



2024

TrailLink Unlimited



Guides



**Benld-
Gillespie Bike
Trail**
Illinois



Benld-Gillespie Bike Trail

Illinois

The Benld-Gillespie Bike Trail is part of two developing Illinois initiatives: the Route 66 Trail from Chicago to St. Louis, loosely



Benld and Gillespie were developed as coal mining communities, although the trail's route through open fields might remind you more of the rich farming heritage of other parts of Illinois. Eventually, plans call for the trail to be extended south to Staunton, where it will link with the northern end of the [Madison County Transit Quercus Grove Trail](#), and on west across Madison County toward St. Louis.

The Benld-Gillespie Bike Trail is part of two developing Illinois initiatives: the Route 66 Trail from Chicago to St. Louis, loosely following the historic highway; and the Illinois Traction System (ITS) Trail from Springfield to St. Louis, following the large trolley network that once existed in central Illinois.

In Macoupin County, the original alignment of Route 66 was along present-day State Route 4, which connects Benld and Gillespie. Even before that, the two were connected by the Illinois Traction System, an electric-powered interurban railway. The Benld-Gillespie Bike Trail was built where the tracks of that system once ran, as was the [Interurban Trail](#) farther north between Springfield and Chatham.



Benld-Gillespie Bike Trail

Illinois

States: Illinois

Counties: Macoupin

Length: 1.4miles

Trail end points: Park Ave. just east of Trolley St. (Benld) to Clark St. just east of S. Macoupin St. (Gillespie)

Trail surfaces: Asphalt

Trail category: Rail-Trail

Trail activities: Bike,Inline

Skating, Wheelchair Accessible, Walking

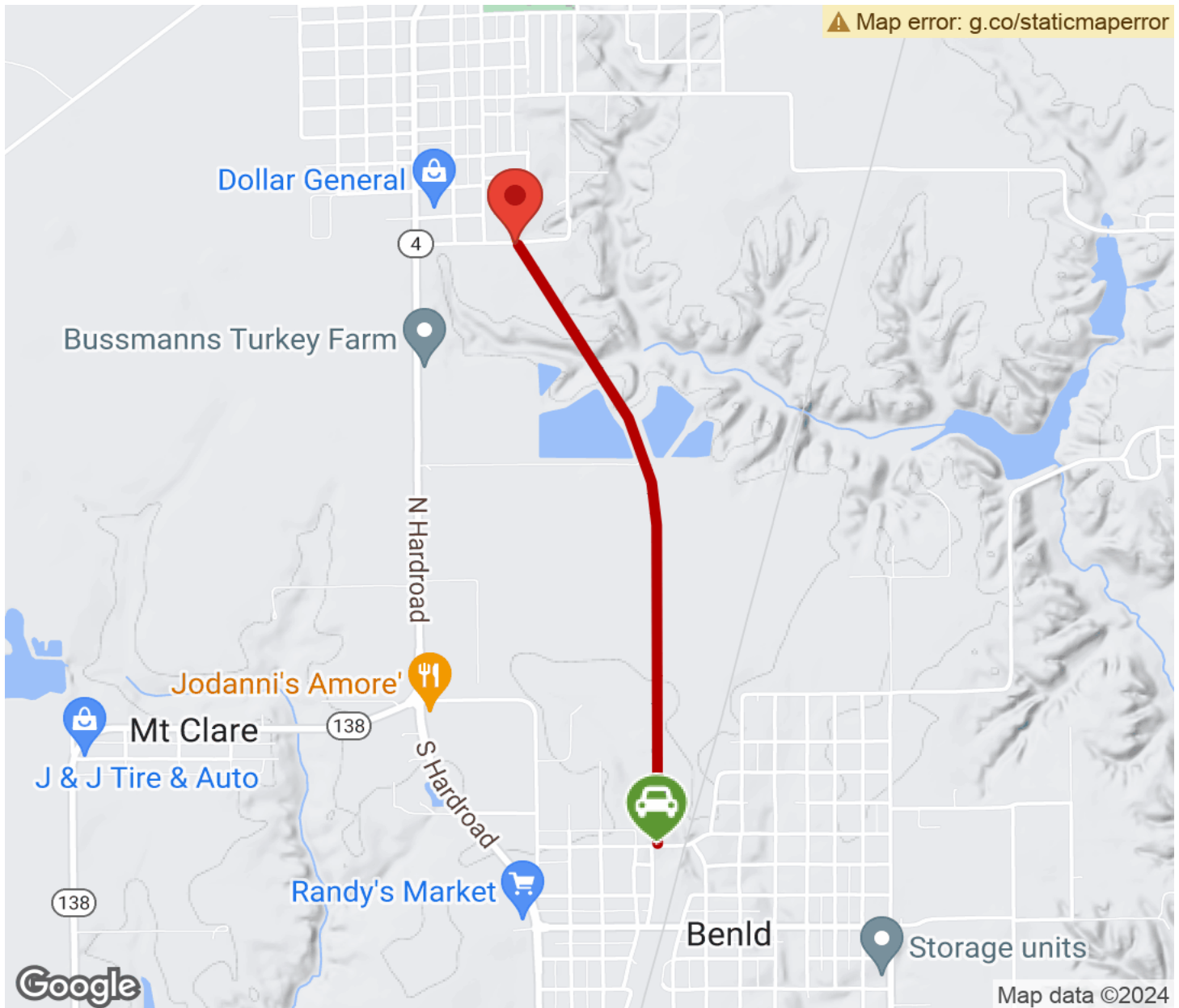
Parking & Trail Access

To access the Benld-Gillespie Bike Trail in Benld, take Exit 44 off I-55 and turn west onto State Route 138. Proceed 3.7 miles onto E. Central Avenue in downtown Benld. Turn right onto Trolley Street and continue 3 blocks to Park Avenue. Turn right onto Park Avenue; immediately to the left is parking and access to the southern end of the trail.



Benld-Gillespie Bike Trail

Illinois



Trailhead



Restroom



Parking



Water Fountain



Tunnel



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by Rails-to-Trails Conservancy

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