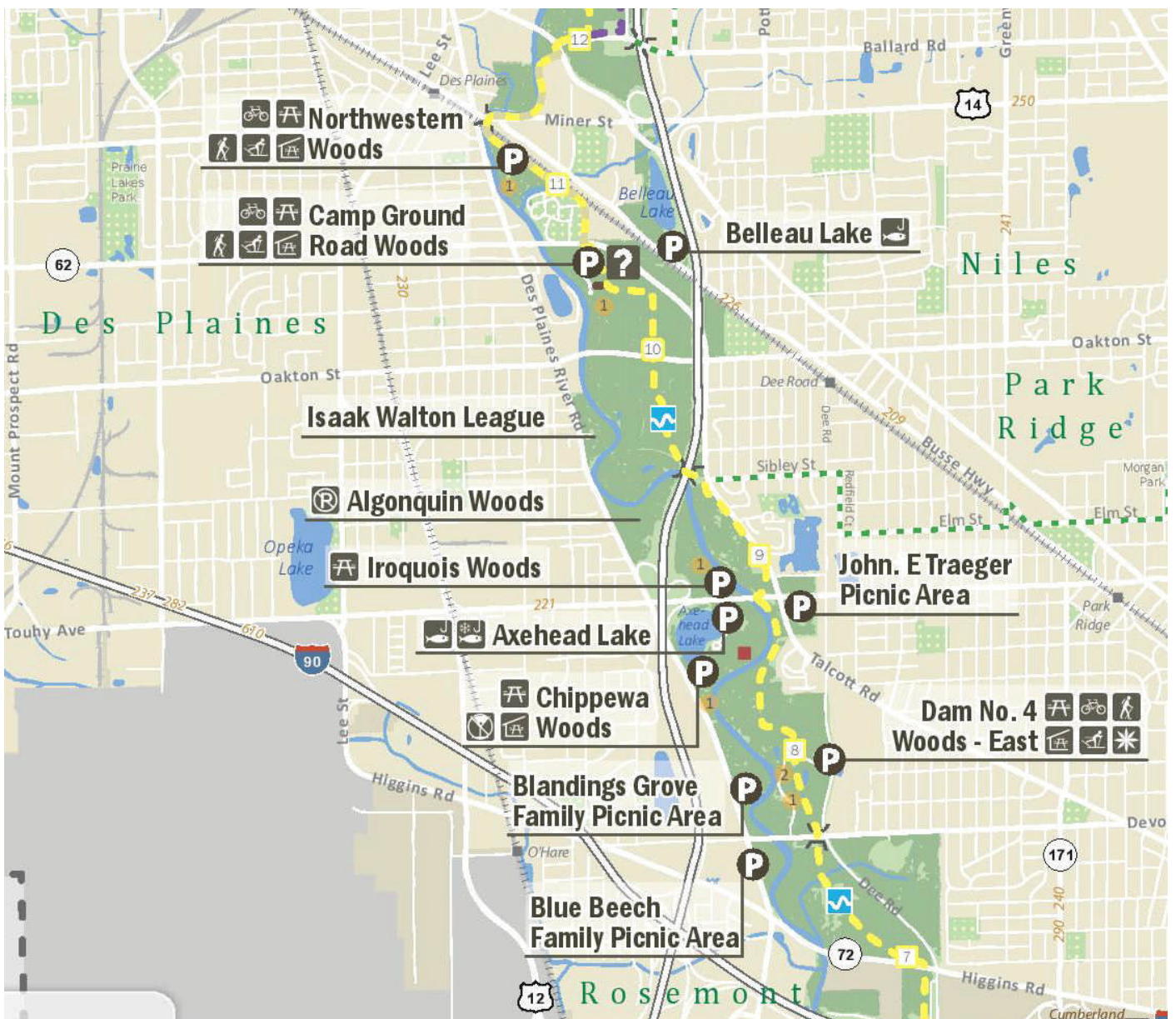


# 2019-04-07 – Rosemont – 24 km

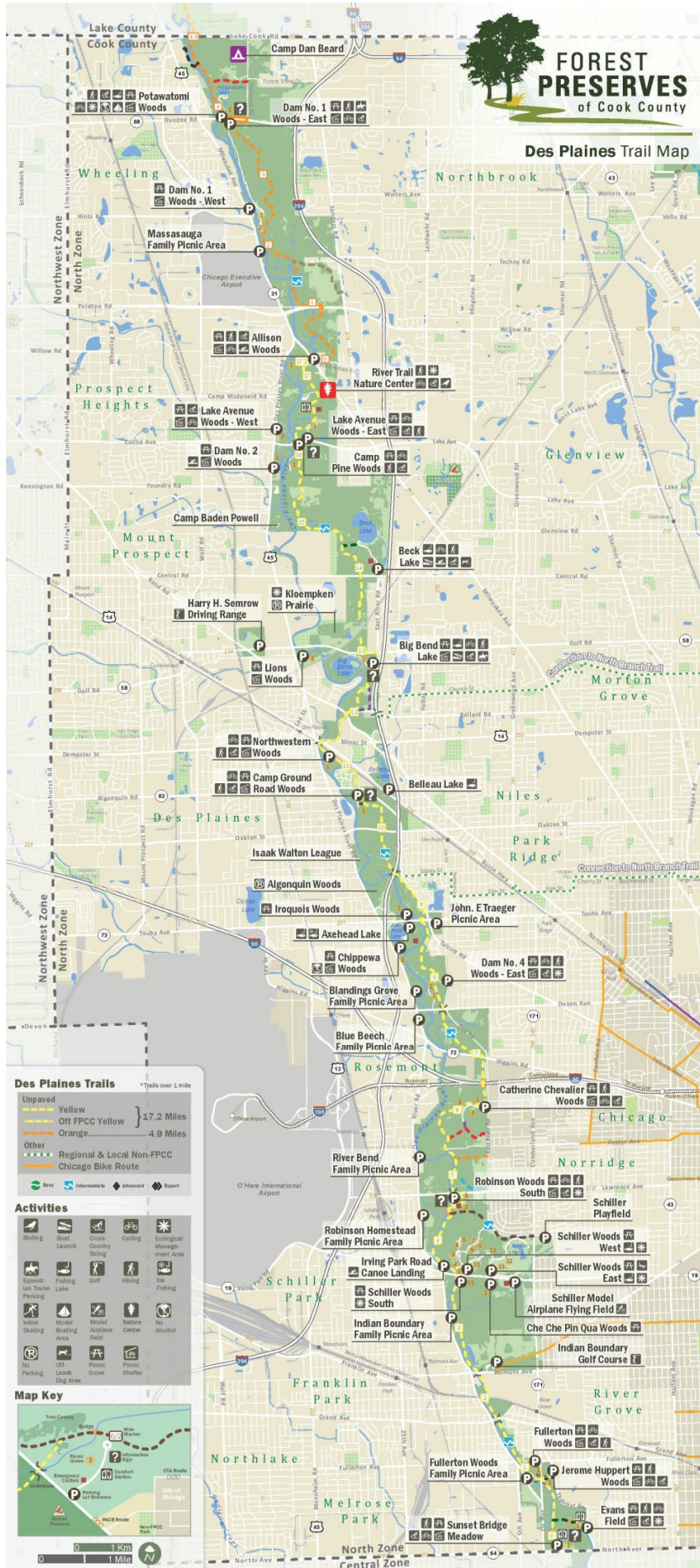
Des Plaines trail from Higgins Rd to Ballard Rd, connecting over Miner St & Dempster St to Skokie





# FOREST PRESERVES of Cook County

## Des Plaines Trail Map



### Des Plaines Trails

- Unpaved
  - Yellow } 17.2 Miles
  - Off FPCC Yellow } 17.2 Miles
  - Orange } 4.9 Miles
- Other
  - Regional & Local Non-FPCC
  - Chicago Bike Route

### Activities

- Birding
- Boat Launch
- Cross-Country Skiing
- Cycling
- Ecological Management Area
- Equipment Trailer Parking
- Fishing
- Golf
- Hiking
- Ice Fishing
- Kayaking
- Model Airplane Field
- Nature Center
- No Alcohol
- Parking
- Public Shelter
- Public Shelter

