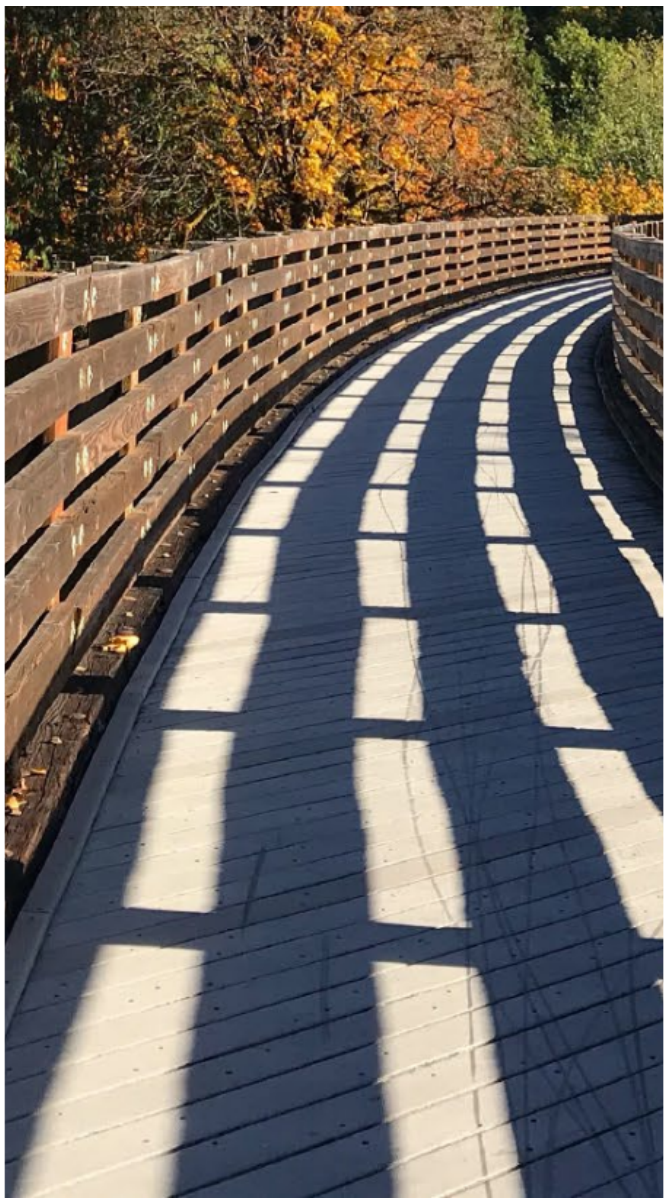
TrailLink
by Rails-to-Trails Conservancy

2025

TrailLink Unlimited

Guides



Kearney Hike and Bike Trail

Nebraska

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The Kearney Hike and Bike Trail spans 13 paved miles through western and southern Kearney, Nebraska. The trail links neighborhoods and businesses with parks and historical sites throughout the city. Along the way, you'll find scenic urban views and numerous amenities.

The westernmost section of the trail is known as "The Links" for the two golf courses that it passes on its journey between Cottonmill Lake and W. Railroad Street. At Cottonmill Park, you'll find picnic shelters, swimming and fishing opportunities, and a playground. In winter, cross-country skiing, sledding, ice skating, and ice fishing are also popular activities here. From the park, the trail travels nearly 3 miles along the Nebraska Public Power District canal and through the University of Nebraska's Kearney campus.

Midway—between golf courses—a 4-mile, C-shaped spur of the trail known as "Eagle Loop" largely parallels 30th Avenue and provides travelers with access to Ted Baldwin Park (north end of the trail) and West Linconway Park (south end).

Shortly after traversing the university campus, the trail dives under an active railroad and heads south toward Kenwood Elementary School. This short, 1-mile section is known locally as the "Tailrace Trail." Cross W. 11th Street at the crosswalk to pick up the next trail section.

This segment is known as "Betty's Trail" after Betty Connell, who allowed this portion of trail to cross her land. It begins at Yanney Park, where you can access additional trails, picnic areas, an observation tower, amphitheater, wetlands and gardens, a playground, and a splash park. The trail continues nearly 2 miles east to 2nd Avenue along a tree-lined canal.

A paved spur of the trail runs from the intersection of 2nd Avenue & 56th St to the Platte River's north channel. Primarily paralleling M Avenue, a brief gap in the trail spur is solved by using sidewalks. Crossing the north channel of the Platte River via a pedestrian bridge, the spur connects with the main trail.

At 2nd Avenue, you can seamlessly connect to the next section of the trail known as "Pioneer's Path." This section heads eastward through wetland areas for 3 miles to the Great Platte River Road Archway Monument.

From the Archway, the trail meanders alongside I-80 for nearly 3 miles before turning and passing under the interstate. Heading south, the trail first crosses the north channel and then the main channel of the Platte River via pedestrian bridges. After passing through a lightly wooded area, the trail ends by the Fort Kearny State Recreation Area (SRA) where it connects with the Fort Kearny Hike-Bike Trail. This section of the trail—from the underpass to the recreation area—is known as the "Three Bridges Hike-Bike Trail."

