

# Chicago Portage Canoe Trail

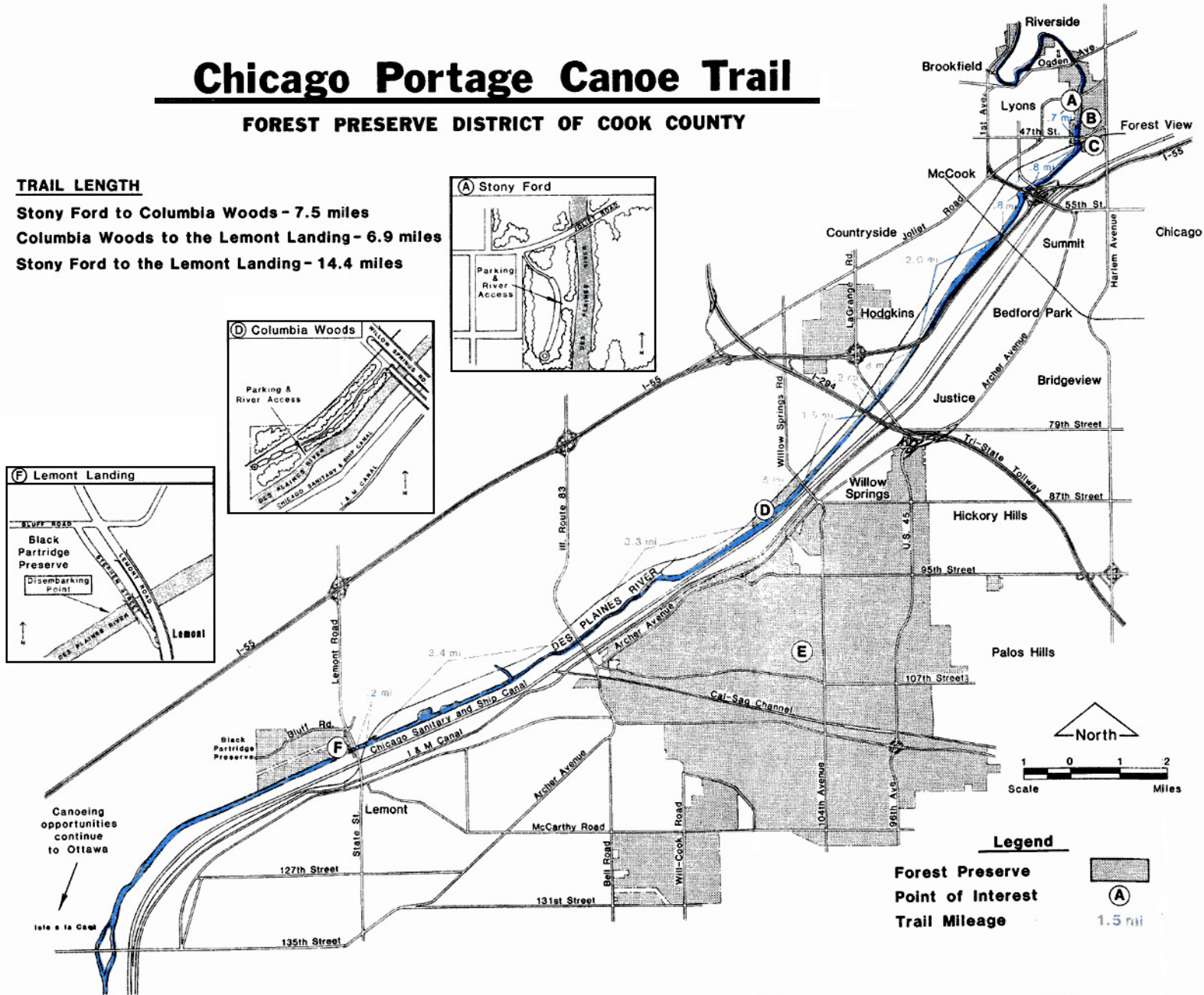
FOREST PRESERVE DISTRICT OF COOK COUNTY

## TRAIL LENGTH

Stony Ford to Columbia Woods - 7.5 miles

Columbia Woods to the Lemont Landing - 6.9 miles

Stony Ford to the Lemont Landing - 14.4 miles



## Points of Interest

### (A) Stony Ford

At one time a strategic and widely used crossing, Stony Ford today marks the beginning of the canoe trail. This area has picnic facilities and drinking water available for canoeists beginning their journey downstream. (See inset map)

### (B) Laughton Ford

It was at this ford that the Ottawa Trail crossed the Des Plaines River. In the early 1800's David and Bernardus Laughton established a small trading post along the trail, just east of the ford. Now owned by the Forest Preserve, this area is known today as the Ottawa Trail Woods.

### (C) Chicago Portage\*

This historic site was the major connecting link between the Great Lakes and the Mississippi River. Discovered in 1673 by Father Jacques Marquette and Louis Jolliet, this portage became an important point from which to control fur trade and travel throughout the area. Today the Chicago Portage, now owned by the Forest Preserve District, is a National Historic Site.

### (D) Columbia Woods

This area can be the final destination for a 7.5 mile canoe trip or the half way point for a longer trip. Columbia Woods also has picnic facilities and drinking water available for canoeists. (See inset map)

### (E) Palos Preserve\*

These preserves make-up the Forest Preserve District's largest and most diverse holding. Mostly hilly and forested, this scenic area contains over 32 miles of land trails for the enjoyment of hikers, bicyclists and horseback riders.

### (F) Lemont Landing

This is the disembarking point for the 14.4 mile canoe trail. After passing under the Lemont Road and Stephen Street bridges, paddle along the north bank of the river and disembark where shown on the inset map.

\* Not accessible by canoe