



2026

TrailLink Unlimited 

Guides   



**Red Rock
Prairie Trail**
Iowa



Red Rock Prairie Trail

Iowa

The Red Rock Prairie Trail is a developing rail-trail that will link three central Iowa towns, just outside of Des Moines: Mitchellville,



provide a dramatic background for the rail-trail as it parallels IA-163.

Eventually, the plan is to expand the trail to Pella and Red Rock Lake. As part of the Central Iowa Trail System, the trail will help link the Des Moines Metro to Lake Red Rock, Neal Smith National Wildlife Refuge and Saylorville Lake.

The Red Rock Prairie Trail is a developing rail-trail that will link three central Iowa towns, just outside of Des Moines: Mitchellville, Prairie City, and Monroe. The paved, multiuse trail runs 9.75 miles along a former rail corridor from Monroe to Prairie City with a upcoming 5-mile extension to Mitchellville city limits. As the corridor is mostly located in Jasper County, the trail development is being spearheaded by Jasper County Conservation and the Friends of the Red Rock Prairie Trail.

As of August 2022, the rail-trail's eastern half—9.75 miles between Monroe and Prairie City—has been paved and is open to the public. With fields and farms stretching uninterrupted to the horizon in all directions, the trail runs from the outskirts of Prairie City to downtown Monroe. Iowa's flat landscape and open skies



TrailLink
by Rails-to-Trails Conservancy

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Red Rock Prairie Trail

Iowa

States: Iowa

Counties: Jasper, Polk

Length: 9.75 miles

Trail end points: Entryway Park (off the Highway 163 exit in Prairie City) to Marion St & York St (Monroe)

Trail surfaces: Concrete

Trail category: Rail-Trail

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

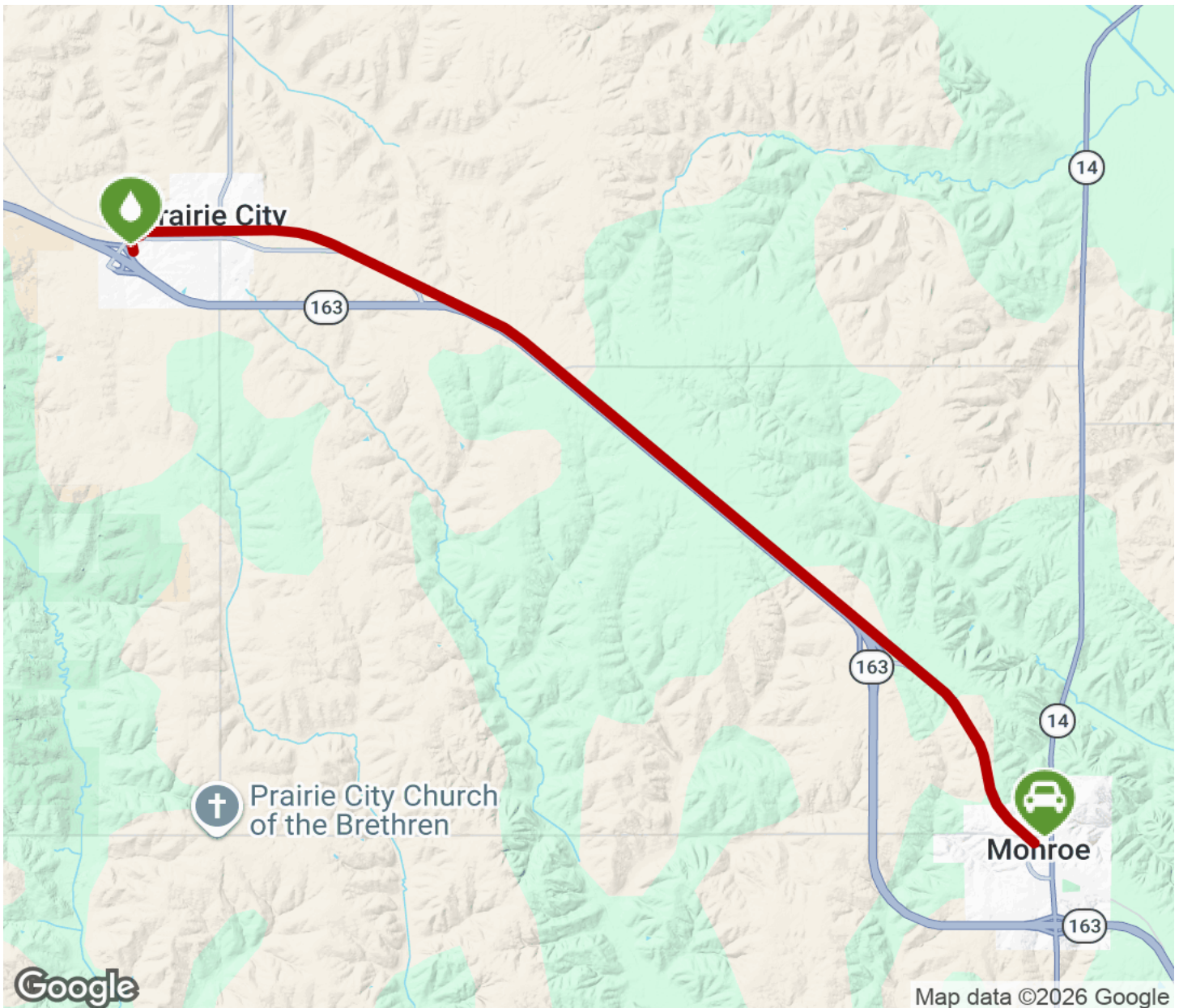
Parking & Trail Access

For those driving, parking is available at Monroe Public Square (116 N Commerce St), a block east of the trail's Monroe endpoint. Visit the [TrailLink map](#) for detailed directions.



Red Rock Prairie Trail

Iowa



Trailhead



Restroom



Parking



Water Fountain



Tunnel



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