



2024

TrailLink Unlimited



Guides



# Linn Creek Recreational Trail

*Iowa*



# Linn Creek Recreational Trail

Iowa

*As it runs directly through the heart of Marshalltown in central Iowa, access to the Linn Creek Recreational Trail is easy for many*



As it runs directly through the heart of Marshalltown in central Iowa, access to the Linn Creek Recreational Trail is easy for many of the city's residents. They will want to take advantage of it, too: The trail offers a wide range of scenery—including forests, open fields, city parks, civic buildings and both industrial and residential areas—all while running never more than a stone's throw from Linn Creek or the Iowa River for the vast majority of its route. Providing a place where you can feel a sense of seclusion is not easy in a medium-sized city, but Marshalltown has managed to do it with the Linn Creek Recreational Trail.

In an attempt to prevent the very real possibility of the flooding of Marshalltown from swells in the Iowa River, a levee was constructed to regulate water levels; most of the Linn Creek Recreational Trail was built on top of the

levee. In the northeast, the trail starts at the city's Riverview Park, where it follows the Iowa River's shoreline for a short while before turning south to join Linn Creek. The trail then passes through the Nicholson Ford Nature Area, which includes scenic woodland marshes and a network of OHV trails.

Soon after, the trail passes next to a large Union Pacific rail yard before skirting the edge of some of the city's recreational facilities, including a pool and baseball fields. From Morris Park to the trail's end at Grimes Farm Nature Center, the newest portion of the Linn Creek Recreational Trail is complete. This section is an example of rail-with-trail, which is becoming increasingly more common in the United States. Throughout the RWT portion, the trail runs no more than 100 feet from an active rail line.

End your journey at Grimes Farm Nature Center on the western outskirts of Marshalltown, where restored farmland and woodland, educational opportunities and a trail network await. At the trail's intersection with Highland Acres Road just to the east of the farm, you can directly connect with the [Iowa 330/US 30 Trail](#). That trail will take you farther southwest to the small town of Melbourne.

In the future, the [Heart of Iowa Nature Trail](#) might be extended 4 miles from its current endpoint in Rhodes to the beginning of the Iowa 330/US 30 Trail in Melbourne. This would allow for an uninterrupted trip on a variety of off-road trails from Marshalltown to Woodward in Dallas County and to points south of there, including Ankeny and Des Moines. But for now, simply enjoy the scenery and convenience of the Linn Creek Recreational Trail as you travel along its 11 mile route through Marshalltown.



# Linn Creek Recreational Trail

Iowa

**States:** Iowa

**Counties:** Marshall

Length: 10miles

**Trail end points:** Grimes Farm Nature Center at 233rd St. to Riverview Park at Woodland St.

**Trail surfaces:** Asphalt

**Trail category:** Rail-Trail

**Trail activities:** Bike, Inline

Skating, Wheelchair Accessible, Walking

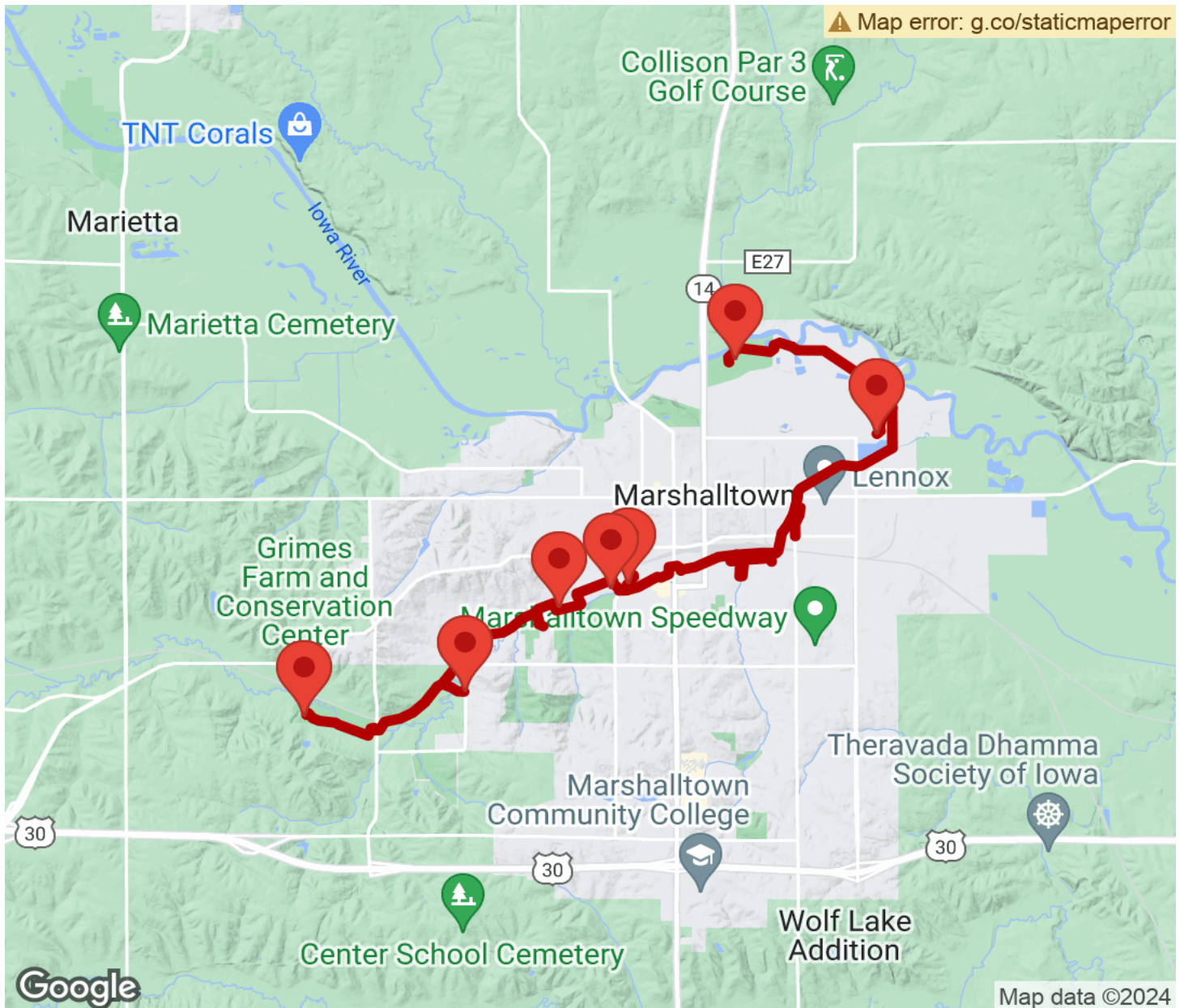
## Parking & Trail Access

Parking for the Linn Creek Recreational Trail can be found at many points along the trail's route. In the west, park at the Grimes Farm Nature Center lot on 233rd Street. A large parking lot can be found just off S. 12th Street at the baseball fields adjacent to the train tracks. There is another lot just a bit to the east of there where S. 6th Street meets the train tracks, or consider parking at the large municipal lot on Washington Street. In the northern part of Marshalltown, there is a parking lot at the Nicholson Ford Nature Area on E. Marion Street. Another lot is located at the trail's eastern endpoint in Riverview Park just off Woodland Street.



# Linn Creek Recreational Trail

Iowa



Trailhead



Restroom



Parking



Water Fountain



Tunnel



**TrailLink**  
by Rails-to-Trails Conservancy

**TrailLink.com**