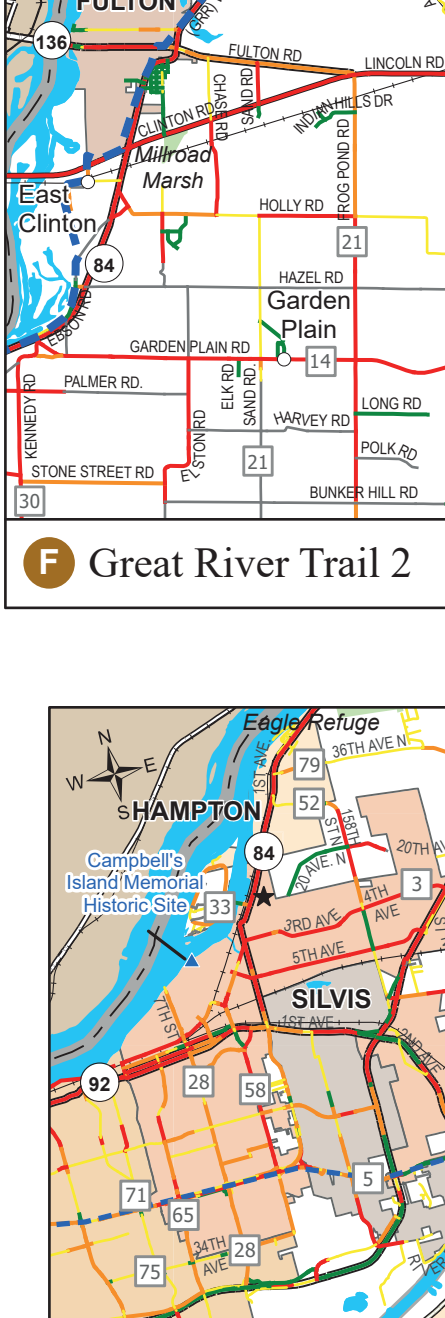
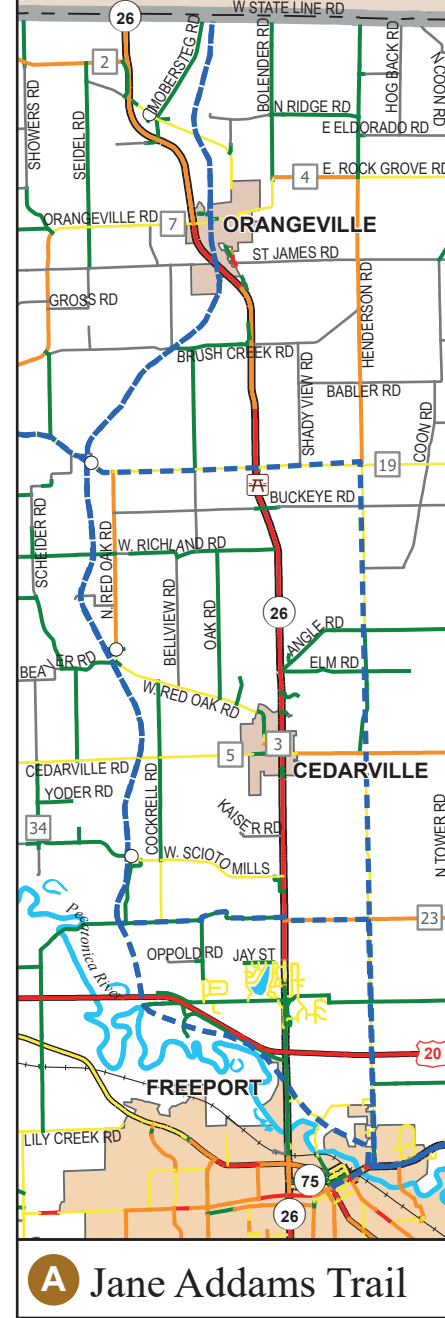
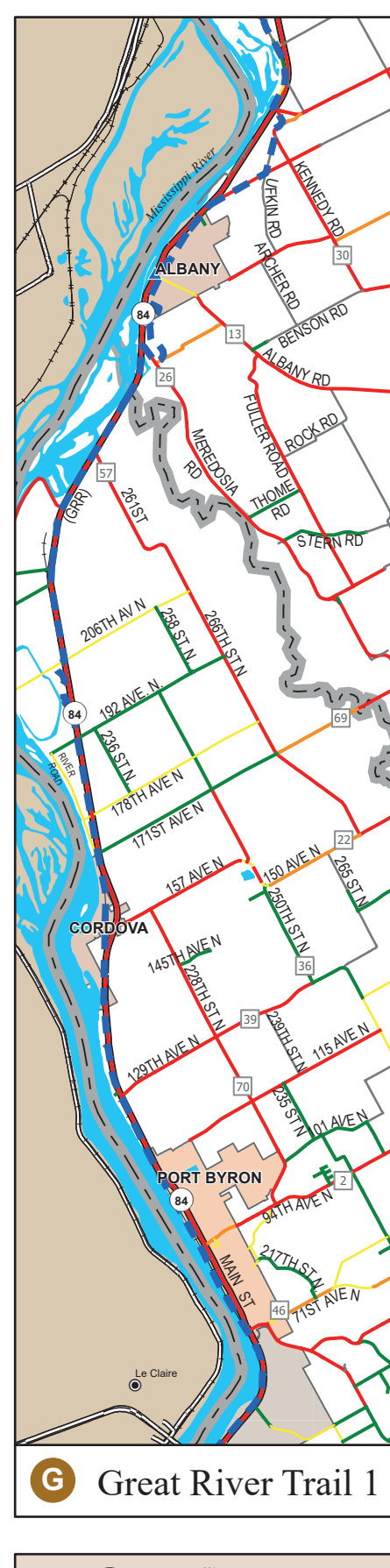
