



2025

TrailLink Unlimited 

Guides



Lake Minnetonka LRT Regional Trail

Minnesota



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Overview

The Lake Minnetonka LRT Regional Trail leaves off in the west in Hopkins, just a few blocks north of the eastern endpoint of the Minnesota River Bluffs LRT Regional Trail. Currently, there is only a short paved section (from Eighth to 11th Avenues) in the entire 15-mile trail that skirts the edge of Lake Minnetonka on its run through the communities of Minnetonka, Excelsior, and Victoria.

About the Route

The trail cuts diagonally northwest across residential neighborhoods in the Minneapolis suburb of Hopkins before turning due west at Minnetonka Boulevard. Paralleling the road for about 2 miles, the trail passes

under busy I-494. Construction of a light rail segment from 11th Avenue northwest to Shady Oak Road, scheduled for completion in the next three to four years, will include paving that section of the trail as well. From Shady Oak Road to the western trailhead in Victoria, the trail will remain hard-packed crushed gravel as it is for the entire route now.

In the city of Minnetonka, the landscape changes to dense forest, although housing developments are never far away. The trail runs directly behind the large campus of Minnetonka's Middle School East and provides a safe route to school for a number of students.

About halfway into the trek, the trail rejoins Minnetonka Boulevard to cross the Carson Bay inlet of Lake Minnetonka; be sure to stop nearby to check out the stunning views. The trail skirts the shoreline for a short while before passing the former site of the famous Excelsior Amusement Park and entering the city's downtown area. The small city is a great place to stop for a bite to eat.

The rest of the journey to Victoria takes you through a now-familiar mixture of local residential properties and dense woodlands. Victoria is home to the large Carver Park Reserve, which includes horse trails, hiking trails, and a nature center. The park is accessible directly from the Lake Minnetonka LRT Regional Trail on the eastern side of Steiger Lake, just west of the intersection at Park Drive.



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States: Minnesota

Counties: Carver, Hennepin

Length: 15 miles

Trail end points: 8th Ave. N (Hopkins) to Kirke Lachen Park Natural Area, 8000 81st St. (Victoria)

Trail surfaces: Crushed Stone

Trail category: Rail-Trail

Trail activities: Bike, Mountain Biking, Walking

Parking & Trail Access

The Lake Minnetonka LRT Regional Trail runs between 8th Ave. N (Hopkins) and Kirke Lachen Park Natural Area, 8000 81st St. (Victoria).

Parking is available at:

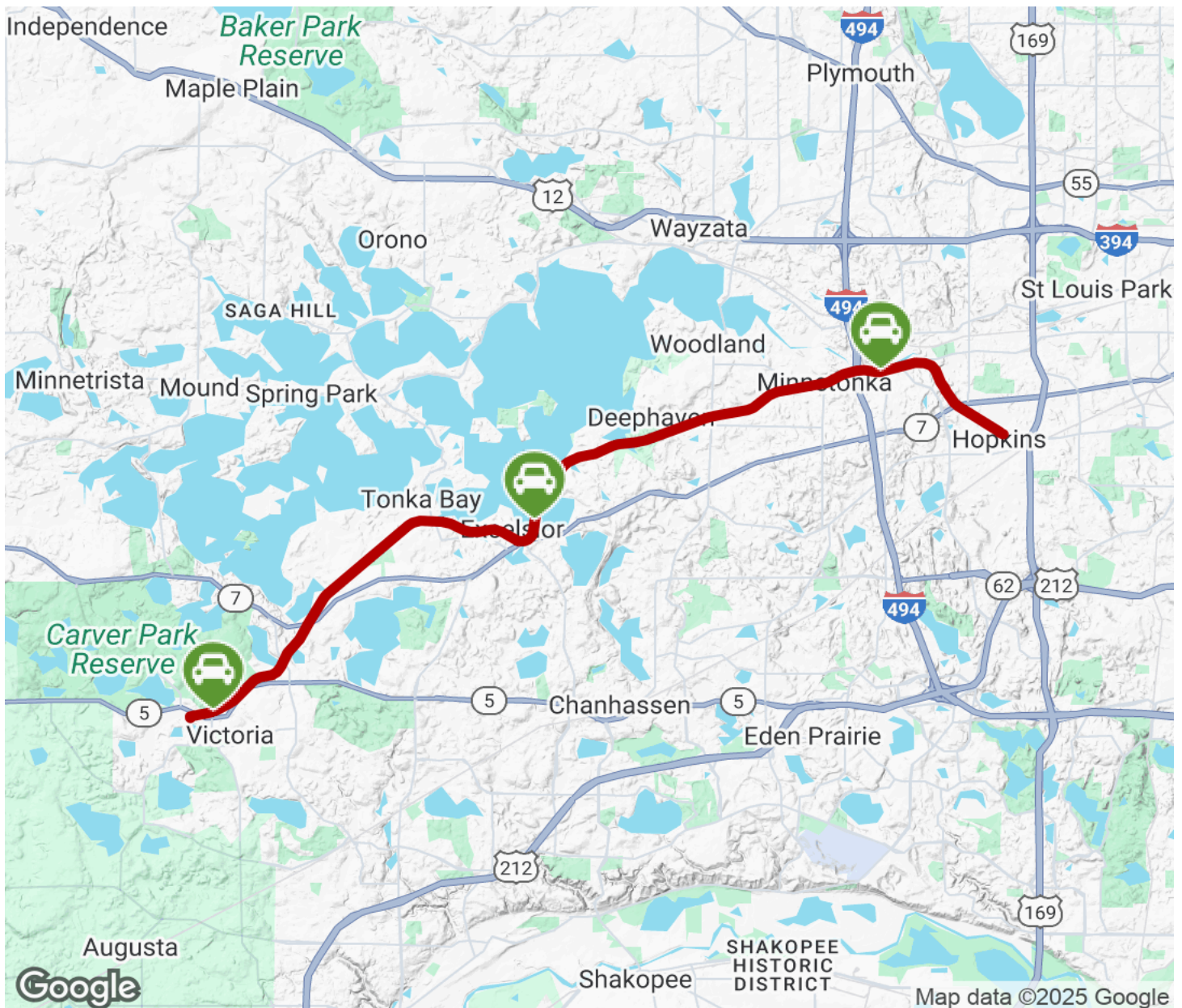
- 21940 Minnetonka Blvd. (Excelsior)
- 13310 Minnetonka Dr. (Minnetonka)

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



Lake Minnetonka LRT Regional Trail

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Trailhead



Restroom



Parking



Water Fountain



Tunnel



TrailLink
by Rails-to-Trails Conservancy

TrailLink.com