2025

TrailLink
by Rails-to-Trails Conservancy

TrailLink Unlimited ∞

Guides

Ridgefield Trace
Illinois

The Ridgefield Trace is a multi-use pathway that runs through suburban Crystal Lake, Illinois. The trail takes its name from the

Acres Park, you'll find a nature center, athletic fields, restrooms, picnic shelters and a playground. Just east of the park, you can connect to the Prairie Trail, a scenic 28-mile rail-trail.

The northwestern end of the trail doesn't offer much in the way of scenery, navigating through off-highway suburban development before coming to an end outside the massive Walmart complex, but the pathway does offer a good deal of flat, smooth trail - and a connection into the heart of Woodstock via the sidewalk that continues along Lake Avenue.

The Ridgefield Trace is a multi-use pathway that runs through suburban Crystal Lake, Illinois. The trail takes its name from the original Indian trace that once ran along the route of what is now US-14, which the paved trail runs alongside of. Originally built in two disconnected segments, the trail was later connected with a crossing over the active Metra railroad tracks, and extended out to reach the outskirts of the community of Woodstock, bringing the trail to a length of about seven miles.

The eastern end of the trail occupies a ComEd electric utility corridor that offers wide open views of rural northern Illinois countryside, before joining up with the highway around McHenry County College - providing a great option for commuting students from Crystal Lake and Woodstock. Also on the southeastern end in Veteran

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Parking & Trail Access

Parking is available in Veteran Acres Park (431 Walkup Road) on the east end of the trail.

See TrailLink Map for more detailed directions.

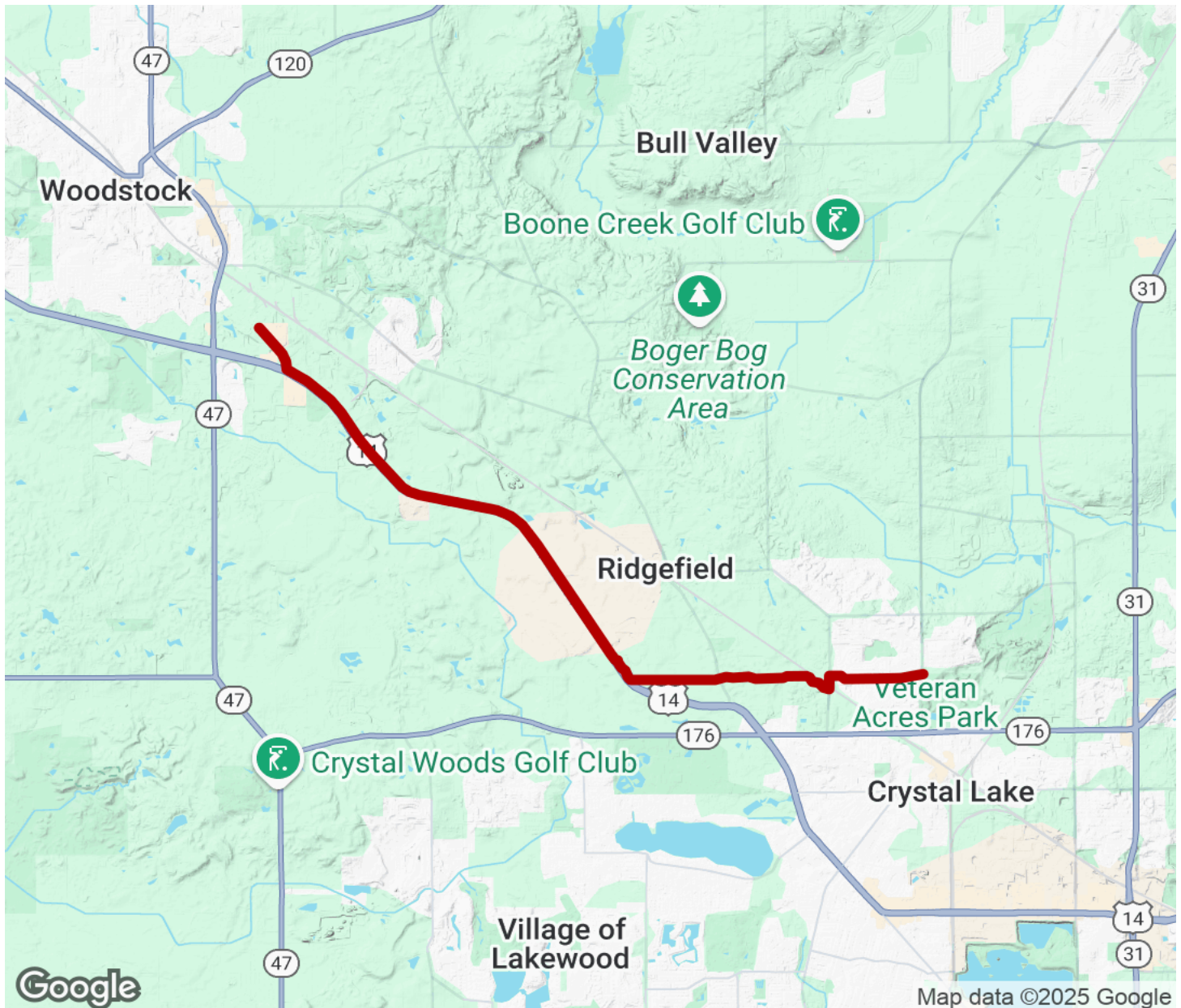# Ridgefield Trace

Illinois

Trailhead   Restroom   Parking   Water Fountain   Tunnel