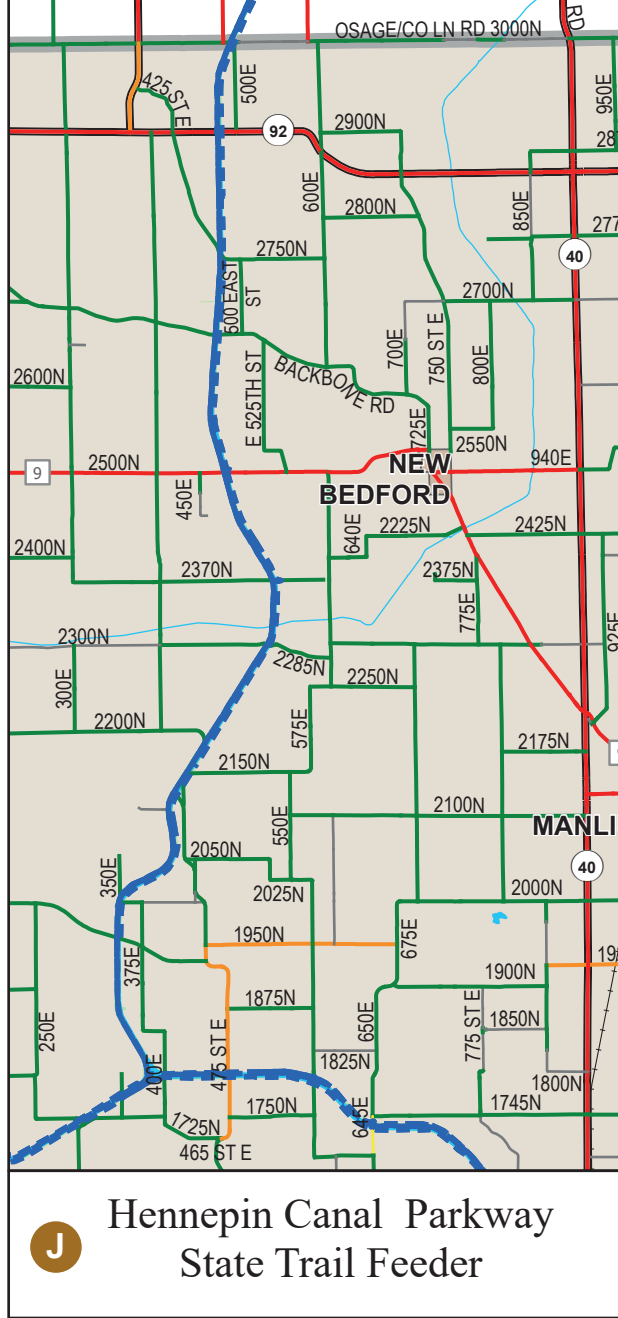
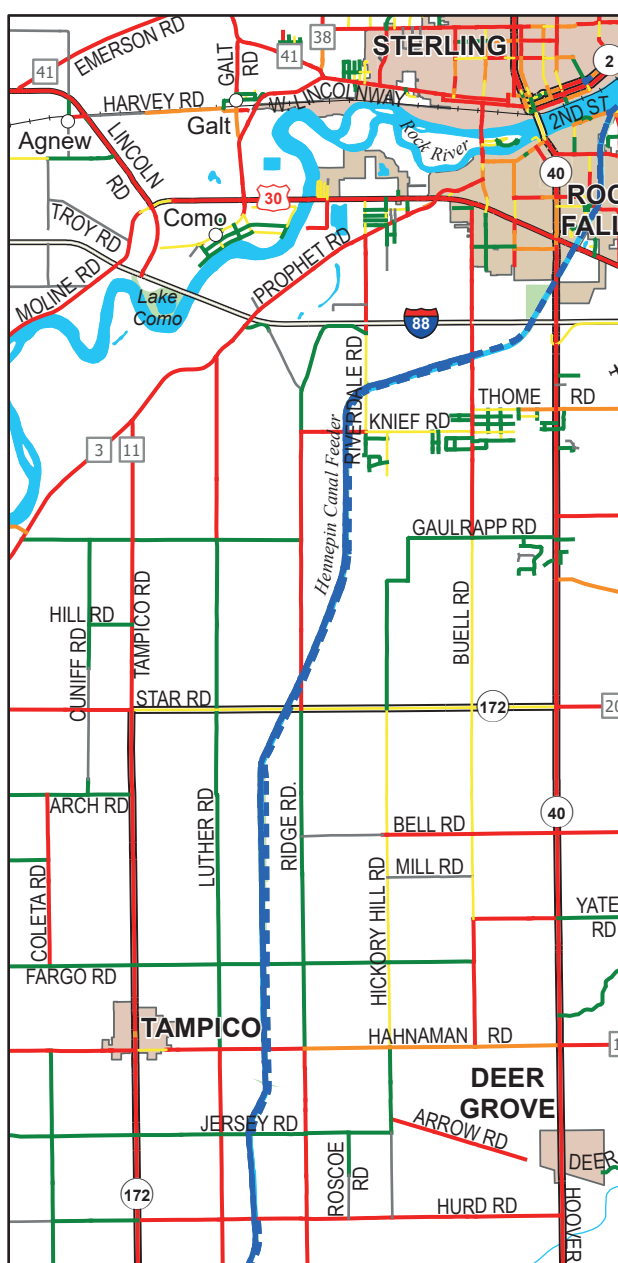
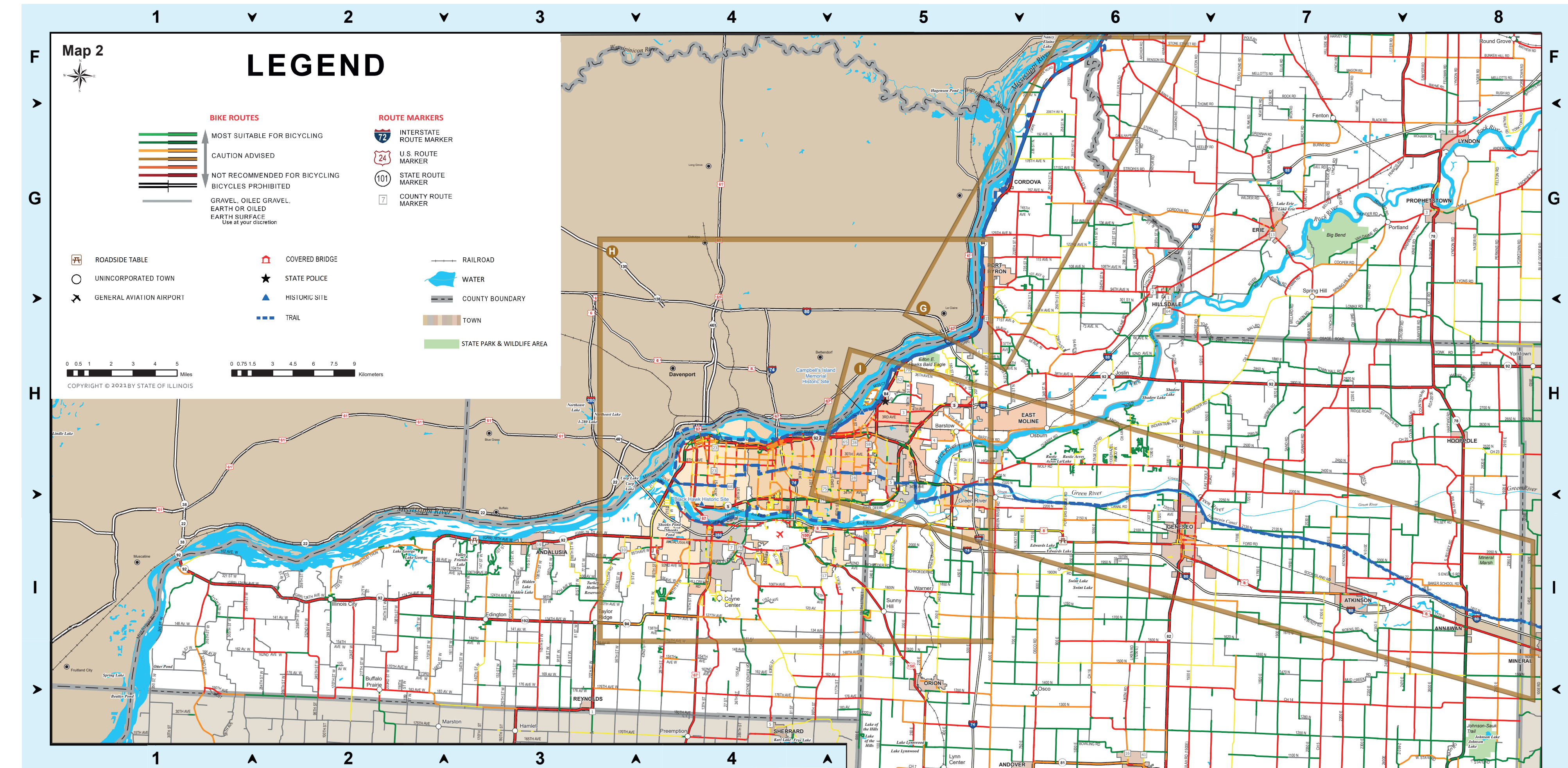




