



2024

TrailLink Unlimited 

Guides



# Spokane River Centennial State Park Trail

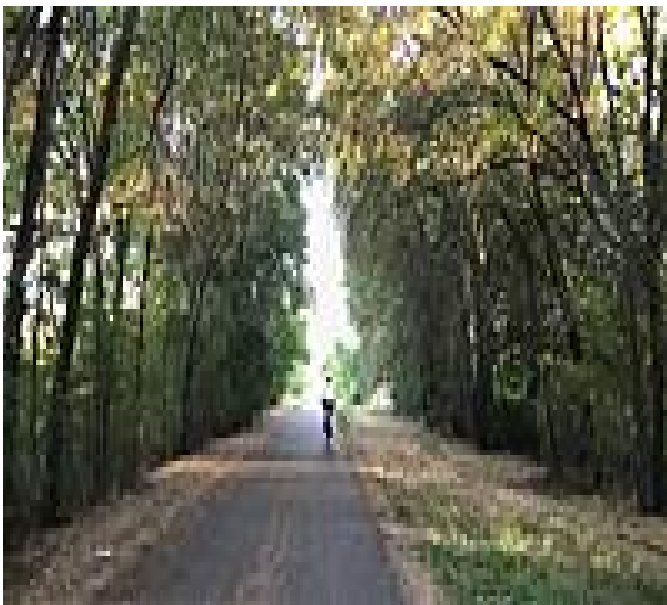
*Washington*



# Spokane River Centennial State Park Trail

Washington

*The Spokane River Centennial State Park Trail presents views of rapids and waterfalls on its 37.9-mile snaky run from the Idaho*



The Spokane River Centennial State Park Trail presents views of rapids and waterfalls on its 37.9-mile snaky run from the Idaho border through downtown Spokane to the rocky canyons west of town.

As its name implies, workers completed much of the on- and off-road paved trail between 1989 and 1991 during Washington State's 100-year celebration. Spokane served as a railroad crossroads, and the inactive rights-of-way and trestles of the old Spokane & Inland Empire Railroad Company and Great Northern Railway contributed to the trail corridor. Efforts continue to this day to replace road shoulder sections, and 36.2 of the 39.7 miles are classified as paved, off-road.

The 100-acre Riverfront Park in Spokane, designed for the

Expo '74 world's fair, is the trail's midpoint centerpiece. The unique amusement park's century-old, hand-painted carousel blends with the urban area's natural beauty and history—reflected in bridges, dams, turn-of-the-19th-century buildings, and the old rail depot clock tower of 1902.

The downtown park is a great point to launch explorations to the east and west. The western section is more wild and rugged as it passes through Nine Mile Falls and Riverside State Park until the trail's end at Nine Mile Recreation Area. The eastern segment passes Gonzaga University and continues through a more populated region on much easier terrain. It ends at the Idaho border, where it meets the 24-mile [North Idaho Centennial Trail](#). Drinking water, supplies, and services are limited throughout. Though the climate is hot and dry in the summer, snow and freezing temperatures are common in the wintertime.

Riverfront Park to Nine Mile Recreation Area (Riverside State Park): 13.8 Miles Westbound

This hilly, winding route parallels a remote section of the Spokane River. Leaving Riverfront Park, cross the N. Post Street Bridge, turn left onto W. Bridge Avenue, and look for the trail that heads left and passes beneath N. Monroe Street and beside an overlook for Lower Falls. If you pause here long enough, you'll undoubtedly see yellow-bellied marmots scurrying among the rocks—an unusual sight in an urban area.

Stay on the new section of trail past a scenic overlook to the shoulder of Summit Boulevard, and follow Summit Boulevard to NW Point Road on the left. Continue left onto N. Pettet Drive, and then pick up the trail again to cross the river on the N. T. J. Meenach Drive Bridge. Equestrians are permitted to use the 10-mile section of trail that runs through Riverside State Park (between Sontag Community Park and the bridge).

The trail wanders through hilly terrain, young ponderosa



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**States:** Washington

**Counties:** Spokane

Length: 39.7miles

**Trail end points:** Nine Mile Recreation Area (Riverside State Park) to Gateway Regional Park (Otis Orchards)

**Trail surfaces:** Asphalt

**Trail category:** Rail-Trail

**Trail activities:** Bike,Inline

Skating,Fishing,Wheelchair

Accessible,Horseback Riding,Walking,Cross

## Parking & Trail Access

For Riverfront Park access from I-90 W, take Exit 281, and follow S. Division Street north for 0.7 mile. Turn left onto W. Spokane Falls Boulevard. From I-90 E, take Exit 280, and follow W. Fourth Avenue for 0.8 mile; then turn left onto S. Washington Street and go 0.5 mile. Look for parking in lots on the left between N. Browne and Howard Streets.

