



2025

TrailLink Unlimited



Guides



**Richland B&O
Trail**
Ohio



Richland B&O Trail

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Traveling just over 18 miles through some of the most scenic areas of the Buckeye State, the Richland B&O Trail is an ideal way to immerse oneself in the region. Built partially as a result of the National Trails System Act amended in 1983, the path follows the disused line of the Baltimore & Ohio Railroad along a semicircular route between Butler and Mansfield in north-central Ohio. In addition to presenting stunning views and abundant wildlife, the trail passes through quaint towns with shops and restaurants.

About the Route

Leaving from the southern end of the trail at Frances Hitchman Park in Butler, where commemorative benches depict the history of the railroad that operated along the

corridor. Head northwest as the trail zigzags across several roads and weaves in and out of rural landscapes. Just outside of town, the trail crosses a fork of the Mohican River and trail users can enjoy beautiful views of the valley from the bridge. On the far side of the slow-moving river, the trail takes trail users into quiet rural fields. At the next crossing of OH 97, note that trail users have a stop sign and that motorists have only a warning sign, so use caution.

Cross the river again on a unique curved-deck iron trestle bridge that leads into Bellville, about 5 miles from the start. Just over the bridge, the Bellville trailhead is located in a railroad depot that's a replica of the one built in 1906. The depot offers restrooms, parking, and some interesting information about the area's history. Several more road crossings are ahead, as is a view south toward downtown Bellville with its classic small-town Main Street shopping district.

After crossing OH 97 again, the path reaches Alexander Road. Here, trail users will find many restaurants; just take a right at this crossroads. Continuing, the trail passes underneath I-71 and then experiences a serene journey for the next 2-plus miles, with only one rural road crossing and a few farm fields breaking up the pleasant forested environment.

Coming out of the forest, the trail parallels South Mill Street for about 1 mile and passes a water treatment plant just before arriving in Lexington. The Lexington Senior Civic Center (a former depot) on the left side of the trail provides a restroom and a place to fill your water bottle, the last opportunity for a pit stop for nearly 7 miles.

At mile 15, the trail arrives at Deer Park, which supplies basic trailhead amenities, before arriving at Home Road Marsh. Here, trail users may have the opportunity to see an abundance of bird species, from swallows to hawks, as well as an assortment of other animals, including turtles, snakes, deer, and raccoons. Rest on one of the many benches and



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States: Ohio

Counties: Richland

Length: 18.5miles

Trail end points: Francis Hitchman Park (Butler) to North Lake Park, 268 Hope Rd. (Mansfield)

Trail surfaces: Asphalt

Trail category: Rail-Trail

Trail activities: Bike,Inline

Skating,Walking,Wheelchair Accessible,Cross Country Skiing

Parking & Trail Access

The Richland B&O Trail runs between Francis Hitchman Park (Butler) and North Lake Park, 268 Hope Rd. (Mansfield), with parking available at either end.

Parking is also available at:

- 641 State Rte 97 W (Bellville)
- Lexington Community Park, 169-387 Plymouth St. (Lexington)
- Deer Park, 1716 S Home Rd. (Mansfield)

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



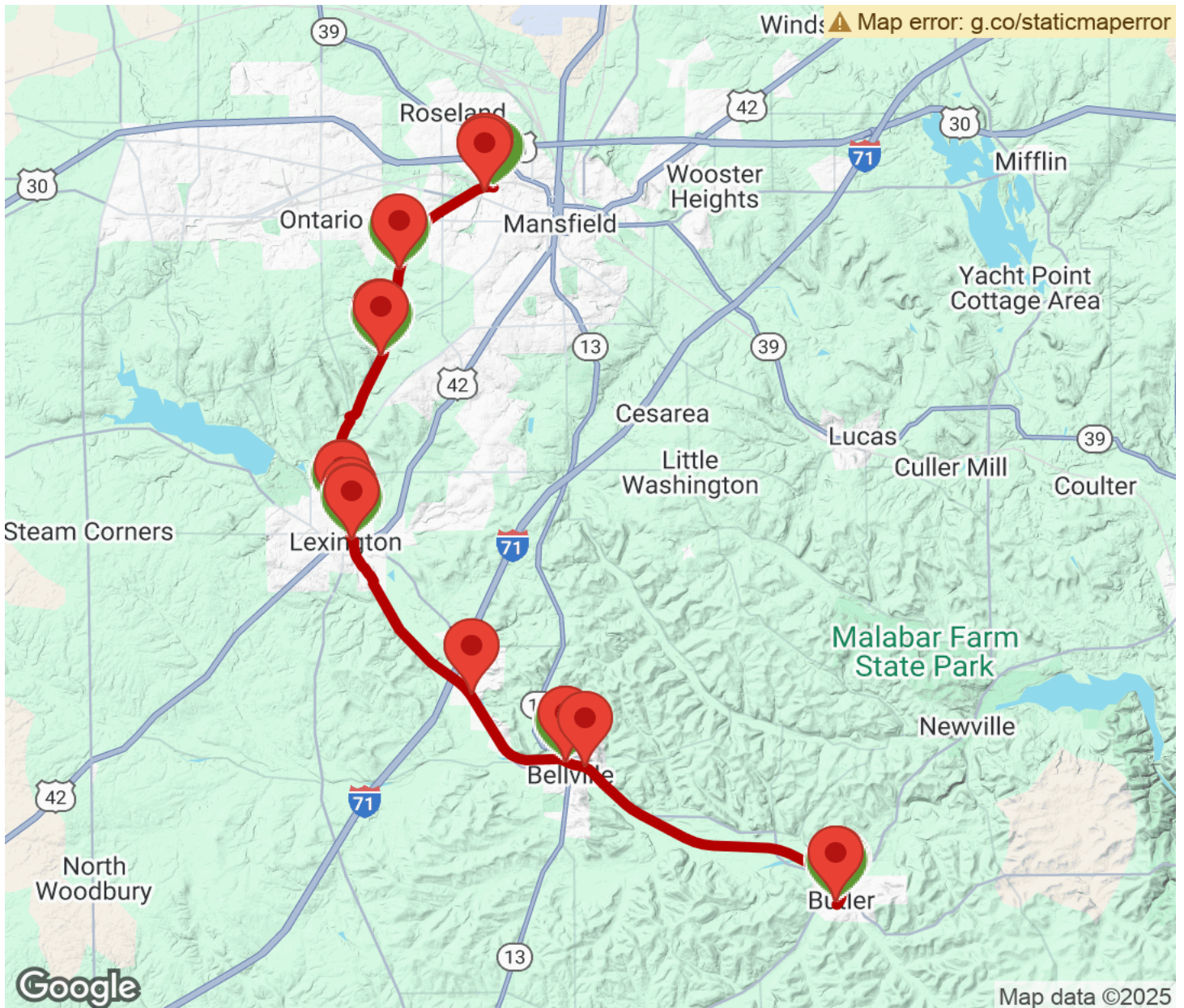
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Trailhead



Restroom



Parking



Water Fountain



Tunnel



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