



2026

TrailLink Unlimited



Guides



**Red Cedar
State Trail**
Wisconsin



Red Cedar State Trail

Wisconsin

One of Wisconsin's earliest rail-trail conversions, the 14.8-mile Red Cedar State Trail is built on the former corridor of the Red Cedar



One of Wisconsin's earliest rail-trail conversions, the 14.8-mile Red Cedar State Trail is built on the former corridor of the Red Cedar Junction railway, which served Knapp, Stout & Co. in the 1880s—then the world's largest timber producer. Since the late 1970s, the trail has offered a serene experience for trail users from Menomonie to Peru, where it meets with the southern end of the Chippewa River State Trail, just south of the Dunnville State Wildlife Area.

About the Route

Leaving off from the old train depot turned visitor center at Riverside Park in Menomonie. Here, trail users can access ample parking and purchase a State Trail Pass, required for all bikers, snowmobilers, and cross-country

skiers. Trail users should note that hybrid bikes are recommended for an optimal experience on the crushed-limestone route.

Snowmobiles are permitted on the 2 miles of the trail between the Chippewa River State Trail and County Road Y. Hunting is also permitted along a 4-mile section through the Dunnville State Wildlife Area.

Heading south, the Red Cedar State Trail pulls trail users into a peaceful riverside corridor with scenic views of the water to the left and sandstone cliffs to the right. Trail users will soon cross the first of several bridges built over the tributaries that feed the Red Cedar River. The crushed sandstone trail remains level for the duration of the trail, and there are several benches along the way for rest and respite. Take some time to sit and watch the river flow and listen to the sounds of songbirds and small animals scurrying about in the surrounding woods.

The first 3 miles of trail to Irvington wind along the river in deciduous forest, which provides shade in the warmer months and a beautiful palette of birch, maple, elm, and aspen leaves in the fall. On the trail, visitors might spy on some unexpected "trail users" enjoying the tranquility, including white-tailed deer, foxes, and raccoons.

5 miles farther south of Downsville, the forest opens up to a view of surrounding farmland. Just before the Downsville trailhead, the trail crosses the 200-foot Red Cedar Trestle, which has well-maintained plank decking and an iconic rusty but solid steel frame.

Just north of Dunnville, the trail crosses a small waterfall, a reward for a journey along one of the state's most beautiful trails. Nearing the southern endpoint, trail users should make sure to marvel at the sweeping views as they pass through the Dunnville State Wildlife Area and cross over a spectacular trestle on the Chippewa River.



Red Cedar State Trail

Wisconsin

States: Wisconsin

Counties: Dunn, Eau Claire

Length: 14.8 miles

Trail end points: 912 Brickyard Road
(Menomonie) to Chippewa River State Trail
(Peru)

Trail surfaces: Crushed Stone

Trail category: Rail-Trail

Trail activities: Bike, Fishing, Mountain
Biking, Walking, Wheelchair Accessible, Cross
Country Skiing

Parking & Trail Access

The Red Cedar State Trail runs between 912 Brickyard Road (Menomonie), where parking is available, and Chippewa River State Trail (Peru).

Parking is also available at:

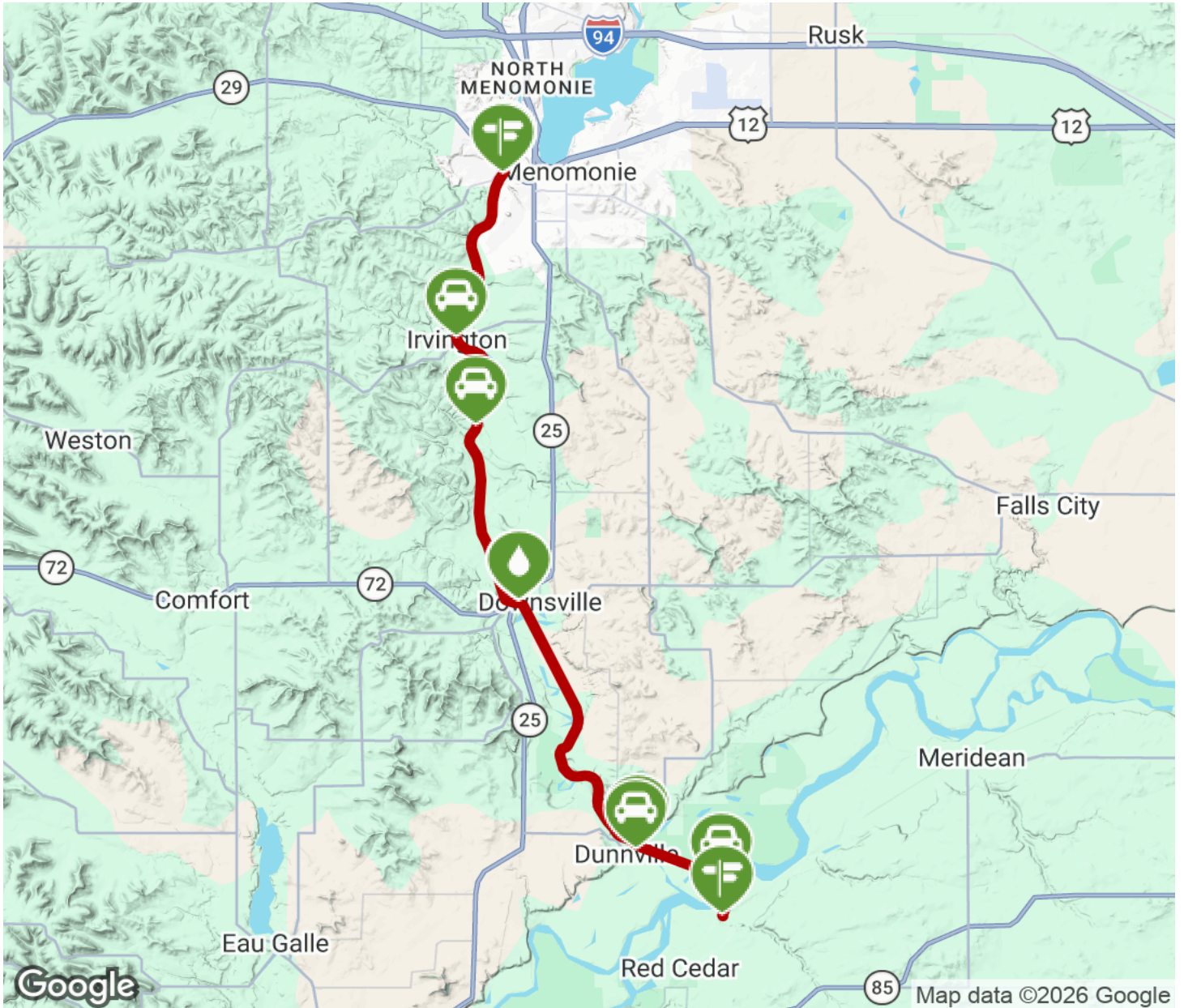
- E4486 County Rd C (Downsville)

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



Red Cedar State Trail

Wisconsin



Trailhead



Restroom



Parking



Water Fountain



Tunnel



TrailLink
by Rails-to-Trails Conservancy

[TrailLink.com](https://www.TrailLink.com)