



2026

TrailLink Unlimited 

Guides



**Kern River
Parkway Trail**
California



Kern River Parkway Trail

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The Kern River Parkway Trail spans the east-west length of Bakersfield along the Kern River for 30.3 miles, a waterway that drains the Sierra Nevada range but is often dry by the time it reaches the inland city. Most of the lands on both sides of the river in Bakersfield are preserved by the city as riparian areas where native wildlife, including roadrunners and bobcats, is protected from the threat of encroaching development.

About the Route

Leaving off from the trail's rural western end will make trail users forget you are within Bakersfield city limits, but that changes as the trail reaches its first under crossing at S. Allen Road. Here, residential subdivisions stretch to the southeast as far as the eye can see. At Stockdale Highway

and Don Hart Drive East (less than a mile east of S. Allen Road), a spur provides convenient access to California State University, Bakersfield.

The suddenly more urban trail continues eastward, proceeding through several city parks with water and restroom facilities. Note that the eastern half of the trail is noticeably hillier than the western half. Just before the trails come to a head at the mouth of Kern Canyon, the trail traverses a landscape dotted by the working rigs of the Kern River Oil Field, the third-largest oil field in California.

Plans are in the works for an extension of the trail's western end, connecting to the Buena Vista Lake recreation area.

On the eastern end, there is a disconnected segment of the trail between Fairfax Road and the Kern River County Park and Kern River Golf Course around Lake Ming. This portion of the trail leaves the banks of the river to travel through the undeveloped rolling hills northeast of the city, before rejoining the river and giving trail users convenient access to the numerous nearby athletic fields and recreation facilities.



TrailLink
by Rails-to-Trails Conservancy

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Kern River Parkway Trail

California

States: California

Counties: Kern

Length: 30.3miles

Trail end points: Kern River County Park,
10500 Alfred Harrell Hwy. (Bakersfield) to S
Enos Ln. (Bakersfield)

Trail surfaces: Asphalt

Trail category: Greenway/Non-RT

Trail activities: Bike,Inline

Skating,Walking,Wheelchair Accessible

Parking & Trail Access

The Kern River Parkway Trail runs between Kern River County Park, 10500 Alfred Harrell Hwy. (Bakersfield), where parking is available, and S Enos Ln. (Bakersfield).

Parking is also available at:

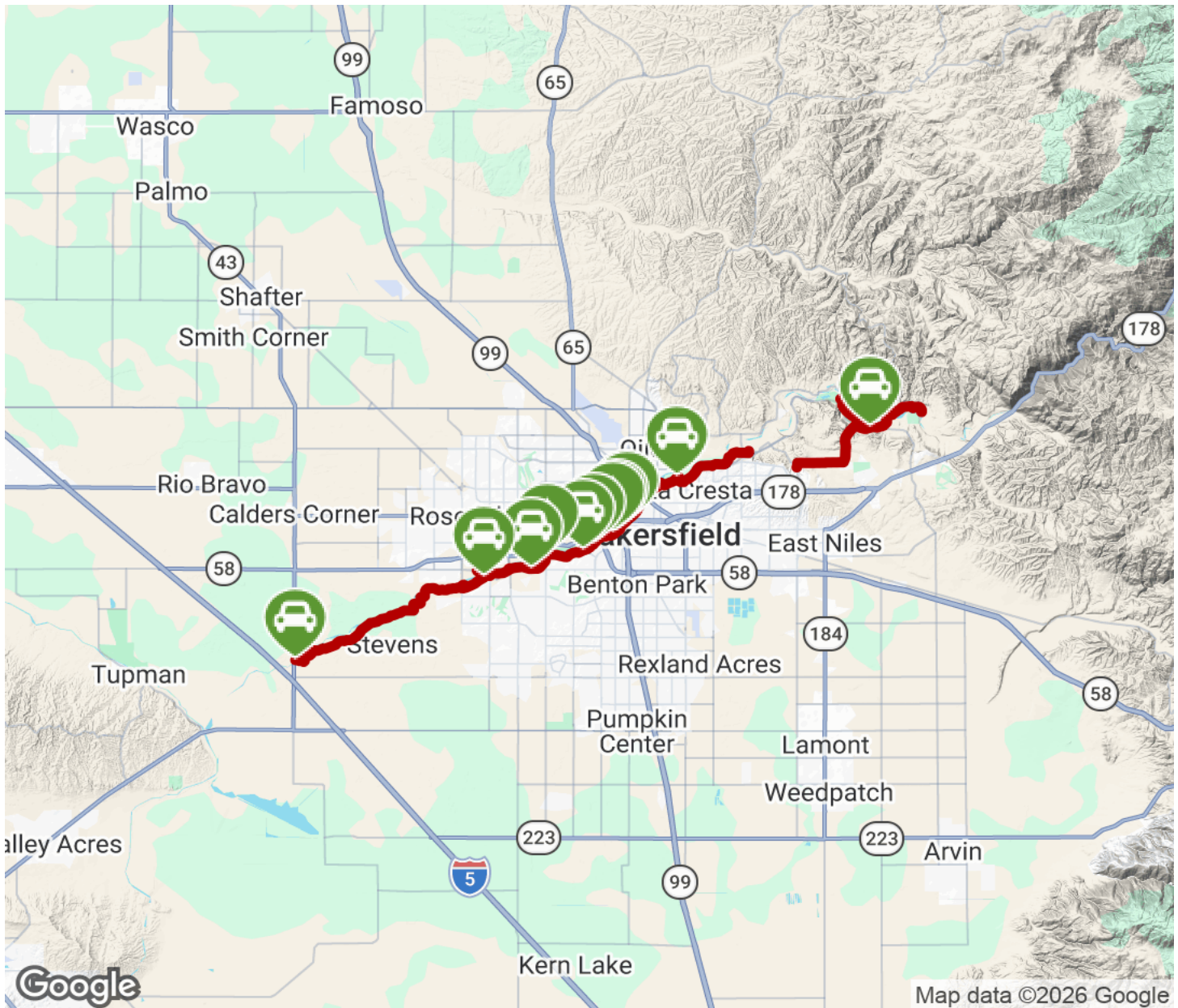
- The Park at Riverwalk, 11298 Stockdale Hwy. (Bakersfield)
- 5660 Truxtun Ave. (Bakersfield)
- Yokuts Park, 4200 Empire Dr. (Bakersfield)

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



Kern River Parkway Trail

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Trailhead



Restroom



Parking



Water Fountain



Tunnel



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