### Map Key





# Rail ('L') System Map

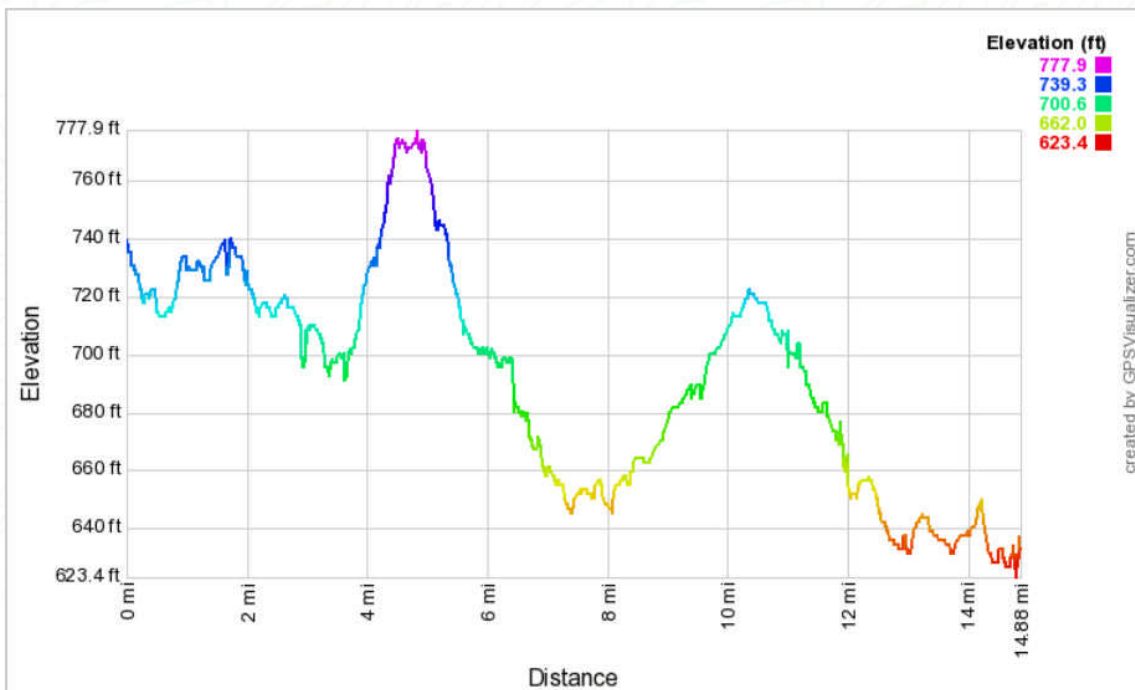
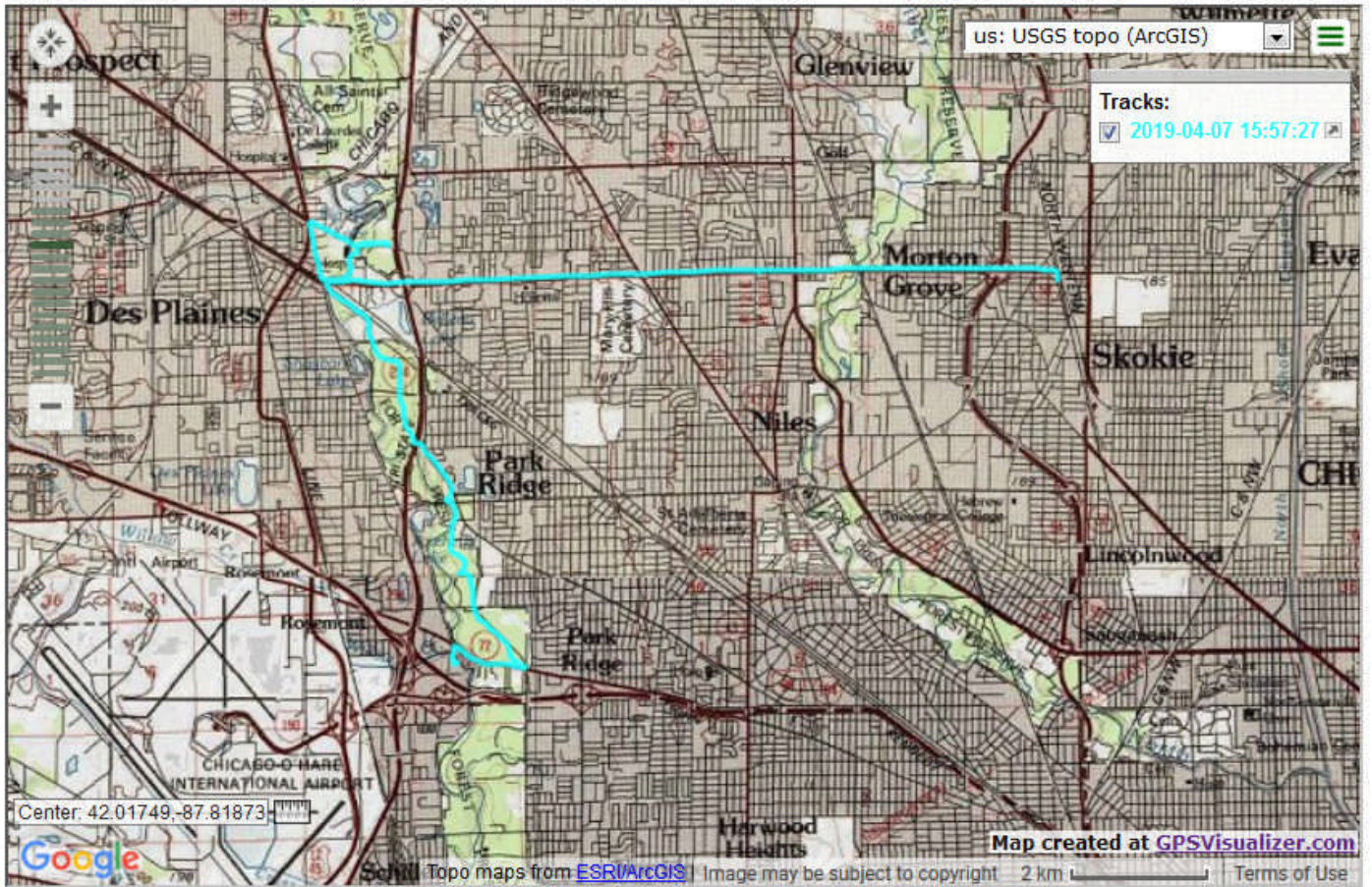
For Travel Information Call:  
**1-312-836-7000**

