



2026

TrailLink Unlimited 

Guides   



Bear River Recreation Trail

Iowa



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The Bear River Recreation Trail follows part of the Maquoketa River outside of Spragueville and Preston, through bucolic countryside of woodlands, farms and river lowlands. You can start the trail in the burg of Preston by taking the [Copper Creek Trail](#), which is found at the northwest end of town. At its end the Copper Creek Trail loops but continue heading northwest on the Bear River Recreation Trail, another 5.6 miles to its end near the Damon Bridge on County Road Z34. The two trails together make up the Jackson County Recreation Trail.

Much of the trail follows an abandoned rail corridor of the old Milwaukee Road. The trail affords scenic overlooks of the river valley, along with limestone bluffs. You'll find picnic tables along the trail and interpretive signs. You can also drop a line in the water and see what you catch.



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Bear River Recreation Trail

Iowa

States: Iowa

Counties: Jackson

Length: 5.6miles

Trail end points: CR Z34 (435th Ave) to Copper Creek Trail near 418th Ave (Preston)

Trail surfaces: Crushed Stone

Trail category: Rail-Trail

Trail activities: Bike, Fishing, Mountain Biking, Walking, Wheelchair Accessible, Cross Country Skiing

Parking & Trail Access

Park in Preston and access the Jackson County Recreation Trail from the Copper Creek Trail. You can also park at the north end near the Damon Bridge Fishing Access.



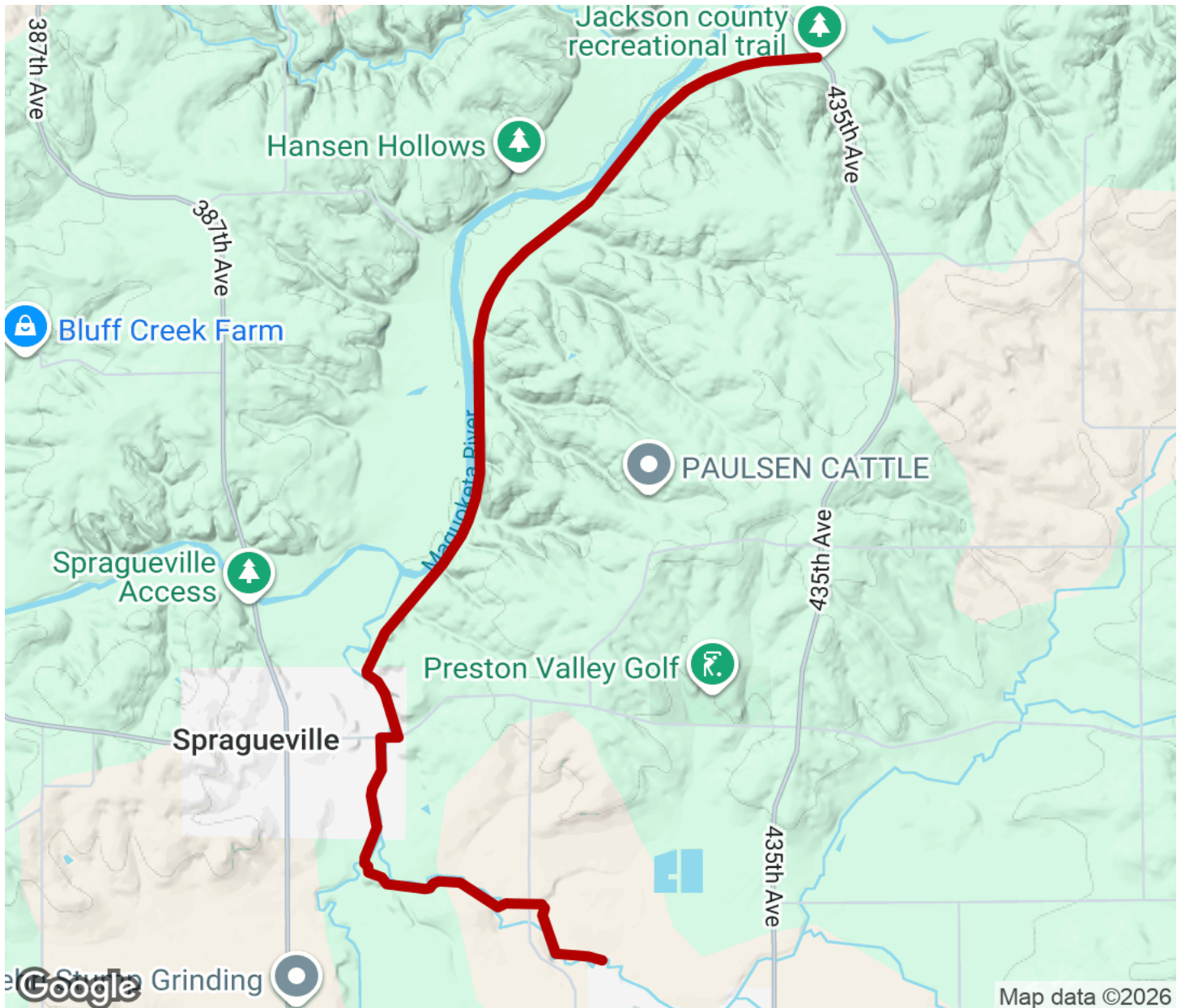
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Bear River Recreation Trail

Iowa



Trailhead



Restroom



Parking



Water Fountain



Tunnel



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