



2024

TrailLink Unlimited



Guides



MCT Quercus Grove Trail

Illinois



MCT Quercus Grove Trail

Illinois

The MCT Quercus Grove Trail begins in Edwardsville at its junction with the MCT Nickel Plate Trail. It begins on city sidewalks and



celebrates its connection with the Mother Road. It's a great place to rest and look around a bit, and it's very close to the half way mark for the trail.

On the north edge of Hamel, the trail and Old Route 66 diverge again as the trail continues on to the village of Worden, where it once again becomes a rail-trail along its original rail alignment. Then at Spangle Road, it crosses to an active rail-with-trail alignment that again crosses Old Route 66 (now State Route 4), before continuing on to trail's end in Staunton.

The rail-trail sections of the Quercus Grove Trail are along alignments of the old Illinois Traction System (Illinois Terminal Railroad) of electric trains which once connected St. Louis, MO, to Springfield, IL. Various other MCT Trails are also on sections of this old rail network—as are the [McKinley Bridge Bikeway](#), [Benld-Gillespie Bike Trail](#) and [Interurban Trail](#).

The MCT Quercus Grove Trail begins in Edwardsville at its junction with the [MCT Nickel Plate Trail](#). It begins on city sidewalks and alleys near Edwardsville's historic downtown area and very quickly loses itself in the dense tree cover of the old rail line. The entire trail is nearly flat, except at Old Carpenter Road in Edwardsville, where the old rail trestle bridge was removed and the trail now plunges about 50 feet from its elevation on either side.

Leaving Edwardsville, the rail-trail alignment closely parallels Old US Route 66 (now State Route 157), and the woodlands view gives way more and more to open farmland. The trail and route diverge gradually until Jerusalem Road, where the trail leaves its rail alignment to go east and follow alongside the route all the way to Hamel—a quintessential Old Route 66 village that now



MCT Quercus Grove Trail

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States: Illinois

Counties: Macoupin, Madison

Length: 18.4 miles

Trail end points: Schwarz St. at Springer Ave.
(Edwardsville) to 6th Street (Staunton)

Trail surfaces: Asphalt, Crushed Stone

Trail category: Rail-Trail

Trail activities: Bike, Inline

Skating, Wheelchair Accessible, Walking

Parking & Trail Access

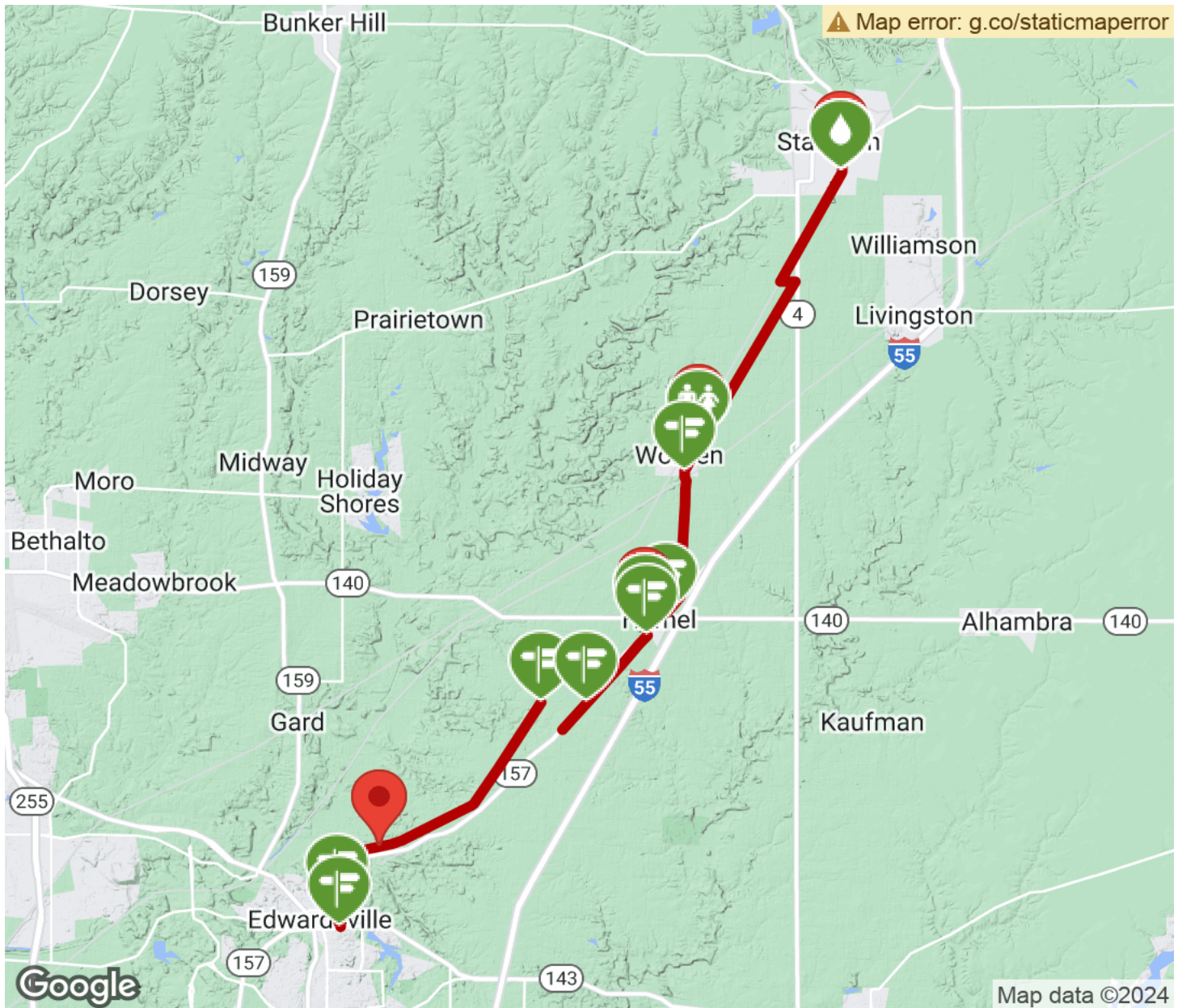
There is official trail parking at these locations:

- Edwardsville Station Park & Ride Lot, 0.5 mile from trail
- Old Carpenter Road (Edwardsville), trailside
- Hamel Community Park (Hamel) on alternate route through village
- Worden Heritage Park (Worden), trailside
- South Watertower Park (Staunton), trailside



MCT Quercus Grove Trail

Illinois



Trailhead



Restroom



Parking



Water Fountain



Tunnel



TrailLink
by Rails-to-Trails Conservancy

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