



2026

TrailLink Unlimited 

Guides



**Fox River
Trail (IL)**
Illinois



Fox River Trail (IL)

Illinois

The Fox River Trail (FRT) was built on stretches of three former railroads: Chicago, Aurora & Elgin; Aurora, Elgin, & Fox River



The Fox River Trail (FRT) was built on stretches of three former railroads: Chicago, Aurora & Elgin; Aurora, Elgin, & Fox River Electric; and Chicago & North Western. Today, it hosts a multitude of different birds, trees and wildlife, including bald eagles, herons, and woodpeckers.

About the Route

Starting from the trail's northern endpoint on the southern end of Algonquin, the trail heads south and passes through East Dundee, a small village established in 1871. After passing through Elgin, the trail travels through tranquil forest preserves (and a couple of off-road segments).

3.5 miles south of Elgin, the trail crosses its namesake

river on a bridge built along the original 1896 piers and stays on the western side for the next several miles. In South Elgin, you can ride an electric trolley at the Fox River Trolley Museum.

In Batavia, trail users can view the three railroad corridors that now make up the Fox River River Trail. Between Batavia and the North Aurora Dam, the trail runs along both sides of the river, with the east bank section running through Red Oak Park and Glenwood Park Forest Preserve.

Once again, in Aurora, the trail runs along both sides of the river for about a mile, between East Illinois Street and East New York Street.

Just before reaching Hurd's Island, there is a 0.5 mile section of on-road protected bike lane. The path continues on to Hurd Island and then back on the western side of the river for a short section before the trail crosses the river at the Virgil Gilman Nature Trail and continues south along the eastern portion of the river.

Four miles from the southern endpoint is Montgomery Dam, a popular fishing spot and one of 13 dams along the Fox River.

Heading south towards Oswego, the path is sandwiched between the river and IL 25 for 4.8 miles to the Fox River crossing on the south end of Aurora. The trail initially passes through a mix of commercial districts and neighborhoods, a suburban-urban interface that the FRT weaves in and out of for the entire route.

Before entering Hudson Crossing Park, you'll cross over Waubonsie Creek and parallel the Fox River. The southern end of the trail is located in Oswego, 50 miles west of Chicago. The absolute terminus is located in Hudson Crossing Park which is located along the Fox River and has playgrounds, picnic areas, benches, restrooms, and drinking fountains.



Fox River Trail (IL)

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States: Illinois

Counties: Kane, Kendall

Length: 45.7 miles

Trail end points: 401-499 Souwanas Trail
(Algonquin) to Washington St & S Harrison St
(Oswego)

Trail surfaces: Asphalt, Concrete, Crushed
Stone

Trail category: Rail-Trail

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

Parking & Trail Access

The Algonquin Trail runs between 401-499 Souwanas Trail (Algonquin) and Washington St. & S Harrison St. (Oswego).

Parking is available at:

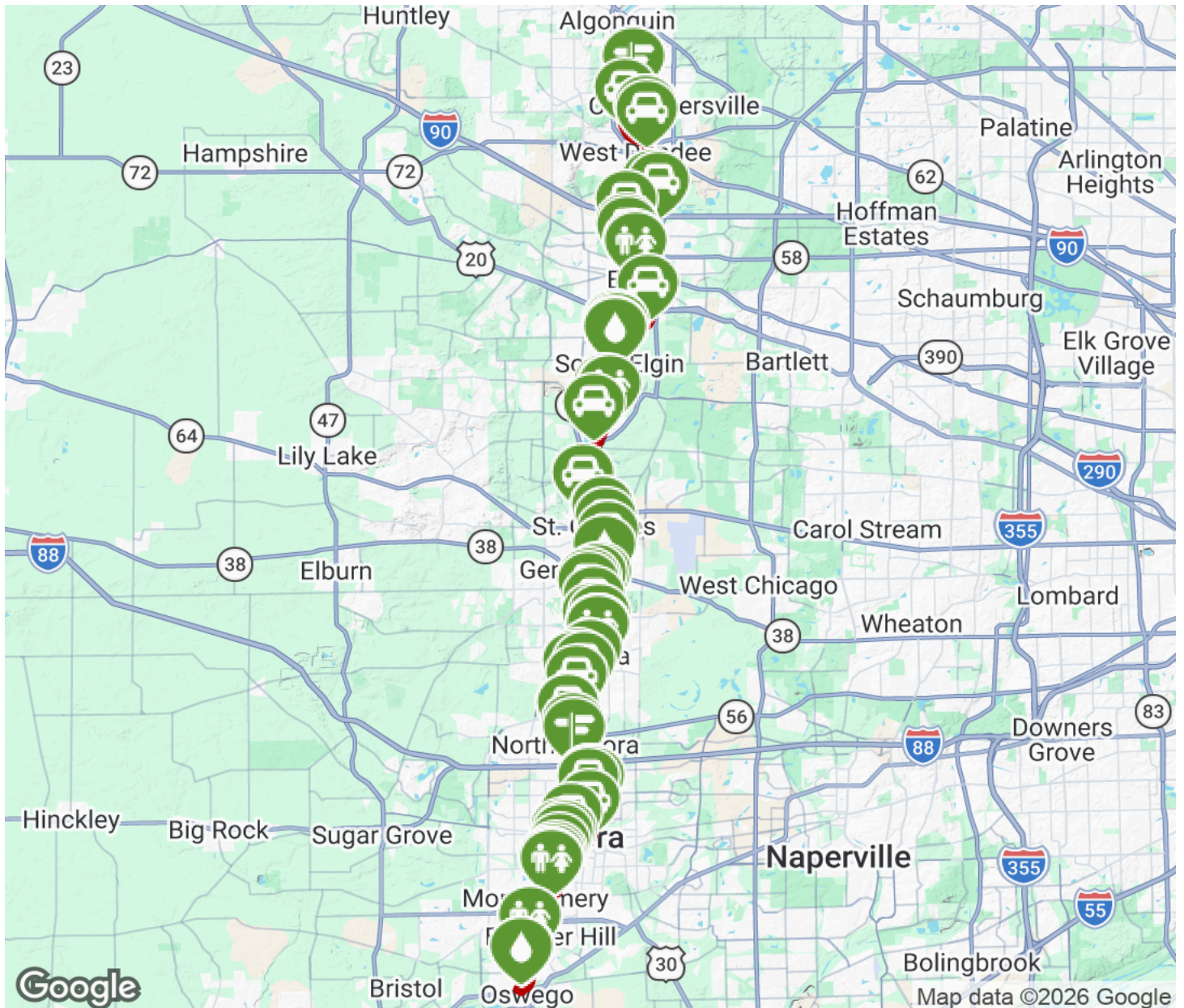
- 1436 Duncan Ave. (Elgin)
- Laurelwood Park, 800 N River St. (Batavia)
- 150 W Illinois Ave. (Aurora)

Parking is available at numerous locations along the trail. Please see [TrailLink Map](#) for all parking options and detailed directions.



Fox River Trail (IL)

Illinois



Trailhead



Restroom



Parking



Water Fountain



Tunnel



TrailLink
by Rails-to-Trails Conservancy

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