



2024

TrailLink Unlimited



Guides



Milwaukee Road Rail- Trail (Thompson Park)

Montana



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Just a few miles south of Butte, the Milwaukee Road Rail Trail through Thompson Park offers a fun journey for 4.3 miles through two tunnels and across a trestle on the former Chicago, Milwaukee, and St. Paul Railroad.

With a gravel surface, it is best suited for mountain bikes. The trail can also be used for hiking and horseback riding. Additionally, during the winter, the trail is groomed for snowshoeing, fat-tire biking, and cross-country skiing.

About the Route

This section of the railroad was one of the first in the country to be electrified; Thomas Edison even came out to

Butte to ride the Milwaukee Road. These past relics are one of the highlights of the trail. One of the tunnels is 550 feet long, while the other is 1,110 feet. Bring your headlamp and taillights for the adventure!

The trestle bridge along the route is a stunner, too, at 600 feet long and rising 130 feet above the valley floor. The trail ends just 100 yards from the 2,300-foot-long Pipestone Pass tunnel, which is closed to the public, but you can walk up to its entrance.

While the trail itself is short, the park offers a network of more than 25 miles of non-motorized trails for hiking, horseback riding, and mountain biking. At the Pipestone Pass Trailhead on the rail trail's southern end, the Milwaukee Road Rail Trail connects with the Continental Divide National Scenic Trail, which spans a whopping 3,100 miles across the country from Canada to Mexico.

Connections

The Milwaukee Road Rail Trail (Thompson Park) is part of the Great American Rail Trail, a 3,700-mile route from Washington to Washington D.C.



Milwaukee Road Rail-Trail (Thompson Park)

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States: Montana

Counties: Silver Bow

Length: 4.3miles

Trail end points: Janney Rd. (Butte) to
Pipestone Pass, MT-2 (Butte)

Trail surfaces: Gravel

Trail category: Rail-Trail

Trail activities: Horseback Riding, Mountain
Biking, Walking, Cross Country Skiing

Parking & Trail Access

The Milwaukee Road Rail Trail runs between Janney Rd. (Butte) and Pipestone Pass, MT-2 (Butte), with parking at the southern end.

Parking is also available at:

- Kirby Day Use Area along MT-2 (Butte)
- Lion's Den Trailhead along MT-2 (Butte)

These are approximate addresses, please see [TrailLink Map](#) for detailed directions.



Milwaukee Road Rail-Trail (Thompson Park)

Montana



Trailhead



Restroom



Parking



Water Fountain



Tunnel



TrailLink
by Rails-to-Trails Conservancy

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