



2024

TrailLink Unlimited



Guides



# Hoover Nature Trail

*Iowa*



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The Hoover Nature Trail is a developing rail-trail in southeastern Iowa being built on a former Chicago, Rock Island and Pacific Railroad right-of-way. The trail is named for President Herbert Hoover, who was born in West Branch—one of 16 towns that the corridor connects. When complete, the trail will traverse six counties between Cedar Rapids and Burlington, offering a variety of landscapes, including woodlands, farmland, prairie and urban areas. Currently, the trail is open in several disconnected segments.

Linn/Johnson County Line to Solon, 6.1 miles

The paved northernmost segment of the trail runs from Seven Sisters Road on the Johnson/ Linn County line

down to Solon. The trail offers wide open views of farmland and a bridge over Lingle Creek. At its southern endpoint, it intersects with the scenic [Solon Lake-Macbride Recreation Trail](#). North of the county line, the trail seamlessly continues as the [Cedar Valley Nature Trail](#) to Ely and further to Cedar Rapids.

Oasis to West Branch, 3.5 miles

This segment of the trail connects two counties, Johnson and Cedar, and two towns, Oasis and West Branch. Much of the route is tree-canopied so you'll have a pleasant, shady ride on this crushed-stone pathway. On the occasions when you pop out of the trees, you'll see the surrounding agricultural landscape.

In West Branch, the trail ends at E. College Street, adjacent to Wapsi Creek Park, where you can celebrate your adventure with a picnic. Just south of the trail, you'll find the Herbert Hoover Presidential Library and Museum (210 Parkside Dr.), where you can explore exhibits about this American president.

West Liberty, 0.8 miles

About 12 miles of driving lie between the West Branch end of the trail and the next open section which runs just shy of a mile in West Liberty on the north end of Muscatine County. This section of the trail is paved and begins at US 6, along which you'll find a few restaurants, if you're looking for something to eat. Otherwise, head south on the trail, which parallels Elm Street largely through a tree-lined residential neighborhood. You'll soon pass West Liberty High School; when you do, know that Kimberly Park is just two blocks to the east and offers a public pool, picnic shelters and a playground.

The southern end of the trail is anchored by Railroad Park, where you'll find a railroad depot built in 1897; inside is a



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**States:** Iowa

**Counties:** Cedar, Des

Moines, Johnson, Linn, Louisa, Muscatine

Length: 27.7 miles

**Trail end points:** Johnson/ Linn County line to  
State Highway 78 (Morning Sun)

**Trail surfaces:** Asphalt, Concrete, Crushed  
Stone, Grass, Gravel

**Trail category:** Rail-Trail

**Trail activities:** Bike, Mountain  
Biking, Walking

## Parking & Trail Access

**Cedar Rapids to Ely:** Parking is available at Ely's City Park (1635 Hillcrest St.).

**Oasis to West Branch Segment:** Parking is available at the West Branch Dog Park, which is located between the trail and Baker Avenue on the north end of town, and at Wapsi Creek Park (N. 2nd St. and E. College Street) in town.

**West Liberty:** Parking is available at the West Liberty Railroad Depot, which is located at the southern end of this trail segment at the intersection of W. 4th Street and N. Elm Street. Another option is Kimberly Park (N. Park St. and W. 8th St.), just two blocks east of the trail near its northern end.

**Nichols:** There are no dedicated parking lots for this portion of the Hoover Nature Trail, so consider parking on city streets in Nichols and riding or walking north on Main Street/ Douglas Avenue until you reach the trail.

**Conesville:** There are no dedicated parking lots for either of these two sections of the Hoover Nature Trail, so consider parking on city streets in Conesville. As always, be mindful of any parking restrictions and respectful of the property of local landowners.

**Morning Sun:** A small grassy parking area is available where the trail crosses E. Division St., just east of E. Front St.



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