

Chicago Southland Story Ideas



The **Chicago Southland** is Chicago's 62 south and southwest suburbs, just minutes from downtown Chicago.

For additional story ideas, research assistance, or fact-checking, contact:

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- **Fred Flintstone Worked Here:** One of the largest limestone quarries in the world, the **Thornton Quarry**, offers guided, twice-yearly trips to the bottom of a 400-million year-old coral reef. Three-hundred feet below ground level with an interstate running over it!
- **Behind the Scenes:** Ride in a sulky at Balmoral Park, Illinois' premier harness racing facility, or discover what it takes to put on a concert at **Toyota Park** or Live Nation's **First Midwest Bank Amphitheatre**!
- **The Nathan Manilow Sculpture Park at GSU:** Twenty-six monumental sculptures on 150 acres of Illinois prairie by artists including Martin Puryear, John Henry, Richard Hunt, and Mark di Suvero, among many others. Accessible via commuter rail from downtown Chicago's Millennium Park and Anish Kapoor's Cloud Gate ("The Bean").
- **The 1950's Park Forest House Museum:** Step back in time at the Park Forest House Museum, situated in a row house in one of America's original planned communities.
- **Cook County's Only Canyon:** It's not the world's largest, but it sure is grand! Over 400 million years old with rare flora and fauna, excellent area for birdwatching.
- **The Chicago area's biggest forest:** Offering a variety of outdoor recreational uses, including hike, bike and equestrian trails, fishing, skiing and much more!
- **The historic Ford Hangar at Lansing Municipal Airport:** Henry Ford built this hangar at the Lansing airport so he could easily get to his South Chicago auto manufacturing factory. Both the hangar and factory are still in operation.
- **Family Activities:** Children's museums, nature centers, Chicago Fire & Red Stars Soccer, Fair Oaks Farms – a working dairy farm, family entertainment centers and much more!
- **Top-rated Golf Courses:** **Cog Hill Golf Club**, host of the BMW Championships, and **Olympia Fields Country Club**, past host of the 2003 US Open and many Western Opens are available for play in the Southland.
- **How the Railroads Shaped America & Chicago:** Railfan sites are located throughout the Chicago Southland region, with great lunch and dinner options nearby. Experience the Pullman Historic District and the beginnings of organized labor.
- **Historic Highway Tour:** Take the Triangle Tour of the Southland, featuring three historic highways - The Lincoln Highway, Dixie Highway and Route 66.
- **Pizza and Ice Cream Galore:** Some of the finest specialty purveyors of Chicago-style pizza and scrumptious ice cream can be found in the Southland, operated by families in the business since the 1930's. Find a restored 1927 Barton Pipe Organ in a former theater-turned-pizza parlor, with performances held weekly.
- **Illinois Prairies:** Several of the last remnants of original Illinois prairies are situated in the Chicago Southland.
- **Festivals Galore:** Festivals and events are what make up the fabric of life in the Chicago Southland, from the Garlic Festival to the Monarch Butterfly Festival, cruise nights to model train shows, there's something for everyone in the Southland!