



2024

TrailLink Unlimited



Guides



**Ontario
Pathways Rail
Trail**
New York



Ontario Pathways Rail Trail

New York

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Overview

The Ontario Pathways Rail Trail is the crown jewel of the trail system managed by the organization for whom it is named in Ontario County, New York. Comprising two disconnected segments, including a long V-shaped route, the trail runs through woodlands and picturesque farmland in rural communities dotting the northern fringes of New York's scenic Finger Lakes region. Although the trail was built on a former rail corridor and is open to a variety of nonmotorized uses, its rough surface of rocks and roots demands cyclists use mountain bikes or durable hybrids, and it may be better experienced on foot or horse.

Northern Segment (2.5 miles)

Trail users looking for a longer walk/ride may want to skip this segment, which is separated from the main, V-shaped trail by privately owned land and the New York State Thruway. But the stretch has its charms: its lack of road crossings promises a peaceful trip, and its green envelope of trees provides constant shade and the perfect perch for birds. Those who do visit this scenic section should be aware that the trail technically dead-ends in the north without an outlet at the Wayne County line. Therefore, an out-and-back trip from the parking lot on Gifford Road in Phelps at the southern end of this segment may be best; from there, the trail heads north, unmarked, for 2.5 miles and ends at a closed gate. Beyond that is private property.

Southern Segment (21.8 miles)

The main, V-shaped section of the Ontario Pathways Rail Trail leaves off in the north on the opposite side of the New York State Thruway and spans nearly 21 miles. Like the northern segment, the trail proceeds through dense tree cover for its first several miles. Flint Creek is never far away, and a bridge offers trail users a close-up of the water below.

Before long, a short detour onto NY 488 is required. (Follow the signs; you will reach a dead end if you continue beyond the detour access.) Exercise caution on the detour, as NY 488 sees fast-moving traffic. Just over half a mile, the trail turns left off State Highway 488 onto Waddell Road in the hamlet of Orleans. The trail resumes at the end of Waddell Road under tree cover before emerging into open farmland, where the sudden sunlight may be jarring. After alternating between the two environs and passing over US 20/NY 5 via a trail bridge, the trail eventually reaches its halfway point at a large trailhead park in Stanley.

From the park, the trail turns sharply right, briefly paralleling another section of trail, to continue your journey. About a mile in, the route crosses Flint Creek via the Great Stanley Bridge, a 362-foot trestle. Trail users may soon have a feeling



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States: New York

Counties: Ontario

Length: 24.28miles

Trail end points: Swede Rd. (Newark) to S Main St. (Canandaigua)

Trail surfaces: Cinder, Dirt, Grass, Gravel

Trail category: Rail-Trail

Trail activities: Horseback Riding, Mountain Biking, Walking, Cross Country Skiing

Parking & Trail Access

The Ontario Pathways Rail Trail runs between Swede Rd. (Newark) and S Main St. (Canandaigua), which offers parking.

Parking is also available at:

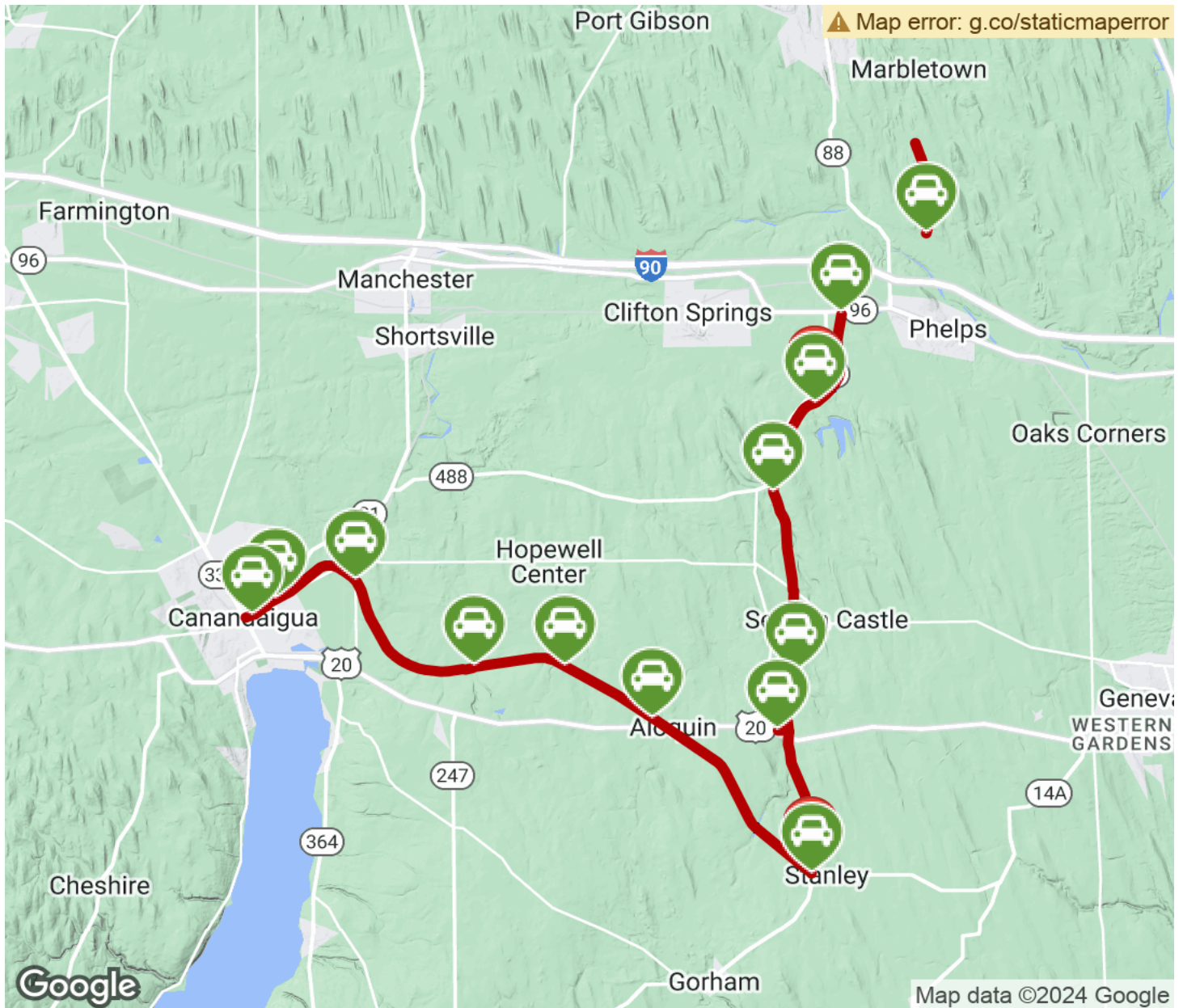
- 2769-2849 Wheat Rd (Clifton Springs)
- 2220-2230 Vogt Rd (Stanley)
- 3575 Co Rd 20 (Stanley)

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



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Trailhead



Restroom



Parking



Water Fountain



Tunnel



TrailLink
by Rails-to-Trails Conservancy

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