



2024

TrailLink Unlimited



Guides



**Pequonnock
River Trail**
Connecticut



Pequonnock River Trail

Connecticut

The Pequonnock River Trail is not a name you will see on the ground along this developing trail in southwestern Connecticut.



The Pequonnock River Trail is not a name you will see on the ground along this developing trail in southwestern Connecticut. Formalized in 2001 by the state, the regional trail pieced together existing paths that had developed separately on the former Housatonic Railroad line—one of New England’s first—from urban Bridgeport to rural Monroe, with additional segments opening since then. Indeed, the names you will see along the route or in other sources—such as Housatonic Railway Rails to Trails or Monroe Housatonic Railbed Trail—reflect this railroad heritage.

The first of a handful of disconnected trail segments begins at the Bridgeport Transportation Center in downtown Bridgeport and extends north to North Avenue (US 1), immediately paralleling Housatonic Avenue for its

entire route. The paved side path was built in 2001 on the site of the piers of the Housatonic Railroad’s former Berkshire Spur, an elevated line that once served a handful of industrial customers to the north. Due to its lack of scenery and short length, this portion is often omitted from Pequonnock River Trail itineraries, though it is well used and appreciated by Bridgeport residents reaching bus and train lines by foot.

A short but difficult to traverse gap separates the Berkshire Spur stretch of the Pequonnock River Trail from a newer portion farther north. That stretch—a more popular starting point for recreational trail users—begins at the residential corner of Crown Street and Glenwood Avenue and extends north along the edge of the adjacent Beardsley Zoo, the only zoo in Connecticut, and Beardsley Park. Frederick Law Olmsted designed the park, which offers numerous playing fields among its rolling acres.

North of the park, the trail passes under CT 8 and Old Town Road and crosses the Pequonnock River. From here, the path runs immediately adjacent to Quarry Road past commercial buildings. Construction was recently completed to continue the trail north via tunnels under Merritt Parkway’s on- and off-ramps, as well as reuse of a former railroad bridge still standing over the highway.

North of Merritt Parkway, the shortest stretch of the Pequonnock River Trail—soon to be linked to the portion mentioned above—connects neighborhoods west of CT 25 with Twin Brooks Park in Trumbull. The scenic park features ponds, fields of wildflowers, and hiking trails on its more than 80 acres.

The next section of the Pequonnock River Trail begins on Tait Road in Trumbull. (Trail users coming from Twin Brooks Park can reach the Tait Road starting point via a short jaunt on Manor Drive, Gregory Place, Laurel Street, Daniels Farm Road, and Church Hill Road/CT 127. Note that traffic can be heavy on the latter two roads.) Following its namesake river



Pequonnock River Trail

Connecticut

States: Connecticut

Counties: Fairfield

Length: 13.6miles

Trail end points: Bridgeport Transportation Center on Housatonic Ave/Water St (Bridgeport) to Swamp Rd, 0.1 mile south of Botsford Hill Rd (Monroe-Newtown town line)

Trail surfaces: Asphalt, Crushed Stone

Trail category: Rail-Trail

Trail activities: Bike, Inline Skating, Wheelchair Accessible, Walking, Cross

Parking & Trail Access

There are several access points and places to park throughout the length of the Pequonnock River Trail.

While there is no access to the northern end in Monroe, a small parking lot on Pepper St. isn't too far away. From I-95, take Exit 27A to head north on CT 25/CT 8. After 3.3 miles, keep left to stay on CT 25. Travel on CT 25 for 8.8 miles, and then take a slight right onto Brook St. Next, turn right onto Pepper St., and travel 2.2 miles. A small gravel parking lot is located on the north side of the road, adjacent to the trail.

At the trail's southern end in Bridgeport, parking is available at a series of parking garages (payment required) along Housatonic Ave. (Water St.) near the Bridgeport Transportation Center. From I-95, take Exit 27A to head north on CT 25/CT 8. Take the first exit (Exit 2) for Golden Hill St., and continue on that road until it ends at Water St. in 0.3 mile. Turn right. A large parking garage can be found just beyond Fairfield Ave. The trail begins one block north.

