



2026

TrailLink Unlimited 

Guides



Mark C. Ackelson Trail

Iowa



Mark C. Ackelson Trail

Iowa

It may be hard to believe now when you see children laughing on the playground and neighbors out on a morning jog but Easter Lake



bridge was relocated to its present location for preservation). Walking, biking and skating are all popular trail activities here. The trail is named for the environmentalist Mark Ackelson, who served as president of the Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation for 18 years, working to preserve and promote trails and open space across the state.

It may be hard to believe now when you see children laughing on the playground and neighbors out on a morning jog but Easter Lake and the park that surrounds it sit on the site of a coal mine that operated well into the 1950s. Thanks to the foresight of some local residents, the site was restored into an additional recreation space for the citizens of Des Moines to enjoy.

The Mark C. Ackelson Trail circles Easter Lake, while providing access from surrounding neighborhoods, and a connection to Ewing Park. The trail is 12-foot wide concrete and features a covered bridge on the southeast shore of the lake – Owens Bridge has the distinction of being the only covered bridge in Polk County and was built in 1878 on a road over the old North River channel (the channel and the road were later moved and the



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States: Iowa

Counties: Polk

Length: 6miles

Trail end points: Indianola Ave. to East Payton Ave.

Trail surfaces: Concrete

Trail category: Greenway/Non-RT

Trail activities: Bike, Fishing, Inline Skating, Walking, Wheelchair Accessible

Parking & Trail Access

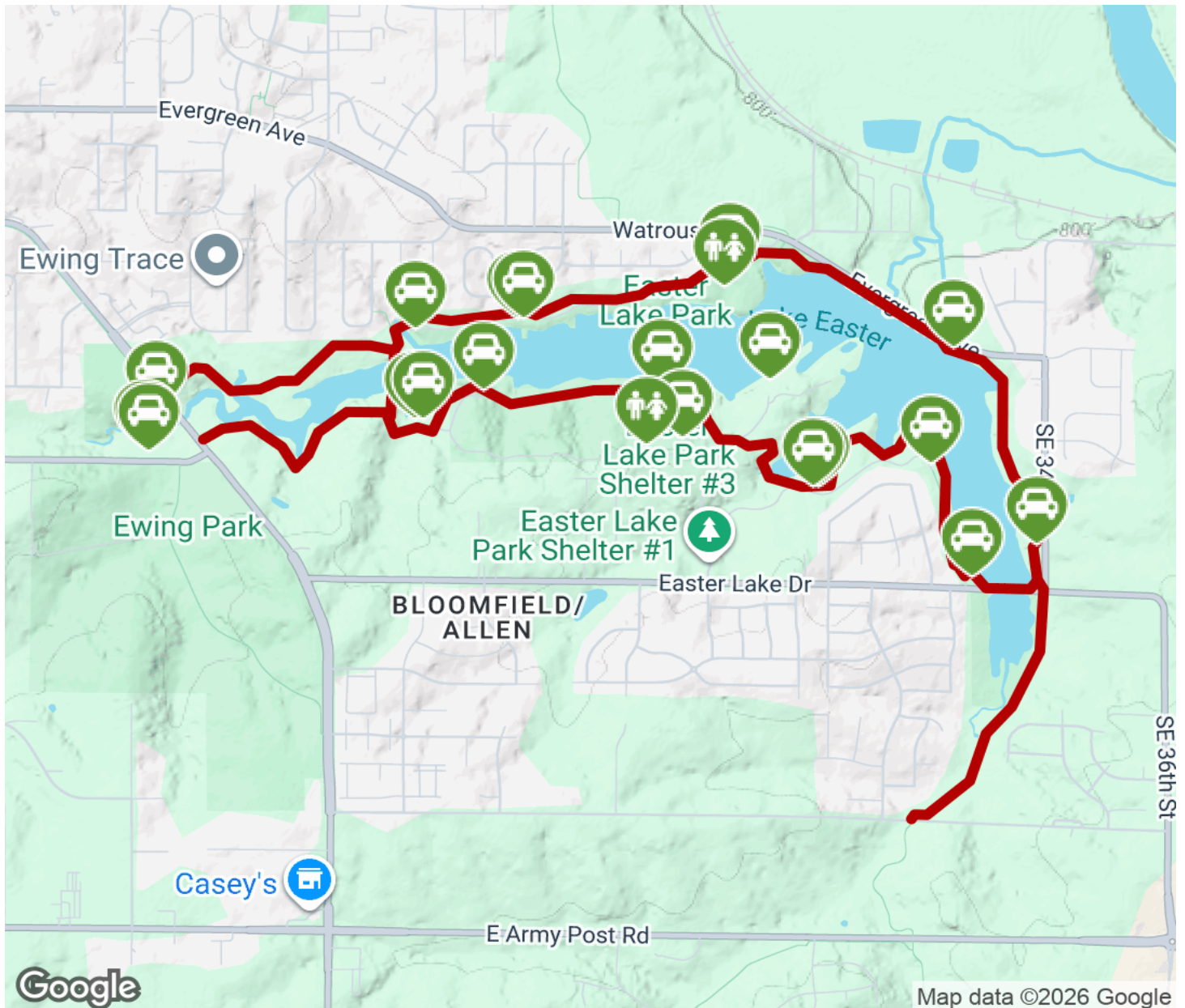
Park at Easter Lake Park, located at 2830 Easter Lake Drive, Des Moines.

If you live in the vicinity you can make a sidewalk connection to the trail



Mark C. Ackelson Trail

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Trailhead



Restroom



Parking



Water Fountain



Tunnel



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