



2024

TrailLink Unlimited



Guides



**Neponset  
River  
Greenway**  
*Massachusetts*



# Neponset River Greenway

Massachusetts

*Overview The Neponset River Greenway is a south Boston jewel, utilizing the best in design and construction standards as it winds*



## Overview

The Neponset River Greenway is a south Boston jewel, utilizing the best in design and construction standards as it winds through the Neponset River valley, offering a low-stress, high-quality experience for 8.2 miles.

## About the Route

To locate the western endpoint of the Neponset River Greenway at Mattapan Station, trail users can go to the corner of River Street and MA 28 and look for a restored old transportation building decorated with several murals located next to MA 28. The trailhead is behind this building on a boardwalk suspended along the Neponset River, with the river on the right.

Immediately, trail users will be able to feel the difference from the busy streets adjacent to this tree-lined river valley. In 0.3 miles, the trail crosses a new bridge that takes the trail over the MBTA tracks. On a sunny day, the reflective colored discs and tree imagery of the fence will reflect onto the bridge's concrete deck. It's worth stopping for a bit to take in this creative art, as well as the orange and yellow trolleys zooming underneath as they approach the station's turnaround point. The bridge has a ramp connecting to another parking lot to the right of the bridge, which makes for an alternate starting point.

The trail's canopy is very dense in this southern section. The asphalt path connects to adjacent recreation fields and businesses now located in repurposed brick manufacturing buildings along this once-busy industrial corridor. The building that housed the first chocolate factory in America—Baker's Chocolate—opened in 1765 on what is now the trail corridor (it eventually became General Foods Corporation and later Kraft and is now based out of another location). The trail corridor was also home to America's first commercial railway, the Granite Railway Company, which supplied granite to the Bunker Hill Monument in Boston. Many of the retaining walls and underpasses along the corridor feature walls that have been beautifully painted by the Boston Natural Areas Network.

At the halfway point, the trail goes under the MBTA tracks and spills out to the river's marshes, providing a wonderfully dramatic experience. This portion of the trail is considered a rail-with-trail, as it meanders alongside an active rail line. From here to the end of the route, trail users might share the trail with some fishermen as they pass through the Neponset River Reservation, which extends from Milton to the Boston Harbor.

The path hugs the Neponset River before passing Joseph Finnegan Park on the right. The city is creating several other adjacent parks like this one, with short trail loops of their own.



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**States:** Massachusetts

**Counties:** Suffolk

Length: 8.2miles

**Trail end points:** 1339 Brush Hill Rd (Milton) to  
Tenean Beach (Boston)

**Trail surfaces:** Asphalt

**Trail category:** Rail-Trail

**Trail activities:** Bike, Inline

Skating, Fishing, Wheelchair

Accessible, Walking, Cross Country Skiing

## Parking & Trail Access

Neponset River Greenway runs between 1339 Brush Hill Rd (Milton) and Tenean Beach (Boston), with parking at both ends.

Parking is also available at:

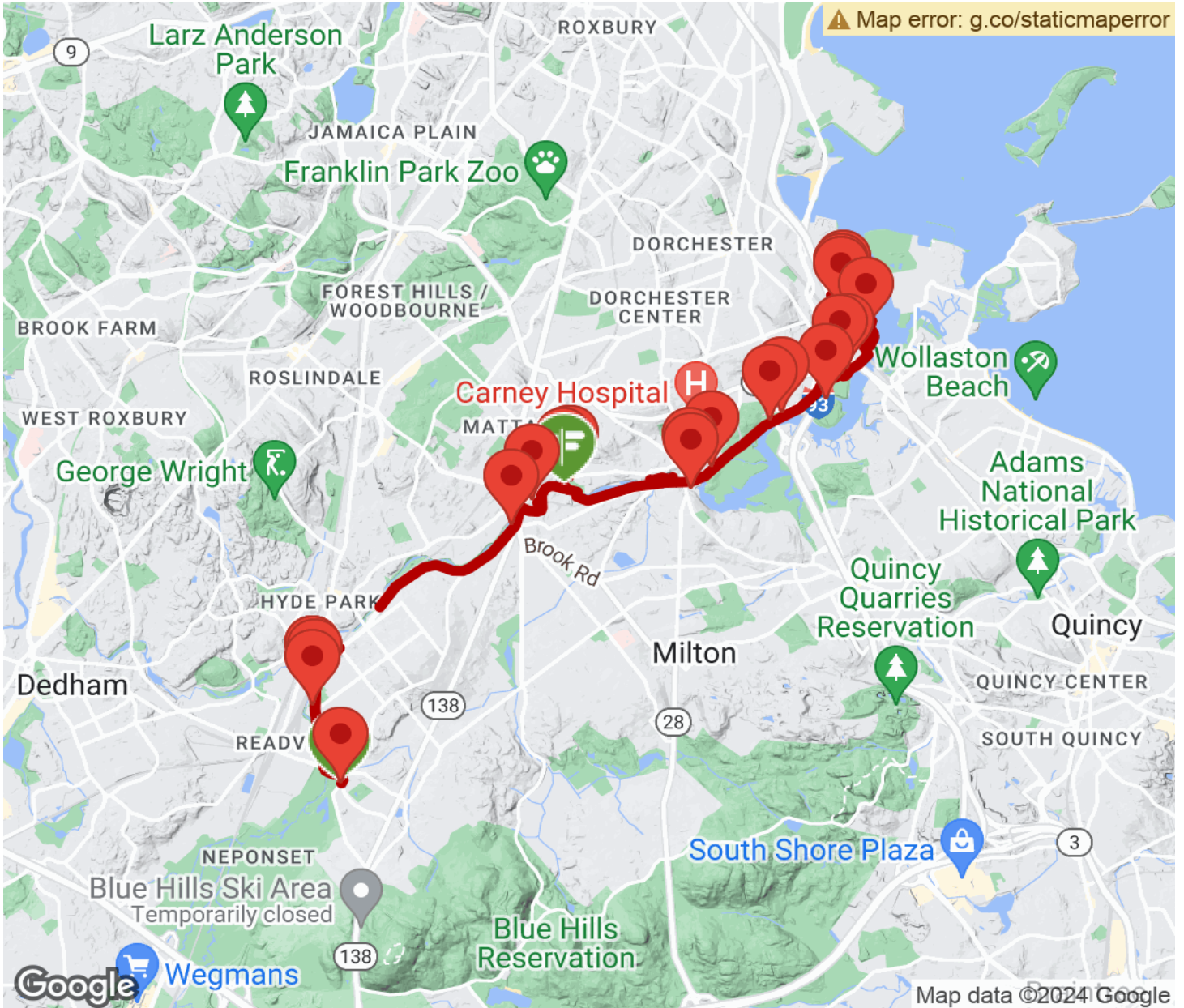
- Francis D. Martini Memorial Shell Park and Moynihan Recreation Area, 1015 Truman Pkwy (Boston)
- 16 Blue Hills Pkwy (Milton)
- Neponset River Reservation, 2 Granite Ave (Milton)

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



# Neponset River Greenway

Massachusetts



Trailhead



Restroom



Parking



Water Fountain



Tunnel



**TrailLink**  
by Rails-to-Trails Conservancy

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