



2026

TrailLink Unlimited 

Guides



**MCT Nature
Trail**
Illinois



MCT Nature Trail

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The Madison County Transit (MCT) Nature Trail goes through richly varied surroundings of city, farm and wood. In the west, it begins at beautiful Wilson Park in Granite City. From there, it makes its way through older city neighborhoods, where it provides a safe off-street path for local use. It does lack good signage in places; the first-time user may have trouble staying on course. But it's a good way to slow down and enjoy this old river and railroad city.

About the Route

The trail has two significant trail spurs to surface drainage features of this middle Mississippi floodplain. One goes north along a wide levee and canal system; one goes south to Horseshoe Lake and the MCT Schoolhouse Trail that

runs along its shore. Just before this latter spur turns off, the trail crosses railroad tracks and becomes rail-with-trail and rail-trail, all the way to its end.

The trail continues through a wetlands area to intersect with the MCT Nickel Plate Trail, and then it's on to open farmlands of the fertile American Bottom. At one point, it goes alongside and crosses Chain of Rock Road, which was once a part of Old Route 66. At University Drive, the trail meets the MCT Bluff Trail, its link to the campus of Southern Illinois University Edwardsville.

At that point, the trail leaves the floodplain and climbs gradually to wooded bluffs bordering school properties and residential neighborhoods, going on to cross the MCT Goshen Trail and the MCT Nickel Plate Trail (again) before it comes to an end in the old Leclaire neighborhood of Edwardsville.

Connections

Along the southern spur, trail users can connect to the [MCT Schoolhouse Trail](#).

At Rte. 162, trail users can connect to the [MCT Nickel Plate Trail](#).

At University Drive, trail users can connect to the [MCT Bluff Trail](#).

At the eastern end of the trail, trail users can connect to the [MCT Goshen Trail](#).



TrailLink
by Rails-to-Trails Conservancy

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MCT Nature Trail

Illinois

States: Illinois

Counties: Madison

Length: 14.4miles

Trail end points: 2nd Ave. (Edwardsville) to
Wilson Park, 2900 Benton St. (Granite City)

Trail surfaces: Asphalt

Trail category: Rail-Trail

Trail activities: Bike, Inline

Skating, Walking, Wheelchair Accessible

Parking & Trail Access

The MCT Nature Trail runs between 2nd Ave. (Edwardsville) and Wilson Park, 2900 Benton St. (Granite City), where parking is available.

Parking is also available at:

- 4261 Reville Ln (Granite City)

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



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