

## Ride or Walk with a purpose-take the Tour Wilmette!

Tour Wilmette-a relaxing 10 mile trip through the Village with stops at some of our town's most historic places was developed in 2018 with the cooperation of Wilmette Park District. Whether you ride it in one easy cruise or walk it in smaller sections, you're sure to learn something new about Wilmette. Here we provide: a map with start and finish lines complete with mile markers, short descriptions of each highlighted stop and easy to follow routing information. We've also included links with the story behind each featured attraction.

Our tour starts at Mallinckrodt Center, 1041 Ridge Rd. Leave the center going west on Elmwood Ave. to Hunter Rd.. Take Hunter Rd. south to Wilmette Ave. Turn west on Wilmette Ave. to Locust Rd.. Turn South on Locust Rd. to Glenview Rd. Go west on Glenview Rd. (1 block) to Westmoreland Ave. Take Westmoreland Ave. south one block to Roemer Park. First Stop.

### **STOP 1. Roemer Park**

***Hidden behind houses and accessible only via a short driveway, Roemer Park has changed little since it opened in 1953. Little League sized dugouts, a hand operated scoreboard with metal numbers transported in a red wagon, and a concession stand all make for a timeless experience. Over 1000 kids play 181 games per year here. Among them have been actor Bill Murray, former mayor Rahm Emmanuel, and author Scott Turow.***

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mzTv1jIWT-Q>

Leave Roemer going east on Old Glenview Rd to Crawford Ave. Go south on Crawford Ave. a short block to Clifford St. Take Clifford St. east into Lovelace Park. Loop the park path exiting near the tennis courts to Gross Point Rd. South on Gross Point Rd one block to Hoffman House, 204 Ridge Rd. Second stop.

### **STOP 2. Hoffman House- 204 Ridge Rd.**

***This is believed to be the oldest standing house in Wilmette. A Greek Revival style home built in 1847, the west side with its four windows and shutters is the original section. The greenhouse business on the south end of the property was built in 1908. Members of the Hoffman family have continuously owned this property since 1844. The building that housed their feed store still stands at 410 Ridge Rd.***

<https://www.wilmettehistory.org/sites/default/files/explore-pub/Ridge-Road-Walking-Tour-2020-web.pdf>

Leave Hoffman House going north on Ridge/Gross Point to Sterling Ave. Take Sterling east and south to Isabella Ave. Take Isabella Ave. east to Park Ave. Go north on Park

Ave. to Linden Ave. Take Linden Ave. east across Green Bay Rd. to Poplar Ave. Take Poplar Ave. one block north to Greenleaf Ave. Continue east on Greenleaf Ave. to 4th St. Turn right on 4th to Maple Ave. Go east on Maple Ave. to Sheridan Rd. Take Sheridan Rd. north to Benjamin Marshall studio/home at 612 Sheridan Rd. Third Stop.

### **STOP 3. Marshall Mansion Gates**

*These impressive wrought-iron gates, now marking the entrance to the Baha'i parking lot, are all that remain of architect Benjamin Marshall's lavish lakefront mansion that stood on this site from 1921-1949. The pink villa included a tropical garden with live monkeys, a retractable glass roof, a motion picture studio and an Egyptian-themed room with a 20 foot divan. Mr. Marshall was the architect of Chicago's Drake Hotel, among other landmarks.*

<http://www.illinipsiu.com/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2016/03/BenMarshallPoster.pdf>

Leave Benjamin Marshall Mansion Gates going north on Sheridan Rd. to Elmwood Ave. Go right one block to Elmwood Dunes. Fourth stop.

### **STOP 4. Elmwood Dunes**

*The Village acquired this beach frontage in the 1890's for public use as a bathing beach, complete with a set of steps leading down from the bluff. Long forgotten, in 2011 area residents and the Village came together to refurbish the area. The steps were rediscovered and restored, and in 2015 the area officially opened as Elmwood Dunes.*

<https://www.chicagotribune.com/suburbs/wilmette/ct-xpm-2013-04-30-ct-tl-ns-0502-wilmette-elmwood-dunes-20130430-story.html>

Leave Elmwood Dunes west on Elmwood Ave. to Sheridan Rd. Go north on Sheridan Rd. to Kenilworth Ave. Use light to cross Sheridan Rd going west on Kenilworth Ave. across Green Bay and up to Ridge Rd. Go south one block on sidewalk, cross Ridge Rd. west on Elmwood Ave. back into Mallinckrodt campus. You're done!

### **5. Mallinckrodt Park**

*In 1849 Pauline von Mallinckrodt founded an order of Roman Catholic nuns dedicated to education. The 28 acre parcel they purchased in Wilmette was the site of a convent housing 100 nuns. In 2002 the Wilmette Park District purchased 14 acres, part of which is now Mallinckrodt Park.*

<https://www.chicagoreader.com/chicago/how-could-they/Content?oid=907945>

