

MCT Trails and Tourism

Model Innovative County Summit

April 7, 2017

Madison County, Illinois



Who: Madison County Transit

The Madison County Mass Transit District (MCT) is a public transportation agency that serves 16 member townships in Madison County, Illinois.

- MCT Fixed-Route Bus Service
- Runabout Paratransit Service
- RideFinders: St. Louis RideShare Program
- MCT Trails

What: MCT Trails

- 130 miles of separated bikeways
- Consists of 9 Scenic Trails
- Constructed on RR rights of way
- Forming 7 inter-connected loops
- With 46 Bridges and 23 Tunnels
- \$30 Million Investment

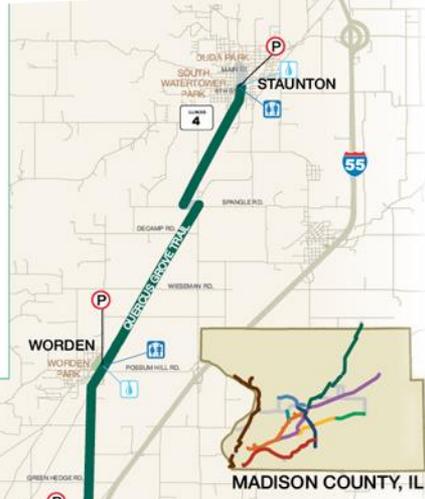


mcttrails.org

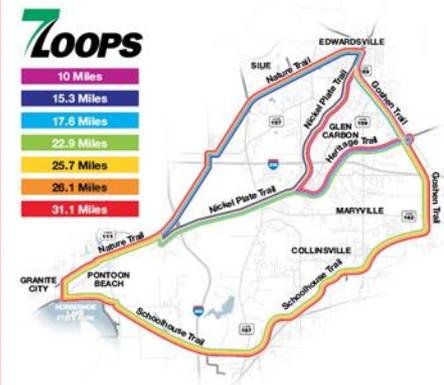
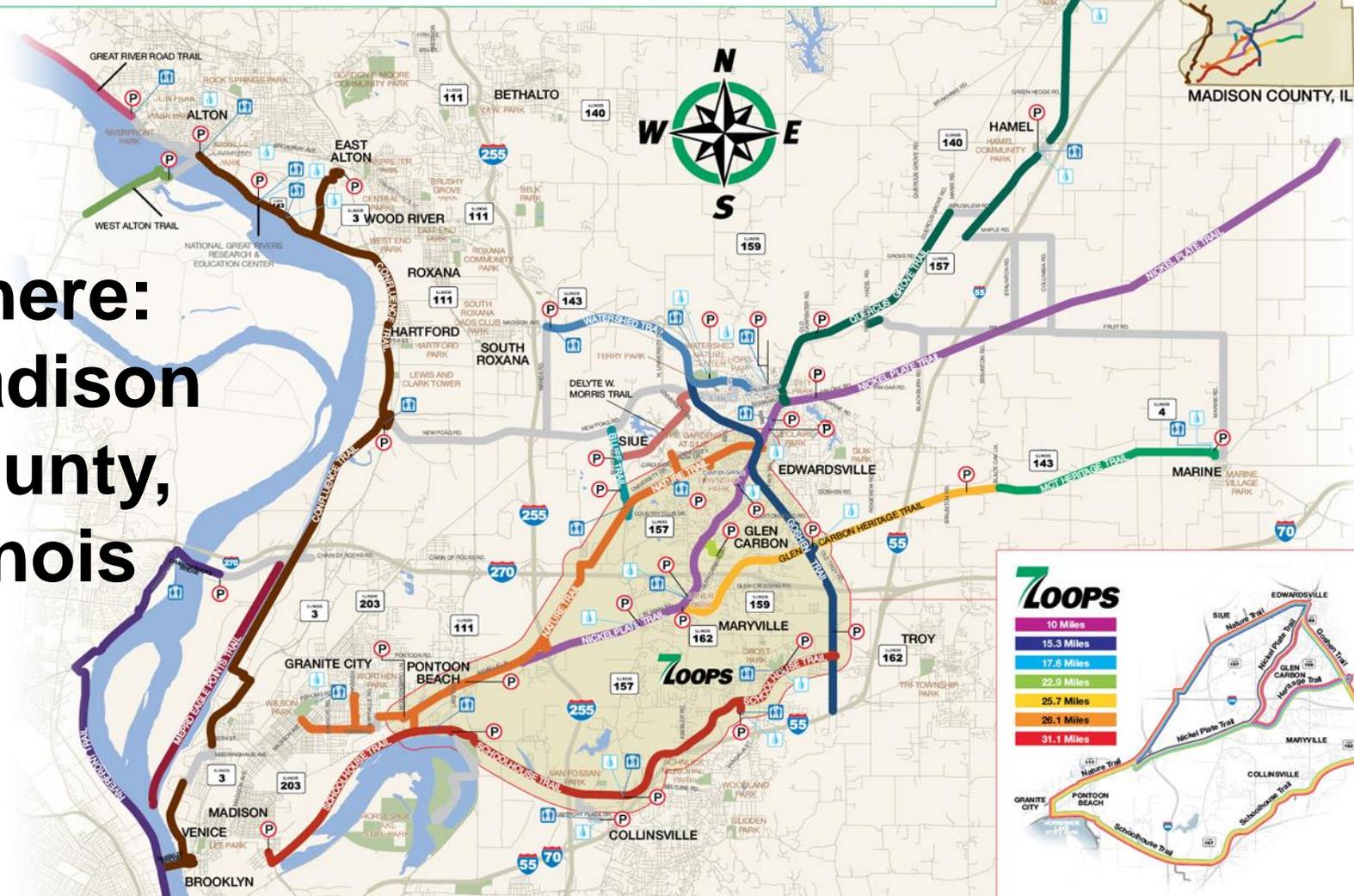


