



2026

TrailLink Unlimited



Guides



Rock Island Trail (IL)

Illinois



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The Rock Island Trail has two distinct sections. Its southern half (sometimes referred to as the Kellar Branch Trail or as the Rock Island Greenway) stretches from Peoria's riverfront to the community of Alta and has an urban feel. This 13-mile southern section is fully paved. The northern section, often called the Rock Island State Trail is composed of crushed stone and runs for more than 20 miles, connecting towns including Alta, Dunlap, Princeville, Wyoming and Toulon.

About the Route

The northern section of the trail runs between Toulon, in Stark County, and Alta, in Peoria County connecting the towns of Wyoming, Princeville, and Dunlap. This crushed rock portion, stretching more than 20 miles, has been

managed as an Illinois State Park trail since 1989. Its connecting links through small towns are along well-marked streets with light traffic. This trail paints a great picture of central Illinois as it travels through friendly small towns, classic Midwestern farmland, and woodlands. The trail owes its name to the Peoria and Rock Island Railroad Company trains that once ran passengers and freight on this line.

The trail's southern section provides access to two family-friendly Peoria attractions: the stunning Riverfront Museum and the Caterpillar Visitor Center, showcasing exhibits by the familiar black-and-yellow branded construction equipment company that's headquartered here. Older, but no less worthwhile attractions, include the historical Springdale Cemetery founded in 1855, and Glen Oak Park, which dates back to the late 1800s and houses a zoo, botanical garden, fishing lagoon, and other recreational amenities.

Trail users should note that the Peoria section includes two short on-road sections between Abington Street and War Memorial Drive.

Connections

At the trail's southern end, trail users can continue along the [River Trail of Illinois \(Carl Bud Schmitt Trail\)](#).



Rock Island Trail (IL)

Illinois

States: Illinois

Counties: Peoria, Stark

Length: 38.2miles

Trail end points: Downend St (Toulon) to Bob Michel Bridge (East Peoria)

Trail surfaces: Asphalt, Crushed Stone

Trail category: Rail-Trail

Trail activities: Bike, Inline

Skating, Walking, Wheelchair Accessible, Cross

Country Skiing

Parking & Trail Access

The Rock Island Trail runs between Downend St (Toulon) and Bob Michel Bridge (East Peoria).

Parking is available at:

- 311 E Williams St (Wyoming)
- Cutter's Grove Park, 122 E Lincoln St (Princeville)
- Detweiller Marina, 2 Caroline St (Peoria)

See [TrailLink Map](#) for all parking options and detailed directions.

