



2024

TrailLink Unlimited



Guides



Rock Island Trail State Park

Missouri



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Overview

The Rock Island Trail State Park totals just over 60 miles (in two disconnected sections) through woodlands, wetlands, and bucolic fields nestled in the foothills of the Ozarks. The trail has a well-compacted, crushed limestone surface best suited for hybrid bikes, though road bikes can also navigate the pathway. The difficulty for skinny tires would come after a rain when the trail's surface becomes soft.

The rail trail is named after the Rock Island Railway, a company incorporated as the Rock Island and LaSalle Railroad Company in 1847. Mergers in the early 1900s saw the railway spanning Missouri, connecting Kansas City and St. Louis on opposite ends of the state. As railway

traffic faded away, so too did the Rock Island Railway. The last train on the tracks through Kansas City was seen in the early 1970s and, by the 1980s, the rail corridor sat empty.

About the Route

The northern end of the Rock Island Trail State Park leaves off just short of Arrowhead Stadium. The trail heads southeast from here through Raytown. The trail here is a mix of concrete and crushed limestone sections and comes to its southeastern endpoint along SW Jefferson St. in Lee's Summit.

There is a brief gap in the trail here just a couple of miles apart in Greenwood. In Pleasant Hill, the trail picks up again and continues southeast. This section of the trail between Pleasant Hill and Purvis Road does not allow for equestrians.

Equestrians can ride the trail heading east from Purvis Rd. Pleasant Hill has a Downtown Historic District that's listed on the National Register of Historic Places, as well as colorful murals that depict the area's history and culture. Here, trail users can find plentiful amenities for tourists, including antique shops, art and craft boutiques, and cafés. History buffs will also want to stop in the city's Missouri Pacific Depot, a one-story brick building dating back to 1903; inside you'll find information on local trails and the trains that once ran through the region. The trail south of Pleasant Hill is composed mostly of crushed stone and passes through the wide-open Missouri countryside. It passes through the small towns of Wingate, Chilowee, Leeton, and Windsor which offer modest amenities and parking options.

The trail reaches its southern end in Windsor, where it seamlessly merges with the Katy Trail State Park.

Connections

At the southern end of the trail, the Rock Island Trail State Park connects to the [Katy Trail State Park](#).



Rock Island Trail State Park

Missouri

States: Missouri

Counties: Cass, Henry, Jackson, Johnson

Length: 60.2 miles

Trail end points: Lot L, Truman Sports Complex (Kansas City) to N Windsor St. (Windsor)

Trail surfaces: Crushed Stone

Trail category: Rail-Trail

Trail activities: Bike, Wheelchair Accessible, Horseback Riding, Mountain Biking, Walking

Parking & Trail Access

The Rock Island Trail State Park runs between Lot L, Truman Sports Complex (Kansas City), where parking is available, and N Windsor St. (Windsor).

Parking is also available:

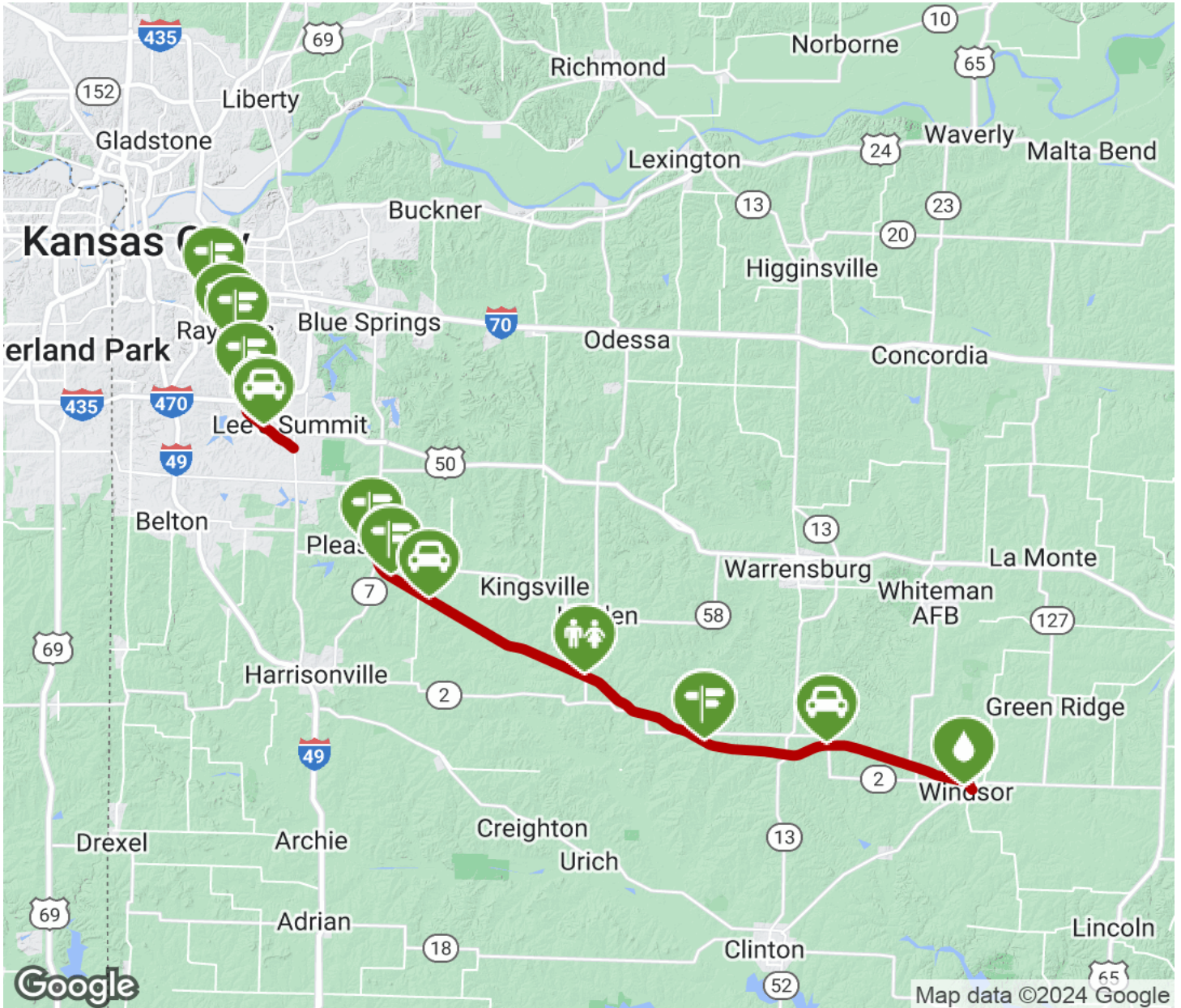
- 6515 Railroad St (Raytown)
- Hartman Park, 700 SW Pryor Rd (Lee's Summit)
- 19917 S Purvis Rd (Pleasant Hill)

See [TrailLink Map](#) for all parking options and detailed directions.



Rock Island Trail State Park

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Trailhead



Restroom



Parking



Water Fountain



Tunnel



TrailLink
by Rails-to-Trails Conservancy

TrailLink.com