



2026

TrailLink Unlimited 

Guides   



**Prairie Line
Trail**
Washington



Prairie Line Trail

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Tacoma's Prairie Line Trail follows the former Northern Pacific Railroad that was established here in 1873. Tacoma was the terminus of the rail line that stretched all the way to the Great Lakes.

The first of three phases of the trail opened in September 2014 and travels down the center of the University of Washington's Tacoma campus. The trail is a beauty with a section of elegant gray-and-white brick. Ornamental trees, rain gardens, and other landscaping add to the trail's visual appeal.

In 2017, another short section opened that extended the trail farther south to S. 25th Street and into the Brewery District. Eventually, the rail-trail will extend to the Museum District, the [Thea Foss Waterway Esplanade](#),

and the Water Ditch Trail.

The trail includes interpretative signage on the area's history and several pieces of public art. At its north end, across from the Tacoma Art Museum, trail goers will see "Shipment to China" by Hai Ying Wu; the sculpture includes a 1909 railroad car and dozens of bronze boxes that bear the names of Chinese workers who helped build the Northern Pacific Railroad. Farther south, a 13,000-square-foot trailside mural "Working Forward, Weaving Anew," created by a team of Native American artists, shows scenes of handicraft, including basket weaving and furniture building.



Prairie Line Trail

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States: Washington

Counties: Pierce

Length: 0.5miles

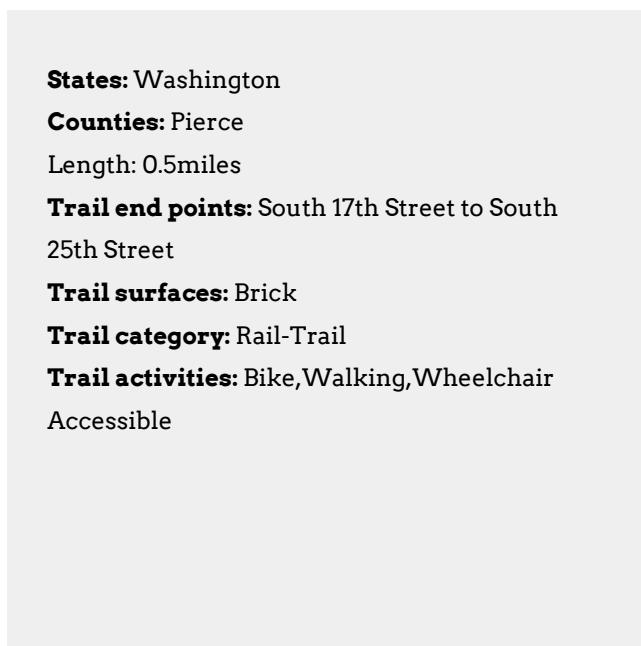
Trail end points: South 17th Street to South 25th Street

Trail surfaces: Brick

Trail category: Rail-Trail

Trail activities: Bike, Walking, Wheelchair Accessible

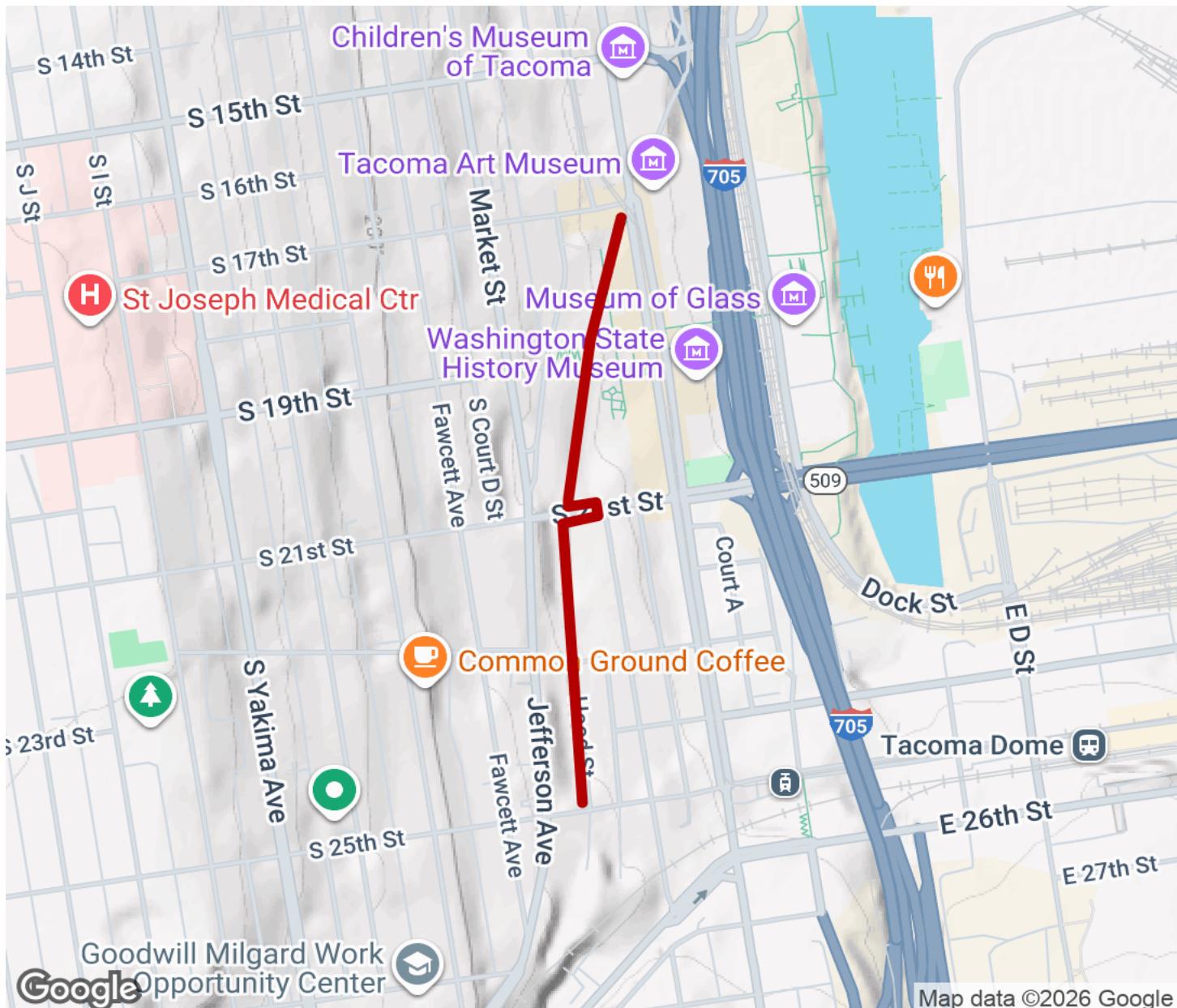
Parking & Trail Access





Prairie Line Trail

Washington



Trailhead



Restroom



Parking



Water Fountain



Tunnel



TrailLink
by Rails-to-Trails Conservancy

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