



2024

TrailLink Unlimited



Guides



## Constitution Trail & Historic Route 66 Trail

*Illinois*



# Constitution Trail & Historic Route 66 Trail

Illinois

*Overview The sprawling Constitution Trail and Historic Rte. 66 Trail covers over 53 miles throughout the Bloomington-Normal*



## Overview

The sprawling Constitution Trail and Historic Rte. 66 Trail covers over 53 miles throughout the Bloomington-Normal area. The trail was officially named and dedicated in 1987 in celebration of the 200th anniversary of the United States Constitution. The Historic Rte. 66 Trail travels between Normal and Chenoa and is part of the greater trail system that is the Constitution Trail

## About the Route

The Constitution Trail is a sprawling system, with several different branches that travel through the Bloomington-Normal Area and beyond. Additional park spurs take trail users to various parks in the region.

The Illinois Central Branch, the main spine of the trail has a southern endpoint at Croxton Avenue and Indianapolis Street and travels northward through an industrial area. The pathway passes by the Beer Nuts production plant, where trail users can visit the company store of the famous Bloomington-produced snack. Shortly after passing through the Washington Street tunnel, trail users can find the Atwood Wayside trailhead with a covered picnic area, water fountain, and parking area.

The tree-lined trail continues through a mix of residential and forested areas. Along the way, be sure to read the historical markers with stories of the rail corridor's past. After crossing the bridges over Emerson Street and Sugar Creek, the trail passes under the historic Camelback Bridge: its distinctive shape allowed the tall stacks of wood-burning locomotives to pass under it. The wooden bridge is the oldest surviving structure associated with the rail corridor.

A couple of blocks farther, the trail reaches the Allers Shelter Wayside and Connie Link Amphitheater Park, where the Bloomer Line Branch of the trail heads east. This 4-mile section of trail travels through peaceful neighborhoods and shopping areas. Along the way, the trail passes by several parks with pleasant side paths to take in the scenery. Three miles in, the trail arrives at Tipton Park, which features an expansive path that takes trail users through ponds and a lush prairie habitat. About a mile farther, the Bloomer Line Branch comes to its eastern endpoint at the edge of town on Towanda Barnes Road.

Continuing north on the Illinois Central Branch from the Allers Shelter Wayside/Connie Link Park, the trail passes through the trendy Uptown Normal district near Illinois State University (ISU). This neighborhood features several local shops and restaurants just off the path. The Collegiate Branch of the trail leaves off from here, heads through the ISU campus, and connects to Heartland Community College.



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**States:** Illinois

**Counties:** McLean

Length: 50.5miles

**Trail end points:** Old Rte. 66 near 510 W Cemetery Ave (Chenoa) to Funk's Grove Gazebo (Shirley)

**Trail surfaces:** Asphalt, Concrete

**Trail category:** Rail-Trail

**Trail activities:** Bike, Inline

Skating, Fishing, Wheelchair

Accessible, Walking, Cross Country Skiing

## Parking & Trail Access

The Constitution Trail and Historic Rte. 66 Trail runs between Old Rte. 66 near 510 W Cemetery Ave (Chenoa) and Funk's Grove Gazebo (Shirley).

Parking is available at:

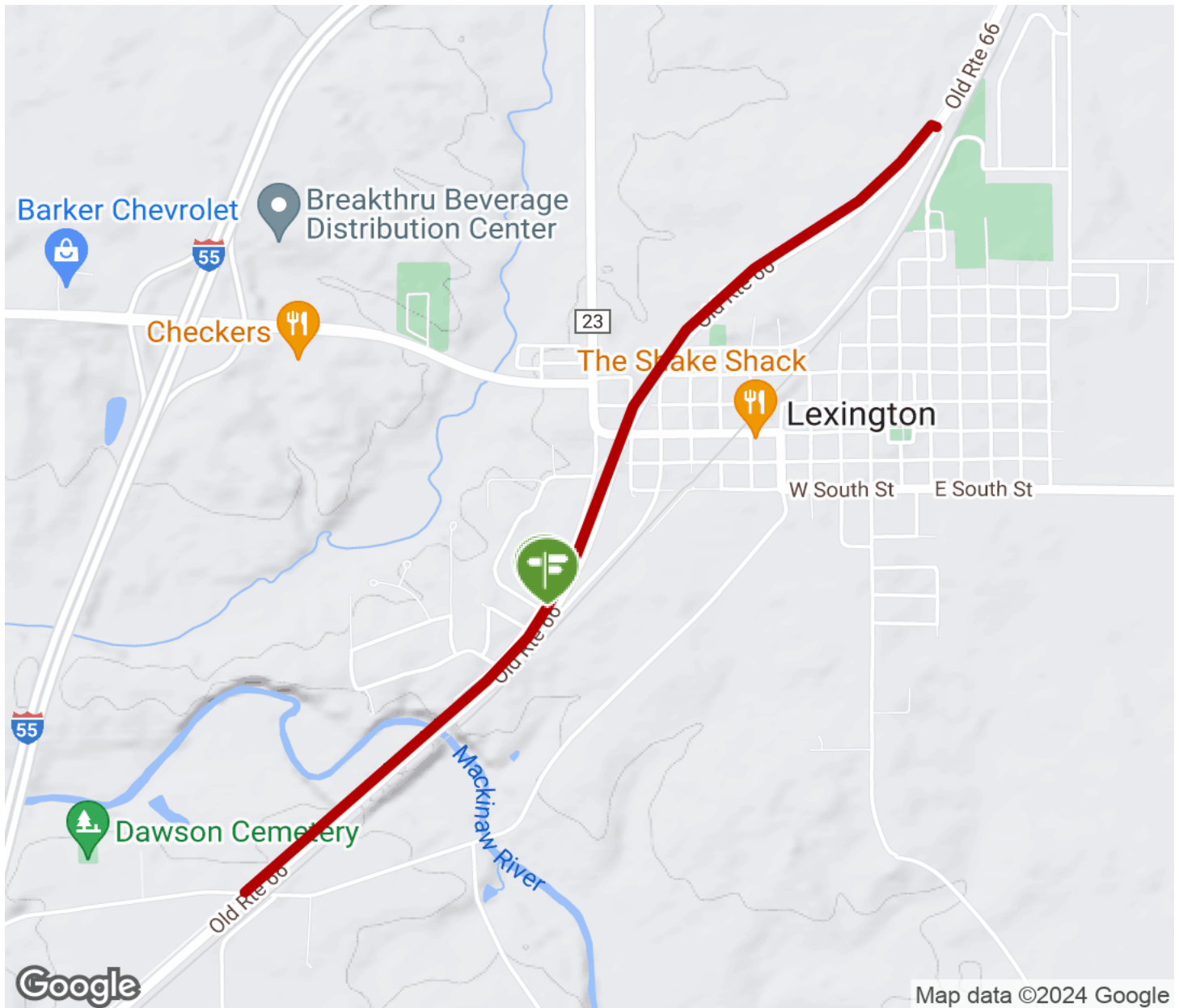
- Connie Link Amphitheater, 621 S Linden St (Normal)
- 2405 General Electric Rd (Normal)
- BP Station, 204 N Jefferson St (Bloomington).

There are numerous parking options on the route, see TrailLink Map for all parking options and detailed directions.



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Trailhead



Restroom



Parking



Water Fountain



Tunnel



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by Rails-to-Trails Conservancy

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