



2024

TrailLink Unlimited



Guides



**Dawkins Line  
Rail Trail**  
*Kentucky*



## Dawkins Line Rail Trail

Kentucky

*The Dawkins Line Rail Trail is the longest rail-trail in Kentucky, spanning 36 miles from Hagerhill to Evanston in the eastern part*



along the trail, the Tip Top Tunnel, is not yet open and is impassable. Historical sites also line the trail, including the one-room house where a small-town doctor used to serve mountain patients, century-old cemeteries, homesteads that belonged to turn-of-the-century inhabitants, and the remains of a former vault from an old bank building.

The trail's first phase from Hagerhill to Royalton in rural Johnson and Magoffin Counties opened in June 2013. Its second phase extended the route farther west into Breathitt County and included amenities for equestrians such as water fountains for both people and horses, hitching posts, mounting blocks, and corrals near Hagerhill and Royalton.

The Dawkins Line Rail Trail is the longest rail-trail in Kentucky, spanning 36 miles from Hagerhill to Evanston in the eastern part of the state. The rail-trail accommodates horseback riders, bicyclists, walkers, and runners, and serves as an adventure tourism attraction. Its primary surface is asphalt.

Most recently a coal-hauling line owned by the R.J. Corman Company, the railroad corridor was originally constructed in the early 1900s by the Dawkins Lumber Company—hence the trail's name.

The rail-trail crosses eastern Kentucky's striking Appalachian region, passes relics from the coal industry, traverses 24 scenic trestles, and heads through Gun Creek Tunnel, which spans nearly 700 feet. The other tunnel



# Dawkins Line Rail Trail

Kentucky

**States:** Kentucky

**Counties:** Breathitt, Johnson, Magoffin

Length: 36 miles

**Trail end points:** SR 1428 and Dixie Drive (Hagerhill) to Mine Shaft Road (Evanston)

**Trail surfaces:** Asphalt

**Trail category:** Rail-Trail

**Trail activities:** Horseback Riding, Mountain Biking, Walking

## Parking & Trail Access

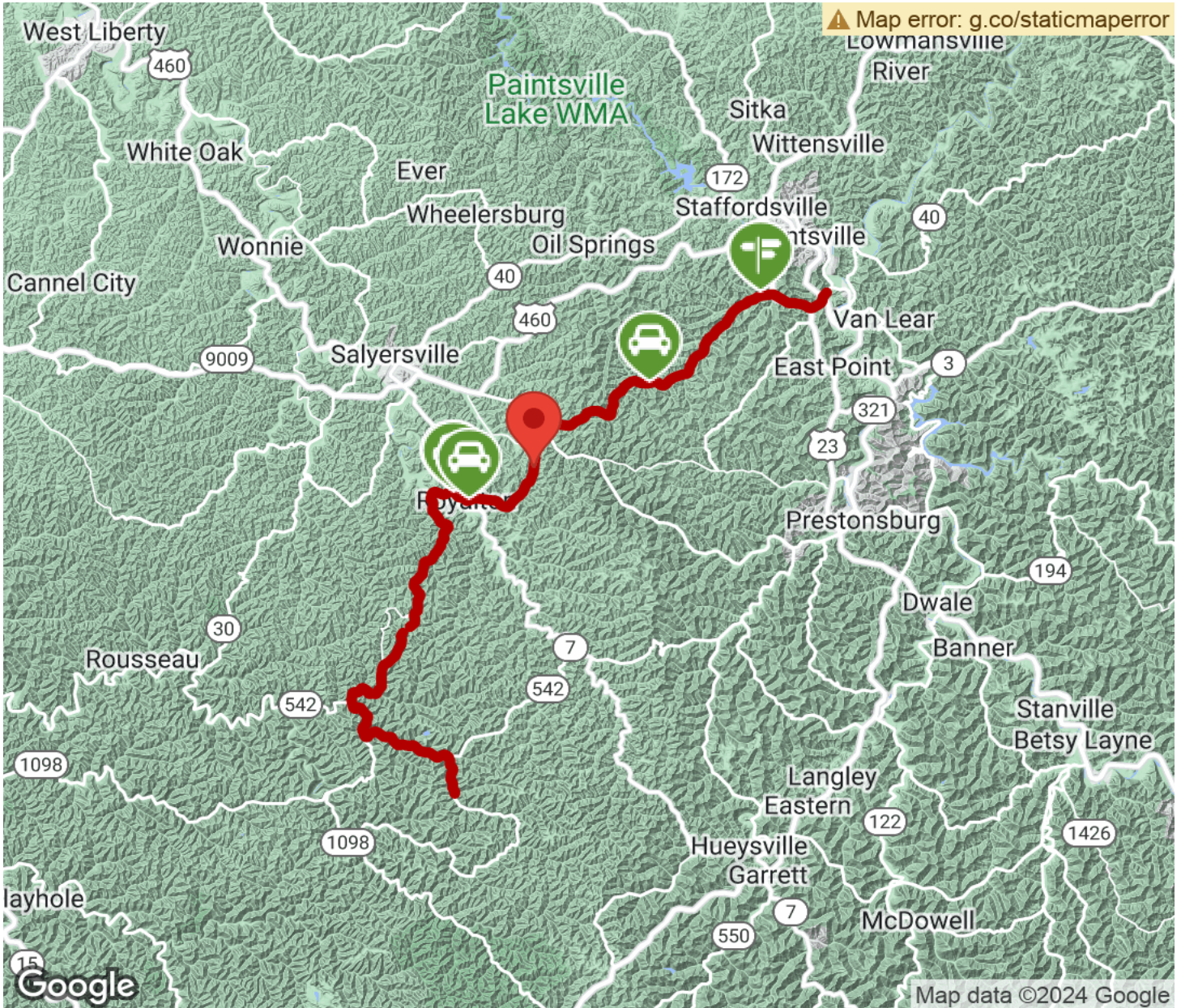
From north to south, parking is available at:

- Jenny's Creek Trailhead (KY Route 825 between Jenny's Creek Road and Johnson's Branch, Hagerhill; 37.7850, -82.8362); restrooms are also available at this location.
- Swamp Branch Trailhead (8055 KY Route 825, Paintsville; 37.7378, -82.9068); Griffith Family Farms at this location offers a market where food can be purchased.
- Jane Beshear Trailhead (Royalton Road/KY Route 7, 390 feet east of S. River Road, Royalton; 37.6805, -83.0313)



# Dawkins Line Rail Trail

Kentucky



Trailhead



Restroom



Parking



Water Fountain



Tunnel



**TrailLink**  
by Rails-to-Trails Conservancy

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