



2026

TrailLink Unlimited



Guides



Headwaters Trail System

Montana



Headwaters Trail System

Montana

The Headwaters Trail System is a paved network of trails, portions of which run along the former Milwaukee Railroad corridor,



Eventually, the trail will be extended to Manhattan, Montana, and other parts of the gorgeous Gallatin Valley.

This trail is a gateway to the Great American Rail-Trail, a nearly 4,000 mile developing trail that will connect the country from Washington, D.C., to Washington state. Gateway trails represent those iconic trails that make possible the Great American Rail-Trail in each of the states it connects. Learn more at www.greatamericanrailtrail.org

The Headwaters Trail System is a paved network of trails, portions of which run along the former Milwaukee Railroad corridor, through the City of Three Forks to [Missouri Headwaters State Park](#). As its name implies, the park contains the origin of the Missouri River, formed where the Jefferson, Madison and Gallatin rivers meet. Visitors can camp where Lewis and Clark stayed on their famous expedition across the country.

The scenic trail provides stunning views of the surrounding mountains and grasslands, winds around ponds and through old growth cottonwood trees, and ends on the banks of the Jefferson River. In 2007, the system was selected as the Montana Trail of the Year by the state's Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks.



Headwaters Trail System

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States: Montana

Counties: Gallatin

Length: 12.8 miles

Trail end points: Missouri Headwaters State Park to Droulliard Fishing Access on State Route 2

Trail surfaces: Asphalt

Trail category: Rail-Trail

Trail activities: Bike, Horseback Riding, Inline Skating, Walking, Wheelchair Accessible

Parking & Trail Access

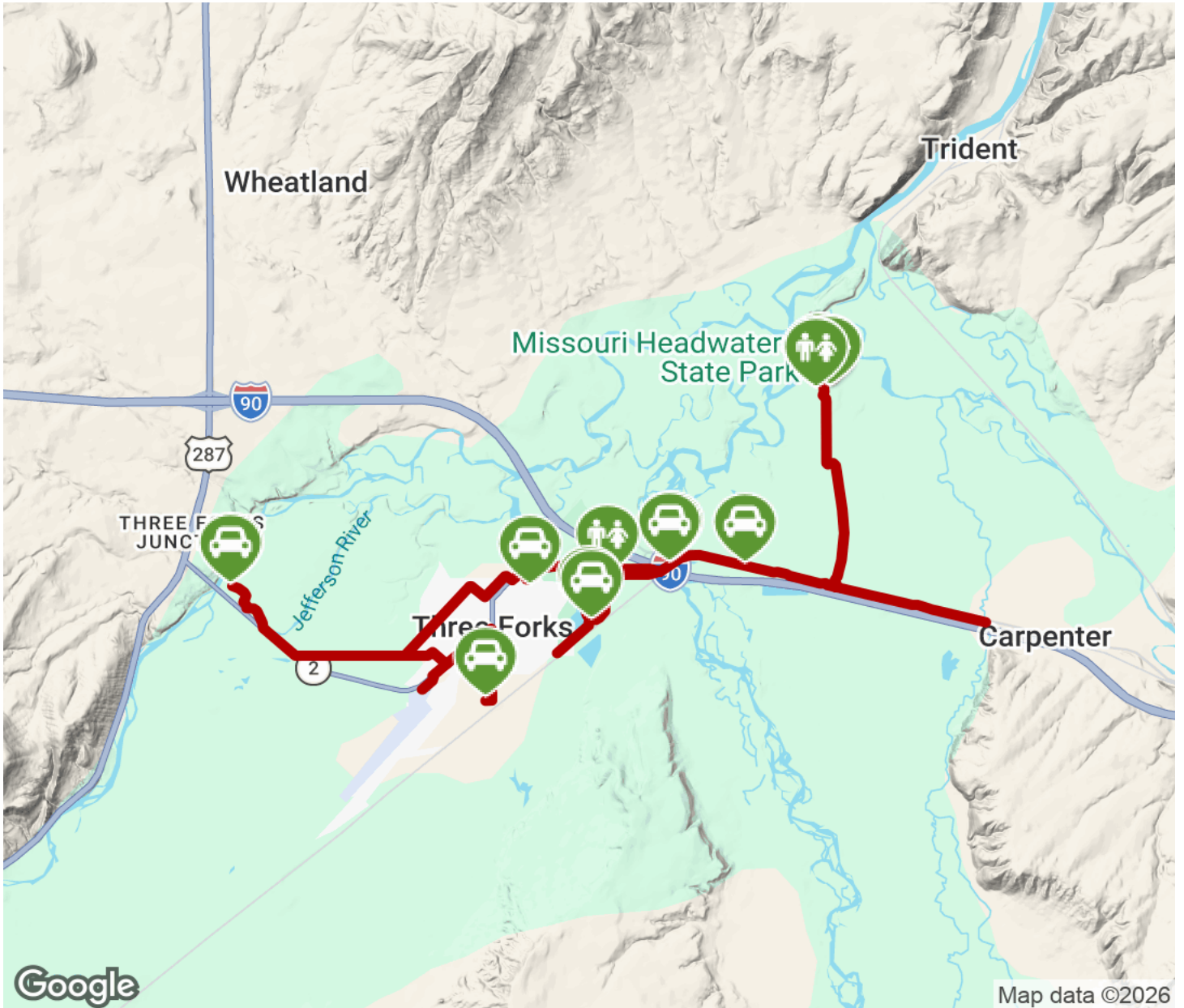
Parking is available at the western tip of the trail. From US 287, turn onto State Route 2. After a half mile, turn left (just after you cross the Jefferson River); the turn will be marked with a "Droulliard Fishing Access" sign. The access road will terminate in an unpaved parking area where the trail begins.

On the eastern end of the trail, parking and restrooms are available in Missouri Headwaters State Park (1585 Trident Road).



Headwaters Trail System

Montana



Trailhead



Restroom



Parking



Water Fountain



Tunnel



TrailLink
by Rails-to-Trails Conservancy

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