



2024

TrailLink Unlimited



Guides



Wabash Trace Nature Trail

Iowa



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The Wabash Trace Nature Trail offers an amazing trip through the rural forests and countryside of southwest Iowa. The trail stretches 63 miles from Council Bluffs (just outside of Omaha, Nebraska) all the way to the Iowa–Missouri border in Blanchard, Iowa—which boasts a population of fewer than 50 residents—passing through certified trail towns along the way, some that are burgeoning with shops and destinations and others that are quaint and rustic.

About the Route

The Wabash Trace Nature Trail is known for its peacefulness, amazing vistas, secluded wooded sections,

and encounters with wildlife. The trail also has become a social hot spot for people in the Council Bluffs and Mineola areas who enjoy Thursday night “Taco Rides,” bike rides organized in the spirit of supper and good times. In Shenandoah, the annual Wabash Trace Nature Trail Marathon, Half Marathon, and Marathon Relay take place each September. Camping is available at several locations along the route.

Starting in Council Bluffs at the trail's northern end, the route begins at Iowa West Foundation Trailhead Park, where it links with the 7.2-mile [Valley View Trail](#) heading northward and the 7.5-mile [Lake Manawa Trail](#) that heads west and curves around its namesake.

Be prepared for the most populated portion of the Wabash Trace Nature Trail and the most strenuous; there are approximately 6 miles of gentle climb leaving the town heading southeast. The trail passes through an area known as the Loess Hills, named for the fine, wind-deposited soils that created the corrugated landscape. The Loess Hills are home to some of the best remaining native prairies and woodlands in the state and also provide crucial habitat to prairie wildlife such as red-tailed hawks.

The trail makes its way to downtown Silver City, where there are a handful of amenities, including a water fountain (one of few along the route, so a good opportunity to fill up), small stores, and a bike shop. Of note at Silver City Centennial Park—along the trail at 287th Street/Main Street and Second Street—is a time capsule that is set to be opened in 2029!

Approximately 22 miles into the route, the Malvern trailhead features water and parking, and the town offers a haven for trail users, with a pharmacy, cafés, and shops. The city square is an homage to trail users and cyclists, with interesting sculptures and murals decorating the downtown.

The next stop is Imogene, where a unique trailhead offers



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States: Iowa

Counties: Fremont, Mills, Page, Pottawattamie

Length: 63miles

Trail end points: Iowa West Foundation Trailhead Park (Harry Langdon Blvd & E South Omaha Bridge Rd, Council Bluffs) to N Railroad St, just north of the Iowa–Missouri state line (Blanchard)

Trail surfaces: Asphalt, Concrete, Crushed Stone

Trail category: Rail-Trail

Parking & Trail Access

The Wabash Trace Nature Trail runs between the Iowa West Foundation Trailhead Park (Harry Langdon Blvd & E South Omaha Bridge Rd, Council Bluffs) and N Railroad St, just north of the Iowa–Missouri state line (Blanchard).

Parking is available at several locations along the trail, including:

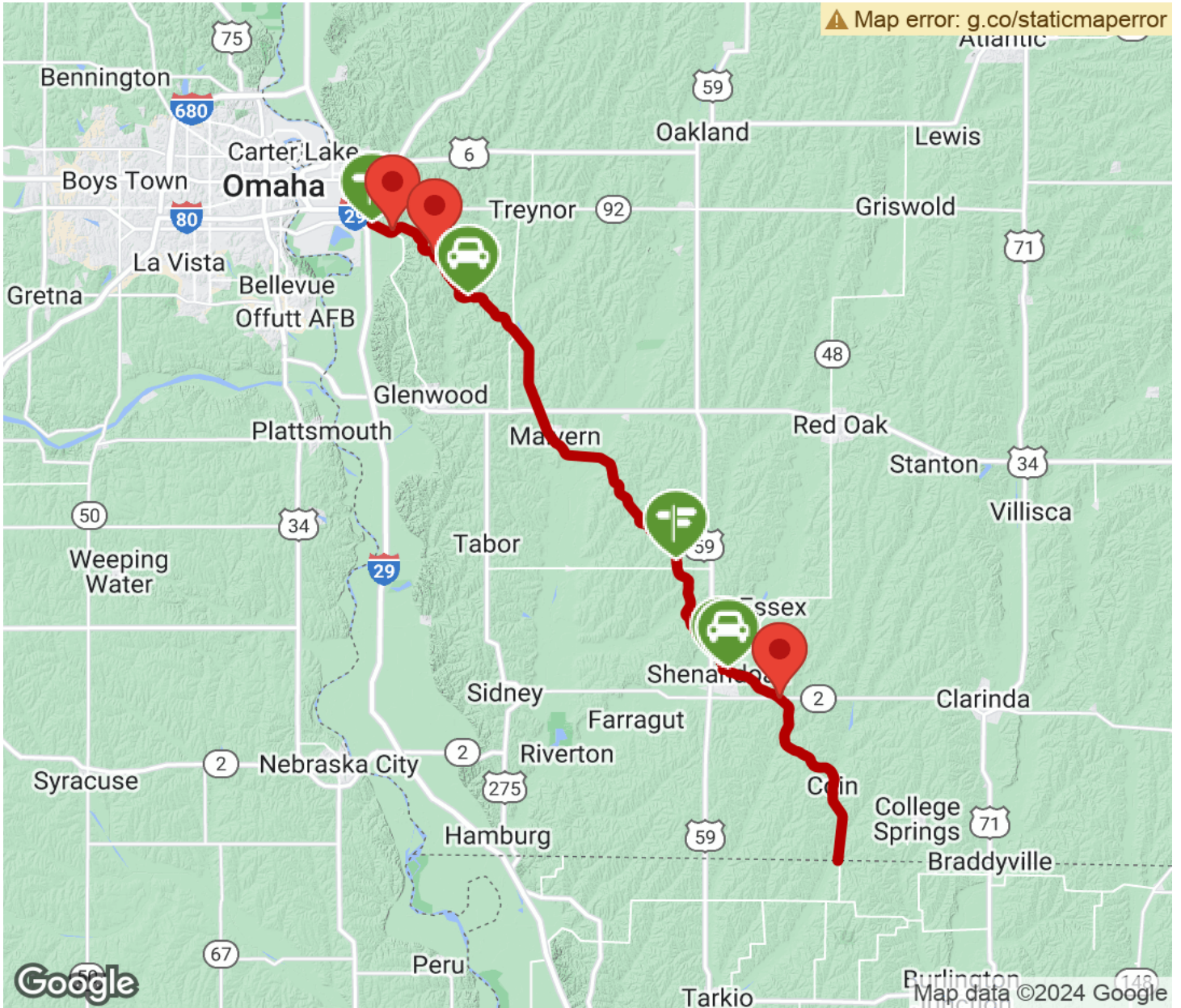
- Iowa West Foundation Trailhead Park (Harry Langdon Blvd & E South Omaha Bridge Rd, Council Bluffs), where there are restrooms and a drinking fountain.
- Mineola Trailhead (Railroad St & 5th St, Mineola)
- Imogene Trailhead (Railroad Ave, Imogene), there are restrooms, a bike repair station, and picnic tables.
- Sportsman Park Trailhead (Ferguson Rd, Shenandoah)
- Waubonsie Park (Ferguson Rd, Shenandoah)
- Argus Road Trailhead (Argus Rd, Shenandoah)

Visit the [TrailLink map](#) for all options and detailed directions.



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Trailhead



Restroom



Parking



Water Fountain



Tunnel



TrailLink
by Rails-to-Trails Conservancy

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