



2024

TrailLink Unlimited



Guides



## Tanglefoot Trail

*Mississippi*



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*The Tanglefoot Trail wanders 43.6 miles through the foothills of the Appalachian Mountains in the Mississippi Hills National Heritage*



The Tanglefoot Trail wanders 43.6 miles through the foothills of the Appalachian Mountains in the Mississippi Hills National Heritage Area. The rail-trail follows the former railroad line once led by Col. William C. Falkner—the great-grandfather of Nobel-Prize-winning author William Faulkner—in the late 1800s. With its scenic beauty and rich history, this Mississippi gem is a proud member of the [Rail-Trail Hall of Fame](#).

Established by Native Americans, the trail was traced by famed explorers Hernando de Soto and Meriwether Lewis and called the King's Highway after the last Chickasaw King Ishtehotopah, who made his home near the creek where the trail crosses. The route was renamed the Tanglefoot—after one of the train engines—and opened as a rail-trail in 2013.

As the trail winds through three counties—Chickasaw, Pontotoc, and Union—it offers views of mature hardwood forests; trees draped in the vines of kudzu; fields of cotton and soybeans; pastures; and wetlands. Dotted with spots to take refuge from the heat, the trail takes riders over wooden bridges that offer views of waterways and wildlife.

Four “whistle stops”—reminiscent of train depots—serve as trail entrances and tributes to the pathway's rich history as a railroad. Located in New Houlka, Algoma, Ecru and Ingomar, these trailheads provide restrooms, parking, water fountains, bike racks and picnic tables.

Along the way, the asphalt pathway connects six communities—New Albany, Ecru, Pontotoc, Algoma, New Houlka, and Houston—which offer pleasant places to rest, eat, and shop. Visit the Union County Heritage Museum in quaint New Albany, and just south of town, check out the Ingomar Mounds—a burial area from 100 B.C. to 400 A.D. In Pontotoc, drop by the Town Square Post Office and Museum to learn more about the lives of settlers during the construction of the railroad.

The trail also sits between two historical sites from the life of an iconic American: Elvis Presley. His birthplace of Tupelo is about 20 miles east of the trail, and his Graceland estate is 70 miles northwest in Memphis. The rags-to-riches contrast between the two homes will be of interest to history buffs and rock-n-roll lovers who visit the rail-trail and want to explore the surrounding area.



# Tanglefoot Trail

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**States:** Mississippi

**Counties:** Chickasaw, Pontotoc, Union

Length: 43.6 miles

**Trail end points:** Daniel Boone St & W Church St (Houston) to W Bankhead St & N Railroad Ave (New Albany)

**Trail surfaces:** Asphalt

**Trail category:** Rail-Trail

**Trail activities:** Bike, Inline

Skating, Wheelchair Accessible, Walking

## Parking & Trail Access

Parking is available at the three gateway facilities in the largest communities along the route (one at each end of the trail and one in the middle):

- Houston (583 West Church St.; milepost 0)
- Pontotoc (121 South College St.; milepost 25.1)
- New Albany (Carter Avenue; milepost 43.6)

The trail also has four “whistle stop” facilities that provide parking, restrooms, water fountains, bike racks and picnic tables:

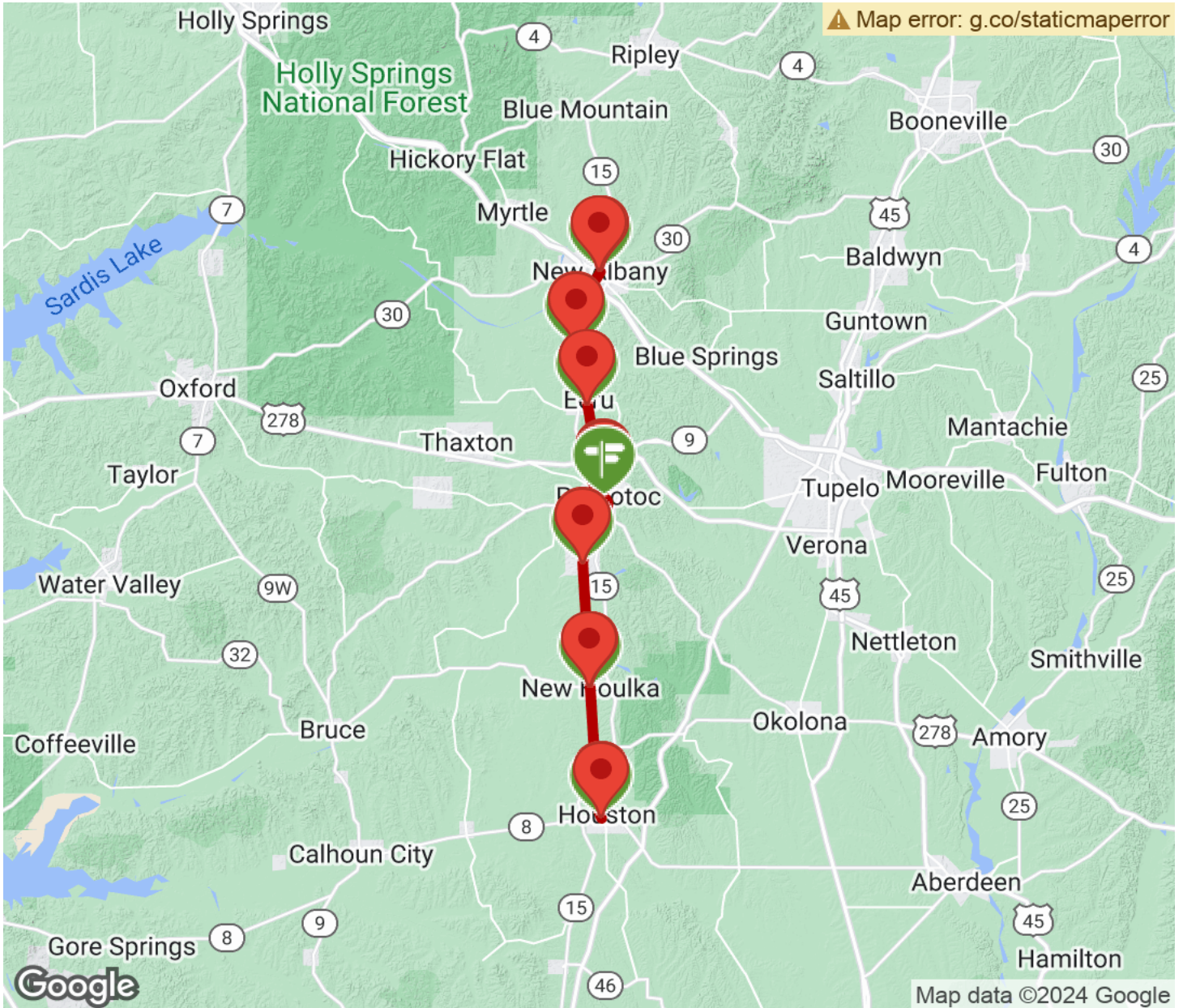
- New Houlka (205 West Front Street; milepost 9.9)
- Algoma (24 Weeks Street; milepost 19.3)
- Ecpu (279 South Railroad Avenue; milepost 32.6)
- Ingomar (1103 County Road 90; milepost 37.1)





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Trailhead



Restroom



Parking



Water Fountain



Tunnel



## TrailLink

by Rails-to-Trails Conservancy

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