Kearney Hike and Bike Trail

Nebraska

States: Nebraska
Counties: Buffalo,Kearney
Length: 22.97miles
Trail end points: Cottonmill Park to Fort Kearny Hike-Bike Trail
Trail surfaces: Concrete
Trail category: Greenway/Non-RT
Trail activities: Bike,Inline Skating,Fishing,Wheelchair Accessible,Walking,Cross Country Skiing

Parking & Trail Access

Parking is available at the following locations (from west to east):

- Cottonmill Park (2795 Cottonmill Avenue); restrooms as well
- Ted Baldwin Park (19th Avenue at 49th Street)
- West Lincolnway Park (30th Avenue north of La Crosse Drive)
- Yanney Heritage Park (2020 W. 11th Street); restrooms as well
- Great Platte River Road Archway Monument (3060 East 1st Street; access is via 1st Street)
- Imperial Rd (follow it to the very end; a small lot is next to the I-80 pedestrian underpass)

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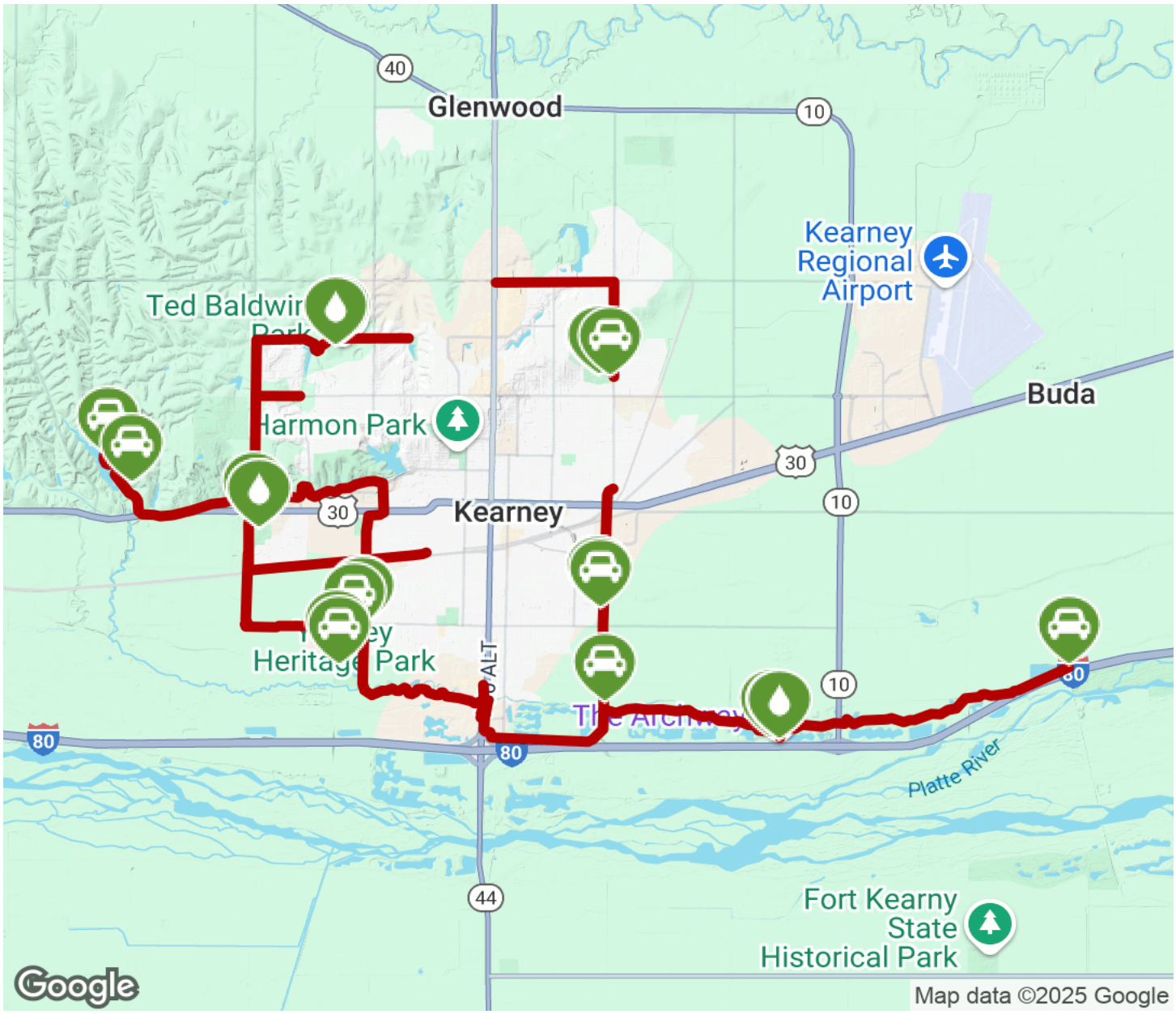

Trailhead Restroom Parking Water Fountain Tunnel

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