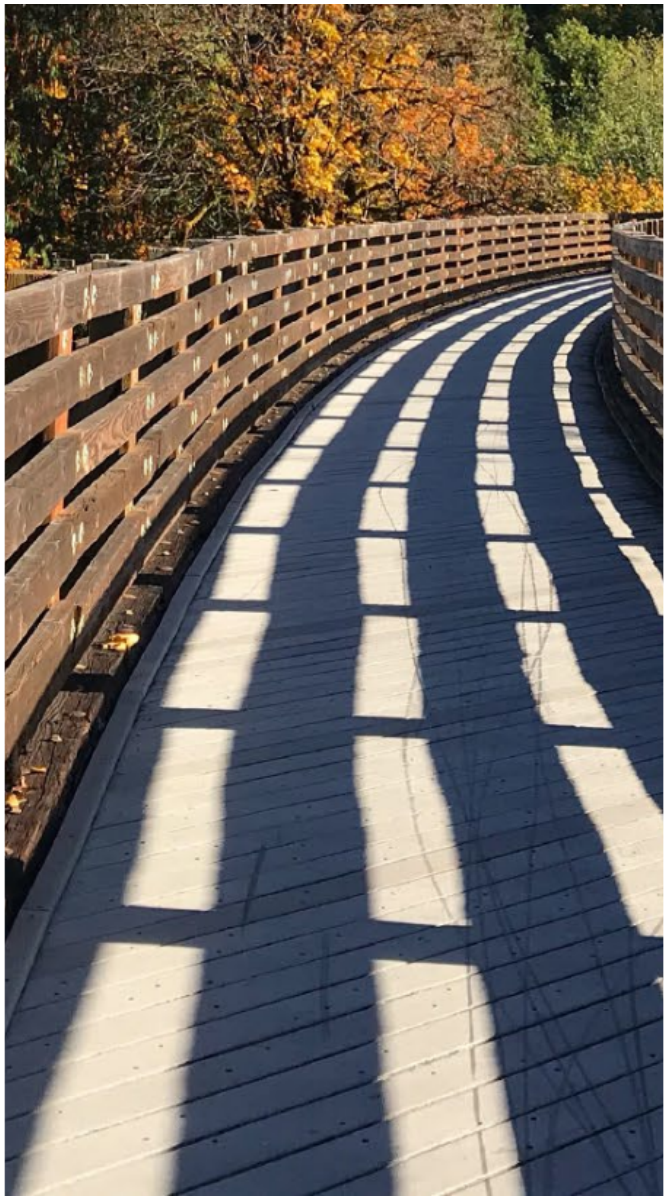
TrailLink
by Rails-to-Trails Conservancy

2026

# TrailLink Unlimited Guides



# Arches Rail Trail

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Opened in the Fall of 2012, Arches Rail Trail continues to be improved by an active local support group. It lies between Butler and Hillsboro, Illinois, along a section of an old 1850s route that stretched west nearly to the Mississippi River at East Alton.

Though not visible from the trail, it's named for three limestone arch bridges that span small creeks along the way. The largest of these is an especially impressive double arch bridge. There is also an archway of trees over the entire length of the trail.

Arches Rail Trail is a nature hikers dream. Because it is not paved, its dirt and grass surface is very subject to the elements of nature. Especially toward the southeast end of the trail, heavy rains can make it nearly impassable with water puddles, mud and very tall grass. Adjacent ponds of stagnant water can breed a seasonal abundance of bothersome insects, but it is a quiet and solitary trail offering pleasant views of rural landscapes and the trees, birds, and plants that are common to woodlands in Central Illinois. Its southeast trailhead connects directly to the Bremer Sanctuary, home to a chapter of the Illinois Audubon Society.

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**States:** Illinois

**Counties:** Montgomery

Length: 2.2miles

**Trail end points:** County Rd 1400 N (Butler) to H & B Bremer Wildlife Sanctuary, 194 Bremer Ln. (Butler)

**Trail surfaces:** Dirt,Grass

**Trail category:** Rail-Trail

**Trail activities:** Mountain Biking,Walking,Cross Country Skiing

## Parking & Trail Access

The only trailside parking is at the northwest trailend in Butler.

