



2024

TrailLink Unlimited 

Guides



**Big-4 Rail
Trail
(Zionsville)**
Indiana



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The Big-4 Rail Trail will one day stretch 50-plus miles across Boone County, from the northern suburbs of Indianapolis to Lafayette. The Big 4 in the trail name refers to the old Cleveland, Cincinnati, Chicago and St. Louis Railway corridor. It could just as easily refer to the four communities pushing this long-term project: Zionsville, Whitestown, Lebanon, and Thorntown. The description here details the portion of this regional network that runs through Zionsville, which was formerly known as the Zionsville Rail Trail. Another 15.4 miles of the trail are open to the northwest between [Lebanon and Colfax](#), plus 2.8 miles in [Whitestown](#).

A number of railroads operated trains on those tracks, starting with the Lafayette and Indianapolis Railroad in 1850 and ending with Conrail in 1976. The tracks carried

newly elected President Abraham Lincoln through this area in 1861 and carried his body home four years later. The “Big 4” Railroad operated the longest period, 1889–1930. Zionsville installed a trail along the corridor in the 1990s.

The trail is a paved 12 foot wide path with an additional 3 foot soft shoulder on either side for runners. This smooth wide trail is ideal for families with strollers and those with mobility aids. Restrooms, water fountains, trail markers and parking lots are found peppered along the route and are marked on the map. There are picnic benches and trash receptacles along the trail as well. Pets on leashes are welcome.

At the south end of the path, you’ll find a trailhead at Zionsville Rd between Lemberger Blvd and Arbois Cir. Briefly passing through the edge of a residential community, the trail quickly heads into the woods. As you continue along the trail, you’ll cross a pedestrian bridge (known as the One-hundred Foot Bridge) 60 feet above Eagle Creek. A side trip down a boardwalk to the floodplain leads to paths in Starkey Nature Park. The 0.8-mile stretch of trail after the foot bridge is known as the Nancy Burton Corridor and the 1.5-mile section between Whitestown Rd and Heritage Trail Park is known as the Dave Brown Corridor.

For a visit into downtown Zionsville, turn right onto a short path after the trail intersects with Starkley Ave and then take residential streets. Founded in 1852, the town draws tourists to its brick-paved Main Street, where you’ll see a progression of architectural styles from previous eras. Dining and shopping are popular pursuits, and the town offers a full calendar of events.

The route is somewhat unusual in that it passes all the way through town before encountering the first at-grade crossing, located at County Road 875 on the north side of Zionsville. The trail passes beneath all other streets via tunnels as it goes through much of town below street level. Numerous parks in town—including Mulberry Fields, Jennings Field, Carter



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States: Indiana

Counties: Boone

Length: 5.4miles

Trail end points: Whitestown's section of the Big-4 Rail Trail to Arbois Cir & Zionsville Rd (Eagle Township)

Trail surfaces: Asphalt

Trail category: Rail-Trail

Trail activities: Bike,Inline

Skating, Wheelchair Accessible, Walking, Cross Country Skiing

Parking & Trail Access

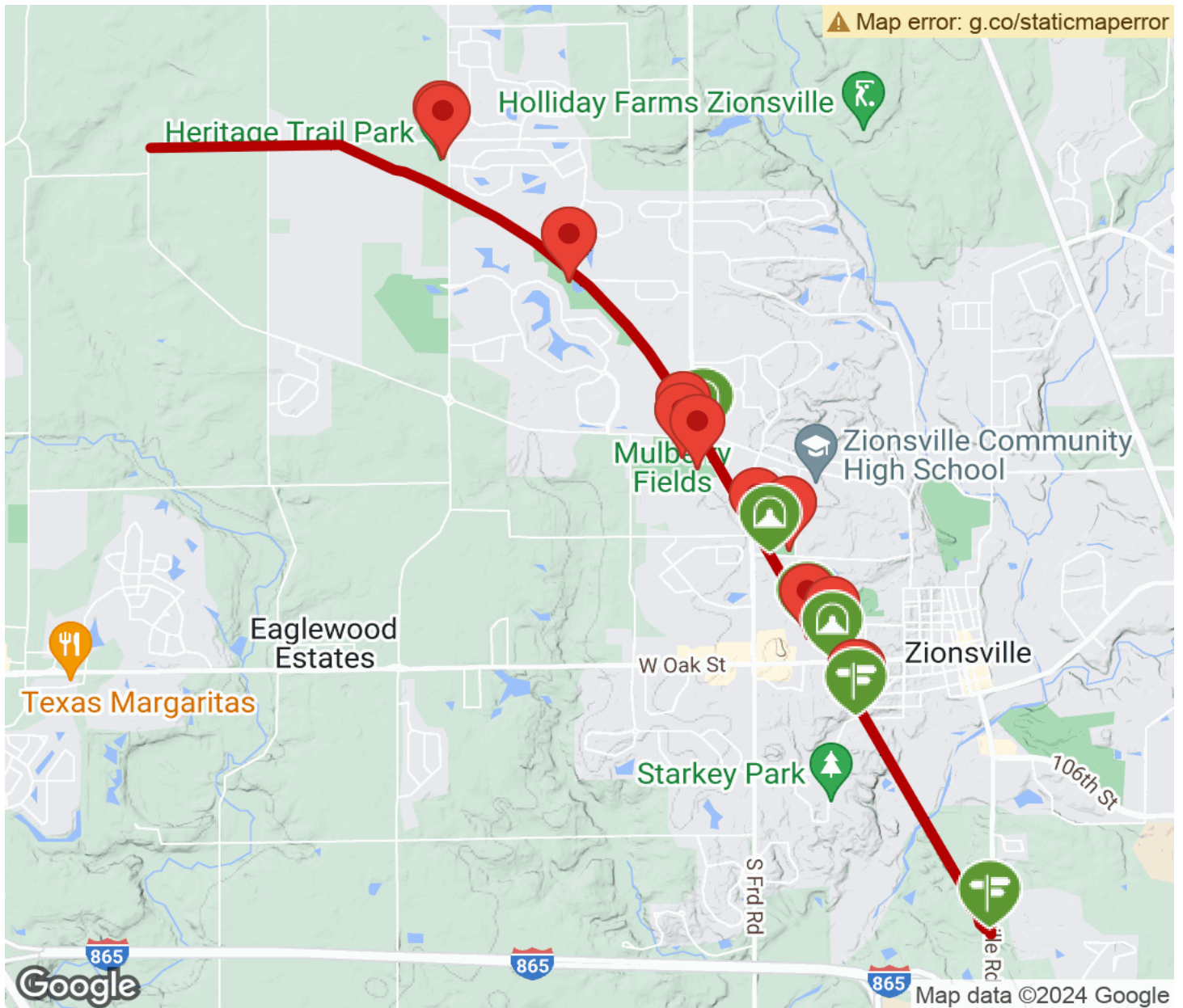
Parking is available at multiple points along the trail including at the Starkey Avenue Trailhead (880 Starkey Ave, Zionsville), at Carter Station Park (4643 Pebblepointe Pass), Mulberry Fields (9645 Whitestown Rd), Jennings Fields (1130 Bloor Ln), American Legion Trail Crossing (721 Ford Rd), and Zionsville Parks & Recreation Department (1100 W Oak Street).

Visit the [TrailLink map](#) for all options and detailed directions.



Big-4 Rail Trail (Zionsville)

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Trailhead



Restroom



Parking



Water Fountain



Tunnel



TrailLink
by Rails-to-Trails Conservancy

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