

See map on other side for more information on Sites 1–7

8 Former Site of the Morton Grove Exchange (Dilg Building)

Lincoln and Ferris Aves

Opened in 1904, the Morton Grove Exchange was the social and cultural hub of the village, serving as meeting hall, tavern, bank, post office, general store and ballroom. It was demolished in 1970, and with it, tangible evidence of a vanished way of life in Morton Grove.

9 Burt's Place *8541 Ferris Ave*

Owned and operated by local pizza maverick Burt Katz, Burt's Place has been serving its unique "pizza in a pan" by Burt himself since 1989. The building dates back to the late 19th Century, during which time it served as the local blacksmith shop. In the early 20th Century, it was Emile's Place, the tavern run by Emile Bringer before he relocated around the corner and opened the Bringer Inn.

10 Former Site of Poehlmann Brothers Greenhouse

6300 block of Lincoln Ave

Morton Grove's greenhouse industry began on Oakton Street in 1885, and by the turn of the 20th Century had grown into the largest greenhouse operation in the country. At the center of this industry were the Poehlmann Brothers, whose multiple Morton Grove greenhouses grew many exotic plants, and became world famous when their rose took home first prize from the 1904 St. Louis World's Fair. One greenhouse stood here, though there were several elsewhere in the village, including in Harrer Park.

11 Morton Grove Volunteer Fire Company Centennial Memorial

6250 Lincoln Ave

Organized in 1904, the Morton Grove Volunteer Fire Company was founded by local citizens in an effort to protect their small but burgeoning community from the hazards of fires. The initial equipment was purchased with fundraisers, and the first fire truck was a horse-drawn cart. Many local community members served in the company over the six decades it existed, and it wasn't until 1965 that Morton Grove hired its first paid firefighters.

12 Pequod's Pizza *8520 Fernald Ave*

This Pequod's, the original location, was previously the site of both the Golden Dinner Bell Restaurant and the Philippi Candy Store & Chocolate Shop. It was opened in 1971 by Burt Katz and has been a Morton Grove staple ever since. Named for the whaling ship in Moby Dick, it was sold by Katz, current owner of Burt's Place, in 1986. Soon afterwards, the new owners expanded to a second location in Lincoln Park, Chicago.

13 Bringer Inn *6230 Lincoln Ave*

Morton Grove's seminal local tavern, the Bringer Inn has served the community since 1933, though its space has existed as a commercial building since the late 19th Century. Formerly housed at this location were both the Hoss Florist Exchange and the Haupt Butcher Shop—the latter of which was operated by the children who grew up in the house that is now the Morton Grove Historical Museum.

14 Morton Grove Public Library/Doughboy Statue *6140 Lincoln Ave*

The Morton Grove Public Library was established in 1938 with funds from the Works Progress Administration, and existed in a variety of temporary locations throughout the village for the next several years. In 1952, it found its permanent home here in Monument Park, the site purchased by the Women's War Working Circle for their WWI Memorial Doughboy statue, which still stands here today.

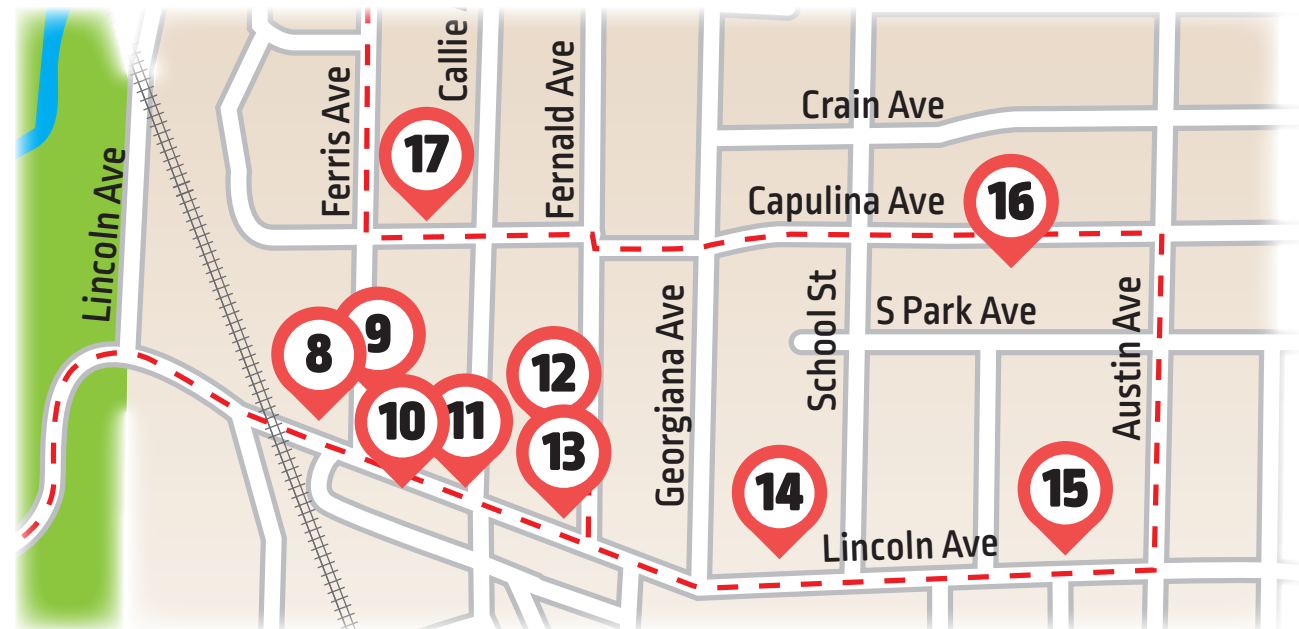
15 Original Location of Haupt Yehl House *6025 Lincoln Ave*