Wellcome to Northwestern Illinois

This map is one of nine bicycle maps for the State of Illinois. It covers a region from Rockford and DeKalb west to the Quad Cities. Counties covered are Boone, Carroll, Henry, Jo Daviess, Lee, Ogle, Rock Island, Stephenson, Whiteside, and Winnebago, as well as portions of adjacent counties. We hope you will find it helpful in planning your bicycle trip in or through northwestern Illinois. And while you are cycling, we invite you to stop and take in as many of the scenic and historic wonders of this region. Enjoy your trip in our beautiful state.

The Terrain

The northern corner of the state competes with southernmost Illinois for topographical diversity. Terrain ranges from flat to slightly rolling in the southeastern portion of this region to high hills, knobs, and steep ravines around Galena and East Dubuque. This region offers a glimpse at what much of Illinois was like before the glaciers pushed through the state. Unlike most of the rest of the state, which was scraped flat during past glaciations, the glaciers missed the northern corner of Illinois and adjacent portions of Iowa and Wisconsin.

The scenic Rock River valley enters this region from Wisconsin at South Beloit and flows southwest to the Quad Cities. This narrow valley offers scenic vistas and wooded bluffs carved from the surrounding prairie. Just north of Dixon is Castle Rock State Park with its interesting castle-like rock formation overlooking the Rock River. Nearby White Pine State Forest is a rare example of a native Illinois pine stand.

Although limestone bluffs abut much of the Mississippi River banks in Illinois, one of the most dramatic examples is at Mississippi Palisades State Park just north of Savanna. Nature has carved impressive rock formations into these stone cliffs. Views from the bluff tops are inspiring, especially at sunset.

The heart of the unglaciated region is the area in and around Jo Daviess County. Here stands Charles Mound, the highest point in Illinois. A few miles away, the Apple River carves a small canyon. In Galena, rows of historic buildings perched almost one atop another progress up the steep hillside looking up from the Galena River.

The steep hills and bluffs of northwestern Illinois combined with the state's heaviest snowfall allow residents and visitors alike to take advantage of winter sports such as tobogganing, snowshoeing and cross-country and downhill skiing.

Lakes, Rivers, and Streams

Except for the Mississippi forming the western border with Iowa, the Rock River is the largest river in the region. Boating and fishing are allowed at a number of access points on both rivers. The Rock River, praised by Native Americans who lived here for its scenic beauty, winds through tree-covered bluffs and sandstone cliffs.

A number of lakes, mostly dammed, dot northwestern Illinois. Spring Lake, the largest, is a dammed-up portion of the Mississippi just south of Savanna and is a popular boating and fishing lake. Simstap Lake on the Rock River is a wildlife haven. Olson Lake in Rock County State Park was specifically designed as a swimming lake while Lake Le-Aqua-Na's clear waters invite swimmers on hot July days. Nearly every county in northwestern Illinois has at least one public lake.