- MCT BLUFF TRAIL
- MCT CONFLUENCE TRAIL
- MCT GOSHEN TRAIL
- MCT HERITAGE TRAIL
- MCT NATURE TRAIL
- MCT NICKEL PLATE TRAIL
- MCT QUERCUS GROVE TRAIL
- MCT SCHOOLHOUSE TRAIL
- MCT WATERSHED TRAIL
- DELYTE W. MORRIS TRAIL
- GLEN CARBON HERITAGE TRAIL
- GREAT RIVER ROAD TRAIL
- HERITAGE CONNECTOR TRAIL
- MEPRD EAGLE POINTS TRAIL
- RIVERFRONT TRAIL (MO)
- WEST ALTON TRAIL (MO)
- ON-ROAD CONNECTORS

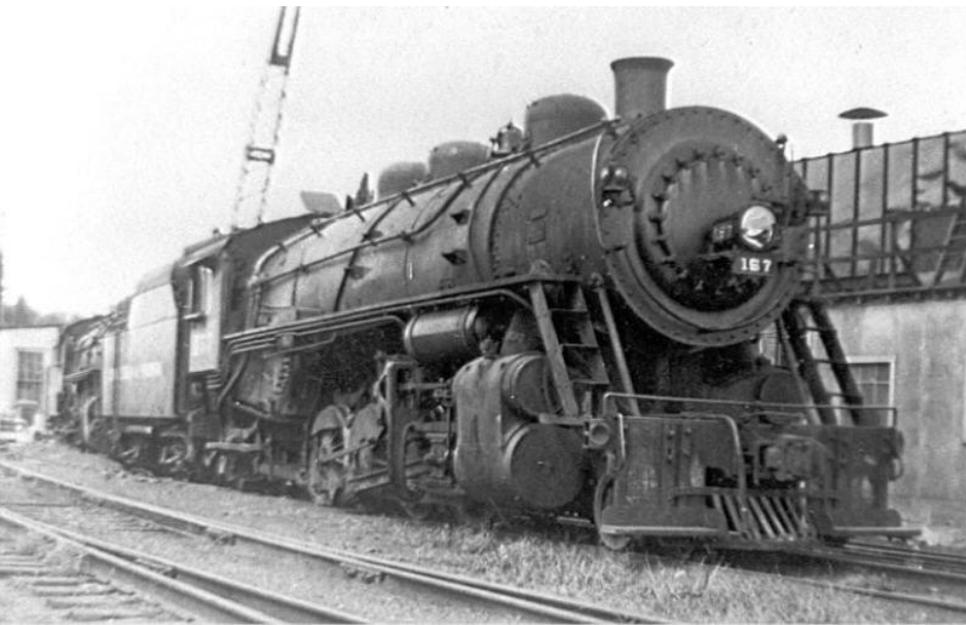
- PARKING LOTS
- RESTROOM
- WATER
- SEE INSET ON REVERSE
- PARK AREA
- SEVEN LOOPS LOCATION



