



2024

TrailLink Unlimited



Guides



**Great Western
Trail (IL)**

Illinois



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The western segment of the Great Western Trail in Illinois follows 18 miles of a former railway corridor through DeKalb and Kane counties, between Sycamore Forest Preserve in the City of Sycamore and LeRoy Oakes Forest Preserve in St. Charles. The Chicago Great Western Railway (later Chicago and North Western) was called the Corn Belt Route because it linked Chicago, Minneapolis, Omaha, and Kansas City. Another section of the [Great Western Trail](#) is in DuPage County to the east.

From the trail's northwest trailhead in Sycamore Forest Preserve trailhead, the off-road route is paved as it heads southeast through landscaped meadows. Trees scattered along the way provide a little shade.

The trailhead on the outskirts of Sycamore (across from

the intersection of Old State Road and Ali Drive) has a few parking spaces, a picnic table, and a few benches. Continuing southeast, the paved asphalt gives way to crushed limestone. Passing fields, farms, and meadows, the rail-trail is often sheltered by trees. A pleasant combination of tree canopy cover and open areas with wildflowers keep the pathway from becoming routine.

A few miles further east, you'll find the Sycamore Speedway and its racing-themed restaurant located on the right for all those with a secret interest in stock car racing and demolition derbies.

The trail passes through Maple Park, Virgil, Lily Lake, and Wasco. At the trailhead on Dean Street in Saint Charles, you will find restrooms, water, and a connection to the [Randall Road Bike Trail](#).

From the Sycamore Forest Preserve trailhead, the trail runs 4 miles through DeKalb County and 14 miles into Kane County. The trail surface and adjacent areas are well maintained, and the trail is well integrated within the local community. There are a variety of opportunities for food and refreshments along the route.

In winter, cross-country skiing and snowmobiling are allowed on the trail. Snowmobiling is only allowed northwest of Wasco and only when there are at least 4 inches of snow.



Great Western Trail (IL)

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States: Illinois

Counties: De Kalb, Kane

Length: 18 miles

Trail end points: Sycamore Forest Preserve
(955 E State St, Sycamore) to LeRoy Oakes

Forest Preserve at 37 Dean St, St. Charles

Trail surfaces: Asphalt, Crushed Stone

Trail category: Rail-Trail

Trail activities: Bike, Wheelchair

Accessible, Horseback

Riding, Snowmobiling, Walking, Cross Country

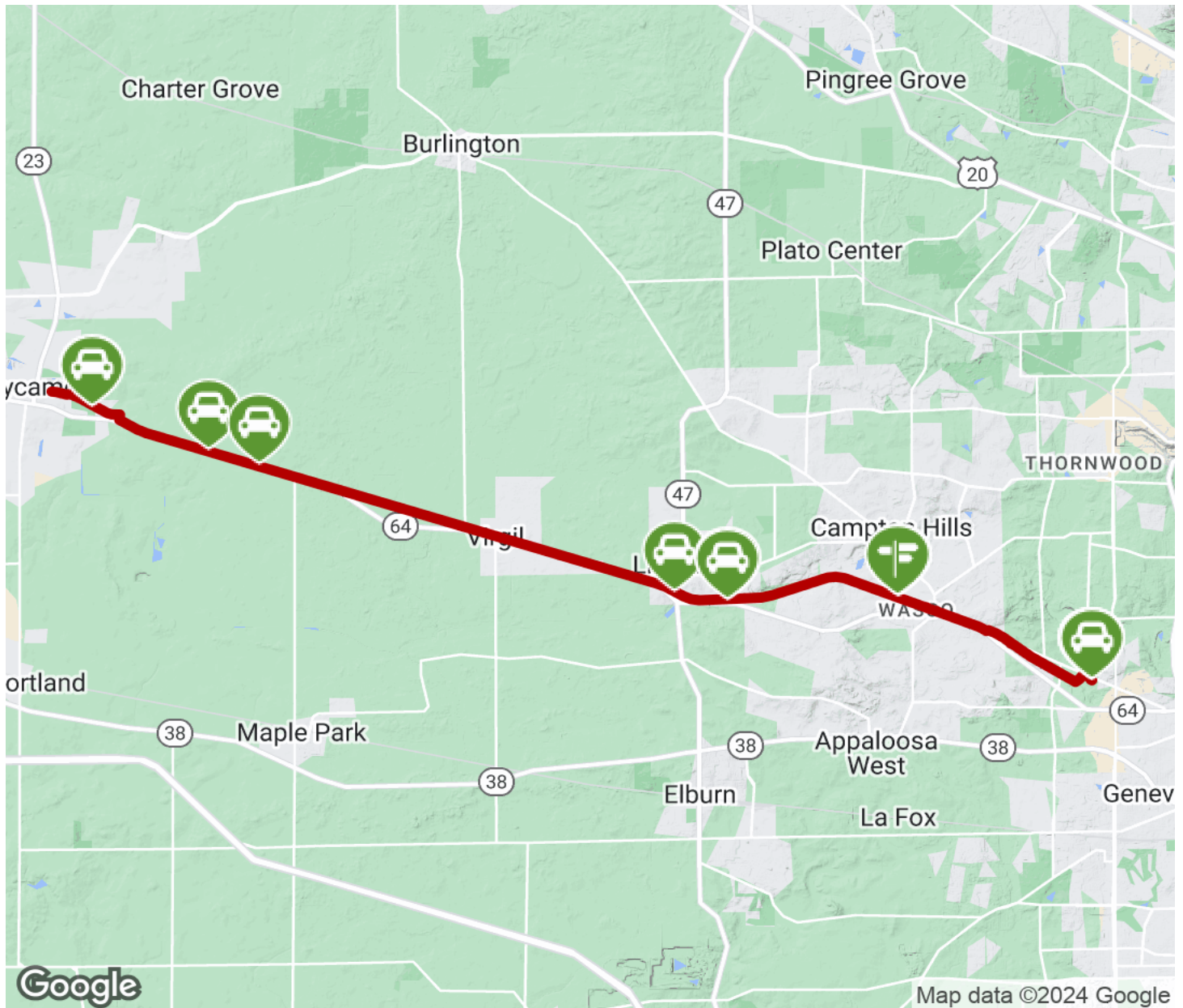
Parking & Trail Access

Parking is available at multiple locations along the route and at both ends of the trail. Visit the [TrailLink map](#) for all options and detailed directions.



Great Western Trail (IL)

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Trailhead



Restroom



Parking



Water Fountain



Tunnel



TrailLink
by Rails-to-Trails Conservancy

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