



2026

TrailLink Unlimited 

Guides



Watkins Lake County Preserve and State Park

Michigan



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The Watkins Lake County Preserve and State Park has a 5.8-mile linear rail-trail that offers scenic views of the lake and landscape



Connections

The plans for the trail include a connection with the [Manchester Bike Trail](#).

The Watkins Lake County Preserve and State Park has a 5.8-mile linear rail-trail that offers scenic views of the lake and landscape as it runs through meadows, woods and wetlands. The trail surface is crushed stone, gravel, dirt and grass.

About the Route

From its western end at the official entrance to the Watkins Lake County Preserve and State Park, the trail heads northeast through meadows, woods and wetlands. The eastern end of the trail is on W Austin Rd in Manchester.

For about 5 miles of the route, the trail follows a former railroad corridor.



Watkins Lake County Preserve and State Park

Michigan

States: Michigan

Counties: Washtenaw

Length: 5.8miles

Trail end points: 14801 Arnold Rd (Brooklyn, MI) to W Austin Rd (Manchester, MI)

Trail surfaces: Crushed Stone, Dirt, Grass, Gravel

Trail category: Rail-Trail

Trail activities: Bike, Mountain Biking, Walking, Cross Country Skiing

Parking & Trail Access

The Watkins Lake County Preserve and State Park runs between 14801 Arnold Rd (Brooklyn), where parking is available, and W Austin Rd (Manchester).

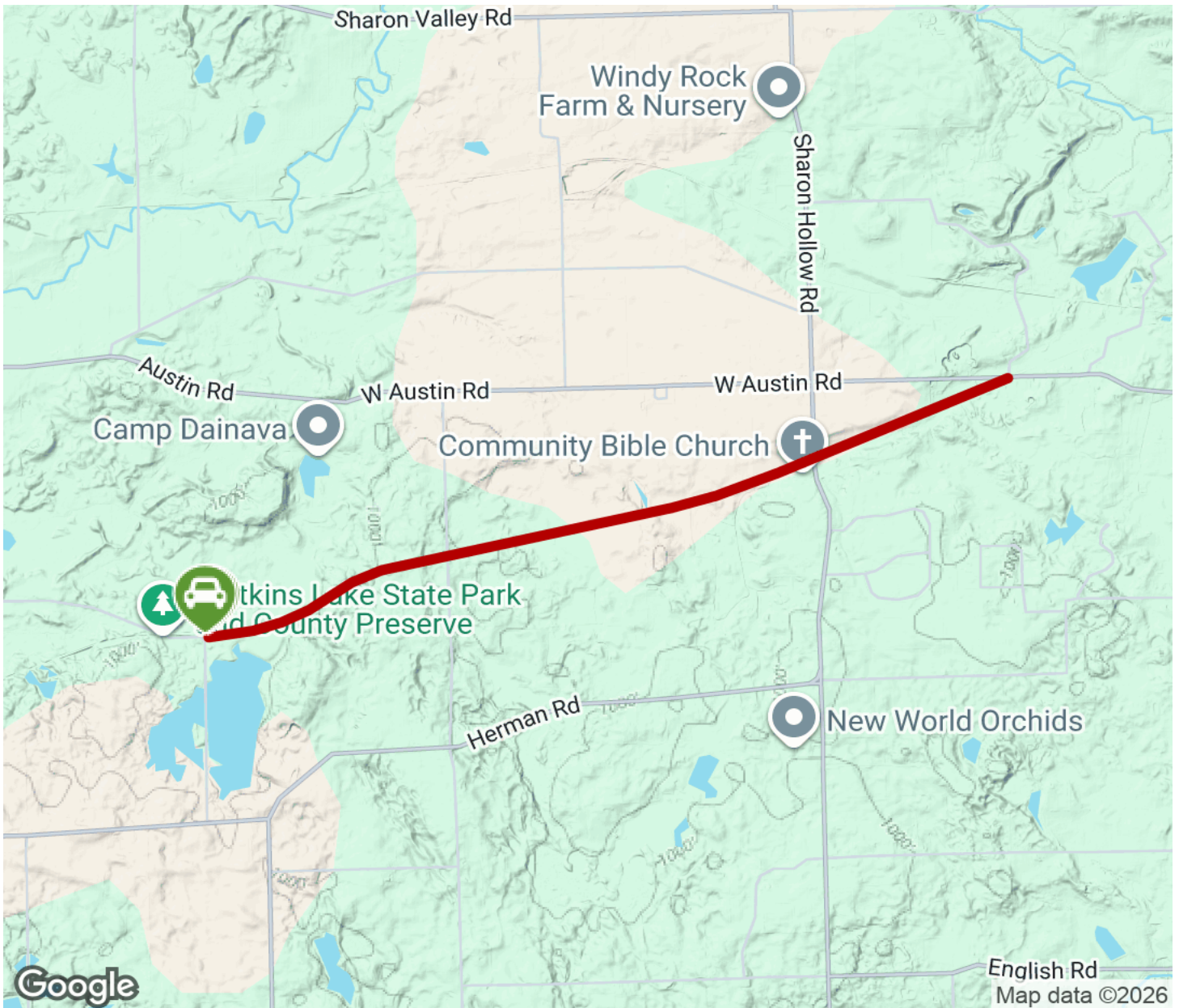
Please note that a Michigan Recreation Passport is required to park in the Watkins Lake County Preserve and State Park visitor parking lot on Arnold Rd.

Visit the [TrailLink](#) map for detailed directions.



Watkins Lake County Preserve and State Park

Michigan



Trailhead



Restroom



Parking



Water Fountain



Tunnel



TrailLink
by Rails-to-Trails Conservancy

TrailLink.com