



2024

TrailLink Unlimited



Guides



# Big Rivers Regional Trail

*Minnesota*



# Big Rivers Regional Trail

Minnesota

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## Overview

The Big Rivers Regional Trail runs along the upper portion of what was originally a two-tiered section of railroad track built for one of the state's oldest railroads, the Minnesota Central Railroad.

At several points along the paved 6.08-mile route, trail users will enjoy some of the best views overlooking the convergence of the Minnesota and Mississippi Rivers. Vistas include broad views of both river basins and glimpses of Minnesota's first military outpost and National Historic Landmark, Fort Snelling, situated just beyond Pike Island at the confluence of the two rivers. As the trail approaches its northern end near the Pool & Yacht Club in Lilydale, the view upriver toward downtown

Saint Paul is equally impressive.

## About the Route

Leaving off from the northern trail endpoint in Mendota (one of Minnesota's oldest settlements), the trail skirts through residential areas on a raised railroad bed, crossing D Street for easy access, and lies only one block from Sibley Memorial Highway/MN 13, which runs through the center of the city. Following D Street a few blocks past the highway and beyond the Sibley Historic Site leads to the start of the Snelling State Park Bottomlands Trail, a rough-terrain route best suited for serious mountain bikers.

The trail is accessible from several points along its route, including MN 55 in Mendota Heights, I-494 0.5 mile west of Pilot Knob Road in Eagan, and I-35E in Mendota Heights.

The Big Rivers Regional Trail is part of the extensive 72-mile Mississippi National River and Recreation Area, itself part of an even greater network consisting of hundreds of miles of trails throughout the Twin Cities area.

The trail continues southwest along this corridor, coming to its southern end in Fort Snelling State Park along Lone Oak Rd.

## Connections

At the northern end of the route, the Big Rivers Regional Trail runs between the [River-to-River Greenway](#) and the [Samuel H. Morgan Recreational Trail](#).



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**States:** Minnesota

**Counties:** Dakota

Length: 6.08miles

**Trail end points:** 1292 Lilydale Rd (St. Paul) to  
2995 Sibley Memorial Hwy (Egan)

**Trail surfaces:** Asphalt

**Trail category:** Rail-Trail

**Trail activities:** Bike, Inline

Skating, Wheelchair Accessible, Walking, Cross

Country Skiing

## Parking & Trail Access

The Big Rivers Regional Trail runs between 1292 Lilydale Rd (St. Paul) and 2995 Sibley Memorial Hwy (Egan), with parking available at both ends.

Parking is also available at:

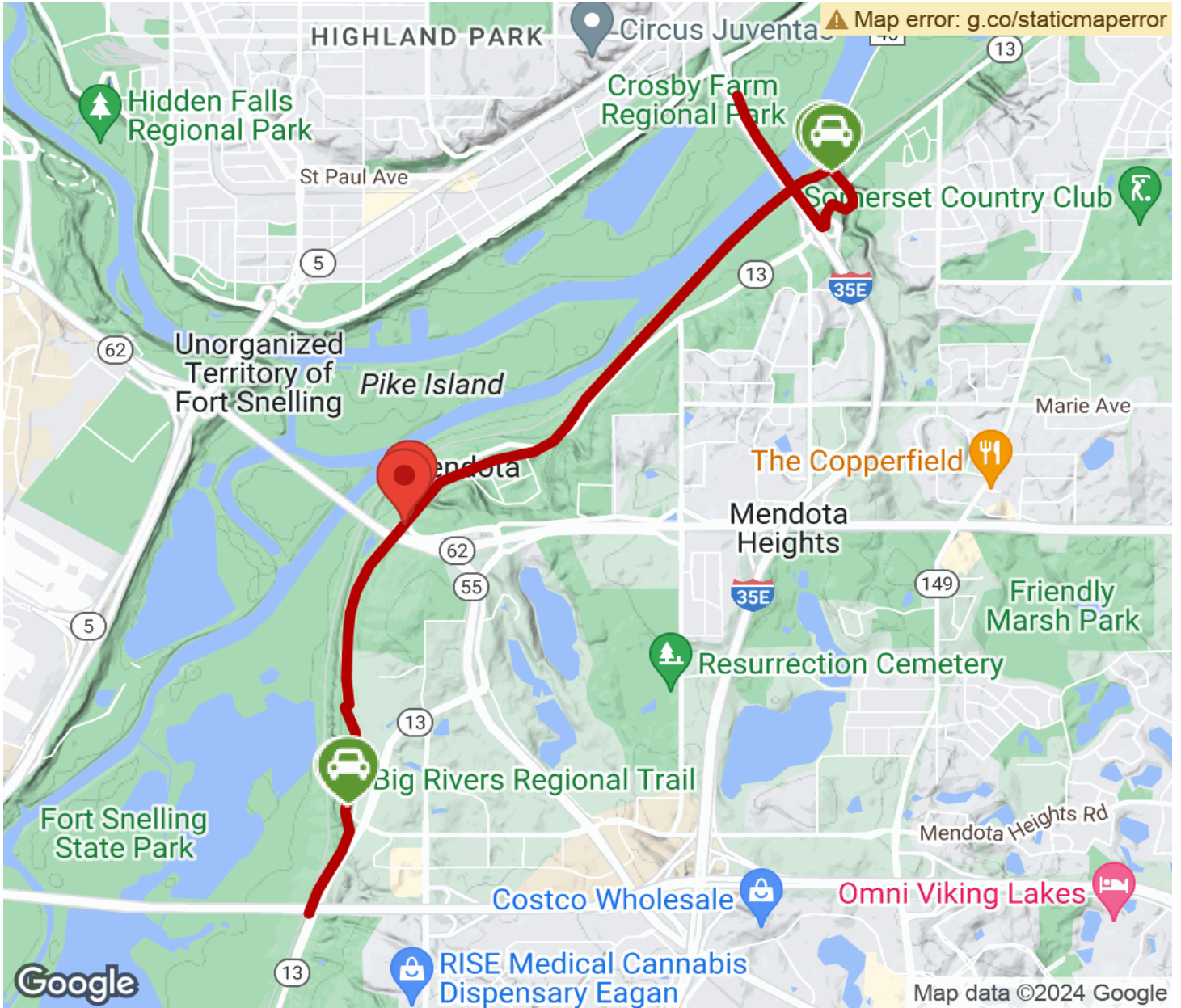
- 1498 Mendota Heights Rd (Mendota Heights)

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



# Big Rivers Regional Trail

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Trailhead



Restroom



Parking



Water Fountain



Tunnel