

■ **Welcome to the Spoon River Region!**
This map is one of nine bicycle maps for the State of Illinois. It covers a region from the Peoria area west to the Mississippi River at the Iowa border. Counties covered are Fulton, Henderson, Knox, Marshall, McDonough, Mercer, Peoria, Putnam, Stark, Tazewell, Warren, and Woodford as well as portions of adjacent counties. We hope you will find it helpful in planning your bicycle trip in or through central Illinois. And while you are cycling, we invite you to stop and take in may of the scenic and historic wonders of this region. Enjoy your trip in our beautiful state.

■ **The Terrain**
This area is defined by rivers: the Illinois to the east, the Mississippi to the west, and the Spoon River through the middle. It is this last river that has been immortalized by local poet Edgar Lee Masters who wrote Spoon River Anthology about life in a fictionalized Lewistown, his boyhood home. The first inhabitants of this region, the Algonquin people, called this river “Amoquonsippi” meaning “shell” or “spoon” plus “river”. The broad valley hides a number of historic villages, old bridges, and a few surviving grist mills.

On the eastern boundary of Region 4 is the Illinois River Valley and Peoria, Central Illinois’ largest city. The Peoria region sits atop many high and scenic bluffs overlooking Illinois’ most important river.

■ **Lakes, Rivers, and Streams**
Both the Illinois and Mississippi Rivers are major water transportation corridors. Large barges filled with grain from farms all over the Midwest move down these rivers to feed the world. But these rivers and the Spoon offer recreational opportunities as well, such as fishing, boating, sailing, and swimming.

The Spoon River itself offers a much more intimate experience with water and the people living along its banks. The river meanders past scenic Victorian villages with white-steeped churches and old blacksmith businesses.

Other rivers, streams, and lakes have public access points. Notable is Argyle Lake, nestled in a series of low, wooded hills, and found just west of Macomb in a state park named after the lake.

■ **Plants and Animals**
Like much of Illinois, this area was covered by a vast prairie, broken by wooded areas near rivers, streams, and more hilly regions. Most of the prairie has been converted to farm land, although a few isolated patches remain. Wooded areas are primarily deciduous hardwoods. Few pines grow native in this region. Watch out for poison ivy; it is rampant in Illinois hardwood forests.

Predominant crops are corn and soybeans planted in vast plots. Other crops include hay, alfalfa, wheat, and fruit groves.

Most wildlife is concentrated along river and streambeds where much of remaining Illinois timber still stands. Besides squirrels and skunks, foxes and coyotes roam the rural areas. Gone are the mountain lions, wolves, and bears which used to inhabit most of the state. The Bison (buffalo) used to roam the prairie areas in vast numbers but disappeared early in the 19th century.

Near the rivers are waterfowl such as ducks, geese, herons, and other species on migration routes. The Illinois River valley has become a winter nesting area for the Bald Eagle, our national symbol.

Poisonous snakes are very rare in this part of Illinois. You are more likely to encounter such harmless species as bull and garter snakes, as well as, an endless variety of frogs and toads.

■ **Conservation and Recreation Areas**
The State of Illinois manages a number of scenic natural areas where hiking, fishing, camping, and picnicking can be enjoyed in natural settings. Although many sites have trails, please note that bicycles are not allowed on any unpaved trails unless otherwise indicated.

■ **Historic Sites**
As in most of the United States, Native Americans were the first to leave their mark on this land. Parts of these pre-history cultures are preserved at the Dixon Mounds State Museum in Fulton County.

In the 17th and 18th centuries the French explored and claimed these lands. The most famous French explorers were Father Jacques Marquette and Louis Jolliet in 1673. Small French settlements sprouted along the Mississippi River, the first of which appeared in 1699 as French mission (modern-day Cahokia) and was the first permanent European settlement in Illinois. Farther north on the Illinois River, a settlement near present-day Peoria was formed by the French (see the Peoria Area Sites box).

The Spoon River valley is rich in 19th century history and lore. Here is the birthplace of the famous poet Edgar Lee Masters who wrote about this area in his Spoon River Anthology. Much from this past era remains preserved in towns and villages in this sleepy river valley.

