GETTING TO THE RIVER
TRAILS TO HIKE, BIKE, AND EXPLORE

1. Prairie Wolf Slough Deerfield
   Located on the south side of Half Day Rd. between Waukegan Rd. and Ridge Rd. A 2.5-mile unpaved loop circles restored wetlands, prairie and oak woodlands.

2. North Branch Bike Trail Wilmette to Chicago
   A 4.4-mile paved loop between Dundee Rd. and Tower Rd. circles the Skokie Lagoons. It also connects to a 13.0-mile paved trail south to Devon Ave., and the Edgebrook Metra station.

3. North Shore Channel Trail Evanston to Chicago
   An 8.0-mile paved trail from Green Bay Road south to Lawrence Ave. The south end is just 2½ blocks north of the Francisco stop on the CTA Brown Line.

4. Bunker Hill Chicago
   Located on the west side of Caldwell Ave. between Harts Ave. and Devon Ave., this 2.3-mile paved segment of the North Branch bike trail travels along (and over) the river. The bike trail begins at Caldwell Ave. and Devon Ave., just west of the Edgebrook Metra station and doesn’t cross any roads.

5. Ronan, River, and Legion Parks Chicago
   Located just east of Jersey/Kedzie Ave. between Devon Ave. and Lawrence Ave. The south end of the bike path is just 2½ blocks north of the Francisco stop on the CTA Brown Line. These three parks encompass a 3.0-mile paved segment of the North Shore Channel Trail.

6. John Husar I&M Canal Trail Willow Springs
   The parking lot is next to the Willow Springs Metra station near Willow Springs Rd. and Archer Ave. (171). The 8.9-mile paved bicycle trail consists of two 3.3-mile loops with a 2.3-mile connection and follows the historic I&M Canal.

7. Major Taylor Trail Chicago
   This 6.0-mile paved path is one of the few trails over the Cal-Sag Channel on the south side of Chicago. The path begins in Whistler Woods.

8. Rubio and Carlson Springs Woods Midlothian
   The parking lot is located north of the Midlothian Turnpike between Ridgeland Ave. and Central Ave. The 9.4-mile paved loop of the Tinley Creek red trail takes you through woodland and open grassy meadows.

9. Sauk Trail Woods South Chicago Heights
   Located at 26th St. and Ashland Ave., this 3.5-mile paved loop is part of the Thorn Creek trail.

10. Plum Creek Meadow Sauk Village
    Located east of Burnham Ave. just north of 223rd St. in southeastern Cook County, this forest preserve has a 2.0-mile unpaved trail loop.
GETTING TO THE RIVER

NATURAL AREAS TO EXPLORE - NORTH

11. Middlefork Savanna  
Lake Forest
The entrance and parking area are located on Middlefork Dr. west of Waukegan Rd. (43), between Route 60 and Route 176. Once part of a large glacial lake, this forest preserve is home for endangered plant and wildlife species. There are bridges and a 3.5-mile unpaved trail which links to other trails in Lake County.

12. North Park/Florsheim N.P.  
Lincolnshire
Located near the intersection of W. Everett Rd. and Riverwoods Rd. The entrance to the park is on the east side of Riverwoods Rd. This park is wooded and has many bridges over the West Fork of the Chicago River.

13. Somme and Chipilly Woods  
Northbrook
The parking lot for this forest preserve is located north of Dundee Rd. just east of Waukegan Rd. It has 3.7 miles of unpaved trail, most right next to the Middle Fork of the North Branch. The green trail is 2.1 miles (looped), and the light blue is 1.6 miles and has a very good wading spot under the railroad tracks.

14. Glenview Woods  
Glenview
This forest preserve is just west of Harms Rd. just south of Glenview Rd. and not far from the Old Orchard Shopping Mall in Skokie. It has a bridge just south of the parking lot and connects to the 8.5 miles of unpaved trails along the North Branch tan, yellow, and orange trails.

15. Linne Woods  
Morton Grove
This forest preserve is just north of Dempster St. at Lehigh Ave. not far from the Morton Grove Metra station. It has a bridge and connects to the 8.5 miles of unpaved trails along the North Branch tan, yellow, and orange trails.