Where: Madison County, Illinois



When: The Age of the Railroads (1840s – 1960s)



- **1840s:** Railroads began appearing between the coal mines and other industrial sites along the river.
- **1890s:** Railroads were everywhere in Madison County.
- **1960s:** Inter-urban and passenger service discontinued.

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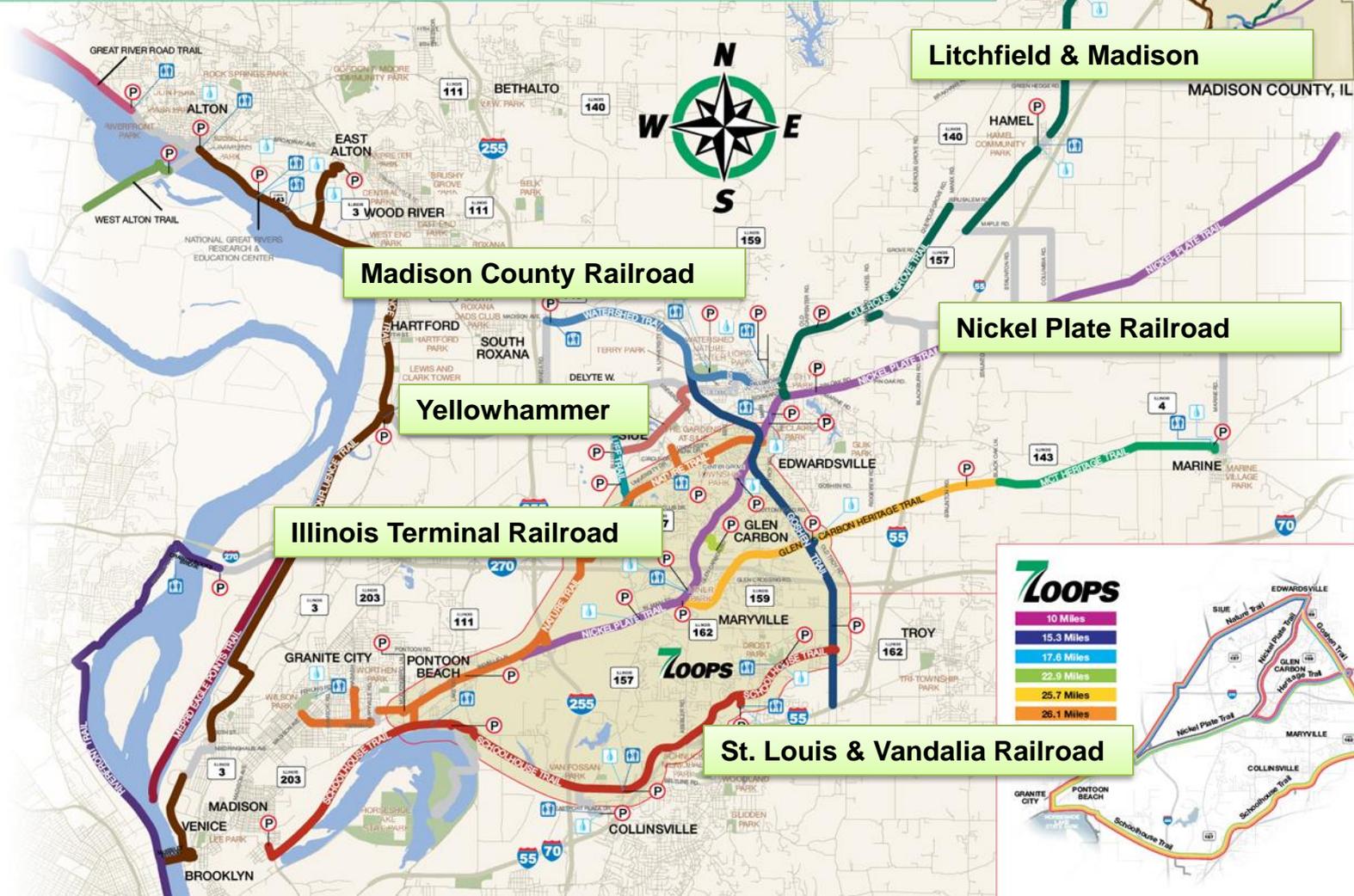


