

Oak Brook Historical Bike Tour



*A Self-Guided Journey Through
Oak Brook's Historic Landmarks*

This route combines Oak Brook's natural areas, pioneer heritage, polo legacy, and two of its most significant historic landmarks into a single bike-friendly historical tour.

Bring:

- Bicycle & helmet
- Water bottle
- Camera
- Comfortable walking shoes for exploring stops

Discover:

- Historic Fullersburg
- Graue Mill & Museum
- Oak Brook Heritage Center
- Former Polo Grounds
- York Tavern
- Scenic Salt Creek Trails

*Explore Oak Brook's rich
history while enjoying a scenic
bike ride through nature
preserves, historic sites, and
iconic community landmarks.*



Distance: Approximately 6 Miles

Duration: 1.5–2.5 Hours

Difficulty: Easy to Moderate

Route Type: A scenic loop utilizing Oak Brook bike trails, the Salt Creek Fullersburg trail systems, and local roadways.

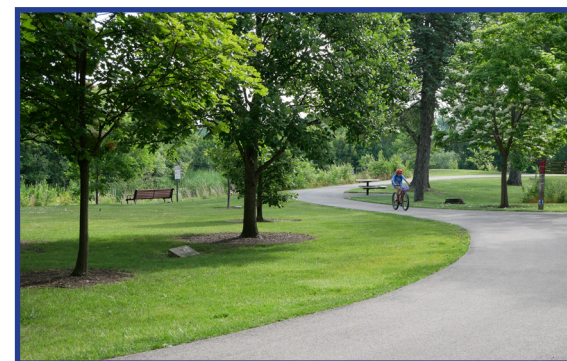
Route Stops

1. Dean Nature Sanctuary
2. Historic Polo Grounds
3. Oak Brook Historical Society
4. Oak Brook Park District
5. Fullersburg Woods Nature Center
6. Graue Mill & Museum
7. York Tavern

Oak Brook's



*Pedal Through Nature,
Heritage & History*



Brought to you by:



Oak Brook
Park District
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Begin your ride at a peaceful nature preserve. It's a fitting starting point to experience Oak Brook's natural heritage!

Stop 1: Dean Nature Sanctuary
115 Canterbury Lane

The Dean Nature Sanctuary is an important recreational and ecological component in this region. The area is a unique combination of ecosystems, with oak savannah, wetland, pond, and prairie habitats living in very close proximity. This "passive park" is home to an apiary that produces OH! Bee Parks honey.

Stop 2: Oak Brook Polo Grounds
700 Oak Brook Road

Founded in 1922 by legendary businessman Paul Butler, the Oak Brook Polo Club was an American Polo treasure and one of the oldest polo clubs in the United States. Having closed in 2025, the historic Cecil Smith Field, adjacent to the prestigious Butler National Golf Course and east of the Oak Brook Bath & Tennis Club, is still a sight to see for a quick water break.