De Prepared

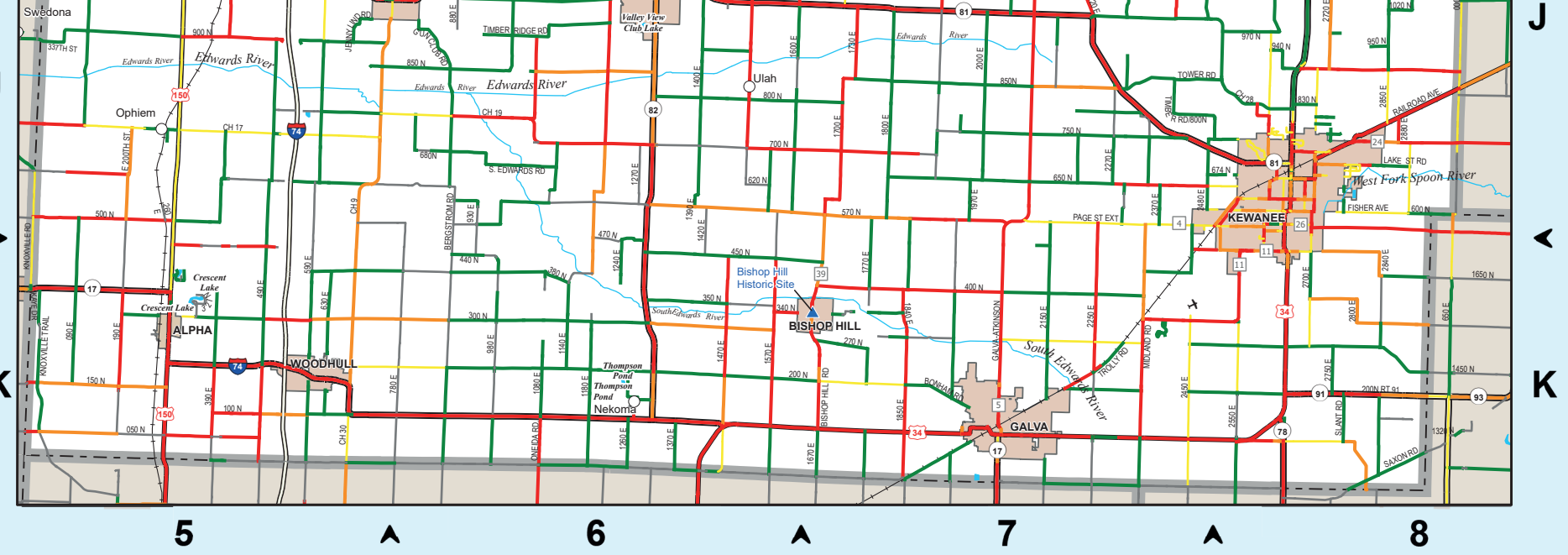
Studies have shown that a cyclist gets wearing a helmet is better than one who is wearing a helmet. The League of American Cyclists recommends that cyclists frequently check the helmet for wear and damage and replace the helmet every five years and/or in the event of a crash, in accordance with manufacturers' recommendations.

Buy the Right Helmet

The Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) recommends that you only purchase helmets that have been manufactured in accordance with recognized safety standards. ASTM. Look for a sticker indicating this safety standard on the inside of the helmet.

Please...

...to prevent injuries, wear a helmet. You can live with it.



Bicycling

The scenic country roads winding through the hills and valleys of northwest Illinois invite bicycling. Traffic is usually light, although volume can be heavy around Galena during holidays. Mountain bicyclists have the option of Hennepin Canal Parkway State Park.