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Litchfield & Madison

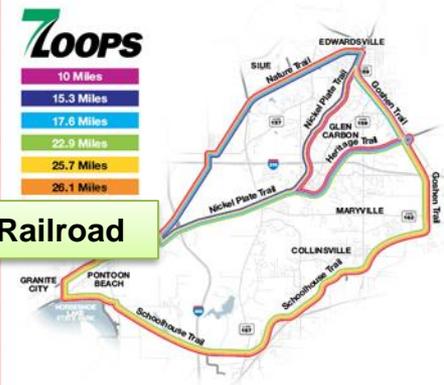
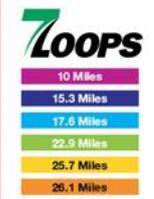
Madison County Railroad

Yellowhammer

Illinois Terminal Railroad

Nickel Plate Railroad

St. Louis & Vandalia Railroad



When: Rails to Trails (1960s – Present)

- **1960s:** Delyte Morris forms on-campus bikeway at SIUE.
- **1983:** Congress passes National Trails System Act.
- **January 1, 1993:** Madison County Transit (MCT) receives legal authority to own, operate and develop bike trails.
- **1997:** MCT completes first stretch of the MCT Nature Trail.
- **July 26, 1998:** Last freight train through the heart of Edwardsville.

Litchfield & Madison #154 at a
Local Scrapyard, 1940's



MCT Nickel Plate Trail, 2012



Illinois Terminal Railroad # 202, 1955



MCT Goshen Trail, 2012



Why: A Vision for the MCT Trails

Develop a system of interconnected bikeways, to preserve **vital transportation corridors**, create **linear parks**, provide a **family-friendly recreation** option, improve **real estate values**, connect **trails and transit** and enhance the **quality of life** for Madison County residents and visitors.



Linear Parks: 1,500 Acres of Greenways

Improved Real Estate Values



New Tourist Attraction



Connecting Trails & Transit



Quality of Life



Quality of Life





Quality of Life

Quality of Life





Quality of Life

How: Funding for the MCT Trails

- Illinois Department of Natural Resources
- Federal Enhancement Grants
- Metro East Park & Recreation District
- Madison County Trailhead Grants
- Partnering Municipalities
- MCT Local Funds

Who: Are the MCT Trails Users?

The MCT Trails average more than 100,000 users a year.

- 14% are Visitors to the Area
- 61% are Bicycling during their visit
- 31% are walking/running/jogging
- The #1 Reason for using the MCT Trails is “Health”

NO
MOTOR
VEHICLES

BIKE TRAIL
CLOSED FROM
DUSK TO DAWN



Impact of MCT Trails Users

During their visit to the Trail, of the respondents to the “Trails for Illinois Study”...

- 35% spent money at restaurants
- 20% spent money on vehicle expenses like gas or car rental
- 17% spent money in grocery stores
- 30% or more visited the trail 21 or more times in the past year
- 68% traveled 5 miles or less to reach the trail
- 32% expected to spend more than 150 minutes on the trail that day
- \$30.40 was the mean average of all reported trail visit expenditures

Safe Crossings for Bicyclists: 46 Bridges & 23 Tunnels



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