.heinzetrust.org

Keep up on the latest Greenways and Blueways Information. Facebook: Greenways & Blueways of NW Indiana

Discover the unexpected! calumetheritagere.org

The 133-mile Kankakee River Water Trail has been designated a National Water Trail. It traverses Northwest Indiana and Northeast Illinois in what was once one of the United States' largest wetlands. The water trail boasts ample public access sites, thousands of acres of natural areas and preserves, remarkable wildlife, overnight camping for paddlers, many historic sites, and a high-quality sports fishery. For more information, please visit www.kankakeeriverwatertrail.org.