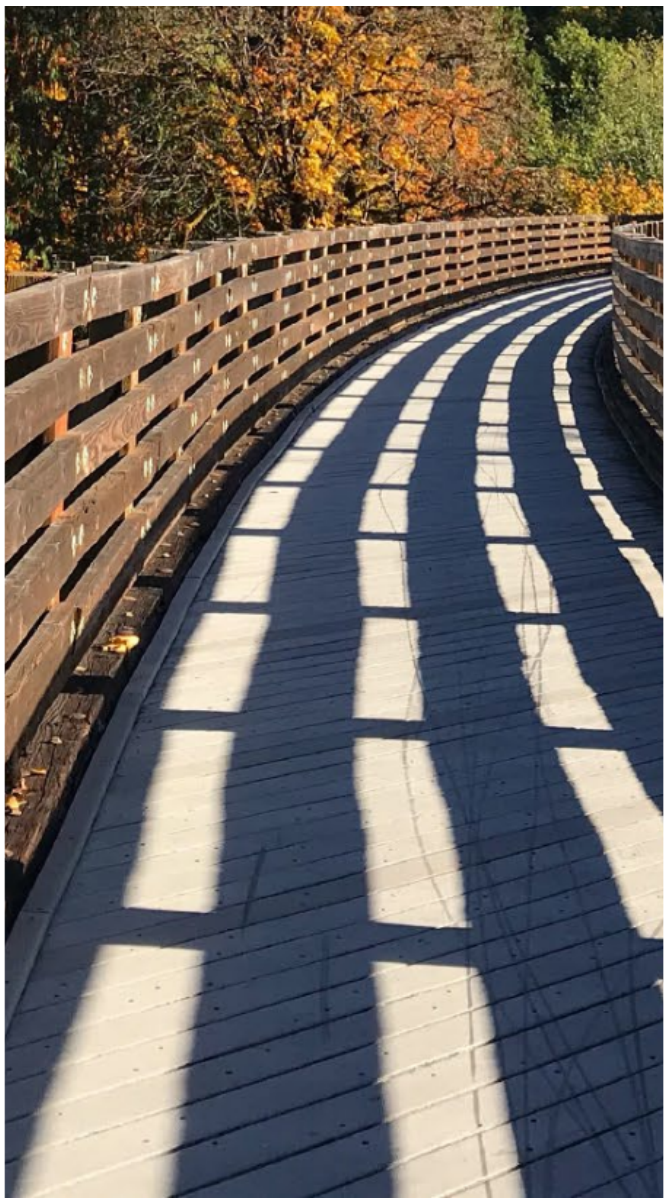
TrailLink
by Rails-to-Trails Conservancy

2025

TrailLink Unlimited

Guides



Minnesota Valley State Trail

Minnesota

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Notice: Check Minnesota DNR for current conditions and potential closure information. The Minnesota Valley State Trail is used by

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The Minnesota Valley State Trail is used by cyclists, equestrians, hikers, snowmobilers, and cross-country skiers. The trail passes through the Minnesota Valley State Recreation Area at its southern end as well as other natural areas along its route. Portions of the trail run parallel to the Minnesota River, which means that it is subject to flooding in high-water years. Along the trail, trail users will encounter oak hardwood forests, oak savanna remnants, and hillsides and bluffs featuring scenic overlooks of the Minnesota River below. Wetlands include floodplain marshes, wet meadows, fens, and lakes. Wildlife and wildflowers abound.

About the Route

The trail is 34.1 miles long in two sections; the 19.5-mile portion of the trail between Belle Plaine and Chaska has a natural surface and can be rough and sandy in places, a challenge for those with narrow-tire bikes. Between MN 41 in Chaska and Stagecoach Road (at the intersection of US 169 and County Road 101) in Shakopee, the 9.8-mile segment of the trail is paved. The second, much shorter trail segment runs 1.7 miles eastward from Lyndale Ave. S in Bloomington. There are plans to extend the trail to cover a total of 80 miles between Fort Snelling (where work is already underway) and beyond Belle Plaine to Le Sueur.

A majority of the trail traverses the Minnesota Valley State Recreation Area, providing access to trails and natural amenities in the Lawrence and Louisville Swamp Units for a more intimate opportunity to experience the flora and fauna within the floodplain of the Minnesota River. The historic features of the Jabs Farm site and Little Rapids campsite along the Mazomani Trail within the Louisville Swamp section can be accessed from the Minnesota Valley State Trail.

There are restrooms at the Lawrence Unit as well as in cities and parks along the route.

