



2026

TrailLink Unlimited



Guides



**Prairie
Duneland
Trail**
Indiana



Prairie Duneland Trail

Indiana

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Prairies and dunes are just two of the natural features trail users will experience on the Prairie Duneland Trail, located just a few miles south of the Lake Michigan shoreline and the Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore. Trail users will have views of ponds and wood lots but will also see some pockets of suburban sprawl, which become more frequent and dense as the route heads westward from Chesterton to Hobart.

About the Route

Leaving off from the Chesterton trailhead, the route passes a trailside skate park and crosses South Jackson Boulevard. A wide sidewalk on the right serves as a junction with the Dunes Kankakee Trail, which runs on- and off-street through the town of Porter to Indiana Dunes

State Park.

Continuing southwest on the Prairie Duneland Trail, the trail leaves behind the sights and sounds of town life in less than 2 miles. It's lightly forested here, interspersed with farm fields. Trail users will also encounter remnants of tallgrass prairie that at one time dominated the landscape. Elsewhere, a dense forest canopy creates a lush passageway.

A trail junction at 3.5 miles marks the intersection of the Iron Horse Heritage Trail, which leads into the town of Portage. After crossing the CSX railroad tracks at 4.4 miles and passing beneath I-80, the trail passes through many backyards and residential subdivisions. Numerous side paths connect these neighborhoods, often screened from the path by trees, to the trail.

The route goes beneath two busy streets, Willowcreek Road and West 37th Avenue/US 6, before arriving at a trailhead on County Line Road. The trail's southern end is just a little farther at North Hobart Road, where it connects with the Oak Savannah Trail.

Connections

At the trail's northern end, trail users can continue along the [Dunes Kankakee Trail](#).

In the town of Crocker, trail users can connect with the [Iron Horse Heritage Trail](#).

The trail's southern end connects to the [Oak Savannah Trail](#).

Trail History

The Prairie Duneland Trail follows a straight branch of the former Elgin, Joliet, and Eastern Railway that served as a bypass around the busy Chicago rail yards between Gary, Indiana, and Waukegan, Illinois, for more than 100 years. The



Prairie Duneland Trail

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States: Indiana

Counties: Lake, Porter

Length: 10.3 miles

Trail end points: S 15th St. (Chestertown) to N
Hobart Rd (Hobart)

Trail surfaces: Asphalt

Trail category: Rail-Trail

Trail activities: Bike, Inline

Skating, Walking, Wheelchair Accessible, Cross
Country Skiing

Parking & Trail Access

The Prairie Duneland Trail runs between S 15th St. (Chestertown) and N Hobart Rd (Hobart), where parking is available.

Parking is also available at:

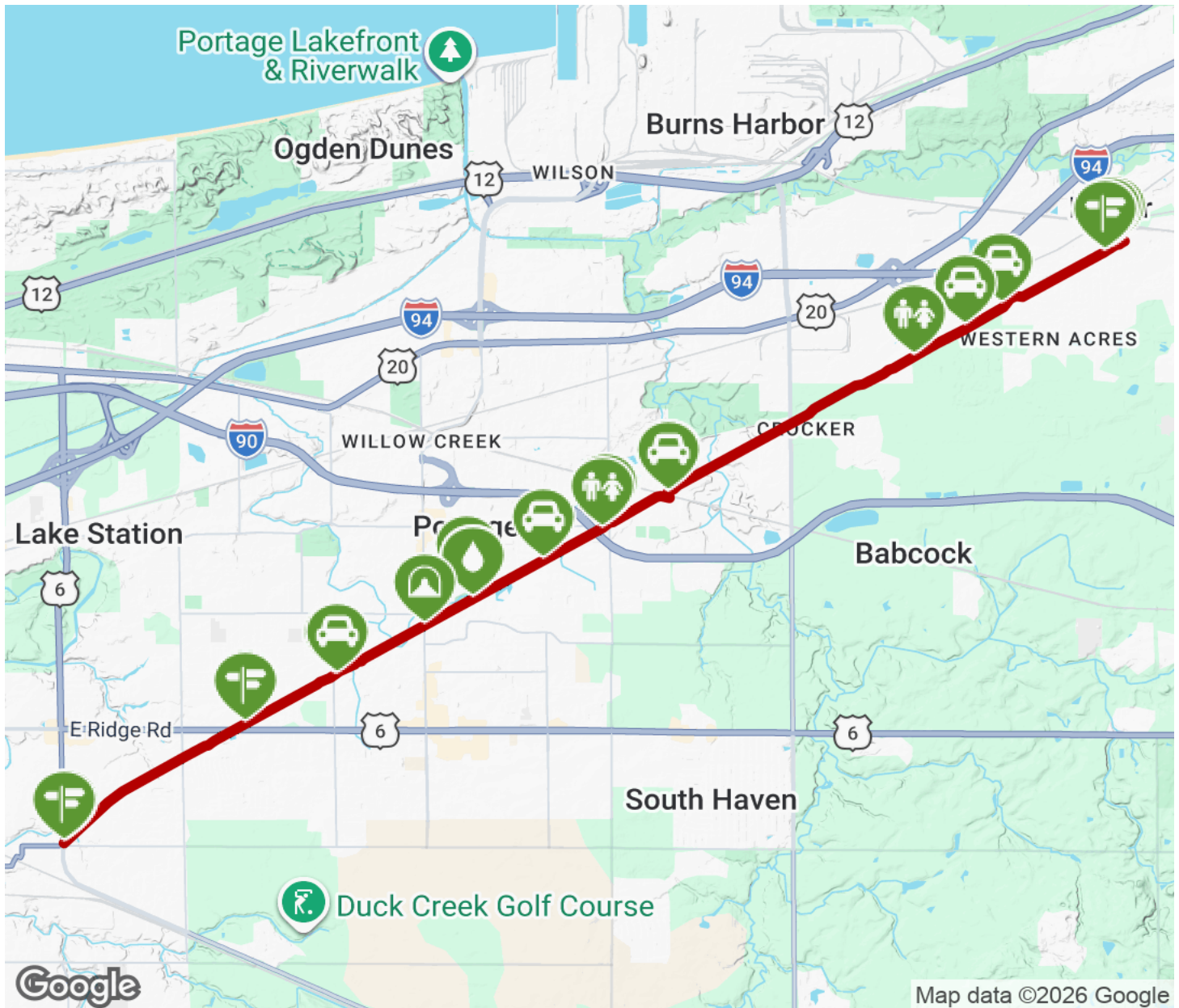
- 1203 County Rd 200 W (Burns Harbor)
- Olson Memorial Park, 6216 Brie Ave. (Portage)
- Countryside Park, 5250 US-6 (Portage)

See the [TrailLink map](#) for all options and detailed directions.



Prairie Duneland Trail

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Trailhead



Restroom



Parking



Water Fountain



Tunnel



TrailLink
by Rails-to-Trails Conservancy

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