



2024

TrailLink Unlimited



Guides



Pumpkinvine Nature Trail

Indiana



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The Pumpkinvine Nature Trail covers over 18 miles between the towns of Goshen, Middlebury, and Shipshewana. The railroad line between Goshen and Middlebury served as a popular passenger and mail service route at the turn of the 20th century. Because of its numerous curves and turns, the railroad received its “pumpkin vine” nickname. All service on the line ended in 1980, and the Friends of the Pumpkinvine Nature Trail acquired the corridor in 1993.

This premier rail-trail offers an incredible scenic landscape and a step back in time with sights from Indiana’s large Amish communities in Goshen, Middlebury, and Shipshewana. Glimpses of Amish people tending fields with horse-drawn plows, hand-cutting fields of flowers, biking down the trail in old-fashioned

clothing, and riding in buggies offer a unique experience. The trail itself is well maintained and includes mile markers. The route is paved, with the exception of a short section of crushed limestone on the leg between Goshen and Middlebury.

The path begins in downtown Goshen, close to the existing active rail line, and seamlessly connects at North Fifth Street to [Wilden Avenue Trail](#), which runs west 3.2 miles and connects to the [MapleHeart Trail](#), which goes all the way into Elkhart.

As you head east out of Goshen, interpretive signage explains the railroad history of the area through which you’re traveling. A restored railroad viaduct carries you across a small creek and into a quaint neighborhood. A second bridge, equally well preserved, is a short distance ahead. After the trail crosses IN 4 at a crosswalk, it immediately rolls into a wooded area on its way to Abshire Park, which makes for a nice rest area. When the path crosses IN 4 again, the surface changes to hard-packed crushed limestone for 1.75 miles to County Road 28.

In the fall of 2023, the final section between County Roads 20 and 35 was finished, which marked the completion of the Pumpkinvine Nature Trail. The remaining miles toward Middlebury are beautiful, enveloped in a thick forest of maple and oak trees. More than 30 species of wildflowers bloom along the trail in spring.

In Middlebury, the route runs north through a tunnel under US 20 and runs behind businesses along Main Street as it approaches spectacular Krider World’s Fair Garden, a replica of a world’s fair exhibit that ran 1933–1934. This lovely trailhead includes a pavilion and picnic tables, bike rack, and signage. Leaving the gardens, you pass over a 160-foot wooden trestle across the Little Elkhart River before reaching Main Street, where you cross the road and follow the sidewalk north (left) for a short while to reconnect with the trail on your right.



Pumpkinvine Nature Trail

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States: Indiana

Counties: Elkhart, Lagrange

Length: 18.6 miles

Trail end points: N Fifth St just south of
Crescent St (Goshen) to Depot St.
(Shipshewana)

Trail surfaces: Asphalt, Crushed Stone

Trail category: Rail-Trail

Trail activities: Bike, Inline

Skating, Wheelchair Accessible, Walking, Cross
Country Skiing

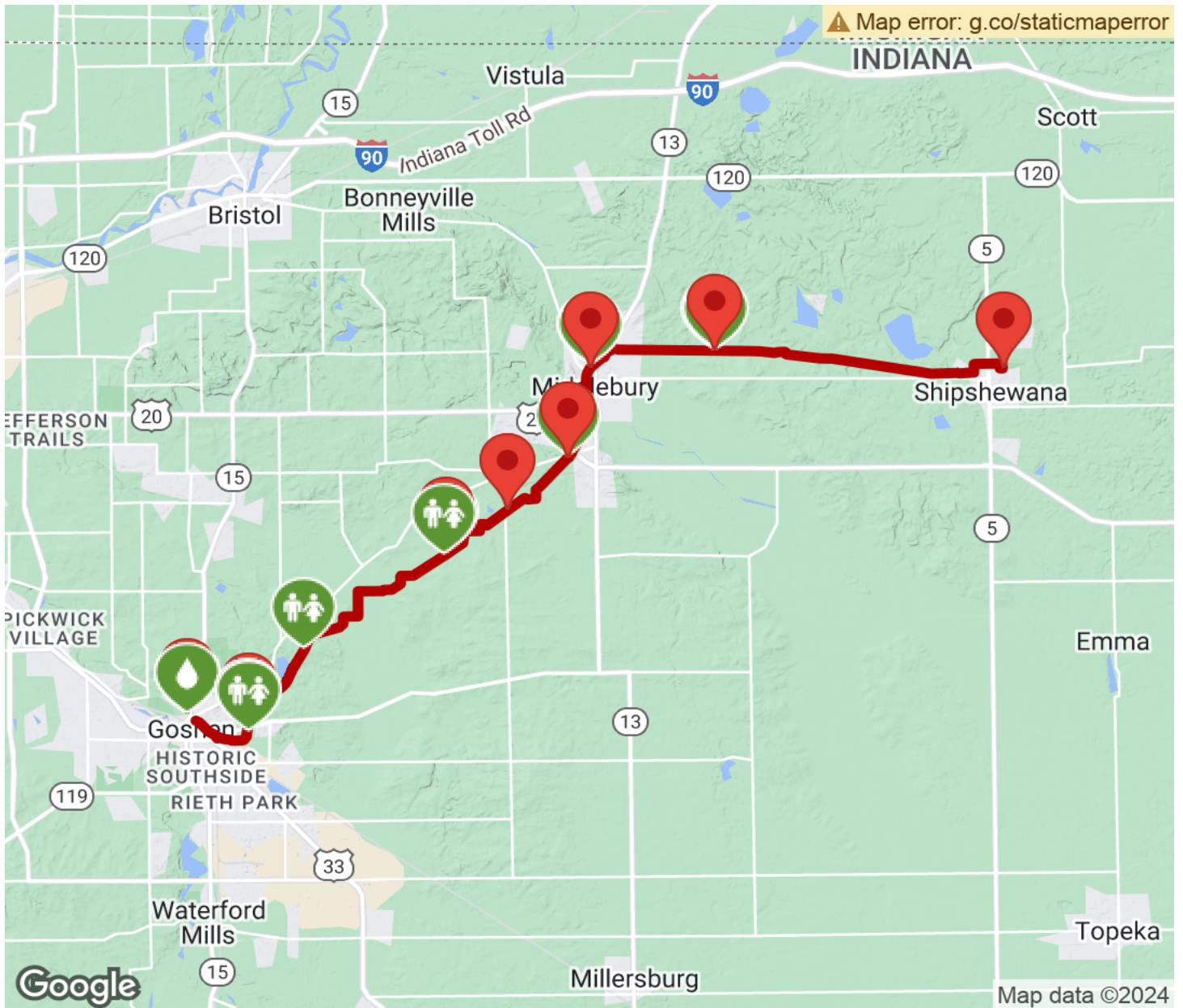
Parking & Trail Access

In Goshen, there is parking at Abshire Park (1302 E Lincoln Ave) and Mill Street Park (212 Prospect Ave). In Middlebury, there is parking at Krider "World's Fair" Garden (302 Bristol Ave). In Shipshewana, there is parking at the Eastern terminus of the trail along Depot Rd.



Pumpkinvine Nature Trail

Indiana



Trailhead



Restroom



Parking



Water Fountain



Tunnel



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by Rails-to-Trails Conservancy

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