

# Rail Trails Midwest Great Lakes: Exploring Nature's Scenic Pathways

Are you looking for an adventure that combines the beauty of nature with the thrill of exploration? Look no further than the Rail Trails of the Midwest Great Lakes region. These abandoned railroad tracks have been repurposed into stunning recreational pathways, offering an incredible experience for hikers, bikers, and nature enthusiasts alike.

## What are Rail Trails?

Rail Trails are former railway lines that have been transformed into multi-use trails. These trails provide a unique opportunity to explore the scenic landscapes of the Midwest Great Lakes region, spanning across several states including Michigan, Indiana, Illinois, Wisconsin, and Ohio.

The rail trails encompass a wide variety of landscapes, from lush forests and rolling hills to picturesque lakeshores and charming small towns. Each trail has its own unique character, offering a different experience for visitors.



## Rail-Trails Midwest Great Lakes: Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Ohio and Wisconsin

by Rails-to-Trails Conservancy (Kindle Edition)

★★★★☆ 4.7 out of 5

Language : English

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Text-to-Speech : Enabled

Screen Reader : Supported

Enhanced typesetting : Enabled

Word Wise : Enabled

Print length : 392 pages



## Why Choose Rail Trails?

There are numerous reasons why rail trails make for an exceptional adventure:

1. **Nature's Beauty:** Rail trails wind through some of the most beautiful and untouched natural landscapes in the region. With each step or pedal, you will be surrounded by breathtaking views and wildlife encounters.
2. **Accessibility:** Rail trails are designed to be accessible for people of all ages and abilities. The paths are often flat and well-maintained, making them ideal for walkers, joggers, cyclists, and even wheelchair users.
3. **Historical Significance:** By exploring these rail trails, you will be tracing the footsteps of the past. Discover historic railroad structures, learn about the region's industrial heritage, and gain a deeper appreciation for the transformation of these railways into recreational havens.
4. **Community Engagement:** Rail trails often serve as community gathering points, connecting towns and cities along their routes. You will have the opportunity to meet fellow enthusiasts, engage with local businesses, and immerse yourself in the vibrant Midwestern culture.

## Top Rail Trails in the Midwest Great Lakes

Now that we've covered the benefits of rail trails, let's explore some of the top trails in the Midwest Great Lakes region:

### 1. Lake Michigan Trail

This 275-mile trail follows the stunning shores of Lake Michigan, offering breathtaking views of the lake and its surrounding landscapes. Whether you

choose to walk, run, or bike, this trail will guide you through charming coastal towns, sandy beaches, and lush forests.



## **2. Hocking Valley Scenic Trail**

Located in Ohio, this 50-mile trail takes you on a journey through the picturesque Hocking Valley. Immerse yourself in the beauty of the rolling hills, traverse through small towns, and discover hidden gems along the way.



### **3. Grand Illinois Trail**

Covering a whopping 535 miles, this trail spans across the entire state of Illinois. From the bustling city of Chicago to the tranquil beauty of the Mississippi River, you'll experience the diverse landscapes that Illinois has to offer.



#### 4. Elroy-Sparta State Trail

Wisconsin's Elroy-Sparta State Trail is renowned for being the first rail trail in the United States. Its tunnels and picturesque scenery make it a favorite among nature lovers and history enthusiasts alike.



The rail trails of the Midwest Great Lakes are waiting to be explored. With their beauty, accessibility, and historical significance, they offer an unparalleled adventure for all nature enthusiasts. So why wait? Grab your hiking boots, dust off your bike, and embark on an unforgettable journey along the Rail Trails of the Midwest Great Lakes.



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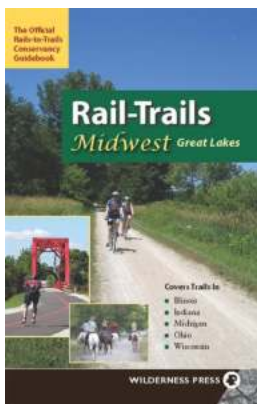
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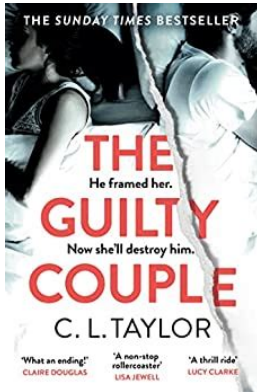


In this edition in the popular series, the Rails-to-Trails Conservancy presents the best of the Great Lakes rail-trails, home to the most rail-trails in the country. With 113 rural, suburban, and urban trails threading through nearly 2300 miles, Rail-Trails Midwest: Great Lakes covers Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Ohio, and Wisconsin. Many rail-trails are paved and run through the most popular parts of town, such as the 61-mile Illinois Prairie Path, which links Chicago-area suburbs. Others take you back in time for a look at regional history, like Ohio's 11-mile Holmes County Trail. The Midwest has thousands of miles of rail corridor that have been turned into 360 rail-trails in the Great Lakes alone. Every trip has a detailed map that includes start and end points, trailhead, parking, restroom facilities, and other amenities. Many of the level rail-trails are suitable for walking, jogging, bicycling, inline skating, wheelchairs, and horses.



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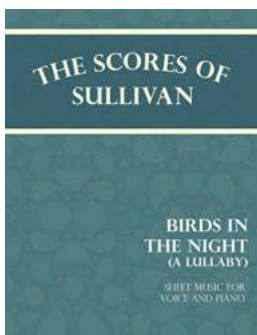
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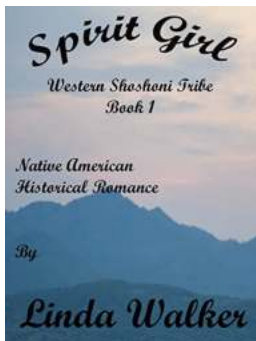
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