



2026

TrailLink Unlimited 

Guides



**Old Abe State
Trail**
Wisconsin



Old Abe State Trail

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Connecting the cities of Eau Claire and Cornell, the 34-mile Old Abe State Trail meanders through a variety of landscapes and environments including lively cities and communities, farmlands, forests, open fields, rivers, and lakes. Portions of the route run closely along the Chippewa River and the eastern shore of Old Abe Lake—offering scenic views of the water and boating access. The Old Abe State Trail is part of a 76-mile trail system that also includes the Chippewa River State Trail, Duncan Creek Parkway Trail, and Red Cedar State Trail.

NOTE: A State Trail Pass (\$25 annually/\$5 daily) is required for bicyclists, horseback riders, and in-line skaters ages 16 and older. Snowmobilers must display either a Wisconsin registration or a snowmobile State Trail Pass. For information, go to dnr.wi.gov/topic/parks/trailpass.html.

[trailpass.html](http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/parks/trailpass.html).

About the Route

The trail heads north from Eau Claire's Phoenix Park, where the Old Abe State Trail meets the Chippewa River State Trail on the east landing of a former Chicago, Milwaukee, St. Paul, and Pacific Railroad trestle. The route passes riverfront homes and businesses on its way to Eau Claire's northeast suburbs. Continuing northeast, the trail leaves the city and heads through the village of Lake Hallie towards Chippewa Falls.

As the trail heads north through Chippewa Falls, the rail trail passes farmland and industrial areas on a flat, easy route as it crosses or travels near the Chippewa River, also known as the Old Abe Flowage. About 6 miles north of the trailhead, trail users will encounter Jim Falls; here people can find food options near the post office on County Road S and parking at the Jim Falls–Anson Town Hall.

Farmland and woods hug the trail for much of the rest of the trail's journey to the city of Cornell. Upon reaching Bridge Street, head west off the trail to the Cornell Visitors' Center, where trail users can catch a nice sunset over the water and learn about the city's paper-milling past. Trail users can also view the world's only stationary pulpwood stacker—now listed in the National Register of Historic Places—as it would have looked in the early 1900s when the Cornell Wood Products Company set up shop (it ceased operations in 1972). Signs in Cornell invitingly point trail users to the quaint downtown area along Main Street, where they can find several restaurants, ice cream shops, and pubs. Parking, restrooms, and water are available next door to the visitor center at Mill Yard Park.

Upon leaving Cornell, the trail continues north a short way and then bends left to cross Park Road before heading northwest, briefly sharing space with the roadway. Park Road



Old Abe State Trail

Wisconsin

States: Wisconsin

Counties: Chippewa, Eau Claire

Length: 34.3 miles

Trail end points: Phoenix Park, 330 Riverfront Terrace (Eau Claire) to Brunet Island State Park, 23125 255th St (Cornell)

Trail surfaces: Asphalt, Concrete

Trail category: Rail-Trail

Trail activities: Bike, Horseback Riding, Inline Skating, Snowmobiling, Walking, Wheelchair Accessible, Cross Country Skiing

Parking & Trail Access

The Old Abe State Trail runs between Brunet Island State Park, Phoenix Park, 330 Riverfront Terrace (Eau Claire), and 23125 255th St (Cornell), with parking available at both ends.

Parking is also available at:

- Boyd Park, 1202 Fairway St (Eau Claire)
- 13836 County Hwy S (Jim Falls)
- Skate Park, 51 Bridge St (Cornell)

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



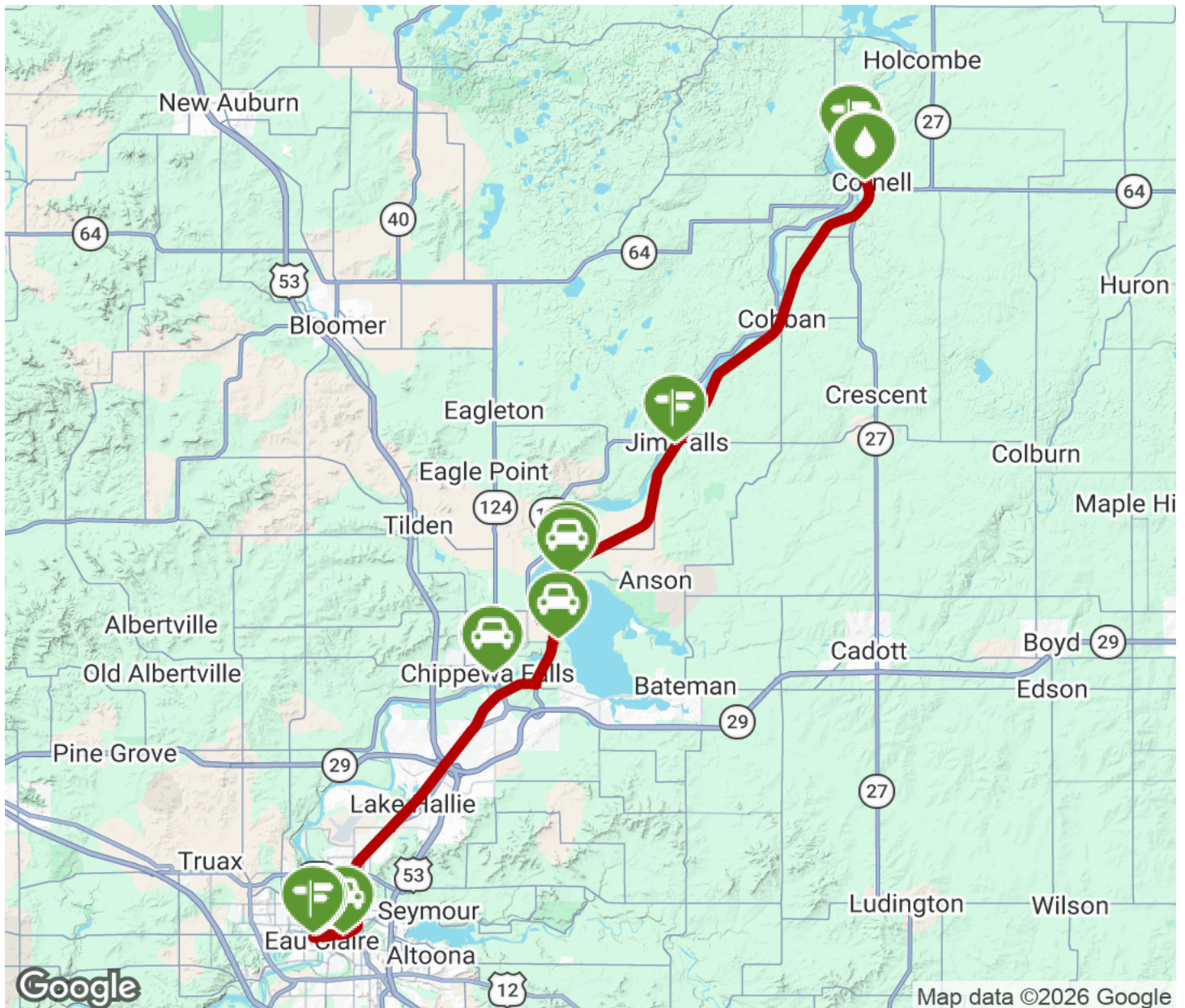
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Trailhead



Restroom



Parking



Water Fountain



Tunnel



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