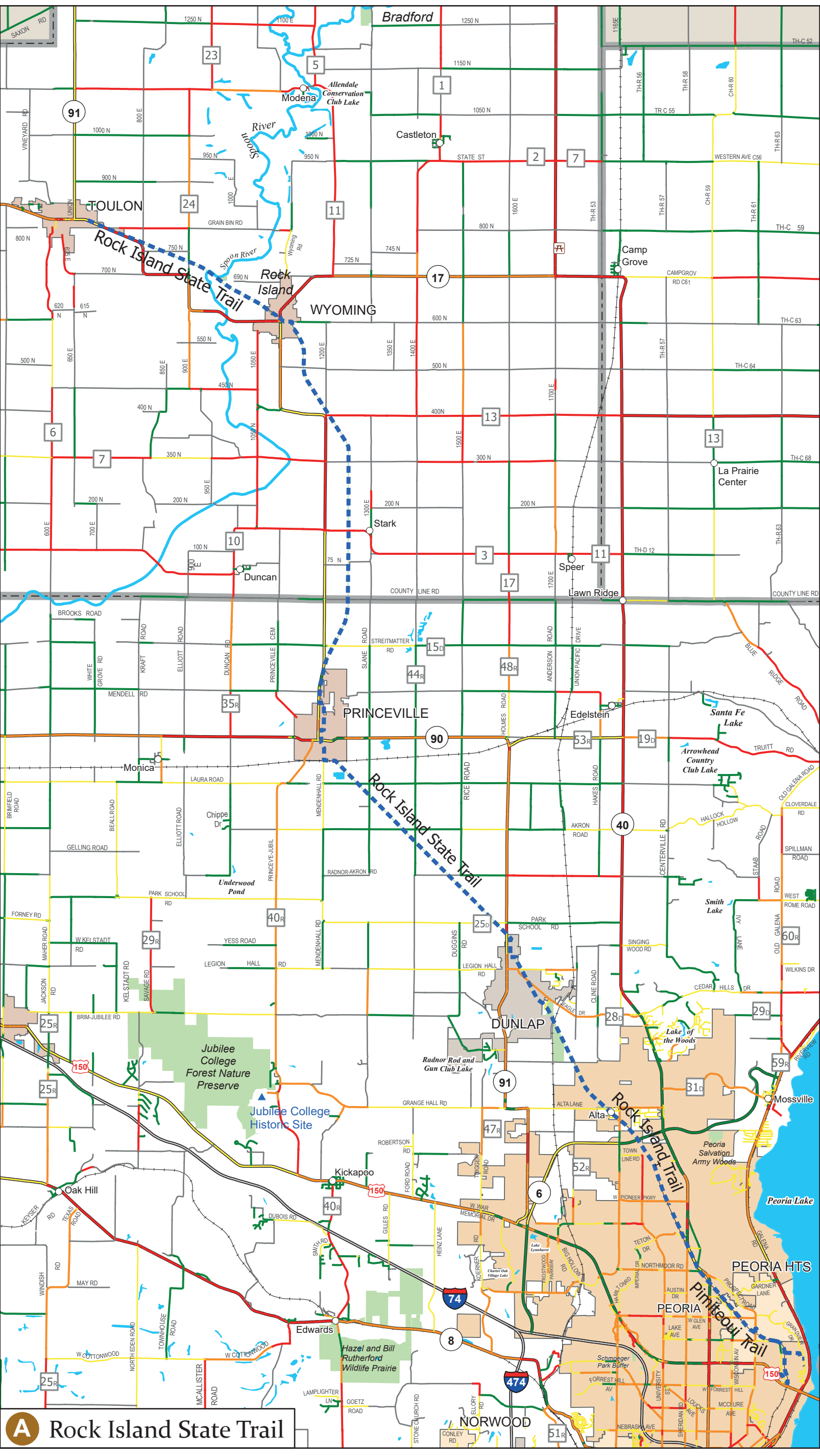
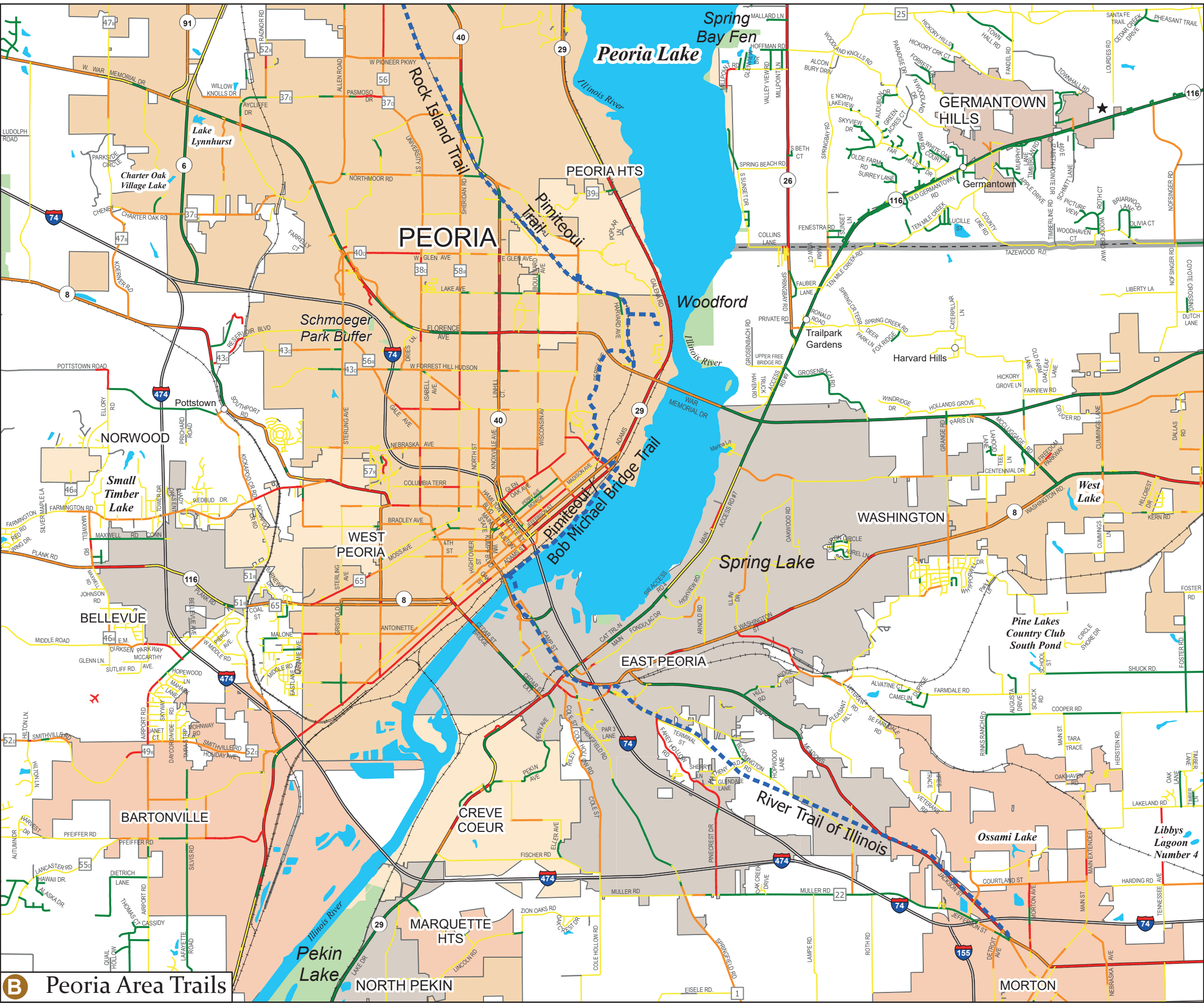
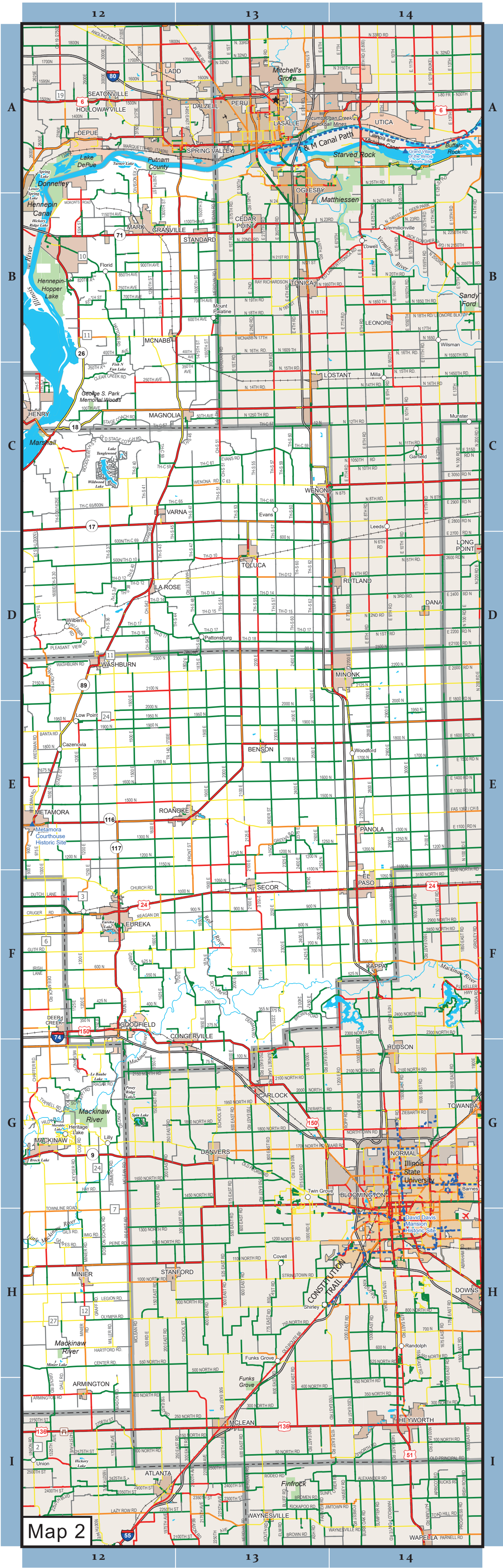
■ **Bicycle Paths, Rides, and Routes**
One long recreational trail exists in Region 4: the Rock Island State Trail. The 27-mile trail, part of an abandoned railroad line, extends from Peoria’s north end north and west to Toulon in central Stark county. A planned extension south will carry this trail into Peoria. The fine limestone surface is suitable for bicycles and hikers.

