



2024

TrailLink Unlimited 

Guides



**Dakota Rail
Regional Trail**
Minnesota



Dakota Rail Regional Trail

Minnesota

Sections of the Dakota Rail Regional Trail, which extends westward from the Minneapolis suburbs situated along Lake Minnetonka,



Sections of the Dakota Rail Regional Trail, which extends westward from the Minneapolis suburbs situated along Lake Minnetonka, have been opening since June 2009. The trail occupies the former Dakota Rail corridor, which ran for a total length of 44 miles to Hutchinson, Minnesota, before falling out of use in 2001. That same year, the Hennepin County Regional Railroad Authority, Carver County, and McLeod County jointly purchased the corridor with the goal of establishing a rail-trail. The 13-mile Hennepin County section of the trail begins at the lakefront in downtown Wayzata, an idyllic suburb of Minneapolis.

Lake views are never far away for much of the trail's journey through Hennepin County. In fact, many of these communities were developed in the late 19th century as

popular resort towns because of their stunning views of the clear water and convenient location along the expanding railroad lines. These towns, which are now largely residential, include Orono, Minnetonka Beach, Spring Park, and Mound. After passing through the town of St. Bonifacius, the trail enters Carver County.

The section of trail from the border with Hennepin County in the east to the small city of Mayer in the west was constructed in 2010. Like the first portion of the trail, striking lake views, now of vast Lake Waconia, make up much of the scenery. After the lake, the trail passes through an equally beautiful mix of open fields and forest.

The newest section of the Dakota Rail Regional Trail opened in early 2013. Running from Mayer to the Carver–McLeod county line, the trail parallels a lightly used rural road. Trail users pass through the tiny town of New Germany before reaching the current western endpoint. Currently, all open sections of the trail are paved.

Development plans extend the paved trail all the way to Hutchinson, the largest city in McLeod County.



TrailLink
by Rails-to-Trails Conservancy

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Dakota Rail Regional Trail

Minnesota

States: Minnesota

Counties: Carver, Hennepin, McLeod

Length: 26.6 miles

Trail end points: Grove Lane E, just east of Ferndale Rd S (Wayzata) to Pine St & Central Ave (Lester Prairie)

Trail surfaces: Asphalt

Trail category: Rail-Trail

Trail activities: Bike, Inline

Skating, Fishing, Wheelchair

Accessible, Walking, Cross Country Skiing

Parking & Trail Access

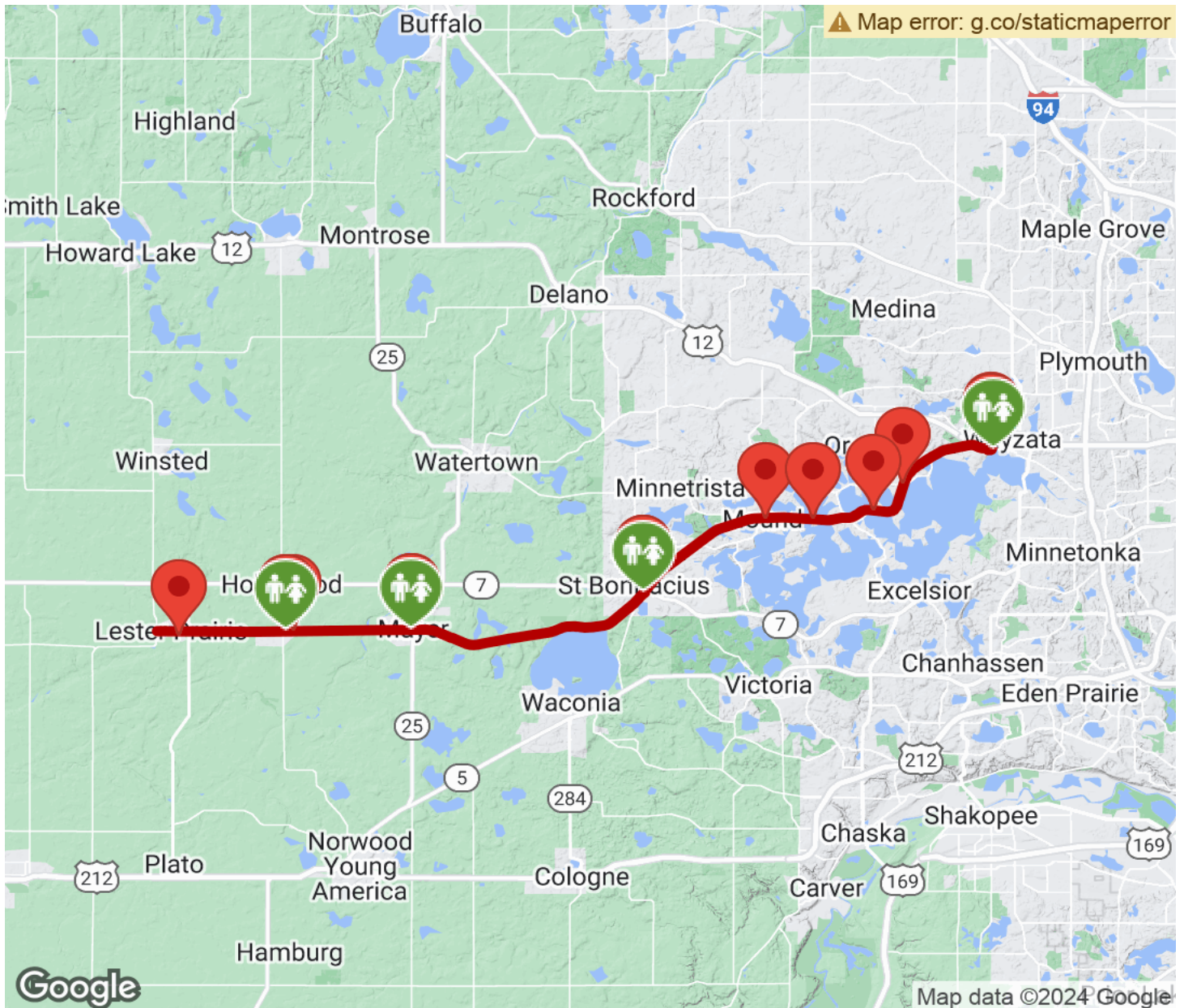
Parking is available at a number of locations along the trail. In Wayzata, designated trail parking spaces is available at Shaver Park (175 Grove Lane). In Mound, park at the downtown transit center adjoining the trail at the intersection of Lynwood Blvd. and Commerce Blvd. In St. Bonifacius, parking can be found at Don Logelin Memorial Lions Park, located on Bell St. just off MN 7. Parking is also available in downtown New Germany on Broadway St.

View the [TrailLink map](#) for all options and detailed directions.



Dakota Rail Regional Trail

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Trailhead



Restroom



Parking



Water Fountain



Tunnel



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