Minnesota Valley State Trail

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States: Minnesota
Counties: Scott
Length: 34.1miles
Trail end points: CR 6/SR 25/N. Walnut St. (Belle Plaine) to Bloomington Ferry Rd. (Bloomington) to 11115 Lyndale Ave S to Mound Springs Park
Trail surfaces: Asphalt,Crushed Stone
Trail category: Rail-Trail
Trail activities: Bike,Inline Skating,Fishing,Horseback Riding,Mountain

Parking & Trail Access

The Minnesota Valley State Trail runs between N Walnut St. (Belle Plaine) and the Minnesota River Bottoms (Bloomington), with parking at both ends.

Parking is also available at:

- 109 1st Ave E (Shakopee)
- Memorial Park, 1801 County Rd 101 (Shakopee)

See TrailLink Map for more detailed information.

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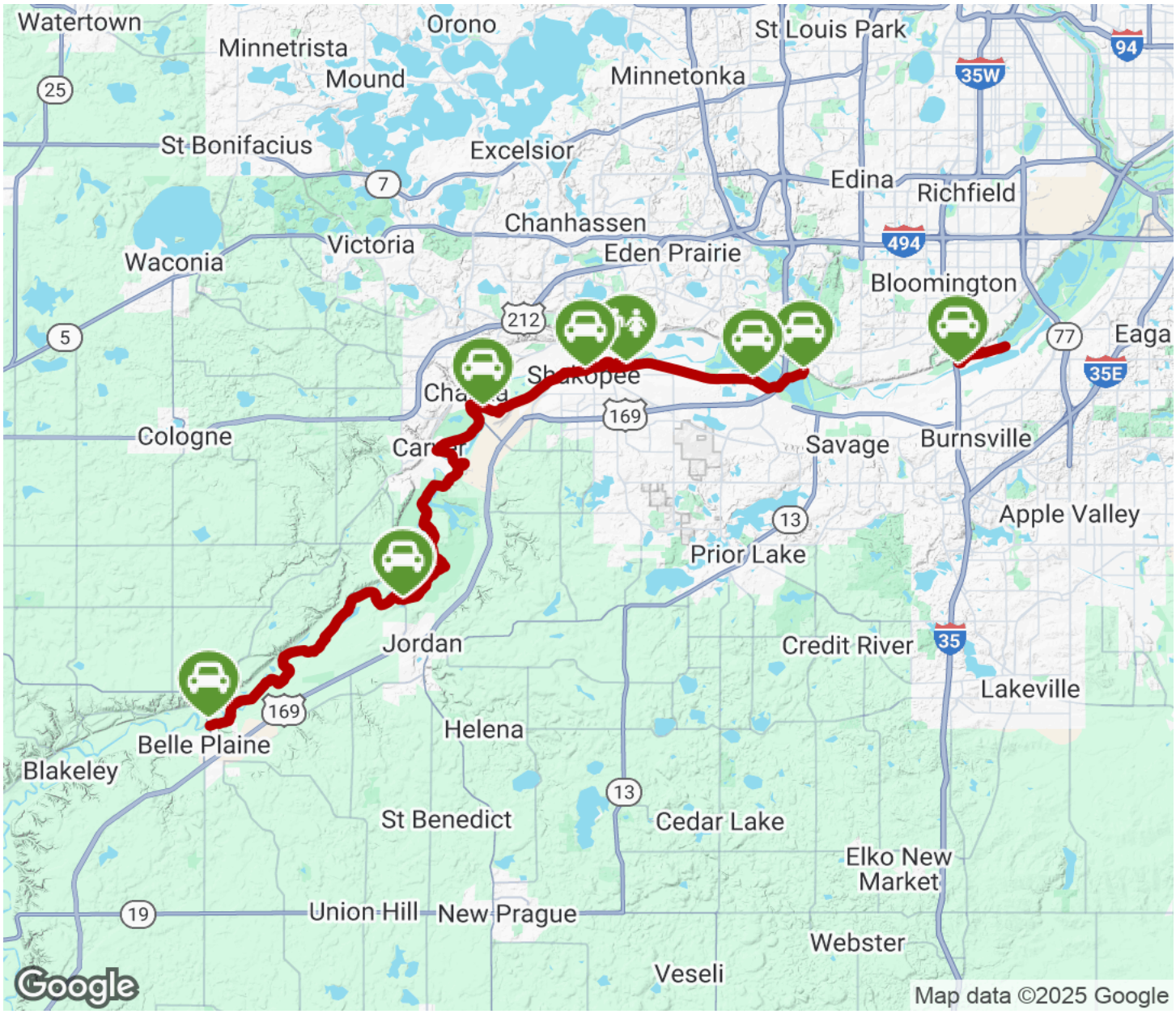

Trailhead Restroom Parking Water Fountain Tunnel

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