Morton Grove
Located near the intersection of Lincoln Ave. and Lehigh Ave. south of Dempster St. and one block west of the Morton Grove Metra station. There are no formal trails, but there are great open woodlands and picnic areas near the river.

17. Irene Hernandez Family Picnic Area  
Chicago
This forest preserve is located on the north side of W. Foster Ave. at Kilbourn Ave., just east of Cicero Ave. (and east of the railroad tracks). This is a nice open picnic area and is great for wading into the North Branch of the Chicago River.

18. Gompers, Field, and Kiwanis Parks  
Chicago
Located between W. Argyle St. and W. Foster Ave. not far from CTA Brown Line and Foster Ave. buses. These are great little parks for exploring the Chicago River in the urban environment. Gompers Park has a 0.5-mile paved trail around the lagoons, and all three have bridges.
19. **McCloughrey Springs Woods** Palos Park
   Located on the west side of S. Kean Rd. between Cal-Sag Rd. (83) and 119th St. this site has an open grassy area surrounded on three sides by a shallow and wadable Mill Creek. It connects to a 8.1-mile unpaved loop on the Sag Valley yellow trail. You can hike shorter loops as well.

20. **Lake Katherine** Palos Heights
   Located at 7402 W. Lake Katherine Dr., Lake Katherine Nature Center & Botanic Gardens includes 125 acres of water, 3.5 miles of paved and wooded trails, gardens and open space for exploring along the Cal-Sag Channel.

21. **Elizabeth Conkey Woods** Midlothian
   The most convenient parking lot is located on the west side of Central Ave., north of 135th St. From the parking lot walk along the edge of woods until you come to path leading back to Tinley Creek. This is a good wading spot.

22. **Thorn Creek Woods** Park Forest
   Located at 247 Monee Rd., a 2.5-mile unpaved trail winds through 880 acres of oak hickory forest dominated by 150 year old oak trees, native shrubs and spring wildflowers. Thorn Creek, a tributary of the Little Calumet River, flows thought glacial pothole ponds, marshes, and prairie remnants.

23. **Goodenow Grove** Beecher
   Located at 27064 S. Dutton Rd., 1.25 miles east of the intersection of Routes 1 and I-394, this preserve has a 2.0-mile looped unpaved trail which includes two 0.5-mile side trails to Plum Creek.

24. **Sweet and Jurgensen Woods** Glenwood
   This unpaved trail snakes back and forth through wooded areas along North Creek, a tributary of Thorn Creek. The black trail is 1.4 miles and takes you near the confluence. The yellow trail is 3.5 miles and goes east to Torrence Ave.
GETTING TO THE RIVER
SOME OTHER GREAT SITES
IN THE CHICAGO RIVER WATERSHED

25. Northbrook Village Green
    1344 Shermer Rd., Northbrook

26. Techny Prairie/Meadowhill Park
    1800 Techny Rd., Glenview

27. Willow Park
    2600 Greenwood Rd., Glenview

28. Sleepy Hollow Park
    1300 Sleepy Hollow Rd., Glenview

29. Miami Woods
    6740 Dempster St., Morton Grove

30. Clark Park
    3400 N. Rockwell, Chicago

31. Erie Park
    630 N. Kingsbury St., Chicago
    (between Erie & Ontario)

32. Wolf Point
    306 N. Orleans St. (Franklin St.), Chicago

33. Vietnam Veterans Memorial Plaza
    40 E. Wacker Dr., Chicago
    (between State & Wabash)

34. McCormick Tribune Bridgehouse &
    Chicago River Museum
    376 N. Michigan Ave., Chicago
    (Michigan & Wacker)

35. Ping Tom Park
    300 W. 19th St., Chicago

36. Canal Origins Park
    2900 S. Ashland Ave., Chicago

37. Sag Quarries
    11000 South Archer Ave., Lemont

38. Crooked Creek Woods
    10400 S. Kean Ave., Palos Hills

39. Blue Island SEPA Facility
    2288 Fulton St., Blue Island

40. Kickapoo Meadows
    14566 S. Halstead Ave., Riverdale

41. Beaubien Woods
    1340 E. 132nd St., Chicago

42. Wolf Lake
    12600 S. Ave. O, Chicago

Friends of the Chicago River