For Nine Mile Recreation Area access from I-90, take Exit 280 toward S. Walnut Street and head north for 0.5 mile. After Walnut becomes Maple Street, continue another 1.4 miles, and turn left onto W. Northwest Boulevard. After 0.7 mile, turn right onto N. Cochran Street, which becomes N. Driscoll Boulevard. At 2.6 miles, continue straight onto W. Nine Mile Road at the intersection of W. Frances Avenue. Go 6.1 miles, and turn left at W. Charles Street. Continue across the river on W. Charles Street for 1.3 miles until you reach a dirt-track road to your right. Take a right and follow this road for 0.2 of a mile until you reach the parking lot of Nine Mile Recreation Area.

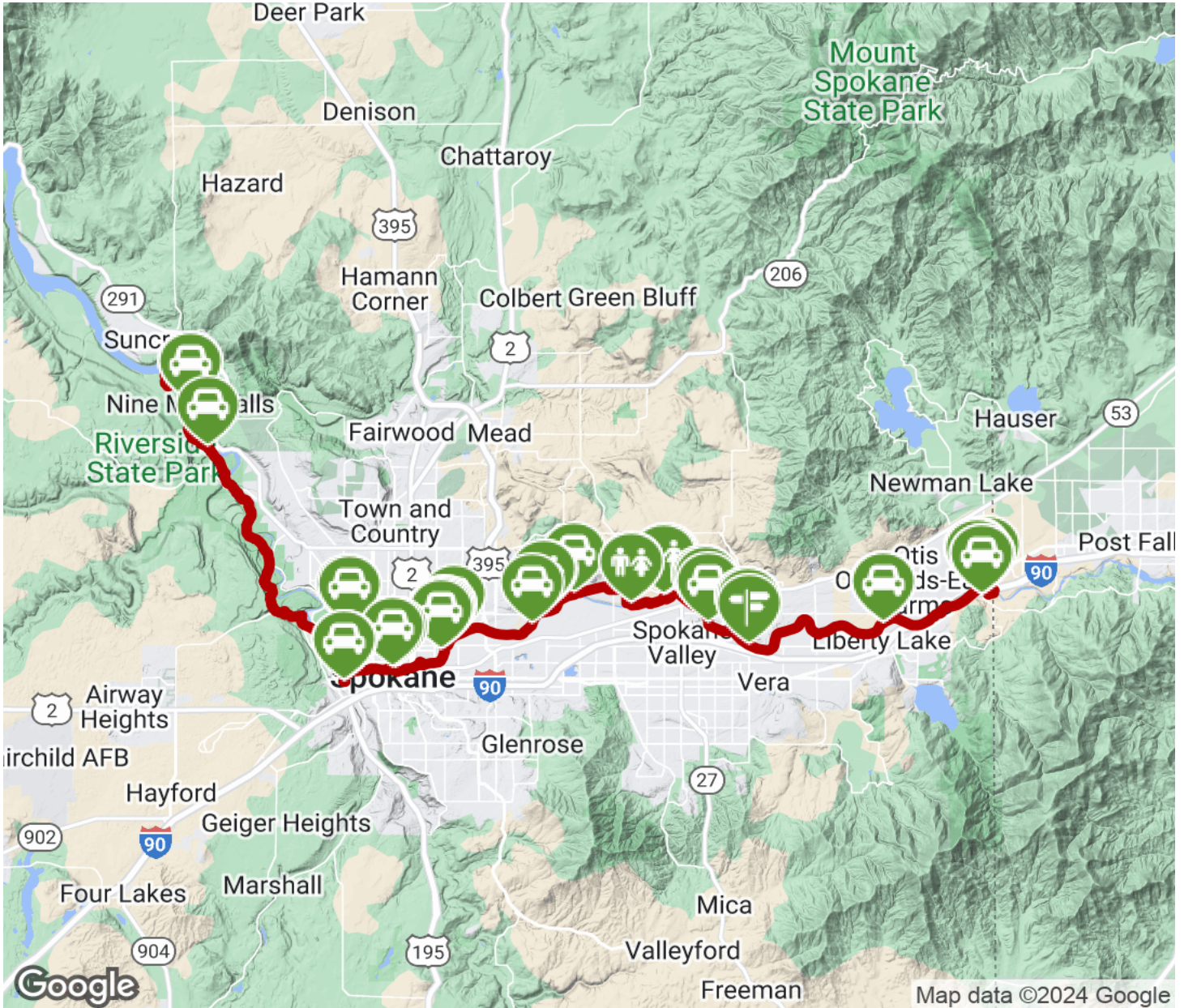
To reach Gateway Regional Park at the Idaho border from I-90, take Exit 299 toward the state line, and turn left onto N. Spokane Bridge Road. The park is directly ahead.

Discover Passes are required at Washington State Parks. Equestrians may park at the former stables in Riverside State Park.



# Spokane River Centennial State Park Trail

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Trailhead



Restroom



Parking



Water Fountain



Tunnel



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