



2024

TrailLink Unlimited



Guides



**Wabash & Erie  
Canal  
Towpath Trail**  
*Indiana*



## Wabash & Erie Canal Towpath Trail

Indiana

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where it seamlessly meets the popular [Rivergreenway](#) system. After extending south through residential neighborhoods, the trail emerges into a serene, mixed environment of woodlands and open fields, and twice crosses Junk Ditch. The trail rejoins the original canal and rail corridor near the athletic fields and tennis courts on Glendale Road.

A short boardwalk section takes the Towpath Trail over sensitive marshland. At Engle Road, trail users have the option to continue west to access Aboite's extensive trail network. Continuing southwest past the Engle Road trailhead leads to the northern edge of Eagle Marsh, a 716-acre wetland preserve. Look carefully into the wetland area and you may see herons, frogs, waterfowl and even bald eagles. Trail users can also connect directly to Eagle Marsh's hiking trails.

The trail eventually turns north, crosses W. Jefferson Boulevard and leads directly to Lutheran Hospital of Indiana, making it a popular commuting route for the hospital's many employees.

When envisioning a canal towpath trail, most people probably picture a path surfaced with crushed stone where mules once led barges up an adjacent canal. Indeed, this is what once occupied the site of the Wabash & Erie Canal Towpath Trail in Fort Wayne, and what you can still find at the canal portions of the [Delphi Historic Trails](#) in Carroll County. However, due to the rapid erosion of the canal banks shortly after opening in the 19th century, the canal was never economically viable. In Fort Wayne, the canal was filled in, and this part of the right-of-way saw new life as the route for interurban passenger rail service to Huntington.

In 2011, the City of Fort Wayne opened the Towpath Trail to bicyclists and pedestrians on the former canal and rail corridor. The trail begins in the north at Rockhill Park,



# Wabash & Erie Canal Towpath Trail

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**States:** Indiana

**Counties:** Allen

Length: 5.5miles

**Trail end points:** Rockhill Park at Freeman St. and Portage Blvd. to Lutheran Hospital of Indiana off W. Jefferson Blvd.

**Trail surfaces:** Asphalt

**Trail category:** Rail-Trail

**Trail activities:** Bike,Inline

Skating, Wheelchair Accessible, Walking

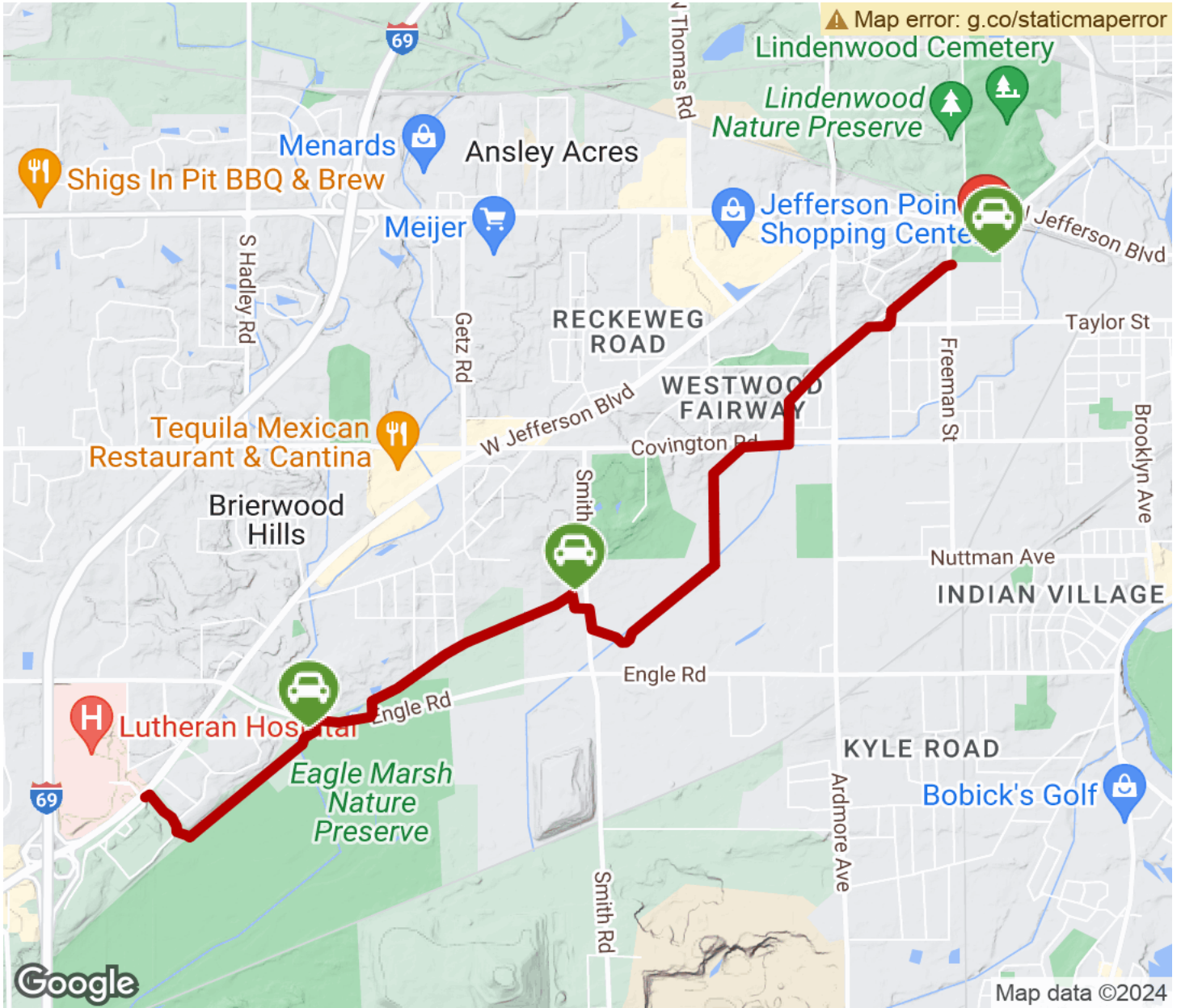
## Parking & Trail Access

Parking for the Wabash & Erie Canal Towpath Trail can be found at the Engle Road trailhead near Eagle Marsh; at the athletic fields accessed from the intersection of Fountain Avenue and Glendale Road; at a trailhead located near the intersection of Glendale Road and Smith Road; and at Rockhill Park on Catalpa Street.



# Wabash & Erie Canal Towpath Trail

Indiana



Trailhead



Restroom



Parking



Water Fountain



Tunnel



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by Rails-to-Trails Conservancy

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