

ROOT RIVER AND HARMONY-PRESTON VALLEY STATE TRAILS

FILLMORE AND HOUSTON COUNTIES



MORE INFORMATION

Minnesota Department of Natural Resources Information Center
500 Lafayette Rd.
St. Paul, MN 55155-4040
888-646-6367 | mndnr.gov/trails



SHARE THE TRAIL

- Stay on designated trail.
- Keep right so others can pass.
- Keep pets on leash and pick up waste.
- Obey traffic signs and rules.
- Pack out all garbage and litter.
- Respect adjoining landowner's rights and privacy.
- Verbally warn other trail users when passing from behind.
- Overnight camping and campfires are permitted only on designated campsites. Do not leave them unattended.
- Enjoy the beauty of wild plants and animals, but leave them undisturbed for all to enjoy.
- Trail users are legally responsible for obeying the rules and regulations provided in Minnesota Rules, 6100.3000.

ABOUT THE TRAILS

The Root River State Trail meanders 42 miles along the Root River from Fountain to Houston. Constructed on an abandoned railroad, the trail is generally level and wheelchair accessible, except for a steep half-mile segment between Vinegar Ridge and Houston that may be challenging for some visitors. The trail portion from Isinours Forestry Unit to mile marker 37 are groomed for cross-country skiing in the winter.

The trail provides outstanding views of the soaring limestone bluffs of the Root River Valley. The trail rises and falls with the bluffs, winding through historic towns tucked into hillsides, past rolling farm fields, milling districts and relics of the railroad's heyday. Lush and verdant stretches offer views of the area's natural beauty.

Historical buildings and rural communities along the trail provide sites of interest as well as many services. Campgrounds, bed-and-breakfasts, restaurants, museums, outfitters and unique stores can be found in many of the trail towns.

The Harmony-Preston Valley State Trail is a beautiful 18-mile, multiple use trail that connects the communities of Harmony and Preston with the Root River State Trail in southeastern Minnesota's Blufflands region. In the summer the trail is used mainly for hiking, biking and in-line skating. The trail portion from County Road 16 to the Root River State Trail junction is groomed for cross-country skiing in the winter.

The northern two-thirds of this trail is constructed on a former railroad bed and is generally level and wheelchair accessible. You'll experience a variety of wooded areas and farmland as the trail follows or crosses Watson Creek, the South Branch of the Root River, and Camp Creek, passing through a variety of wooded areas and farmland. Three fishing platforms provide access to trout fishing in Camp Creek, just outside Preston.

The southern segment between County Road 16 and Harmony was not constructed on an abandoned railroad bed and is more challenging. It climbs out of the river valley and travels along the ridgeline between the valleys. It includes a strenuous incline that may not be suitable for all users.

PARKING AVAILABLE

DO NOT LEAVE VALUABLES IN YOUR VEHICLE

ROOT RIVER

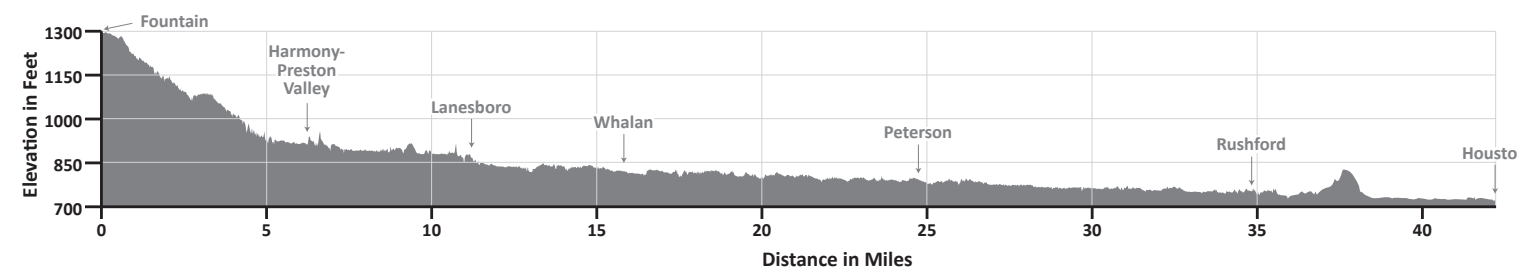
- Fountain:** From Highway 52 take Co. Rd. 8 to Spruce St.
- Isinours Day-use Area:** in the RJD State Forest.
- Lanesboro:** In the lot next to the Bass Pond off of Co. Rd. 8. Additional parking is available along the streets and at the parking lot by the Community Center/Sylvan Park.
- Whalan:** Off Deep River Road.
- Peterson:** From Highway 16, turn into Peterson on Mill St., go 1/2 mile to Fillmore St. and turn left to the city campground/softball field. Parking is also available along the streets.

- Rushford:** From Highway 16, turn north on Elm St. and go one block. The parking lot is at the Rushford Historic Depot.
- Houston:** Turn west on Plum St. off of Highway 76 and go one block to the Houston Nature Center.

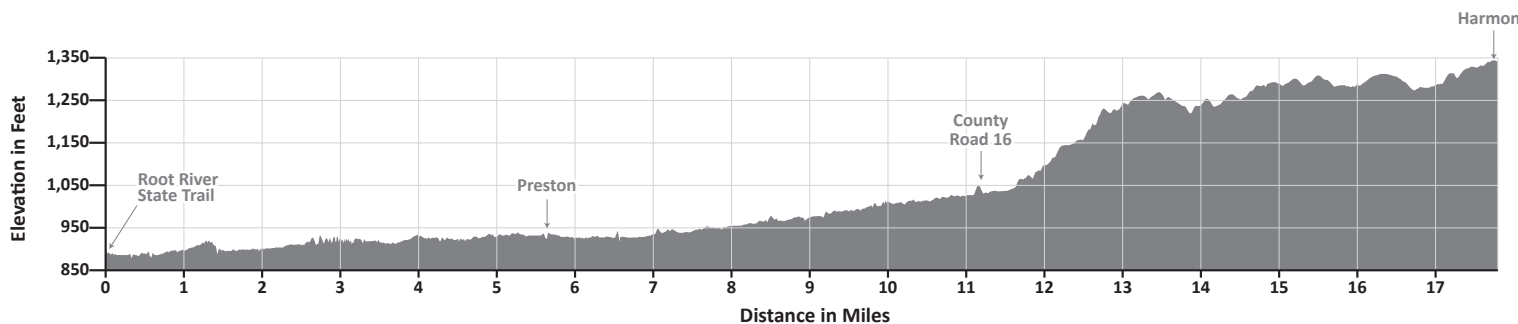
HARMONY-PRESTON VALLEY

- Harmony:** From Highway 52 take 4th St. NW approximately 1/2 mile west to the Harmony Visitor Center parking lot.
- Preston:** From Highway 52 take Fillmore St. (also known as Co. Rd. 12) approximately 1/2 mile to the parking lot.

ROOT RIVER TRAIL PROFILE



HARMONY-PRESTON VALLEY TRAIL PROFILE



DON'T GET LOST!



Navigate with your phone! The Avenza Maps® app uses GPS location tracking, so you can stay found, even off the grid. After you have downloaded the app and map, no internet or cell service is needed.

Search "MNDNR" plus the park or trail name in the Avenza app store to download our free maps, or scan the code here to download.



PLEASE NOTE

This trail requires a permit for anyone horseback riding or cross-country skiing. For more information about the Horse Pass or the Ski Pass, please call the DNR Information Center or visit mndnr.gov/trails for more information.

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources is an Equal Opportunity Employer.
This information may be available in alternative format upon request.