



2024

TrailLink Unlimited



Guides



Eisenbahn State Trail (Route of the Badger)

Wisconsin



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Overview The Eisenbahn State Trail gives a nod to Wisconsin's German heritage in its name—Eisenbahn is German for "railway."



Overview

The Eisenbahn State Trail gives a nod to Wisconsin's German heritage in its name—Eisenbahn is German for "railway." The strict translation, "iron road," refers to the iron rails originally used as tracks in the old country. A more apt name today might be Velobahn, as the trail is popular for cyclists pedaling the 24.3 miles between Eden and West Bend.

In the winter, most of the trail north of West Bend is open to snowmobiles; winter ATV use is permitted between December 15 and March 15, when the ground is frozen and the temperature is 28°F or lower.

About the Route

Leaving off from Eden Community Park, the trail heads south through Fond du Lac County on a crushed-stone trail that typifies this route until West Bend. The trail passes through farmland along a slightly elevated ridge for good views of the countryside. Only occasional trees shade your passage. In 7.5 miles, the trail arrives in Campbellsport, where the Main Street eateries are only a block away.

Another 4.5 miles brings the trail to the Washington County line and the village of Kewaskum, named for a chief of the Potawatomi tribe. Trail users also can find refreshments in cafés and grocery stores within one or two blocks of the trail. The Ice Age National Scenic Trail, a hiking trail that stretches for 1,200 miles around Wisconsin, crosses the Eisenbahn State Trail near County Road H on its way to Kettle Moraine State Forest to the east.

Leaving Kewaskum, the trail runs alongside US 45 for 4.5 miles until reaching the town of West Bend. Shortly after crossing the Milwaukee River, the trail is paved from Barton Park south. A side trail, less than a mile from Barton Park, heads to the 136-acre Lac Lawrann Conservancy. More than 200 bird species have been recorded in the nature preserve's mix of open prairie and hardwood forests. Deer, mink, and muskrats also live here.

Continuing south, the lake on your right is Barton Pond, which powered gristmills and sawmills below the dam in West Bend's early days. Today the pond is a fishing destination (including ice fishing). After passing the lake, watch for the old railroad depot, built in 1900 and renovated in 2009, about 0.2 mile south of Washington Street.

At the southern end of West Bend, after crossing Decorah Road, Ziegler Park is off a path to the right and has picnic tables, restrooms, and drinking fountains. The trail again becomes rural in its southernmost mile from Paradise Road to Rusco Drive.



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States: Wisconsin

Counties: Fond Du Lac, Washington

Length: 24.3 miles

Trail end points: Reagan Dr (Eden) to 1300
Rusco Rd (West Bend)

Trail surfaces: Asphalt, Crushed Stone

Trail category: Rail-Trail

Trail activities: ATV, Bike, Inline

Skating, Wheelchair Accessible, Mountain

Biking, Snowmobiling, Walking, Cross Country

Skiing

Parking & Trail Access

The Eisenbahn State Trail runs between Reagan Dr (Eden) and 1300 Rusco Rd (West Bend), with parking available at either end.

Parking is also available at:

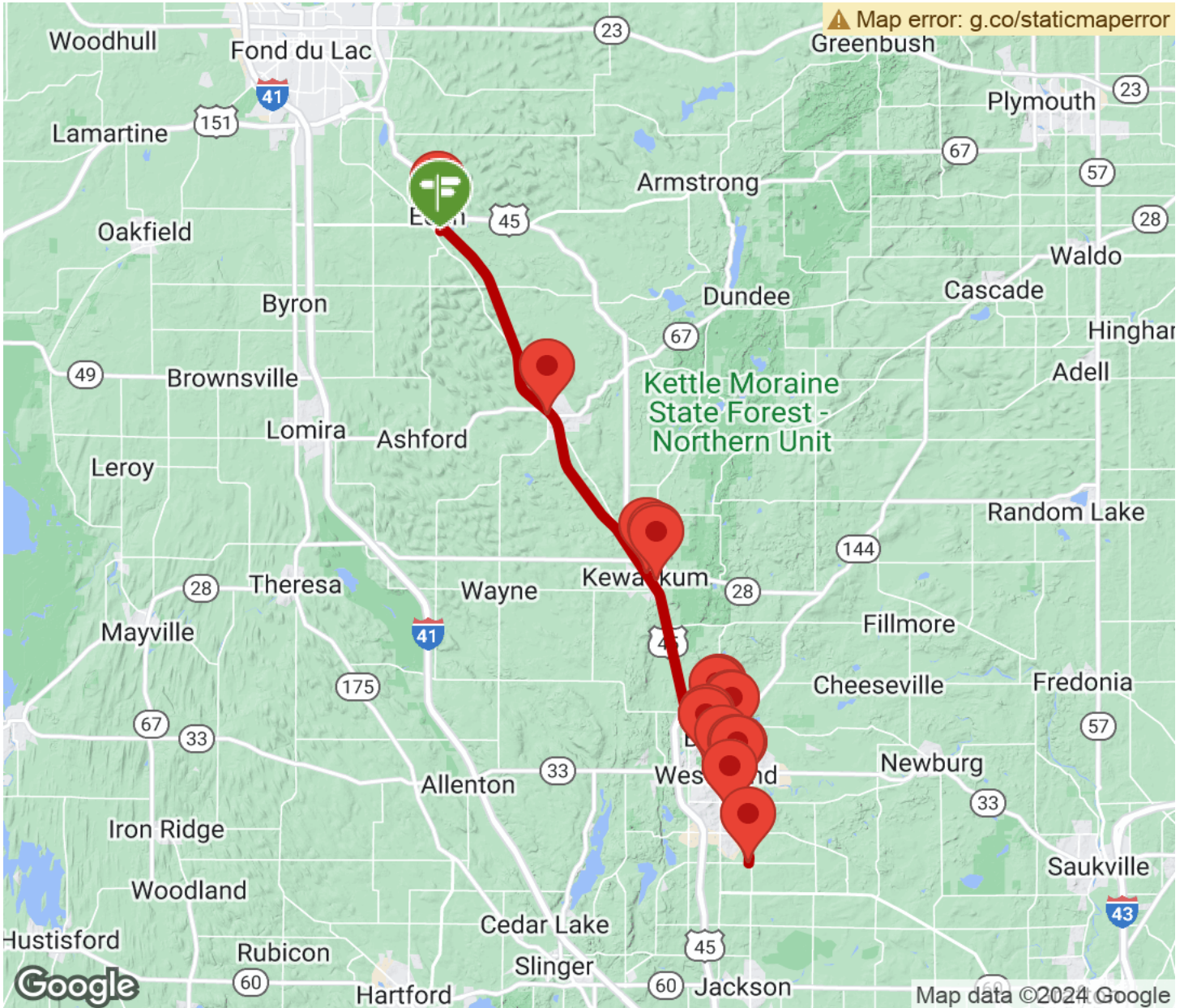
- 125 N Barton Rd (Campbellsport)
- Regner Park, 800 N Main St (West Bend)
- Riverside Park, 700 Kilbourn Ave (West Bend)

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



Eisenbahn State Trail (Route of the Badger)

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Trailhead



Restroom



Parking



Water Fountain



Tunnel



TrailLink
by Rails-to-Trails Conservancy

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