



2026

TrailLink Unlimited 

Guides



Badger State Trail

Wisconsin



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Closure Notice: The Stewart Tunnel has been closed since 2019 and remains closed for the foreseeable future. A detour using Tunnel Road allows trail users to go around the tunnel. Visit the [trail page](#) on the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources website for the latest information.

The Badger State Trail, which heads south from Madison to the Illinois state line, is perhaps most famous for the 1,200-foot Stewart Tunnel—with a twist: the Stewart Tunnel is built on a curve, so riders cannot see the other end as they enter the tunnel.

About the Route

The trail leaves off from its northern endpoint in Madison

just south of Lovell Lane, where it intersects the Southwest Commuter Path, which heads 5.6 miles from Madison to Fitchburg. Heading south, the trail quickly crosses over a major trail intersection of the Capital City State Trail, the Cannonball Path, and the Military Ridge Trail.

The northernmost 6 miles of the Badger State Trail are paved to Purcell Road, after which the surface gives way to crushed stone. The trail also overlaps the Ice Age Trail, a statewide hiking trail, for a handful of miles in this part of rural southern Dane County. The small town of Belleville will greet riders just shy of the 13-mile mark. It's a quaint historical town where one can see remnants of how the railroad used to go right through the heart of the community.

Approximately 4 miles south of Belleville, trail users will find the Stewart Tunnel. The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources recommends that all riders walk their bikes through the entirety of the tunnel. Flashlights and light jackets to guard against dampness are also recommended.

Once trail users clear the tunnel, it's only 5 more miles to Monticello. Parking can be found a couple hundred yards to the right of the trail on Pratt Road.

The next 5 miles run through wooded areas and farm fields—with rolling hills and several nice creeks and bridges along the way—to the small farming town of Stearns, after which it's only a few more miles to Monroe. The seat of Green County (population 10,000), Monroe is home to the famous Swiss Colony gourmet food company and is also known as the "Swiss Cheese Capital of the USA."

Just a few blocks west of Badger State Trail, on West 21st Street, trail users will find the eastern terminus for the Cheese County Recreation Trail, a 47-mile route that heads west and then north to Mineral Point.

The final few miles of the route take trail users to Clarno, the



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States: Wisconsin

Counties: Dane, Green

Length: 39.8 miles

Trail end points: Southwest Commuter Path (Madison) to Jane Addams Trail (MI/WI)

Trail surfaces: Asphalt, Crushed Stone

Trail category: Rail-Trail

Trail activities: Bike, Mountain Biking, Inline Skating, Snowmobiling, Walking, Cross Country Skiing

Parking & Trail Access

The Badger State Trail runs between the Southwest Commuter Path (Madison) and the Jane Addams Trail (WI/IL State Line).

Parking is available at:

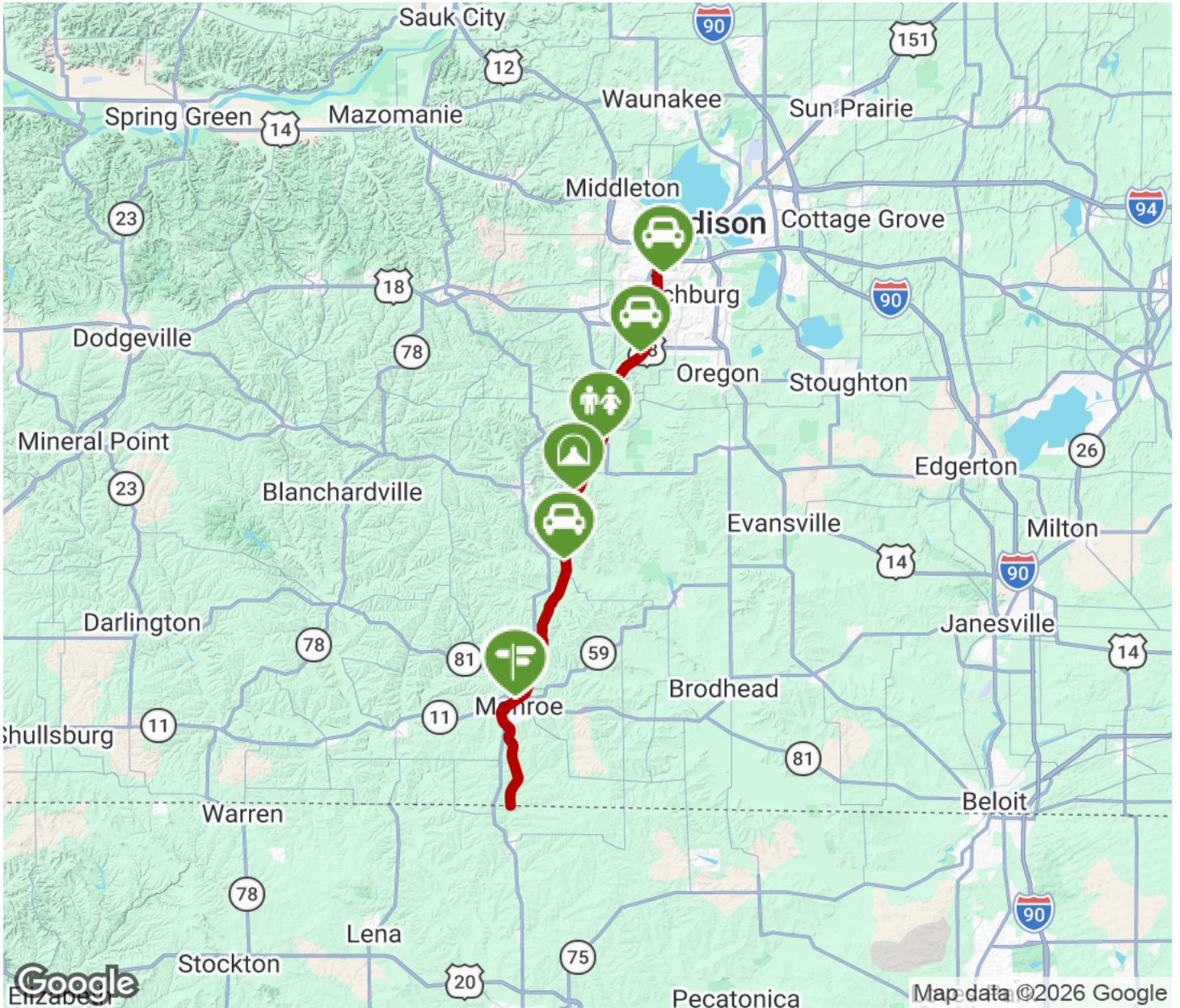
- Dawley Park, 2656 South Seminole Hwy (Fitchburg)
- Library Park, 18 S Vine St (Belleville)
- Twining Park, 425 14th Ave (Monroe)

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



Badger State Trail

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Trailhead



Restroom



Parking



Water Fountain



Tunnel



TrailLink
by Rails-to-Trails Conservancy

TrailLink.com