



2026

TrailLink Unlimited 

Guides   



**Sangamon
Valley Trail**
Illinois



Sangamon Valley Trail

Illinois

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The first 5.5-mile segment of the 38-mile Sangamon Valley Trail opened in summer 2011 and runs between Centennial Park and Stuart Park in Springfield.

In 2017, a 6-mile extension was opened between Stuart Park and Irwin Bridge Rd. The paved addition features two bridges that put trail users eye-level with the tree line. The trail extension enables the recreational pathway to cross the Sangamon River, the river that provided the trail with its name. The trail now extends to Menard County at Ethel Rd.

The trail follows an abandoned right-of-way of the old St. Louis, Peoria and North Western Railway, which later became part of the Chicago and North Western Railroad.



TrailLink
by Rails-to-Trails Conservancy

TrailLink.com



Sangamon Valley Trail

Illinois

States: Illinois

Counties: Sangamon

Length: 13.5miles

Trail end points: Ethel Rd. to Centennial Park,
Bunker Hill Rd.

Trail surfaces: Asphalt

Trail category: Rail-Trail

Trail activities: Bike, Inline

Skating, Walking, Wheelchair Accessible

Parking & Trail Access

There is trail access at all its street crossings south of Old Jacksonville Road. The only trail parking is in the parks at its end points. Located in the extreme southwest corner of Springfield, Centennial Park is easy to get to and has two parking lots with direct access to the trail. To get there from I-72, take the Wabash Avenue exit and turn northeast toward Springfield. Upon entering the sweeping curve to the east, turn left onto Bunker Hill Road. Proceed just over 1/2 mile till you see the turn-ins to the park and parking on the right.

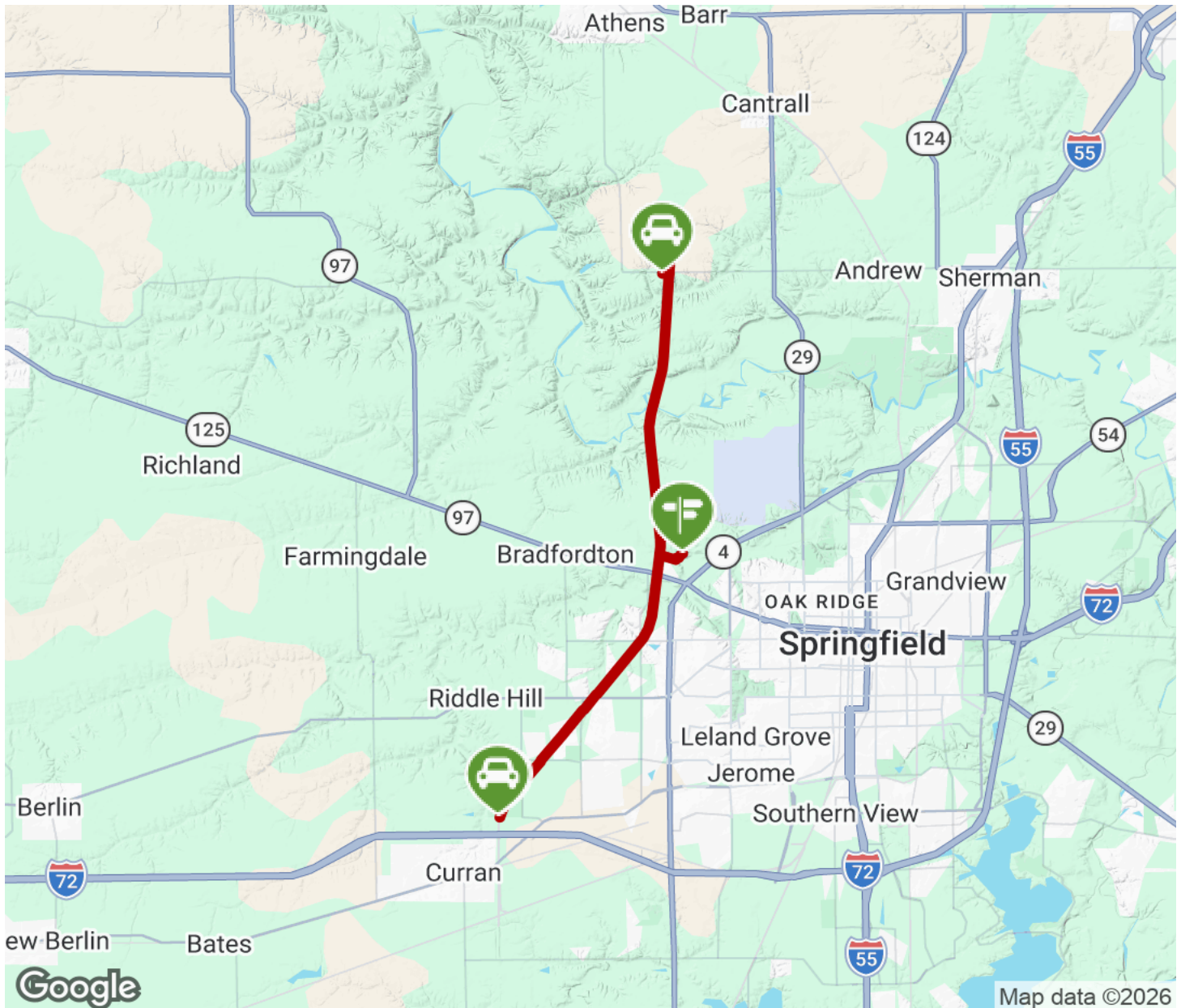
For the extension north of Stuart Park, you can park at [Cantrall Creek Road](#), which is about 0.5 miles west of Brown Rd. and a mile from the Irwin Bridge Rd. endpoint. Trail parking is also available at the northern end of the route at Ethel Rd.

See [TrailLink Map](#) for more detailed information.



Sangamon Valley Trail

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Trailhead



Restroom



Parking



Water Fountain



Tunnel



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