The Haupt Yehl House, today the Morton Grove Historical Museum, was built in 1888 and was originally located here. Dorothy Yehl remained living in the home until 1984, at which time it was subsequently sold and relocated to Harrer Park.

16 Morton Grove Village Hall *6101 Capulina Ave*

Once serving as District #70 Grove School, this building was designated the Morton Grove Village Hall in 1978. Today it is named the Richard T. Flickinger Municipal Center, in honor of Morton Grove's longtime mayor.

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About the Morton Grove Historical Society

Morton Grove Historical Society goals include:

- Operating the Morton Grove Historical Museum with the cooperative effort of the Morton Grove Park District.
- Presenting the past and present through museum exhibits, displays, and educational programming.
- Placing bronze plaques at significant historical sites throughout the village.
- Collecting and preserving items related to the history of Morton Grove and its people.

Become a Member

By joining the Morton Grove Historical Society, you become a part of the effort to preserve Morton Grove's heritage. You will receive the newsletter and notice of Historical Society meetings which offer free lectures on local history or historical topics. Formed in 1970, the Morton Grove Historical Society has grown and reorganized to become a community treasure.

Museum Hours

Sundays 2:00–4:00 p.m.

Wednesdays 1:00–3:00 p.m.

or by appointment

Group tours by appointment only.

Closed on holidays.

Admission is free. Donations are appreciated.

For more information, call the Museum at (847) 965-0203.

Write the Museum at:

Morton Grove Historical Museum

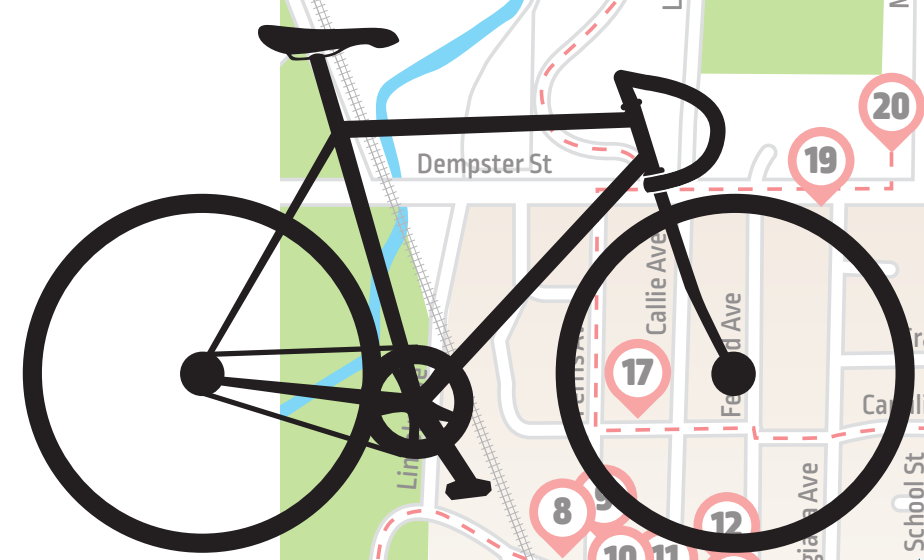
P.O. Box 542

Morton Grove, Illinois 60053



Bike Tour of Historic Morton Grove

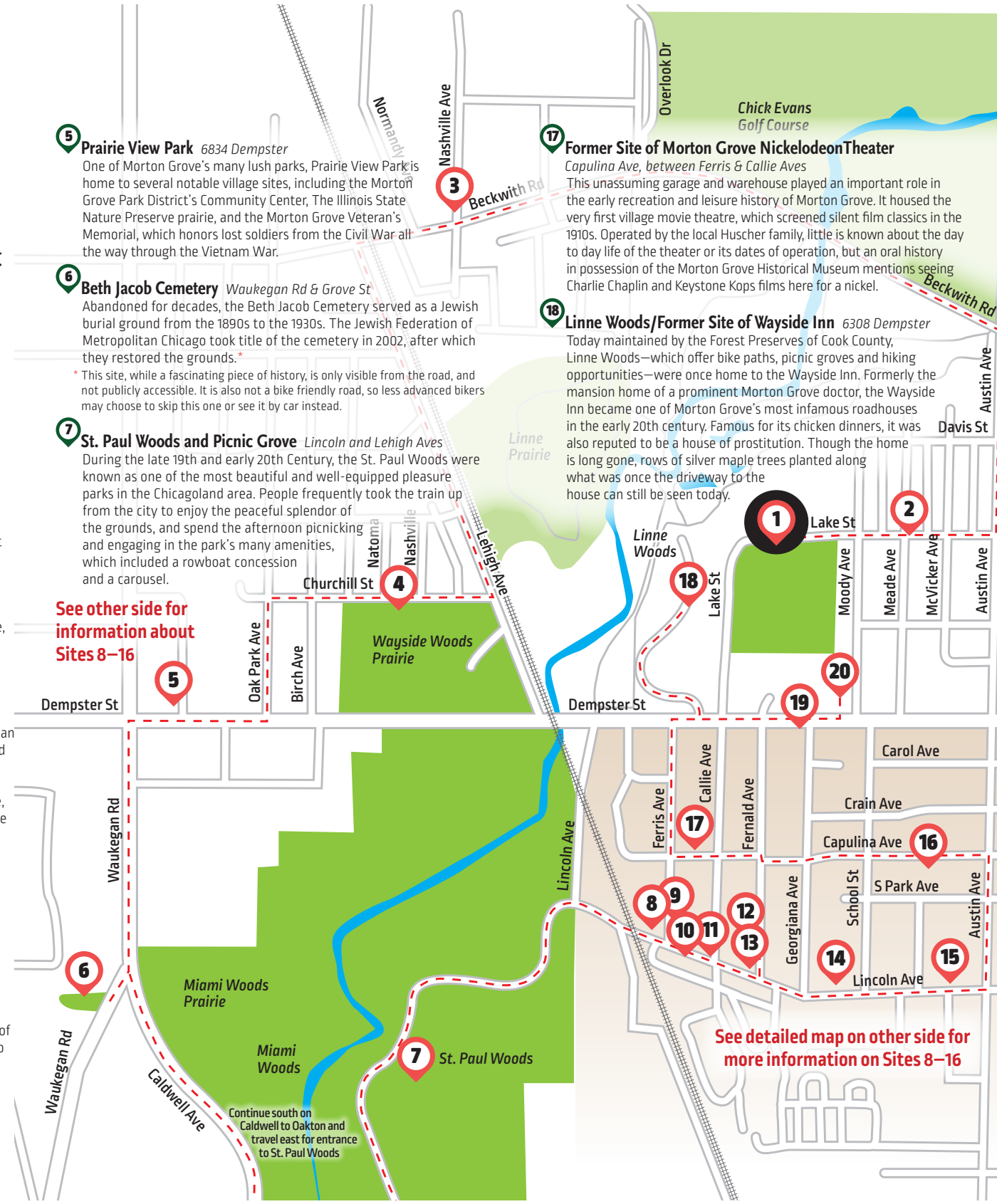
Sponsored by the Morton Grove Historical Society



THE MORTON GROVE HISTORICAL MUSEUM

is home to invaluable treasures that document the history and development of our special town. However, tangible evidence of Morton Grove's story can be found in all corners of the village—in this way, the entire village is truly a museum!

- 1 Morton Grove Historical Museum** *Harrer Park, 6148-6240 Dempster*
 Opened in 1986 with the refurbishment and relocation of the Haupt Yehl House, the Morton Grove Historical Museum is the official repository for all materials reflecting Morton Grove's local history. Jointly operated by the Morton Grove Historical Society and the Morton Grove Park District it was expanded in 2008 to include an adjacent education center, and in 2013, a Native American Sculpture, fashioned from a branch of the Indian Marker Tree (site #3) was erected just behind the museum.
- 2 Former Site of Sonne Airfield** *Meade Ave & Lake St*
 The Sonne Airfield, located here from 1919-1932, came to being by accident when an airplane hired for a local promotion had to make an emergency landing. The airplane was repaired by local resident Fred Sonne and the airplane's pilot, Chance Lawson. A business venture evolved, and for the next 13 years, Sonne and Lawson offered locals the thrilling experience of a stunt plane ride. According to local lore, Charles Lindbergh once landed here. A plaque marks the spot on the SE corner.
- 3 Indian Marker Tree** *Beckwith Rd & Nashville Ave*
 Native Americans frequently planted and intentionally bent trees to grow at a certain angle, for the purpose of navigation. Here in Morton Grove, this tree at Beckwith and Nashville—the oldest surviving historic site in the village—serves as a living history artifact to a centuries-old way of life.
- 4 Morton Grove Baseball Diamond** *Churchill St, between Nashville & Natoma*
 Baseball gripped the imaginations and dominated the leisure time of America's youth for most of the 20th Century. Morton Grove was no exception! Here in Wayside Woods, you can still faintly observe the baseball diamond created by young Morton Grovers in the 1950s.



