

Hydration and Fueling Guide for “Riding the Rails 400K”

There are ample stops on this 400K route, both directly on the trails and some off trail. This is a guide to stops we have used successfully for hydration and fueling. The Gas Station control at the turn around point in Losantville tends to close early, so it's important to plan for that eventuality (I recommend loading up on food in Gaston on the outbound and re-hydrating at the Losantville Trailhead or in Muncie if the gas station in Losantville is closed).

Please print or save this guide to your phone to refer to.

Available Services by Mileage (if two mileages are listed, the first is outbound and second is inbound)

Bunker Hill Mini Mart, Bunker Hill – Miles 15 and 79.5. Excellent stop just off trail in the town of Bunker Hill. It's a few blocks to the mini mart to the West of the trail. 100 W Broadway St, Bunker Hill, IN 46914 Hours-6am-9pm

Casey's General Store, Peru –This is a control at miles 21 and 73. There are also multiple restaurants and stores on or just off route in Peru.

Dollar General, Rochester – This is Control #3 at mile 47. A very large Dollar General with a great selection and a covered front area for shade. Staff are very friendly, and I usually sit in the shade and eat in front. The Restroom is sometimes closed, but there is one available at the Nickel Plate Trailhead in Rochester (where the trail ends and the route leaves to go to DG). There are also other stores, gas stations, and restaurants just off route in Rochester.

Circle K, Converse -- Miles 102 and 226. Open 24 hours. Good selection of food and restroom is usually open. This is a very good stop. If you would like a “sit down”, non-rando meal, there are multiple restaurants on route in downtown Converse. These would be open on the outbound and likely closed on the inbound.

Sweetser Depot, Sweetser – Miles 108 and 220. This old train depot has restrooms and a covered picnic area, with a cold-water fountain and bottle filler. This stop is on the trail. Off route in Sweetser, north of the route on Main Street, there is also a Marathon Convenience store, Dollar General and Subway. The Marathon is usually open 24 hours, while the DG and Subway close at 10.

Miller Avenue, Marion – Miles 112 and 216. There are restrooms at the Miller Avenue Trailhead, but not always a working water fountain. Just a block North of the trailhead on Miller Avenue there is a 24-Hour Country Mark Convenience Store, and two restaurants (Gyros and Mexican). The restaurants generally close at 9pm. The remainder of the trail through Marion does not have services close by (the trail either goes over or under the main streets in Marion). If you want to stop in Marion, Miller Avenue is generally best, though you can go off route for services.

Gaston BP Gas Station and Restaurant –Control at miles 137 and 191. This is an excellent stop with good restrooms and indoor, Air-Conditioned seating. It is supposed to be open 24 hours but has been known to close at 9 or 10pm. There is an American Legion across the street from the BP that serves food, but I've never tried it. Next to the Legion is a Firehouse with Soda Machines (I have used those before when the BP is closed, and I needed hydration). There is also a trailhead in Gaston just off route that has restrooms.

Wysor Street, Muncie-Miles 147 and 180. The Wysor Street Muncie Train Depot is on the trail, with Restrooms, Water, and covered shelter. One block SW from the trail on Wysor Street is a 24-hour Marathon Convenience Store. There are plenty of other stops available in Muncie off trail (restaurants, convenience stores, etc).

Losantville (Turn around point for route). Mile 164. The Marathon/Phillips 66 has posted hours until 11pm but is known to close early. If you need water, the Trailhead at Losantville has water, restrooms, and picnic tables. The trailhead is just east of the gas station on trail. Also, on US 36, there is a Dollar General (closes at 10pm).