



2025

TrailLink Unlimited 

Guides



Glacial River Trail

Wisconsin



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The Glacial River Trail provides bikers, pedestrians, and in-line skaters with a 55.8-mile off-road/on-road rural route winding through farmland, prairie, wetlands, and woodlands as it passes through three counties in southeastern Wisconsin.

About the Route

Technically, the southern endpoint begins in Janesville at Milton Avenue, where trail users can also pick up a segment of the 1,200-mile, hiking-centric Ice Age National Scenic Trail. Note that the closest dedicated trail parking is about 10 miles farther down the trail in Koshkonong. Heading north from Janesville on the Glacial River Trail, the route takes trail users through Milton and the rural countryside to Koshkonong, where the trail leaves Rock

County and heads into Jefferson County. A quaint-covered bridge greets trail users just after this crossing.

Open areas and woods serve as pleasant companions as the trail moves north along SR 26. Take a worthy side trip by heading west (left) at Koshkonong Mounds Road to Indian Mounds Park, which features 11 Native American effigy mounds and an ancient Indian trail. The mounds, large earthworks with religious or ceremonial origins, can be seen from the trail. Look closely to see the turtle and bird shapes identified by experts. The mounds are thought to have survived about 1,500 years.

About 16 miles north along the trail, the route reaches Fort Atkinson. Note that just before reaching Fort Atkinson, the trail detours from the railroad corridor for about 1.5 miles, heading northwest and then east on Schwemmer Lane (under SR 26), and then right on Groeler Road, which meets up with the off-road trail again on the northern side of where SR 26 and SR 26 Trunk meet. Nearing busy Janesville Avenue, a low stone wall next to the path marks the Glacial River Rotary Depot, which offers a drinking fountain and covered picnic area.

Trail users also have the option to detour three blocks east onto South Third Street West (where the trail crosses Janesville Avenue), turn right (south) onto South Main Street, and then head a block and a half (veering left) onto Whitewater Avenue to the Hoard Historical Museum. The museum is named after the Hoard family, who are behind the nationally distributed dairy farm magazine Hoard's Dairyman. Exhibits of tools, textiles, and American Indian artifacts will get trail users up to speed on the area's early fort history, European settlers, and American Indian culture.

At Lorman Bicentennial Park, trail users can access the Riverwalk, which runs through the park and underneath the bridge across the Rock River. Head right along the Riverwalk to find quaint shops and restaurants.



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States: Wisconsin

Counties: Dodge, Jefferson, Rock

Length: 55.8 miles

Trail end points: Milton Ave. (Janesville) to
W6567 WI-60 (Juneau)

Trail surfaces: Asphalt, Crushed Stone

Trail category: Rail-Trail

Trail activities: Bike, Walking, Cross Country
Skiing

Parking & Trail Access

The Glacial River Trail runs between Milton Ave. (Janesville) and W6567 WI-60 (Juneau), where parking is available.

Parking is also available at:

- Klement Park, 1350 N High St. (Fort Atkinson)
- 5322 Schreiber Rd. (Johnson Creek)

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



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by Rails-to-Trails Conservancy

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