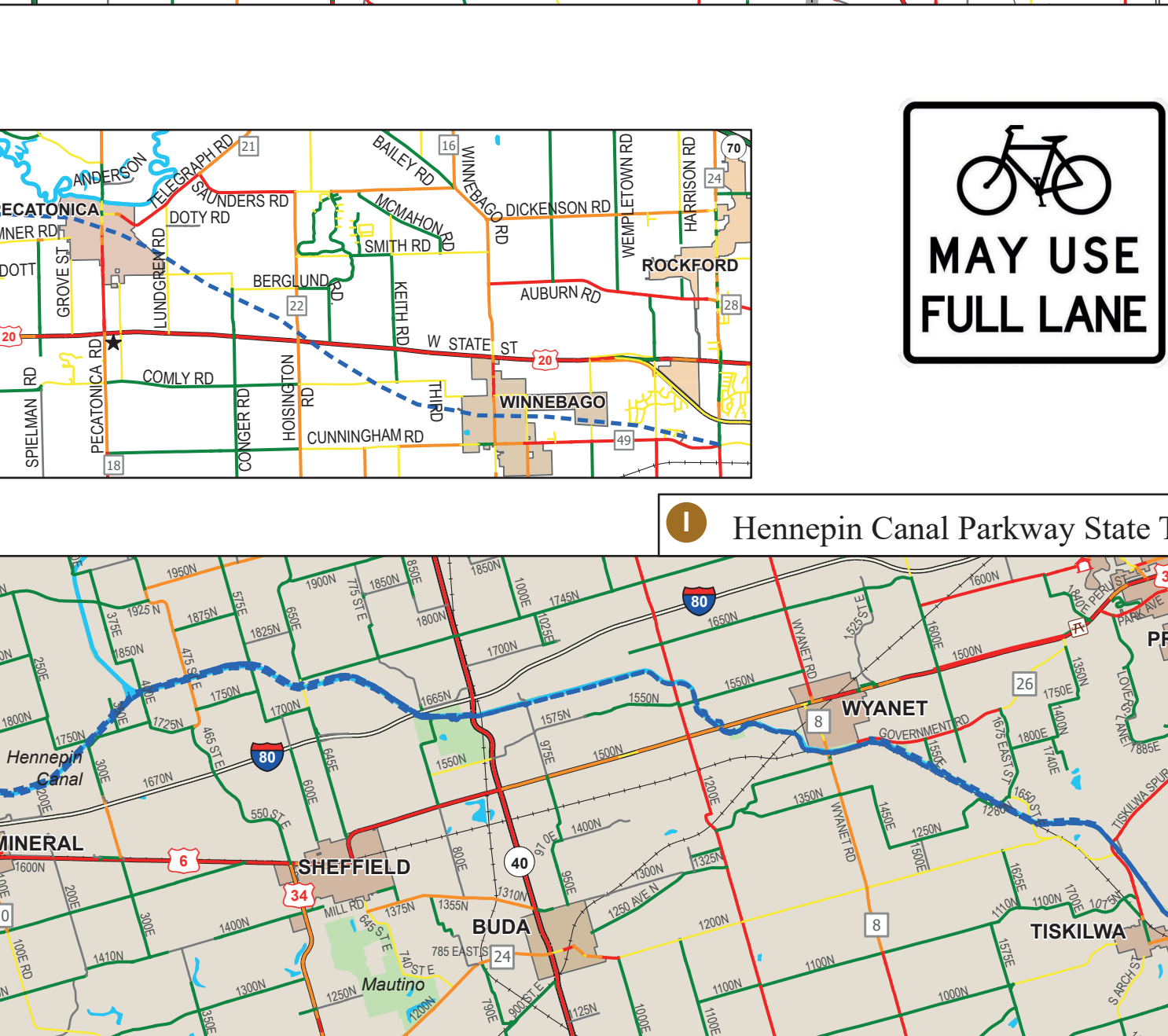
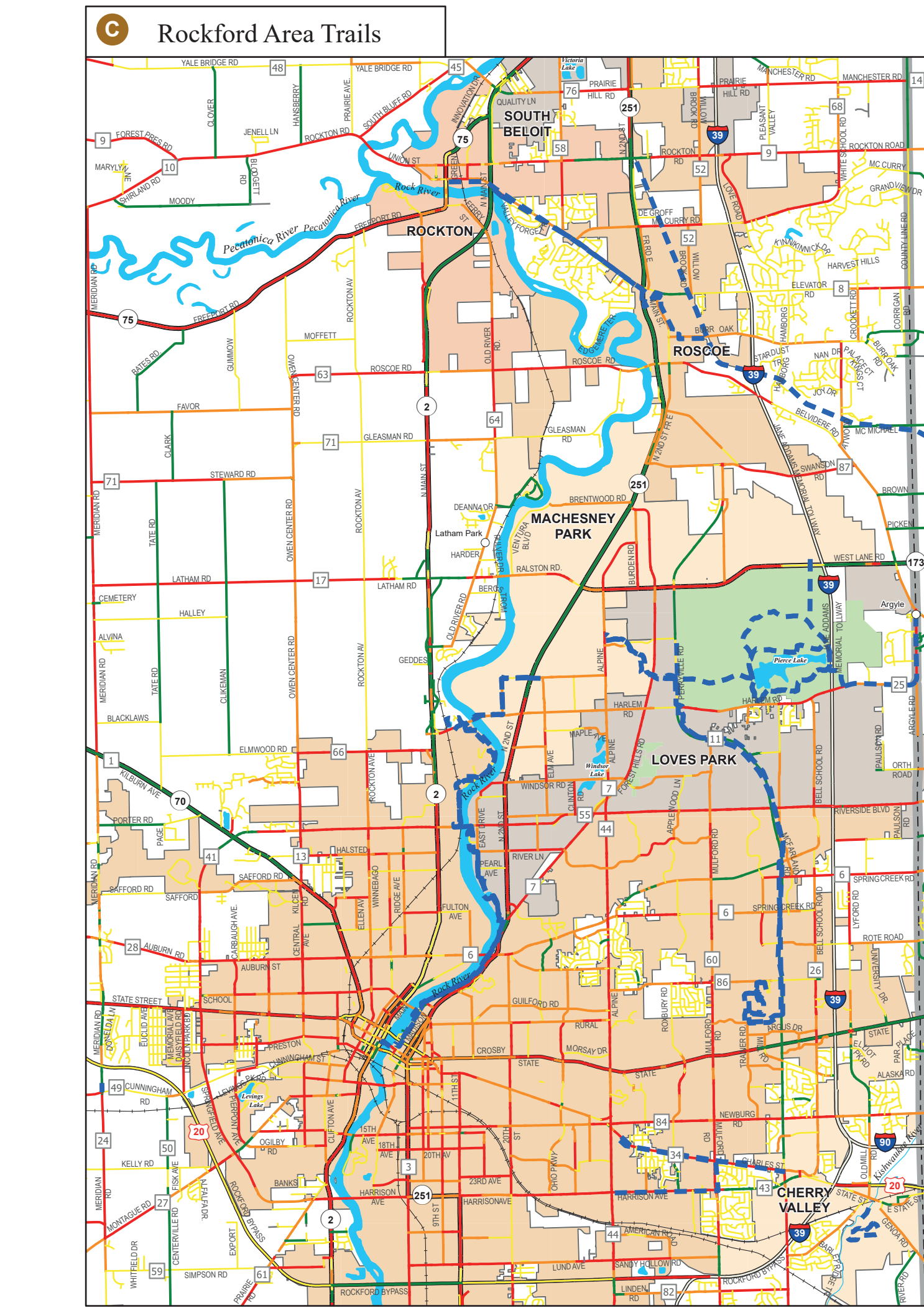
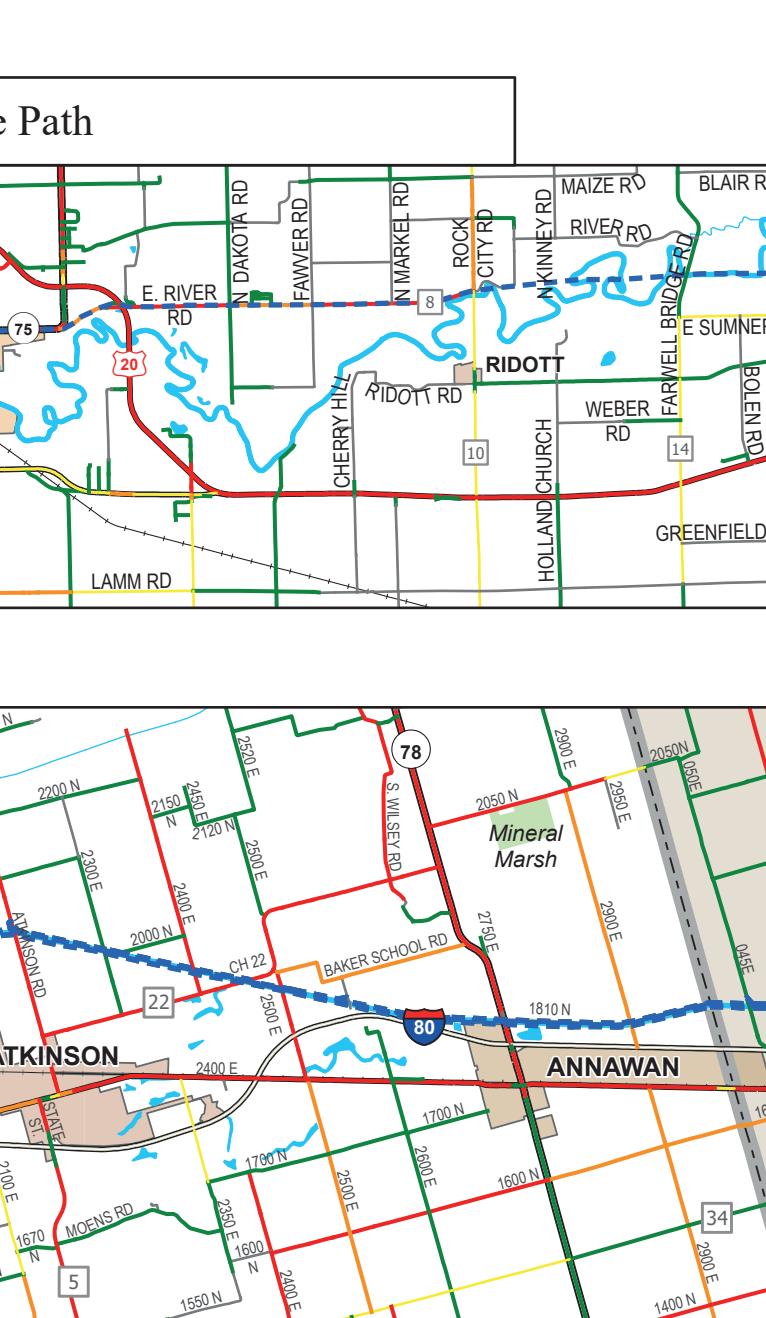
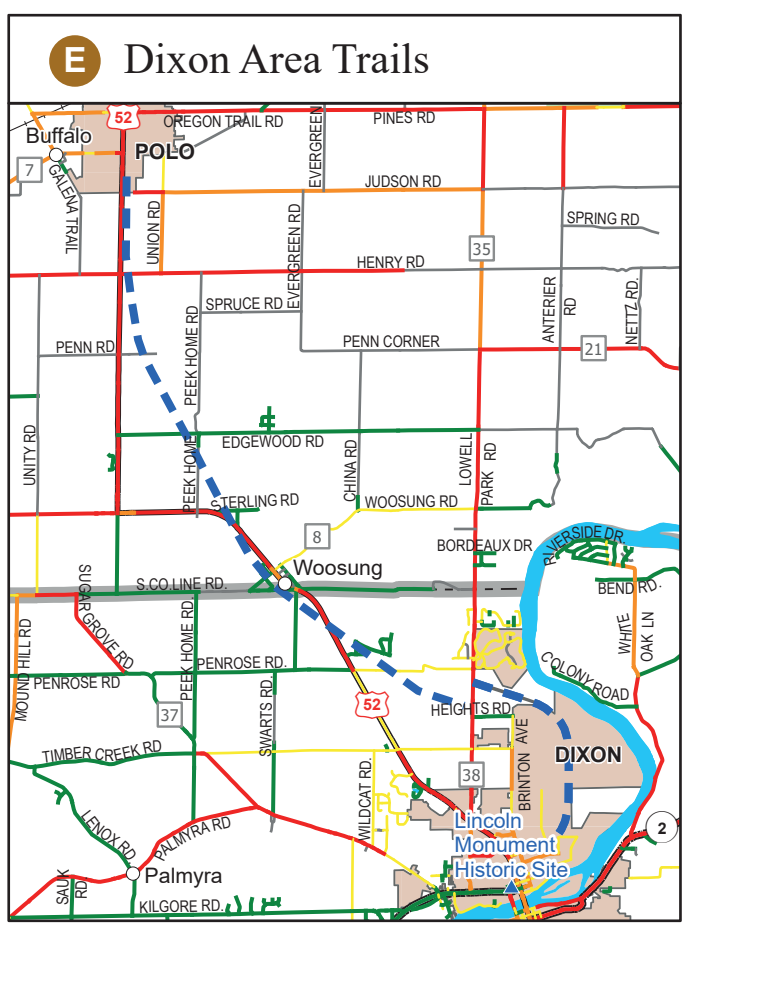
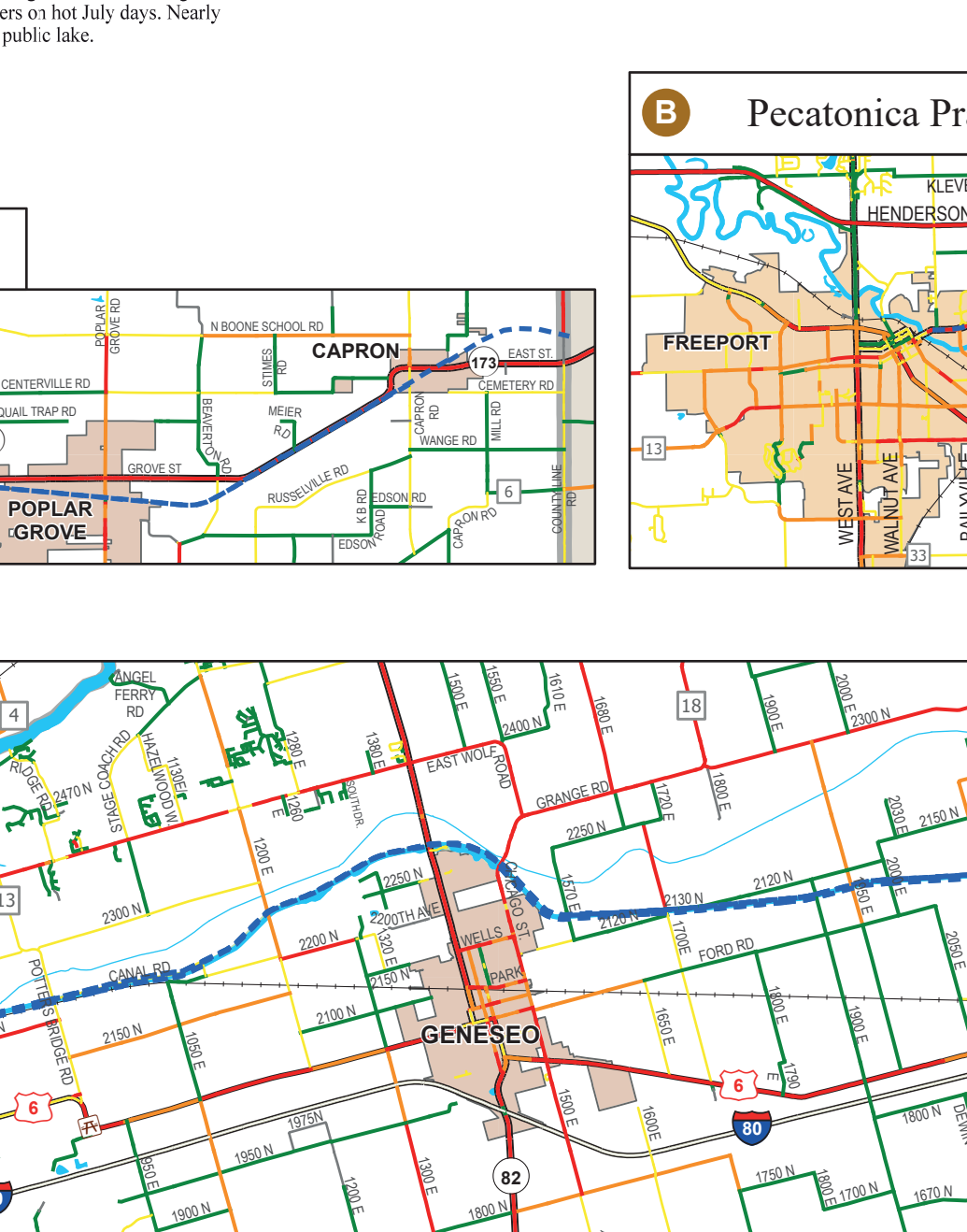
A facility under development is the Great River Trail which will extend from the Quad Cities north to Mississippi Palisades State Park. The trail is a combination of a 10-ft. paved path and shared use of two-lane roads. Suitable for mountain bikes is the Peconica Prairie Path, a rail-trail between Freeport's east side and Rockford's far west side. Other longer trail is the Hennepin Canal Trail along the Rock River in Rockford and the Long Prairie Trail in Boone County. See map for trail locations.

