



2026

TrailLink Unlimited 

Guides



Carlyle Lake Bike Trail

Illinois



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The Carlyle Lake Bike Trail is located in one of Southwest Illinois's most popular recreational areas, just 50 miles east of St. Louis,



the descent to the spillway and beautiful river walk and wetlands below. There are always folks fishing in the river, all the way to the bridge.

Back up on the main trail, it continues east for 2.8 miles, mostly on a dedicated bike lane, past woodlands, prairies, scenic overlooks of the lake and South Shore State Park. The last 3.6 miles are along the top of a levee, with views of woods and wetlands on one side and farmland on the other.

The Carlyle Lake Bike Trail is located in one of Southwest Illinois's most popular recreational areas, just 50 miles east of St. Louis, Missouri—not far from that area's abundance of great trails, as well. Since the Army Corps of Engineers built the dam forming Carlyle Lake in the 1960s, it has continued developing the areas around it, together with the State of Illinois and the City of Carlyle. The trail connects with city streets at three locations on its western side.

There's a lot to see and do throughout the recreation area by the dam. Along the western portion of the trail and its branch that runs northward, there's a visitor center, beach and beautiful marina with large sailboats; there are also wonderfully wooded campgrounds and picnic areas. Then there's the dam with its 1.2 mile railway right on top, and



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States: Illinois

Counties: Clinton

Length: 10.3miles

Trail end points: 12th St. (Carlyle) to Boulder Rd. (Carlyle)

Trail surfaces: Asphalt, Concrete

Trail category: Greenway/Non-RT

Trail activities: Bike, Fishing, Inline Skating, Walking, Wheelchair Accessible, Cross Country Skiing

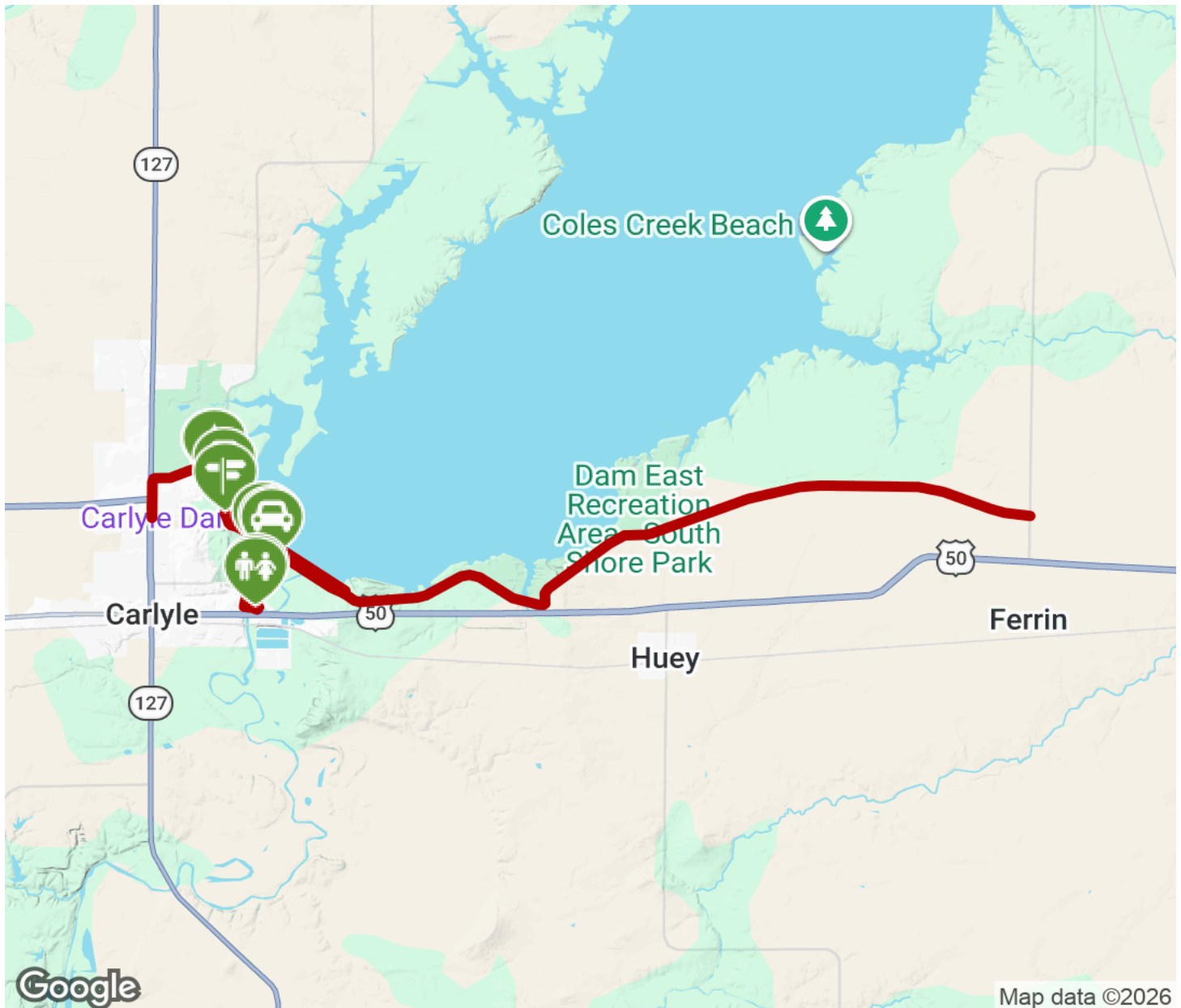
Parking & Trail Access

Parking and access for the Carlyle Lake Bike Trail are also available just off US 50, east of the historic suspension bridge and spillway.



Carlyle Lake Bike Trail

Illinois



Trailhead



Restroom



Parking



Water Fountain



Tunnel



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