Many shorter bike facilities are found in the Peoria area. In Peoria is the Pimiteoui Trail, a five-mile multiuse trail adjacent to the Illinois River. When completed, this trail will be a 20-mile system connecting to other existing and proposed area trails. Just across the river in East Peoria is the River Trail of Illinois, a 5-mile multiuse trail.

Fulton County is a wonderful place to ride the back roads. The low-volume roads and rolling terrain offer a scenic yet moderately challenging bike ride in one of the most charming rural areas in Illinois.

■ **For More Information**
In the upper right-hand corner of this side of the map are a number of addresses and telephone numbers you can contact for more information.

Enjoy your trip!



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 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.bikeadv.org
email: info@bikeadv.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.theleague.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.dnrillinois.gov
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-illinois.gov

■ **Hiking Opportunities**
IDNR, One Natural Resource Way, Springfield, IL 62702-1271, 217-782-6302 www.dnrillinois.gov
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/dnrhistorie

■ **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.cyberdrivellinois.com

■ **State Agencies**
IDNR Office of Public Services, One Natural Resources Way, Springfield, IL 62702-1271, 217-782-6302
www2.illinois.gov/dnr

Illinois Department of Transportation, 2300 S. Dirksen Pkwy. Springfield, IL 62764, 217-782-7820
<http://idotillinois.gov>

Illinois Historic Preservation Office, #1 Old State Capital Plaza, Springfield, IL 62701-1507, 217-782-4836
www2.illinois.gov/dnrhistorie

Illinois State Police, 801 South Seventh Street, P.O. Box 19461, Springfield, IL 62794-9461
<https://isp.illinois.gov>

Illinois Secretary of State, Driver Services Department, Traffic Safety Division, 2701 S. Dirksen Pkwy. Springfield, IL 62723, 217-782-6212
www.cyberdrivellinois.com

■ **State Police**
District 7
800 Hillcrest Road, East Moline, IL 61244-1161 309-752-4915. Counties Served: Henry, Knox, Mercer, Rock Island District 8
1265 Lourdes Rd., Metamora, IL 61548-7710, 309-383-2133 Counties Served: Marshall, Peoria, Stark, Tazewell, Woodford District 14
1600N. Lafayette St., Macomb, IL 61455-9194, 309-833-4046 Counties Served: Fulton, Hancock, Henderson, McDonough, Warren District 17
2971 E. 350th Rd., LaSalle, IL 61301, 815-224-1171 Counties Served: Bureau, LaSalle, Putnam