Northern Illinois is the home of the 475-mile Grand Illinois Trail, the most ambitious trail project in the state. When completed, this trail will make a loop from Chicago west along the I&M and Hennepin Canals to the Quad Cities, then north along the Great River Trail and local roads to Galena, then east along local roads to Freeport, then continuing east and southeast along a number of connecting local roads back to Chicago. Much of the trail is already in place with more segments scheduled for completion in the upcoming years. See map for trail location. For more information, contact the Illinois Department of Natural Resources.

Other dedicated bicycle facilities are found primarily in the urban areas of Rock Island, Moline, and Rockford. Because of their relatively short length, it is impractical to indicate all facilities in urban areas on the map; however, there are contact numbers for Rockford and the Quad Cities under the Important Addresses and Phone Numbers listing.

Hiking

With rolling hills, prairie stands, and the Mississippi River bluffs, hikers can choose from a number of beautiful trails. Established hiking areas are limited to the region's recreation facilities. Many of the trails listed above under Bicycling are shared-use facilities suitable for hiking. Check the Illinois Recreation Areas listing on the front side of the map. The longest trail is the Hennepin Canal State Trail which is also suitable for mountain bikes and equestrians.



Important Addresses and Phone Numbers

Emergencies - Dial 911

- Amtrak**
1-800-USA-RAIL. www.amtrak.com
- Bike Advocacy Organizations**
National Center for Bicycling & Walking (NCBW), NCBW is a resident program NCBW is a resident program at Project for Public Spaces, Inc. NCBW was established in 1977, as the Bicycle Federation of America, Inc. NCBW's mission is to create bicycle-friendly and walkable communities. www.bikewalk.org email: info@bikewalk.org
Active Transportation Alliance, 35 E. Wacker Dr., Suite 1782, Chicago, IL 60601, 312-427-3325. The mission of Active Transportation Alliance is to advocate for walking, bicycling, and public transit to create healthy, sustainable, and equitable communities. www.activetrans.org
League of America Bicyclists, 1612 K Street NW, Suite 1102, Washington, DC 20006, 202-822-1333. Mission: To lead the movement to create a Bicycle Friendly America for everyone. As leaders, our commitment is to listen and learn, define standards and share best practices to engage diverse communities and build a powerful, unified voice for change. www.bikeleague.org
Ride Illinois, 815 Leicester Rd#314, Elk Grove Village, IL 60007, 630-216-9282. The statewide bike advocacy organization works for bike-friendly roads and trails, for favorable legislation, and to educate cyclists and motorists. www.rideillinois.org
- Bus Service**
Greyhound 800-231-2222
www.greyhound.com
- Campgrounds, Public**
Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR)
One Natural Resource Way, Springfield, IL 62702-1271, 217-782-6302, www.dnr.state.il.us
e-mail: dnr.parksadmin@illinois.gov
- Department of Natural Resources (State Parks and Recreation Areas) - Office of Land Management**
IDNR, One Natural Resource Way, Springfield, IL 62702-1271 217-782-6752 e-mail: dnr.parksadmin@illinois.gov, www.dnr.state.il.us
- Hiking Opportunities**
IDNR, One Natural Resource Way, Springfield, IL 62702-1271, 217-782-6302 www.dnr.state.il.us
e-mail: dnr.parksadmin@illinois.gov
- Historic Agencies/Organizations**
Preservation Services #1 Old State Capital Plaza, Springfield, IL 62701-1507, 217-782-4836
www2.illinois.gov/dnrhistoric
- Road Conditions (Winter/Road Construction (Spring/Summer/Fall))**
1-800-452-4368
www.gettingaroundillinois.com
- Secretary of State (Bicycle Education/Safety)**
Illinois Secretary of State, Driver Services Department, Traffic Safety Division, 2701 S. Dirksen Pkwy, Springfield, IL 62723, 217-782-6212
www.esbdriverillinois.com
- State Agencies**
IDNR Office of Public Services, One Natural Resource Way, Springfield, IL 62702-1271, 217-782-6302
www2.illinois.gov/dnr
- Illinois Department of Transportation, 2309 S. Dirksen Pkwy., Springfield, IL 62764, 217-782-7820**
<http://idot.illinois.gov>
- Illinois Historic Preservation Office, #1 Old State Capital Plaza, Springfield, IL 62701-1507, 217-782-4836**
www2.illinois.gov/dnrhistoric
- Illinois State Police, 801 South Seventh Street, P.O. Box 19461, Springfield, IL 62794-9461**
<http://isp.illinois.gov>
- Illinois Secretary of State, Driver Services Department, Traffic Safety Division, 2701 S. Dirksen Pkwy., Springfield, IL 62723, 217-782-6212**
www.esbdriverillinois.com
- State Police**
District 1 - Sterling (Carroll, Lee, Ogle, and Whiteside Counties) 2107 W. Lincolnway, Sterling, IL 61081, 815-632-4010.
District 2 - Elgin (DeKalb, DuPage, Kane, Lake, and McHenry Counties) 777 S. State St., Elgin, IL 60123, 847-931-2405.
District 7 - East Moline (Henry, Knox, Mercer, and Rock Island Counties) 800 Hillcrest Rd., East Moline, IL 61244, 309-752-2405.
District 16 - Peconica (Boone, Jo Daviess, Stephenson, and Winnebago Counties) 14550 W. State Rd., Peconica, IL 61063, 815-239-1152.
District 17 - LaSalle (Bureau, LaSalle, and Putnam Counties) 2971 E. 350th Rd., LaSalle, IL 61391, 815-224-1171.
- Tourism Bureaus**
Visit and Enjoy Illinois, 800-2-CONNECT.
www.visitillinois.com
e-mail: ceo.enjoyillinois@illinois.gov
General information, highway maps, and trip planning assistance: www.visitillinois.com
Chicago & Beyond Tourism Office, 200 South State St., Belvidere, IL 61008, 815-347-3740.
www.chicagolandandbeyond.com
e-mail: info@chicagolandandbeyond.com
Blackhawk Waterways CVB, 201 N. Franklin Ave., Polo, IL 61064, 800-678-2108, Carroll, Lee, Ogle, and Whiteside Counties, www.bhcvb.com
Heritage Corridor CVB Visitors Center - Uica, 801 E. U.S. Highway 6, Uica, IL 61373, 800-744-3550
Grundy, LaSalle, and Will Counties.
www.heritagecorridorvisitorscenter.com
e-mail: marketing@hercvis.com
Galena/Jo Daviess County CVB, 101 Boul'iller St., Galena, IL 61036, 888-464-2536, www.galena.org
Lee County, Illinois Tourism Council, 113 S. Peoria Ave., Dixon, IL 61061, 815-288-1840.
Email: office@lee-county-tourism.com
www.lee-county-tourism.com
- Freeport/Stephenson County CVB, 4596 US Route 20 East, Freeport, IL 61033, 800-369-2955**
www.visitstephensoncounty-il.org, stephcvb@aaronc.net
- Geneseo Chamber of Commerce & Tourism Center, 100 W. Main St., Geneseo, IL 61254, 309-944-2686**
www.geneseo.org e-mail: geneseo@geneseo.net
- Oregon Chamber of Commerce, P.O. Box 69, 124 N. 4th St., Oregon, IL 61061, 815-732-2100.** www.visitoregon-il.com
- Princeton Tourism & Visitor Bureau, 435 S. Main St., Princeton, IL 61356, 815-330-5306**
www.visitprinceton-il.com
- Quad Cities CVB, 1601 River Drive, Suite 110, Moline, IL 61265, 800-747-7800.** www.visitquadjcities.com
e-mail: cvb@visitquadjcities.com
- Rock Falls Tourism Office, 603 W. 10th St., Suite 1A, Rock Falls, IL 61849.** www.visitrockfalls.com
- Rockford Area CVB, 102 N. Main St., Rockford, IL 61107, 815-380-2300.** www.gorockford.com e-mail: info@gorockford.com