For Customer Assistance Call:  
**1-888-YOUR-CTA**

Hearing Impaired:  
**1-888-CTA-TTY1**

Online:  
**transitchicago.com**



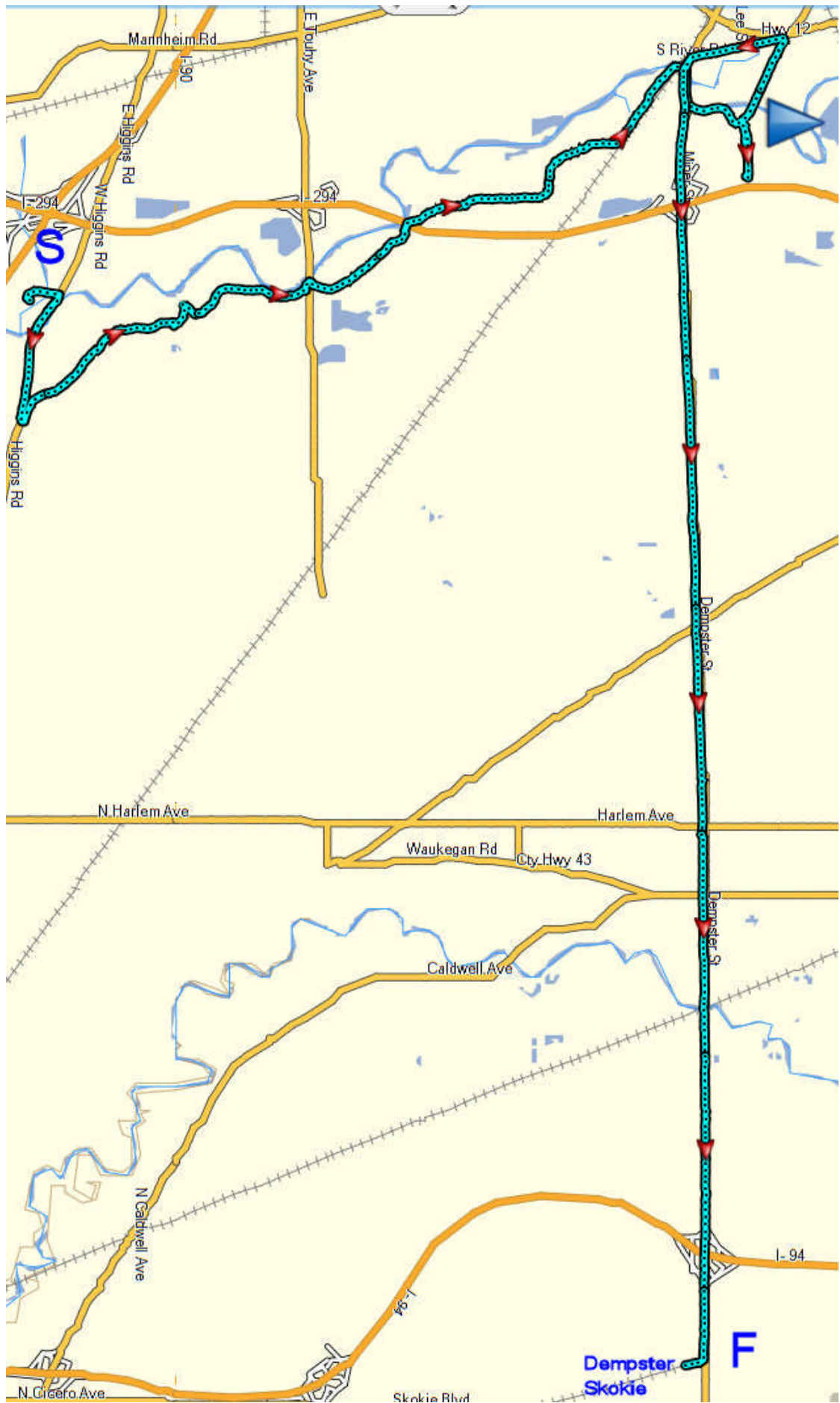


miles (mi)      kilometers (km)

14.88      23.94703872

Swap < == >

1 mi = 1.609344 km      1 km = 0.62137119 mi

































## Des Plaines River Trail

### Iniquis School Dig

During an archeology field trip through the nearby forests, local educators and students from the Iniquis Community School's "Unlabeled in Science" program found a depression in the ground with pieces of glass, iron and earthenware lying about. This discovery inspired the archaeological dig of the former Nelson and Knitz farm site, in what is now Iniquis Woods, near Touhy Avenue and the Des Plaines River.

The dig began in May 1985 under the supervision of Forest Preserve personnel. Following archaeological procedures they set up grids and, for the next few summers, students continued the dig where they established, researched, and documented hundreds of artifacts dating back from the late 1800's to 1920's.

### Discovering the Past

#### Finds at the Dig

While many common household items were found including knives, forks, spoons, bottles and remnants of jugs and crocks, perhaps one of the most interesting artifacts uncovered was a lady's compact engraved with the name "Harriet Hubbard Ayer." Ayer (1849 - 1903) was a Chicago socialite who established her own company selling facial cream when her husband's business ventures failed.

The items discovered in the dig are now housed in the state museum in Springfield, Illinois. For more information about the dig, please contact the Des Plaines History Center.

#### Artifact Screen

An artifact screen used in this drawing (illustrator, was used by the students to unearth artifacts found in the site.

#### Plant Specimens?

Shagbark Hickory trees, most common in the forest, which have distinctive bark that "peels" peeling back. The bark of these trees is used for medicinal purposes such as heart medicine, including those made by Ayer's company. Other plants found in the site include...















