



Braidwood, Illinois Community Profile Itinerary



Braidwood, population 6157, was incorporated in 1873 and has its history deeply rooted in coal mining. Illinois' first Mine Workers' Union, Local # 1, calls Braidwood home. Route 66 travels through the city where you can visit the Polka-Dot-Drive-In, a 50s themed diner. The Braidwood area is world famous for its fossils, with some on display in the Museum of Natural History in Chicago, Illinois and the Smithsonian in Washington, D.C.

ATTRACTIONS



[Polk-A-Dot Drive-In](#)

In 1956, Chester "Chet" Fife began taking fast food orders in his school bus painted in rainbow Polk-a-Dots. In 1962, he moved the business into the current building, which today continues to be a popular stop along Route 66. The drive-in has inside booths along with outdoor seating. Fiberglass figures of Elvis Presley, Marilyn Monroe, Betty Boop, James Dean, and the Blues Brothers adorn the outside. Travelers are quickly engaged by the light-hearted, fun atmosphere.

222 North Front Street

(815) 458-3377

[Polk-A-Dot Drive-In Official Website](#)



[Braidwood Zoo](#)

Braidwood's newest attraction is its zoo, consisting of metal folk art created by the late Jack Barker of nearby Essex, IL. The sculptures are whimsical animals and include a pink elephant, a polar bear, giraffe, cow and steer. At Christmas they are decorated in lights and create a fanciful attraction. The welcome center advises visitors of nearby points of interests.

Front Street

(815) 458-2333

[Braidwood Zoo Official Website](#)



[Mazonia-Braidwood State Fish and Wildlife Area](#)

The IDNR Mazonia-Braidwood complex is one of northeast Illinois' most popular destinations for hunting and fishing. Mazonia State Fish and Wildlife Area features 1,017 acres and is located in Grundy County 3 miles southeast of Braidwood on Illinois Route 53 and Huston Road. Braidwood Lake Fish and Wildlife Area - including the partially perched cooling lake for the Braidwood Generating Station - is 2,640 acres and is located in Will County south of Braidwood off Illinois Route 53.

IL Route 53 & Huston Rd.

Braceville IL 60407

815-237-0063

[Mazonia-Braidwood State Fish and Wildlife Area Official Website](#)

MAJOR EVENTS



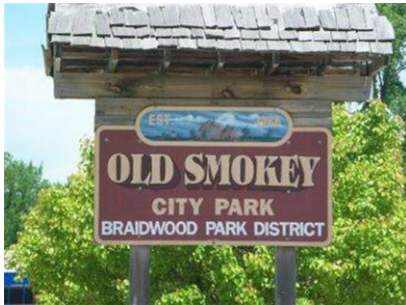
[Red Carpet Corridor Festival](#)

May 5-6, 2018

The Annual Red Carpet Corridor Festival is held the first full weekend in May and traverses 13 Communities from Joliet to Towanda along a 90-mile stretch of Old Route 66 that collectively celebrates the Mother Road. Each town puts together its own events for the weekend, making for a great shopping and sight-seeing experience. Gather the family and take a trip down memory lane. Towns include Joliet, Elwood, Wilmington, Braidwood, Godley, Braceville, Gardner, Dwight, Odell, Pontiac, Chenoa, Lexington and Towanda.

(815) 844-5847

[Red Carpet Corridor Official Website](#)



[Braidwood Summerfest](#)

July 19 - 22, 2018

The annual Braidwood Lions Club Summerfest features: Rides, Games, Food, Free Nightly Entertainment, Bingo and much more for the entire family. This year's theme is "A Mardi Gras Extravaganza".

Old Smokey City Park

245 W. First St

(815)458-6444

[Braidwood Summerfest Official Website](#)

AMENITIES



City of Braidwood

141 W. Main St.

(815) 458-2333

[City of Braidwood Official Website](#)

Accommodations:**Braidwood Motel**

120 N. Washington St.

Braidwood, IL 60408

(815) 458-2321

Sun Motel

Featured in the movie Planes, Trains, and Automobiles, starring Steve Martin and John Candy. In the movie, it's referred to as Edelen's Braidwood Inn.

140 S. Hickory St.

Braidwood, IL 60408

(815) 458-2812

[Braidwood Recreation & Dining](#)

[CLICK HERE Braidwood Google Map](#)

**Illinois Route 66 Scenic Byway**

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Springfield, IL 62701

(217) 525-9308

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