Owned and operated by local pizza maverick Burt Katz, Burt’s Place has been serving its unique “pizza in a pan” by Burt himself since 1989. The building dates back to the late 19th Century, during which time it served as the local blacksmith shop. In the early 20th Century, it was Emilie’s Place, the tavern run by Emilie Bringer before he relocated around the corner and opened the Bringer Inn.

Organized in 1904, the Morton Grove Volunteer Fire Company was a part of the effort to preserve Morton Grove’s heritage. You will receive the newsletter and notice of Historical Society meetings which offer free lectures on local history or historical topics. Formed in 1970, the Morton Grove Historical Society has grown and reorganized to become a community treasure.

About the Morton Grove Historical Society
Morton Grove Historical Society goals include:
- Operating the Morton Grove Historical Museum with the cooperative effort of the Morton Grove Park District.
- Presenting the past and present through museum exhibits, displays, and educational programming.
- Placing bronze plaques at significant historical sites throughout the village.

Become a Member
By joining the Morton Grove Historical Society, you become a part of the effort to preserve Morton Grove’s heritage. You will receive the newsletter and notice of Historical Society meetings which offer free lectures on local history or historical topics. Formed in 1970, the Morton Grove Historical Society has grown and reorganized to become a community treasure.

Museum Hours:
Sundays 2:00–4:00 p.m.
Wednesdays 1:00–3:00 p.m.
or by appointment

Group tours by appointment only.
Closed on holidays. Admission is free. Donations are appreciated.

For more information, call the Museum at (847) 965-0203.

Write the Museum at:
Morton Grove Historical Museum
P.O. Box 542
Morton Grove, Illinois 60053

Find us on Facebook!
The Morton Grove Historical Museum is home to invaluable treasures that document the history and development of our special town. However, tangible evidence of Morton Grove’s story can be found in all corners of the village—in this way, the entire village is truly a museum!

**Morton Grove Historical Museum**

Harrer Park, 6140-6144 Dempster

Opened in 1986 with the refurbishment and relocation of the Haupt Museum, the Morton Grove Historical Museum is the official repository for all materials reflecting Morton Grove’s local history. Jointly operated by the Morton Grove Historical Society and the Morton Grove Park District, it expanded in 2008 to include an adjacent education center and, in 2011, a Native American Sculpture, fashioned from a branch of the Indian Marker Tree (site #3) was erected just behind the museum.

**Former Site of Sonne Airfield**

Meade Ave & Lake St

The Sonne Airfield, located here from 1919-1932, came to being by accident when an airplane hired for a local promotion had to make an emergency landing. The airplane was repaired by local resident Fred Sonne and the airplane’s pilot, Charec Lawson. A business venture evolved, and for the next 15 years, Sonne and Lawson offered local thrill seeking a chance to fly in a plane, which the home was also reputed to be a house of prostitution. Though the home is long gone, rows of silver maple trees planted alomg the grounds and the surrounding park are still a popular outdoor landmark.

**St. Paul Woods and Picnic Grove**

Lincoln and Lehigh Aves

During the late 19th and early 20th Century, the St. Paul Woods were known as one of the most beautiful and well-equipped pleasure parks in the Chicagoland area. People frequently took the train up from the city to enjoy the peaceful splendor of the woods, and spent the afternoon picnicking and engaging in the park’s many amenities, which included a rowboat concession and a carousel.

**Indian Marker Tree**

Becreath Rd & Nashvill-Ave

Native Americans frequently planted and intentionally bent trees to grow at a certain angle, for the purpose of navigation. Here in Wayside Woods, you can still faintly observe the historic landscape of Morton Grove by visiting sites of interest relevant to the history of the village. It is a celebration of Morton Grove’s history, and also of cycling itself which, incidentally, was just beginning to gain popularity in the late 19th Century, when Morton Grove was established.

