



2025

TrailLink Unlimited 

Guides



**Jane Addams
Trail**
Illinois



Jane Addams Trail

Illinois

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Overview

The Jane Addams Trail runs for 18.9 miles between Orangeville and Freeport, following a rail line that the Illinois Central built in 1887 between Freeport, Illinois, and Madison, Wisconsin. The route, which crosses 22 bridges, is part of the 500-mile Grand Illinois Trail and passes by exposed rock embankments, wetlands, vistas of open prairie and farmland, and wooded areas.

About the Route

The trail's northern endpoint sits just shy of the Illinois-Wisconsin state line. Heading south for 2.5 miles, the trail reaches the Richland Creek Trailhead before continuing out of Orangeville through a covered bridge. About 7 miles

south of the bridge, the trail crosses County Road 5 and runs through the Jane Addams Cedarville Road Trailhead.

It's less than 2 miles on a shoulder-less road to the childhood home and grave site of Jane Addams in Cedarville. Born here in 1860, she received the Nobel Peace Prize in 1931 for her humanitarian deeds, which included the opening of a settlement house project (Hull House) in Chicago and activism in the social and political movements of her time.

The trail meanders through woods that support a wide variety of trees, birds, and other wildlife as the trail comes across the Wes Block Trailhead, about 3 miles after CR 5. During deer-hunting season, it's recommended that trail users wear blaze orange. Bright-colored clothing is also advised for those traveling on foot or skis during winter, as snowmobiling is allowed when at least 4 inches of snow are on the trail. Heading south, the trail enters the historic town of Freeport.

The trail becomes an off-road paved bike path after the Wes Block Trailhead for 3.5 miles and eventually crosses the Pecatonica River through an original steel truss railroad bridge. After the bridge, the trail follows district sidewalks and bike paths through a historic district and a park on Douglas Street with life-size statues marking the site of the second Lincoln-Douglas debate in 1858. After Douglass St, the trail quickly approaches Tutty's Crossing Trailhead, which is only a short distance from the southern endpoint of the Jane Addams Trail.

Connections

At the trail's northern endpoint in Orangeville, the Jane Addams Trail intersects with the [Badger State Trail](#).

Note trail users will need a Wisconsin state trail pass if planning to ride the remaining 40 miles north to Madison on the Badger State Trail.



Jane Addams Trail

Illinois

States: Illinois

Counties: Stephenson

Length: 18.9miles

Trail end points: E Stephenson St near N
Henderson Rd (Freeport) to Wuetrich Rd near
Imobersteg Rd (Orangeville)

Trail surfaces: Asphalt, Crushed Stone

Trail category: Rail-Trail

Trail activities: Bike, Fishing, Snowmobiling,
Walking, Cross Country Skiing

Parking & Trail Access

The Jane Addams Trails runs between Wuetrich Rd near Imobersteg Rd (Orangeville) and E Stephenson St near N Henderson Rd (Freeport), with parking available near the southern endpoint.

Parking is also available at:

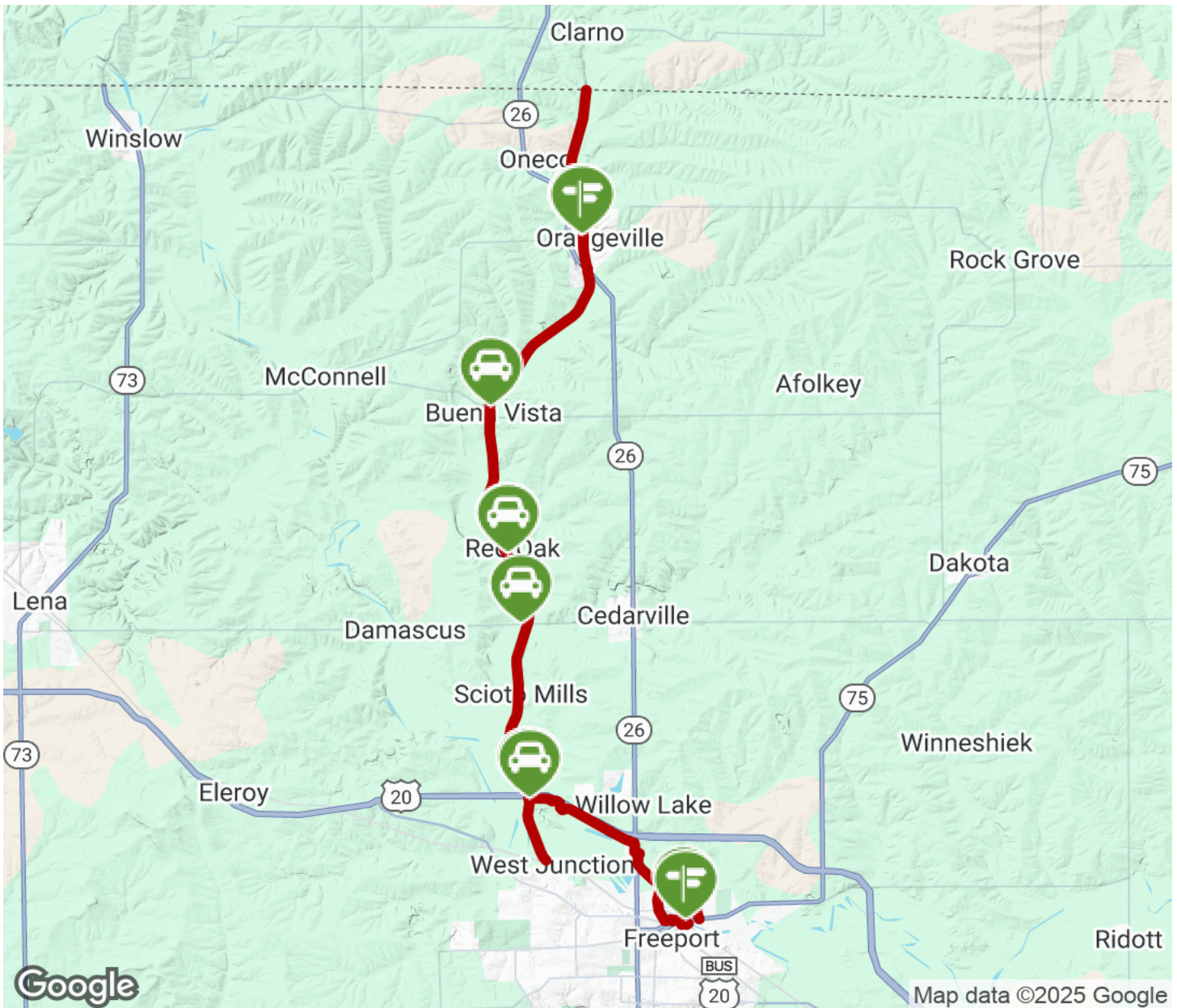
- Jane Addams Trail-Wes Block Trailhead, 2636 Fairview Rd (Freeport)
- Richland Creek Trailhead, Ewing St (Orangeville)
- Jane Addams Trail – Buena Vista Trailhead, 3201 W McConnell Rd (Freeport)

Please see the [TrailLink Map](#) for all parking options and detailed directions.



Jane Addams Trail

Illinois



Trailhead



Restroom



Parking



Water Fountain



Tunnel



TrailLink
by Rails-to-Trails Conservancy

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