



2026

TrailLink Unlimited



Guides



Cannonball Path

Wisconsin



Cannonball Path

Wisconsin

The Cannonball Path runs on a railbanked Union Pacific corridor from near downtown Madison to Fitchburg, a southern suburb. A



crossing a new trail bridge over McKee Road. Trail users should be aware that this section of the trail within Fitchburg city limits—the most recent to be completed—is also known as the Military Ridge Path and may be labeled as such on Fitchburg's bike map.

Near Arrowhead Park in Fitchburg, a junction with several popular trails offers a bounty of recreation options. Take the [Southwest Commuter Path](#) to directly reach downtown Madison and the main campus of the University of Wisconsin. A trip east on the [Capital City State Trail](#) instead takes trail users along a winding route, ultimately passing by Lake Monona and ending in Madison's northeastern neighborhoods. Alternatively, trekking south on the [Badger State Trail](#) from the trail junction will take you as far as the Illinois state line, where you can continue even farther south on Illinois' [Jane Addams Trail](#) to Freeport.

But that's not all: future plans call for the Cannonball Path to be extended north as a rail-with-trail to Fish Hatchery Road, and ultimately to Madison's [Wingra Creek Path](#).

The Cannonball Path runs on a railbanked Union Pacific corridor from near downtown Madison to Fitchburg, a southern suburb. A majority of the paved trail is complete between Madison's Beltline—including a new bridge over the busy highway and its frontage road—and its terminus at the [Military Ridge State Trail](#) in Fitchburg.

The trail gently curves through the Arbor Hills neighborhood, which has been named "Tree City USA" by the Arbor Day Foundation for more than 17 years. And trees are what you'll find: the trail skirts the edge of the sprawling University of Wisconsin Arboretum, home to several deciduous forests.

At the west end of the Cannonball Path, trail users can hop on the 45-mile Military Ridge State Trail after first



Cannonball Path

Wisconsin

States: Wisconsin

Counties: Dane

Length: 3.9miles

Trail end points: Military Ridge State Trail

south of Cottonwood Dr. (Fitchburg) to W.

Beltline Frontage Rd. north of US 12/18

(Madison)

Trail surfaces: Asphalt

Trail category: Rail-Trail

Trail activities: Bike, Inline

Skating, Walking, Wheelchair Accessible

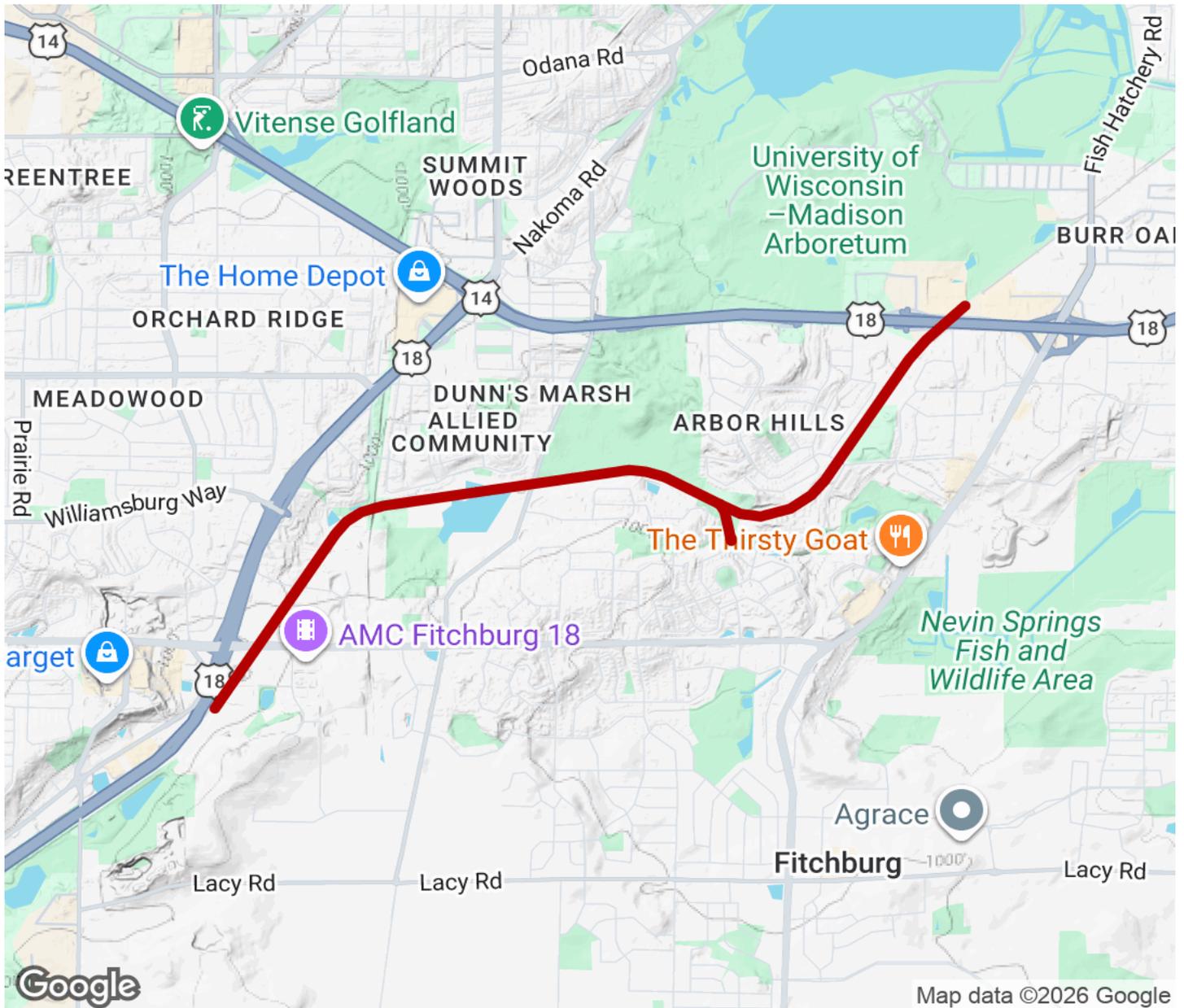
Parking & Trail Access

There are currently no dedicated parking lots for the Cannonball Path. Parking may be available along neighborhood streets in Fitchburg and Madison.



Cannonball Path

Wisconsin



Trailhead



Restroom



Parking



Water Fountain



Tunnel



TrailLink
by Rails-to-Trails Conservancy

TrailLink.com