5 Prairie View Park *6834 Dempster*
 One of Morton Grove's many lush parks, Prairie View Park is home to several notable village sites, including the Morton Grove Park District's Community Center, The Illinois State Nature Preserve prairie, and the Morton Grove Veteran's Memorial, which honors lost soldiers from the Civil War all the way through the Vietnam War.

6 Beth Jacob Cemetery *Waukegan Rd & Grove St*
 Abandoned for decades, the Beth Jacob Cemetery served as a Jewish burial ground from the 1890s to the 1930s. The Jewish Federation of Metropolitan Chicago took title of the cemetery in 2002, after which they restored the grounds.
 * This site, while a fascinating piece of history, is only visible from the road, and not publicly accessible. It is also not a bike friendly road, so less advanced bikers may choose to skip this one or see it by car instead.

7 St. Paul Woods and Picnic Grove *Lincoln and Lehigh Aves*
 During the late 19th and early 20th Century, the St. Paul Woods were known as one of the most beautiful and well-equipped pleasure parks in the Chicagoland area. People frequently took the train up from the city to enjoy the peaceful splendor of the grounds, and spend the afternoon picnicking and engaging in the park's many amenities, which included a rowboat concession and a carousel.

See other side for information about Sites 8-16

17 Former Site of Morton Grove Nickelodeon Theater *Capulina Ave, between Ferris & Callie Aves*
 This unassuming garage and warehouse played an important role in the early recreation and leisure history of Morton Grove. It housed the very first village movie theatre, which screened silent film classics in the 1910s. Operated by the local Huscher family, little is known about the day to day life of the theater or its dates of operation, but an oral history in possession of the Morton Grove Historical Museum mentions seeing Charlie Chaplin and Keystone Kops films here for a nickel.

18 Linne Woods/Former Site of Wayside Inn *6308 Dempster*
 Today maintained by the Forest Preserves of Cook County, Linne Woods—which offer bike paths, picnic groves and hiking opportunities—were once home to the Wayside Inn. Formerly the mansion home of a prominent Morton Grove doctor, the Wayside Inn became one of Morton Grove's most infamous roadhouses in the early 20th century. Famous for its chicken dinners, it was also reputed to be a house of prostitution. Though the home is long gone, rows of silver maple trees planted along what was once the driveway to the house can still be seen today.

19 Simkins Funeral Home—Former Home of August Poehlmann *6251 Dempster*
 Originally located at 6231 Lincoln Avenue, Simkins Funeral Home was, in the early 20th Century, the opulent mansion home of the Poehlmann family, proprietors of Morton Grove's world famous greenhouses. The house became the Meyer Funeral Home in 1939, and the entire structure was relocated to its current location on Dempster in 1946 to gain more visibility. The home was gradually taken over by Meyer's nephew, William Simkins, and officially became the Simkins Funeral Home in 1980.

20 Morton Grove American Legion Post 134 *6140 Dempster*
 Chartered in 1924, the Morton Grove American Legion Post 124 moved to its current home on Dempster in September of 1949. A major social and cultural touchstone of the Morton Grove community, the Legion holds various social functions and fundraisers annually.

This map, designed as a bicycle tour, travels the historic landscape of Morton Grove by visiting sites of interest relevant to the history of the village. It is a celebration of Morton Grove's history, and also of cycling itself which, incidentally, was just beginning to gain popularity in the late 19th Century, when Morton Grove was established.

The trail itself is just under 5 miles long and stops at 20 sites, beginning and ending at the Morton Grove Historical Museum. Its duration depends on your speed and how much time you spend at each site.

As always, exercise caution when riding your bicycle, especially on busier local roads such as Dempster and Waukegan. The map trail follows side roads whenever possible.

Though this map was designed as a bike tour, do not be deterred if you are bikeless! It can just as easily be done via car or foot. And of course, the sites on this map only begin to scratch the surface of what makes Morton Grove so special and historic. We encourage you always to explore further!

See detailed map on other side for more information on Sites 8-16