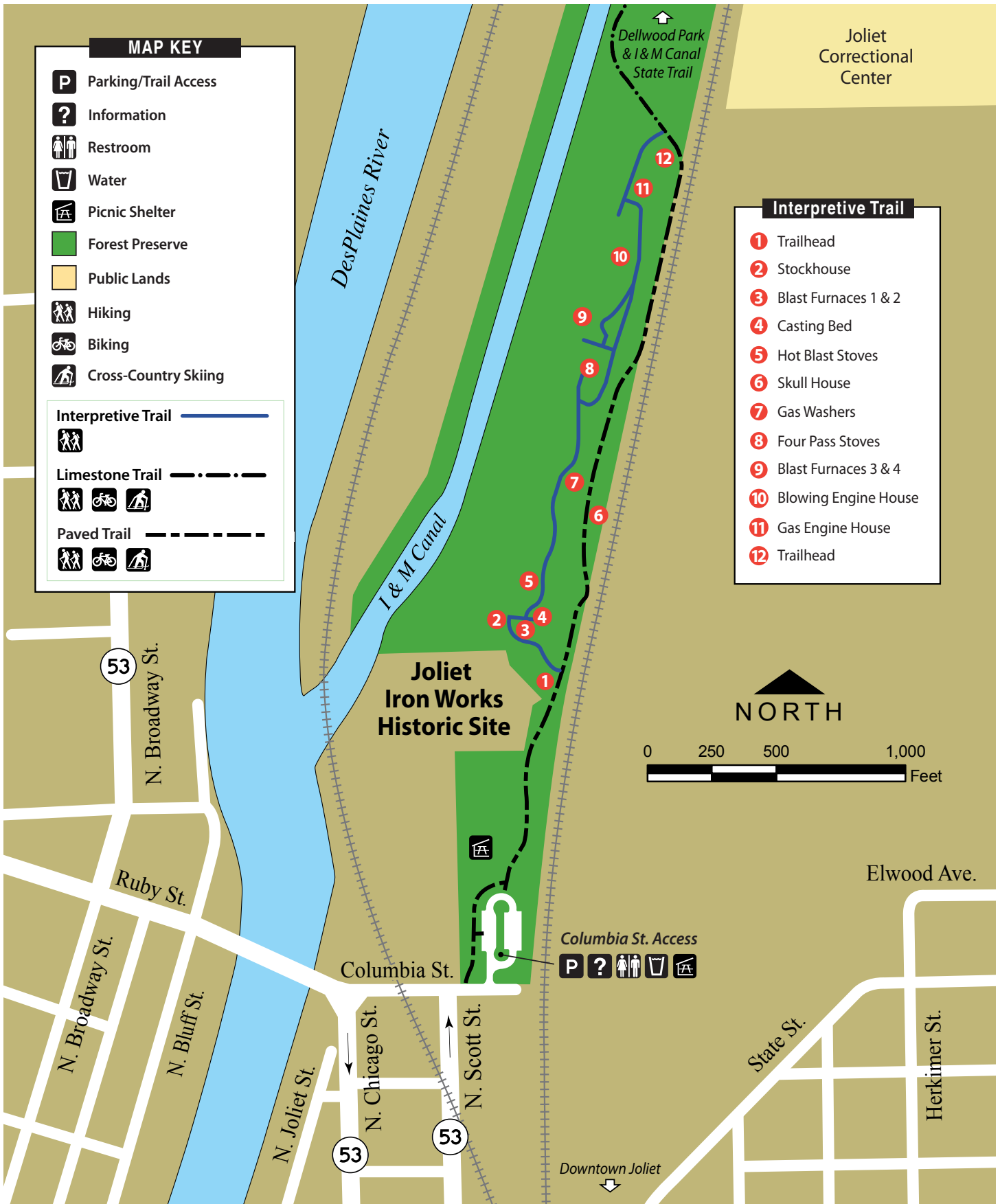


Joliet Iron Works Historic Site



Directions to Preserve:

Joliet Iron Works Historic Site is located .10 mile east of Route 53 (Scott Street) and .10 mile south of the Ruby Street Bridge, on Columbia Street in downtown Joliet.



For information, please call 815.727.8700 or visit ReconnectWithNature.org.

Forest Preserve District of Will County

Joliet Iron Works Historic Site

Joliet is known as the City of Steel and Stone. Rich deposits of limestone led to a thriving quarrying industry, and in the years following the Civil War, a huge iron-producing industry would, over 60 years, employ thousands at the Joliet Iron Works.

Following the dismantling of the factory in the 1930s, the foundations of this once bustling factory were all but forgotten. However, in the 1990s the District preserved this important link to the City of Joliet's past.

A 1.0-mile walkway through the site features a self-guided tour through exhibits explaining the iron-making process, and just as importantly, describing the men who worked there, many of whom were immigrants to the United States.

The site is also an access point for the 12.5-mile I&M Canal Trail/Centennial Trail. This trail, of which portions are paved or crushed limestone, connects Joliet's City Center to Cook County.

Amenities at Joliet Iron Works Historic Site were renovated in 2009 and 2010. The preserve now offers a picnic shelter, restroom facilities, and drinking water.

Preserve and Trail Hours

8 a.m. - Sunset, year-round

Trail Hours - The following select preserves are open sunrise to sunset to provide access to biking trails:

- I&M Canal Access, Joliet (I&M Canal Trail)
- Hickory Creek Junction, Mokena (OPRT)
- Black Road Access, Joliet (Rock Run Trail)
- Paul V. Nichols Access, Joliet (Rock Run Trail)
- Sugar Creek Administration Center, Joliet (WGT)
- Manhattan Road Access, Manhattan (WGT)
- Symerton Road Access, Symerton (WGT)

Information

Call 815.727.8700 weekdays to receive free informational brochures, such as:

Map & Guide to the Forest Preserve
County map showing preserve locations and complete recreational information.

The Citizen
Quarterly newsletter detailing family programs and preserve happenings.

Or visit ReconnectWithNature.org for more information and to request brochures or other trail maps.

In an Emergency, Call 9-1-1.

Please give the location and nature of the emergency.

In non-emergencies, call the Will County Sheriff's dispatch at 815.727.6191 to reach a Forest Preserve District Officer.

Trail Etiquette

- Slower traffic should stay to the right of the trail. Bicyclists should pass on the left, politely announcing "Passing on the left."
- While in a group, leave room for others to pass.
- Dogs are welcome on most trails but must be leashed. Cleaning up dog waste is required by ordinance. Dogs are not allowed in preserves designated as Nature Preserves.
- No Forest Preserve trail is designed for motorized use. Assistive motorized devices permitted.