**Morton Grove Baseball Diamond**

Churchill St, between Nashville Rd and Natoma

Baseball gripped the imaginations and dominated the leisure time of America’s youth for most of the 20th Century. Morton Grove was no exception! Here in Wayside Woods, you can still faintly observe the baseball diamond created by young Morton Groovers in the 1960s.

**Prairie View Park**

6684 Dempster

One of Morton Grove’s many lush parks, Prairie View Park is home to several notable village sites, including the Morton Grove Park District’s Community Center, The Illinois State Nature Preserve, and the Morton Grove Veteran’s Memorial, which honors lost soldiers from the Civil War all the way through the Vietnam War.

**Beth Jacob Cemetery**

Waukegan Rd & Grove SE

Abandoned for decades, the Beth Jacob Cemetery served as a Jewish burial ground from the 1890s to the 1930s. The Jewish Federation of Metropolitan Chicago took title of the cemetery in 2002 after which they restored the grounds.

**Linne Woods/Former Site of Wayside Inn**

6308 Dempster

Today maintained by the Forest Preserve of Cook County, Linne Woods—which offer bike paths, prairie groves and hiking opportunities—was once home to the Wayside Inn. Formerly the home of a prominent Morton Grove doctor, the Wayside Inn became one of Morton Grove’s most infamous roadhouses in the early 20th century. Famous for its chicken dinners, it was also reputed to be a house of prostitution. Though the home is long gone, rows of silver maple trees planted alomg the grounds and the surrounding park are still a popular outdoor landmark.

**St. Paul Woods**

Lincoln and Lehigh Aves

During the late 19th and early 20th Century, the St. Paul Woods were known as one of the most beautiful and well-equipped pleasure parks in the Chicagoland area. People frequently took the train up from the city to enjoy the peaceful splendor of the Woods, and spent the afternoon picnicking and engaging in the park’s many amenities, which included a rowboat concession and a carousel.

**See other side for information about Sites 8–16**

**Former Site of Morton Grove Nickelodeon Theater**

Capullina Ave, Animieren Ferry & Paul Ave

This unassuming garage and warehouse played an important role in the early recreation and leisure history of Morton Grove. It housed the very first village movie theater, which screened silent film classics in the 1910s. Operated by the local Huscher family, it’s known about the day to day life of the theater or its dates of operations, but an oral history in possession of the Morton Grove Historical Museum mentions seeing Charlie Chaplin and Keystone Kops films here for a nickel.

**Simkins Funeral Home—Former Home of August Poehlmann**

6327 Dempster

Originally located at 6291 Lincoln Avenue, Simkins Funeral Home was, in the early 20th Century, theопulent mansion home of the Poehlman family, proprietors of Morton Grove’s world famous greenhouses. The house became the Meyer Funeral Home in 1939, and the entire structure was relocated to its current location on Dempster in 1946 to gain more visibility. The home was gradually taken over by Meyer’s nephew, William Simkins, and officially became the Simkins Funeral Home in 1980.

**Morton Grove American Legion Post 134**

6410 Dempster

Chartered in 1924, the Morton Grove American Legion Post 134 moved to its current home on Dempster in September of 1949. A major social and cultural touchstone of the Morton Grove community, the Legion holds various social functions and fundraisers annually.

This map, designed as a bicycle tour, travels the historic landscape of Morton Grove by visiting sites of interest relevant to the history of the village. It is a celebration of Morton Grove’s history, and also of cycling itself which, incidentally, was just beginning to gain popularity in the late 19th Century, when Morton Grove was established.

The trail itself is just under 5 miles long and stops at 20 sites, beginning and ending at the Morton Grove Historical Museum. Its duration depends on your speed and how much time you spend at each site. As always, exercise caution when riding your bicycle, especially on busier local roads such as Dempster and Waukegan. The map trail follows side roads whenever possible.

Though this map was designed as a bike tour, do not be deterred if you are bikeless! It can just as easily be done via car or foot. And of course, the sites on this map only begin to scratch the surface of what makes Morton Grove so special and historic. We encourage you always to explore further!