

Hike Fort Sheridan Historic Site

Join The Prairie Club for a hike along the north shore of Lake Michigan, while touring the grounds of Fort Sheridan in Highland, Illinois.

Fort Sheridan was established as a military base and is now a National Landmark. The Open Lands Project has partnered with Lake County and worked on restoring areas along the lake, while adding some interesting outdoor artwork to areas along the paths. There is much to see here!

Fort Sheridan occupied over 600 acres along Lake Michigan in Highwood, Illinois, from 1887 to 1993. The land had been purchased in 1887 by the Commercial Club of Chicago and donated to the federal government with the hope that the army would use the gift to create a military post near the city. In 1898, during the Spanish American War, Fort Sheridan became a mobilization, training, and administrative center and continued to house these functions through World War II, when over 500,000 men and women were processed through military service at the fort. After Fort Sheridan was slated for closure, residents of the area formed the Fort Sheridan Joint Planning Commission and developed a reuse plan with public participation. Ninety-four buildings, including 64 designed by Holabird & Roche, are situated on the 110-acre Historic District, designated a National Historic Landmark in 1984.

We will be meeting at the Fort Sheridan cemetery at 9:45 (due to limited parking at the Openlands lot) and beginning our hike promptly at 10:00. Expect to hike at least 3 miles. Wear comfortable shoes and dress in layers for the weather. Bring plenty of water and a bag lunch or snack. There will be walking through sand and other areas of soft terrain and parts may be wet. We can also take a peek at a few of the gravestones in the cemetery, as well. There will be an opportunity for more hiking after a lunch.

Directions: (From the Ft. Sheridan Cemetery website) The entrance to the cemetery is off of that part of Sheridan Road that runs parallel to and on east side of the north/south Metra Tracks between Westleigh Road in Lake Forest on the north and Old Elm Road in Highland Park/Lake Forest on the south. Both Westleigh Road and Old Elm Road extend east from Highway 41 (Skokie Hwy). Westleigh Road is south of Highways 176, 120 etc. Old Elm Road is north of Lake Cook Road, Park Ave. in Highland Park and Rt 22 (Half Day Road/Prairie Ave.).

From the west, n/w and north: 41 south to Westleigh, east to Sheridan, south to entrance.

From the west, s/w and south: 41 north to Old Elm Road, east to Sheridan Road, north to entrance.

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