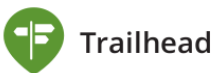
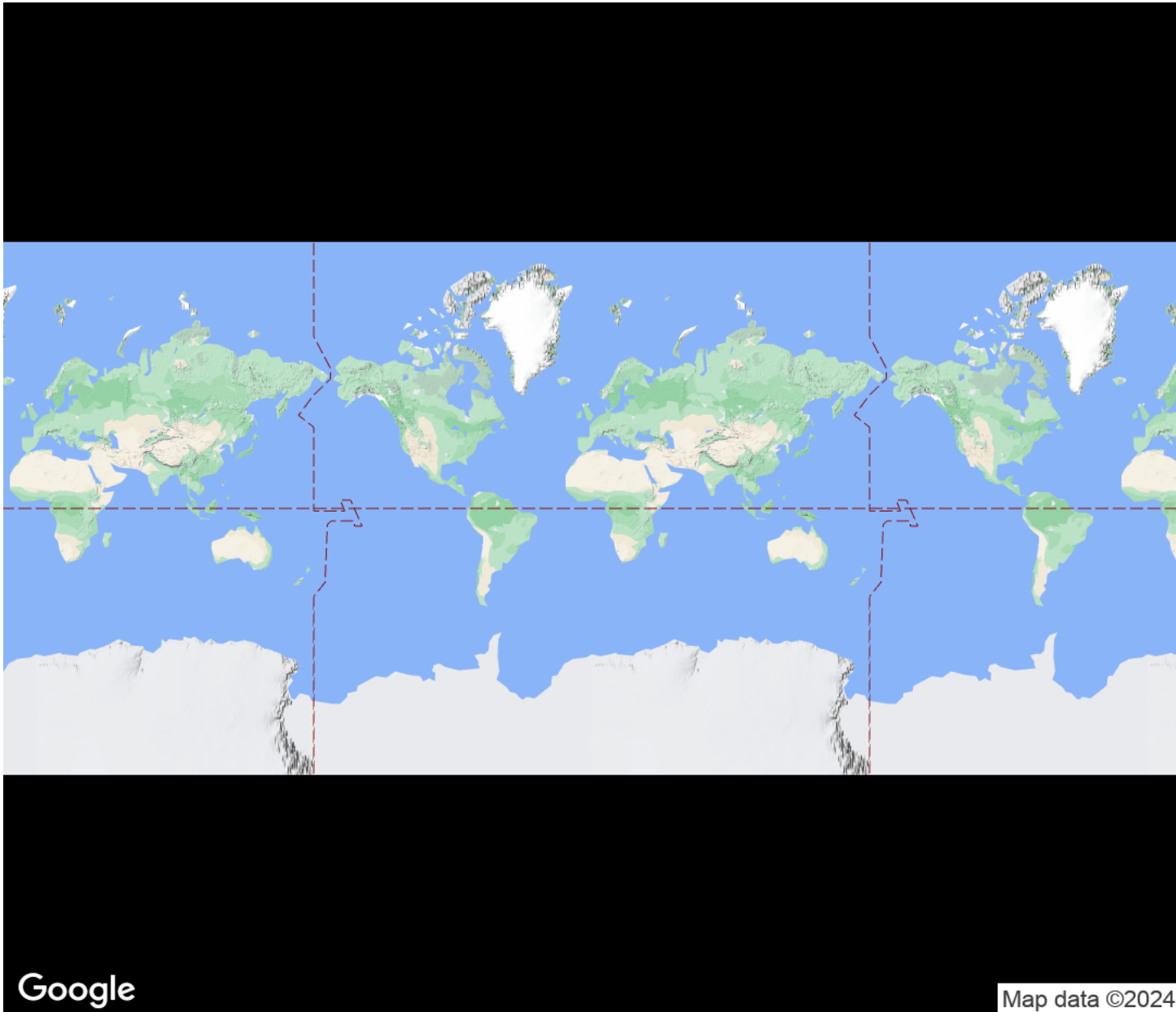
Additional parking can be found at Beardsley Zoo (off Noble Ave. in Bridgeport), Twin Brooks Park (Trumbull), and William E. Wolfe Park (Monroe). To reach Wolfe Park from I-95, take Exit 27A to head north on CT 25/CT 8. After 3.3 miles, keep left to stay on CT 25. Travel on CT 25 for 7.3 miles, then turn right onto Maple Dr. At the end of Maple Dr. in 0.4 mile, turn right onto Purdy Hill Road, and then take an immediate left into the park. There is a day-use parking fee.

Note that ALL Trumbull town parks require permit parking stickers year round (also noted on the signboards at each park entrance). The rail trail can be accessed without a parking permit from the access on Whitney Ave (not Indian Ledge Park) and the parking area on Tait Rd.



Pequonnock River Trail

Connecticut



Trailhead



Restroom



Parking



Water Fountain



Tunnel