



Godley, Illinois Community Profile Itinerary



It's hard to believe a small village like Godley could have ever been considered a "booming" town. But it was. In the glory days of coal mining Godley, which was incorporated in 1888, commercial business was lively. Godley is a great stop on your Route 66 trek where you can learn more about how many towns along Route 66

ATTRACTIONS



[Illinois Route 66 Mining Museum](#)

Many towns along Route 66 in Illinois exist only because of coal mining. This is a community facility dedicated to the stories of some of those miners, and their hardships. Also learn about the extraordinary fossil discoveries and the various forms of mining that took place locally and all along Route 66 in Illinois.
150 South Kankakee Street

(815) 458-2222

[Illinois Route 66 Mining Museum Official Website](#)



[Godley, Illinois Route 66 Interpretive Statue](#)

Mining Black Diamonds

Braidwood's Coal Boom

In 1864, farmer Thomas Byron dug a well and struck "black diamonds" - Coal. The next year, Scottish miner James Braidwood sank the first shaft. Towns like Braidwood, Coal City, Carbon Hill, Diamond, and Godley sprang up. These villages were home to immigrants who toiled in the perpetual darkness of the miner. In Godley, the K Mine, M Mine, Shotz, Torino, and Rixson mines provided employment for many.

Forming a Union

The United Mine Workers Union formed in 1890 to demand better pay and working conditions. Miners and coal companies often clashed in strikes and bloody conflicts.

Life-Threatening for Men and Boys

Coal miners and their young sons working 100 feet underground faced constant dangers. At Diamond Mine, just four miles from here, snow melt in February 1883 flooded the mine and 74 men and boys died within minutes. This photograph (see panel) of the mine was taken just after the disaster.

A Changing Industry

Most of Braidwood mines closed by 1900, while other local mines operated through World War I. Strip mining began in 1928 and ended by 1974. The area's coal was used to stoke locomotives and furnaces in businesses and homes.

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](#)

AMENITIES



Village of Godley

(815) 458-2222

[Village of Godley Official Website](#)

[CLICK HERE Godley Google Map](#)



Illinois Route 66 Scenic Byway

700 East Adams

Springfield, IL 62701

(217) 525-9308

info@illinoisroute66.org

www.illinoisroute66.org