South Shore Nature Sanctuary was created in 2002. The path begins with a small dune habitat 1 and enters a meadow filled with asters and sunflowers 2. This area is called the “butterfly meadow” because of the large numbers and diversity of species it attracts.

A boardwalk loops around in a circle through the natural area, over prairie and wetland 3. On the west side by the water is a sand dune inhabited by grasses that can handle the spartan conditions of living on shifting sands. Benches and stone council rings offer spectacular views of the habitat and city skyline.

On the south end are small pockets of woodland 4. The diversity of habitats and the sanctuary’s location on the lakefront make this an important resting spot for migrating birds.

Near the parking lot are purple martin bird houses sitting atop high poles.