## Des Plaines River Trail

*"For a mile and more before you reached the edge of the tree you were in its bright orange light, which made everything as white as if it were snow-day, and the sun was shining brightly through a blood-colored haze."* — Donald Wright, *Illinois*, 1883.  
Source: *Natural History of the Chicago Region*, by Joel Greenberg, USC Press (2002).

*"No one can conceive the creature that rises up to the horizon of the traveler as he stands on the open one wide sea of waving grass and sun-baked around him neither stone, nor stump, nor bush, nor tree, nor hill, nor house."* — Theodore Tilton and Chicago, 1837.  
Source: *Natural History of the Chicago Region*, by Joel Greenberg, USC Press (2002).

**Vegetation of the Chicago Plain (Cook County) at the Time of Settlement**

PRairie	WET FOREST
WET PRAIRIE	MAPLE-BASSWOOD
MARSH	LOW THicket
BLACK OAK SAVANNA	OPEN WATER
OAK SAVANNA	RIVER OR CREEK
OAK-HICKORY FOREST	AREA NOT MAPPED MOSTLY MORAINES

5.97 MILES

Downtown Chicago

City of Des Plaines

Source: *Natural History of the Chicago Region*, by Joel Greenberg, USC Press (2002). (Courtesy Philip Haines)

**Do You Know?**  
Prairie plants are well adapted to the frequent droughts due to the extreme east of storms. Some prairie plants, such as the Common Yellow Rattle, were once common in the forest.

### Natural History

**Pre-Settlement Conditions**

Prior to the settlement by European immigrants, fire played a major role in shaping the landscape. Areas to the west of the Des Plaines River were subject to frequent fires. These fires were ignited both by lightning and by Native Americans managing the land for hunting and food production. As a result, prairie plants, which were well adapted to fire, dominated these areas.

The Des Plaines River acted as a fire break from the ubiquitous massive fires from the west, allowing oak woodlands to thrive on the east bank of the River where you are standing! Oak woodlands consist of tree species with thick bark and some resistance to fire. During modern times fire has been suppressed and so other species of trees and shrubs that have less resistance to fire, have begun to establish themselves in this forest.

Source: *Conservation Research Institute and Hawk Nature*