Stop 3: Oak Brook Historical Society
1112 Oak Brook Road

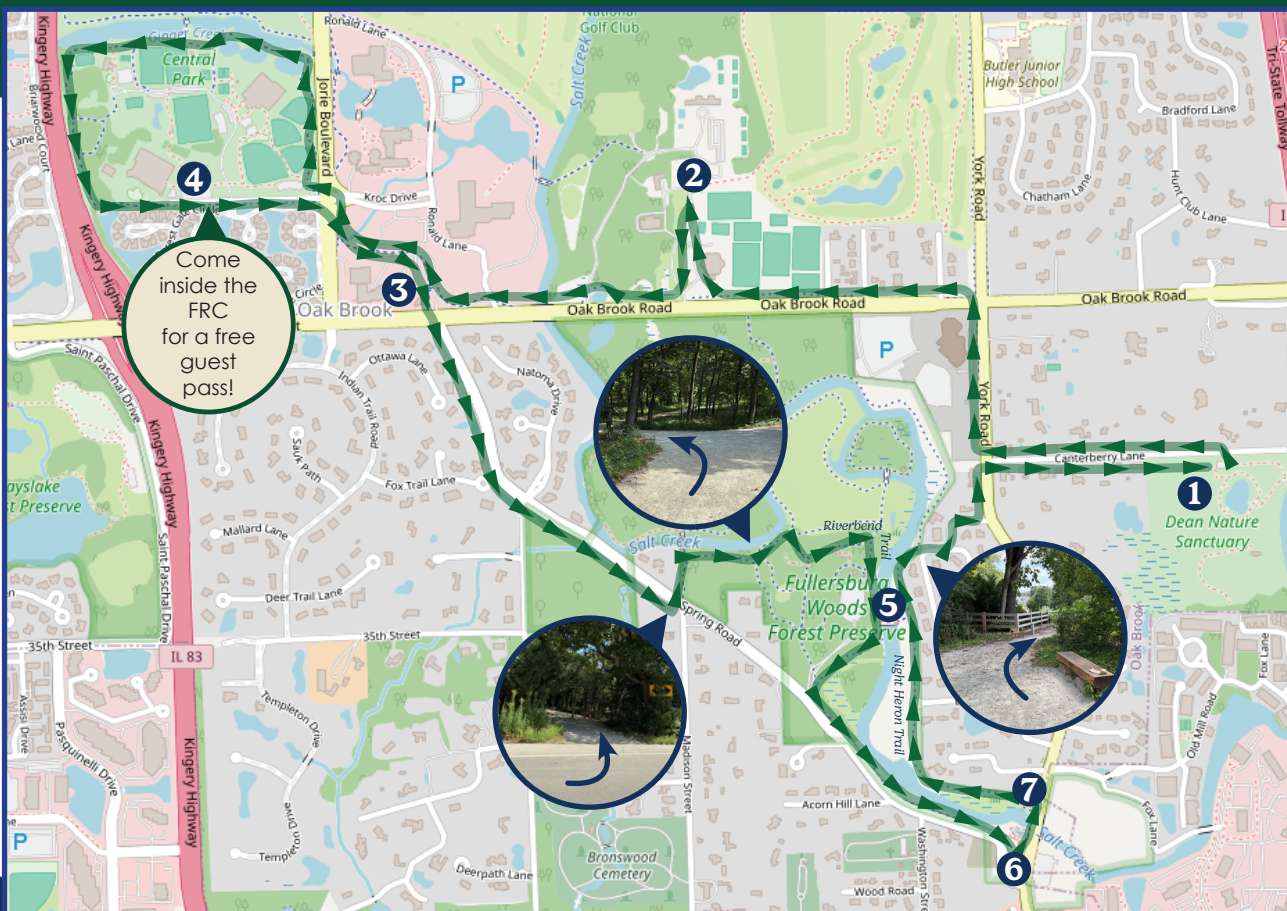
The Oak Brook Historical Society was established in 1975 to serve as a community advocate for the historic preservation of the Village of Oak Brook and to be a resource for research and preservation of our history. Open on Wednesdays from 10am-2pm, the Old Butler School serves the community as the Oak Brook Heritage Center, operated by the Oak Brook Historical Society. The Heritage Center will provide multigenerational programming, exhibits of the heritage and the history of Oak Brook.

Stop 4: Oak Brook Park District
1450 Forest Gate Road

The Oak Brook Park District, created in 1962, owns and maintains 173 acres. Central Park is home to the Park District's Tennis Center, Family Recreation Center (FRC), Fit Central, indoor Swim Central, Central Park West, Ginger Creek Pavilion, and outdoor athletic fields. Athletic fields, playgrounds and walking paths are available in several locations for the enjoyment of the community.

Stop 5: Fullersburg Woods Nature Center
3609 Spring Road

Fullersburg Woods Nature Education Center offers an introduction to the local environment and its native plants and animals. Explore Salt Creek and learn how to identify common animals and their tracks. Get up close to a 13,000-year-old skeleton of a woolly mammoth or use microscopes and spotting scopes to examine creatures that call DuPage County home today. From mid-April through mid-November, the center is open daily from 10am-4pm.



Stop 6: Graue Mill and Museum
3800 York Road

Frederick Graue emigrated from Germany to the U.S. in the 1840s, eventually settling in Fullersburg, Illinois, part of today's Oak Brook. In 1849 he and William Asche purchased land along Salt Creek where they would build a gristmill. The mill opened in April 1852 and became a major center of economic life during the 19th century. Local farmers routinely brought their wheat, corn, and other grains to the mill for grinding. The nearby Frederick Graue House was the family's 1850s Victorian home. The Graue family operated the mill for 70 years. Graue Mill and Museum is open mid-April through mid-November, Wednesday through Sunday from 10am-4pm.

Stop 7: York Tavern
3702 York Road

The York Tavern, built in 1843 by Benjamin Fuller, still stands in its original location on the west side of York Road, just north of the Salt Creek Bridge. It remains one of the most significant structures from the former village of Fullersburg. Fullersburg, originally known as Brush Hill, became the fourth community in DuPage County to be officially platted when Benjamin Fuller laid it out in 1851. The village sits at the crossroads of several important transportation routes once used by the Potawatomi. York Road, Ogden Avenue, and Spring Road were all established long before Benjamin Fuller first visited the area in 1834.

Complete the loop by returning to the Dean Nature Sanctuary. We hope you enjoyed your tour!