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TrailLink Unlimited



Guides



## Cannon Valley Trail

*Minnesota*



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## Overview *The Cannon Valley Trail, which became a National Recreation Trail in 2018, links the southeastern Minnesota*



### Overview

The Cannon Valley Trail, which became a National Recreation Trail in 2018, links the southeastern Minnesota communities of Red Wing, Welch, and Cannon Falls for 20.9 miles along the former route of the Chicago Great Western Railway line that once ran through the valley.

In addition to offering stunning views of the Cannon River, the trail meanders under lush canopies of hardwoods, along steep slopes with exposed rock ridges, and bucolic country roads. Although the trail has a drop of 115 feet between the cities at each end, the trail slope is gradual throughout its route, which winds through a striking mix of wetlands, river bluffs, several large lakes,

and rolling farmland.

To help pay for maintenance of the Cannon Valley Trail, trail users age 18 and older require a Wheel Pass when using the trail from April 1–November 1. Passes can be purchased at kiosks at major access points to the trail and at local businesses; pedestrians and wheelchair users are exempt. In Red Wing, a city trail beginning several blocks east of the trailhead will take you south for about 2 miles to the northern trailhead of the Goodhue Pioneer State Trail.

The trail is open for winter use, and cross-country skiing is allowed between Mile#8 in Welch and Pepin Ave. in Red Wing, where the trail is groomed.

Note: Pets are not allowed on this trail.

### About the Route

The western endpoint of the trail is located in the heart of the small town of Cannon Falls, in Riverside Park. From here, the trail heads slightly northeast along the Cannon River, passing by the River Terrace Prairie Scientific and Natural Area, Welch Village Ski and Snowboard Area, and the Cannon River Turtle Preserve Scientific and Natural Area.

The trail comes to its eastern end in Red Wing, which falls right at the Minnesota/Wisconsin Border along the Mississippi River.

### Connections

At the trail's eastern end, the trail meets the [Red Wing Riverfront Trail](#).



# Cannon Valley Trail

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**States:** Minnesota

**Counties:** Goodhue

Length: 20.9miles

**Trail end points:** 500 Main St W (Cannon Falls) to 2480 Old W Main St (Red Wing)

**Trail surfaces:** Asphalt

**Trail category:** Rail-Trail

**Trail activities:** Bike, Inline

Skating, Wheelchair Accessible, Walking, Cross Country Skiing

## Parking & Trail Access

The Cannon Valley Trail runs between 500 Main St W (Cannon Falls) and 2480 Old W Main St (Red Wing), with parking at both ends.

Parking is also available at:

- 825 Cannon River Ave (Cannon Falls)
- 26674 144th Ave Way (Welch)
- 3775 US-61 (Red Wing)

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