■ **Tourism Bureaus**
Illinois Tourism Bureau, 8002-CONNECT, TTY: 800/406-6418. www.enjoyillinois.com

Galesburg Area Convention and Visitors Bureau, 2163 East Main St., Galesburg, IL 61401, 309-343-2485
www.experiencegalesburg.com
e-mail: info@experiencegalesburg.com

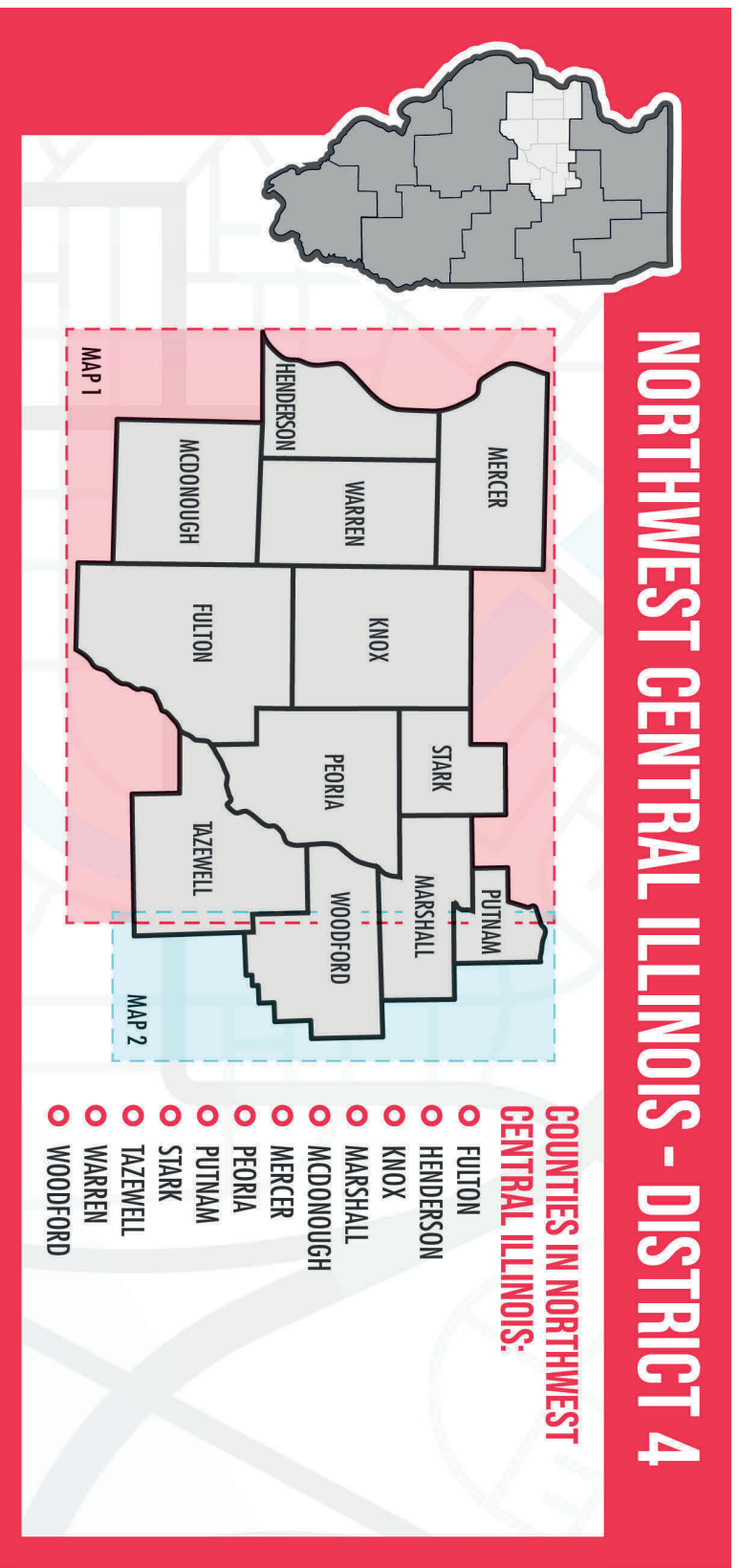
Macomb Area Convention and Visitors Bureau, 210 South Lafayette St., Macomb, IL 61455, 309-833-1315
<http://www.visitmacomb.com>
e-mail: info@visitmacomb.com