Please see TrailLink Map for detailed directions.

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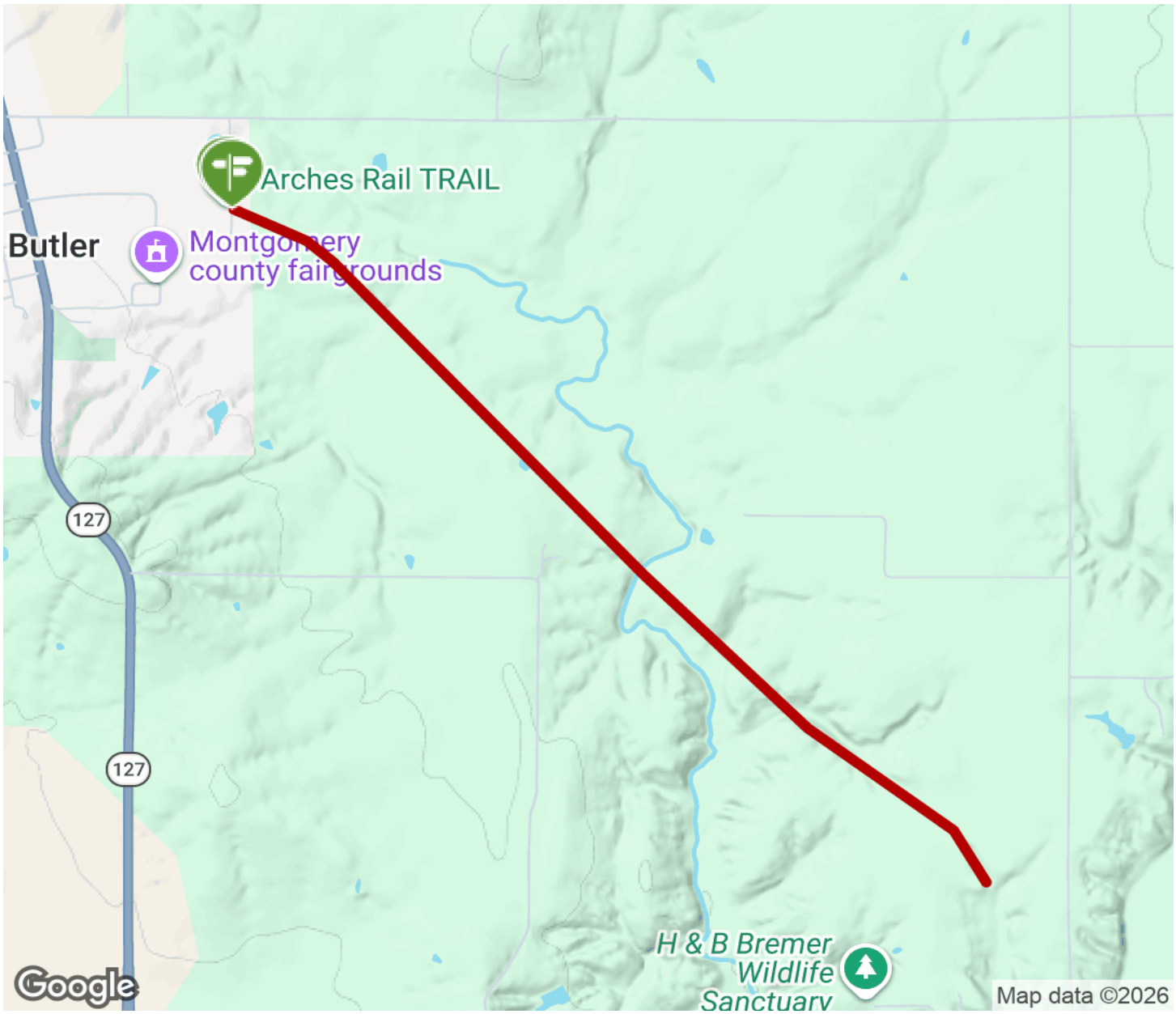


Trailhead Restroom Parking Water Fountain Tunnel

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TrailLink.com