

Biking the Falls

Bugline Trail – Menomonee Falls Section

History

The Bugline Recreational Trail was built in 1983 on the former Chicago, Milwaukee, St. Paul, and Pacific Railroad right-of-way. The railroad line was built in 1890 that serviced 300 passengers a day to Menomonee Falls as well as transported freight such as sugar beets and stone.

The ride on the railroad was described early on in its history as “just like a bug following a grapevine.” Over time, the name was shortened to the Bugline Trail, said Village of Sussex historian, Fred Keller.

Eighty-eight years later, the last railroad run took place in 1978 and the transformation of the recreational trail began. The Train Depot, which was moved to Old Falls Village Park in 1980, was originally located on Water Street where the Bugline Trail begins. The Bugline recreational trail is now an asphalt trail, being improved from a gravel surface a few years ago. Enjoy biking and walking the trails of the Bugline through the countryside today just as the early settlers enjoyed the scenery riding the rails along its winding path to the Village of Merton and back.

Links

Connection to Milwaukee County Bike Map

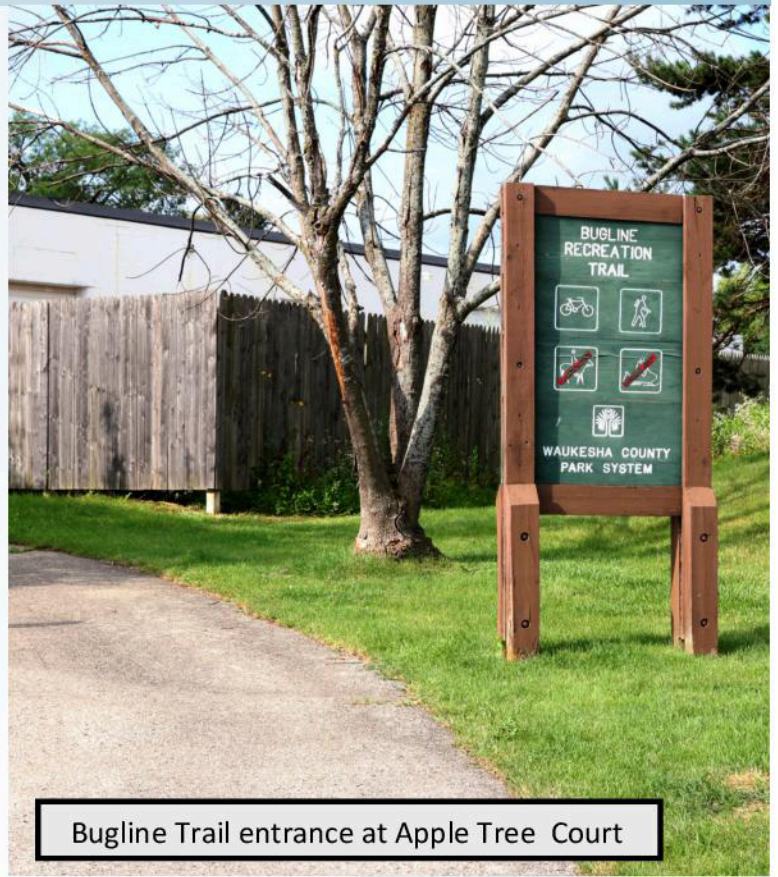
<https://wisconsin.gov/Documents/travel/bike/bike-maps/county/milwaukee.pdf>

Waukesha County Bugline Recreational Trail Map

<https://www.waukesha.gov/globassets/parks--land-use/park-system/biking/bugline-trail/bugline-trail-map.pdf>

30-mile route starting at Old Falls Village Park: <https://www.mapmyride.com/routes/view/5116295131/>

13 mile route starting at Old Falls Village Park: <https://www.mapmyride.com/routes/view/5126640325/>



Bugline Trail entrance at Apple Tree Court

Bugline Mileage 17 miles Total

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| Menomonee Falls | 4 miles |
| Lannon..... | 1 mile |
| Sussex..... | 5 miles |
| Lisbon..... | 2.5 miles |
| Merton to North Lake | 4.5 miles |

Trail Heads and Extensions

- Near Costco on Water Street
- Near Fast Signs and the Chamber office on Appleton Ave. and Shady Lane
- Menomonee Park is a side extension
- Old Falls Village Park is a great starting location with water and parking as an extension from the Bugline Trail.

Trail Details

Distance: 16 miles to Merton

Surface: paved asphalt except for 230 feet of gravel between Shady Lane and Appleton Ave.

Fees: Free to ride. Menomonee County Park requires a daily or annual State Sticker for vehicle access

