

Problems at River Trail Access Locations on Oakton and Touhy



Picture at left shows the current situation for walkers and riders wishing to access the River Trail from the West along Oakton St. This picture was taken from just beyond the bridge.

Bikes and pedestrians have created a dirt track, due to the hazardous roadway with high curb and no space for bicycles.

This would be improved by adding a gravel or concrete side trail and placing the traffic signs away from the middle of the bike and pedestrian access.

Trailhead at Oakton

Basically no provision is made for accessing the trail at this point. There is just a grass shoulder along Oakton. Combined with the lack of space for bikes in the roadway, this discourages bike and pedestrian access from the adjacent neighborhoods West of River Road. Also there's no curb break sufficient for a car to pull over to drop off or pick up here, which leaves little option but to drive up to Algonquin to use the parking facilities there.



Access and Trailhead for River Trail along Touhy

View looking west along Touhy Ave. showing cyclist crossing Touhy going south on River Trail. As on Oakton, no curb break to pull over for dropping off/picking up bicyclists or pedestrians. Access to trail is also a choice between grass shoulder or hazardous roadway with curb.



On Touhy bridge over river, looking west towards I-294. Bridge has pedestrian walkway, but beyond the bridge span no allowance has been made for bikes/pedestrians (sharp dropoff from pavement, no paved shoulder, no actual trail along road).



On Touhy looking West towards I-294. Accessing River Trail is not encouraged here due to soft gravel/mud shoulder and sharp curb dropoff.



Manhole cover along Touhy shoulder under I-294 overpass (north side, viewed from west). I almost ate the pavement after not seeing this in the gloom under the overpass. It looks like some car/truck wheel rims might have had a ding on this.



Along Touhy emerging from I-294 underpass going west. Poor choices for either bike or pedestrian here. Highway-style merges with no pedestrian lights. No sidewalks or paths.