Monmouth Chamber of Commerce, 89 Public Square, Monmouth, IL 61462, 309-734-3181
www.monmouthchamber.com
e-mail: info@monmouthchamber.com

Peoria Area Chamber of Commerce, 402 Court St., Peoria, IL 61554, 309-346-2106
www.peoriachamber.com

Peoria Area Convention and Visitor’s Bureau, 456 Fulton, Suite 300, Peoria, IL 61602, 800-747-0302
www.discoverpeoria.com
e-mail: Info@discoverpeoria.com

Western Illinois Tourism Development Office, 581 S. Deere Rd., Macomb, IL 61455, 309-837-7460
www.greatriverroad-illinois.org



Peoria Area Sites and Activities

Peoria is central Illinois’ largest city. Originally the site of an early French settlement, the greater Peoria metro area is situated on scenic bluffs overlooking the Illinois River. With rolling hills and vistas of the valley below, bicyclists will find many opportunities for scenic rides in the Peoria area. For diversions other than bicycling there are a number of options. Listed below are some of the scenic and recreational opportunities in the Peoria area.

■ **Information**
General
Great Rivers Country, 581 S. Deere Rd., Macomb, IL 61455 309-837-7460
Peoria Area
Peoria Area Chamber of Commerce, 402 Court St., Peoria, IL 61554 309-346-2106
Peoria Area Convention and Visitor’s Bureau 456 Fulton Suite 300, Peoria, IL 61602 800-747-0302 / 309-676-0303

■ **Cultural/Museums**
Peoria Riverfront Museum 222 S.W. Washington Peoria, IL 61602 309-686-7000
www.peoriariverfrontmuseum.org

Wheels O’ Time Museum 11923 N. Knoxville Ave., Peoria, IL 61525 309-243-9020, <https://wheelsotime.org/>
Vintage transportation. 12 pm-5 pm Wed thru Sun May-Oct only. Fee charged.

■ **Historic**
There are several historic sites throughout Peoria. Listed below is a sample of them.

Peoria Historical Society 611 S.W. Washington St, Peoria, IL 61602, 309-674-1921 www.peoriahistoricalsociety.com
Hours Tue-Fri 9am to 4:30pm

In the 300 Block of Main Street There are eight buildings built between 1862 and the early 1900s. They include African-American Museum & Hall of Fame, Browning Mansion, Carl Sandburg Historical Site, David Davis Mansion, Dickson Mounds Museum. 309-673-4343

Bradley University and Westlake Hall 1501 W. Bradley Ave, Peoria, IL, 309-676-7611
Historic first structures on the campus of Bradley University.

Fort Clark Site and Liberty Park Peoria, IL, 309-674-1921
Erected in 1813 by Lt. Colonel Robert Carder Nicholas during War of 1812. Named for William Roger Clark. Destroyed by Indians in 1818. Rebuilt in 1832 during Black Hawk War.

Fort Crevecoeur, Inc. 301 Lawridge Dr., Creve Coeur, IL 60610, 309-699-6714
Replica of 1680s fort built by the French.

■ **Recreation and Entertainment**
Parks
Peoria Park District, 1125 W. Lake Ave, Peoria, IL 61614 309-682-1200. www.peoriaparks.org

Listed below are the larger parks that have special features. Bradley Park, 1317 Park Road, Peoria, IL 61603, 309-682-6684. Features live open theater, at the Com Stock Theater.

DragonLand Water Park, 193 Red Bud Memorial Dr. Pekin, IL, 61554, 309-347-4000.
www.pekinparkdistrict.org/dragonland.html
Pool, waterslides, and a children’s water play area with sand.

Forest Park Nature Center, 5809 Forest Park Drive, Peoria Heights, IL 61614, 309-686-3360. Over 500 acres with 7 miles of nature trails, indoor natural history exhibits.

Glen Oak Park, 2218 N. Prospect Road, Peoria, IL 61603, 309-686-6684. Zoo, a lagoon, an amphitheater, and botanical gardens.

Lakeview Park, 1125 West Lake, Peoria, IL 61603, 309-686-1200
Owen Center and Lakeview Recreation Center

■ **Trails**
Many trails for hiking and other multi-use trails are located in, or originate, in the Peoria area.

Pimiteoui Trail. <http://ptahike.org/>
Rock Island Trail State Park, 309.695.2228
26-mile trail originates near Alta. For more information contact the Illinois Department of Natural Resources

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