



2024

TrailLink Unlimited



Guides



## Grand Trunk Trail

*Massachusetts*



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The overall goal of the Grand Trunk Trail in south-central Massachusetts is to connect the communities of Brimfield, Sturbridge, and Southbridge by trail. Currently, two sections of the trail are completed. Although they do not yet connect, they are both pleasant rides through the Quinebaug River valley and worthy of tying together for a day of adventure and railroad history.

The Grand Trunk Trail is also part of an effort to create a larger 66-mile regional trail known as the Titanic Rail Trail that will run from Palmer to Franklin. The Titanic Rail Trail gets its name from the former president of the Grand Trunk Railway, Charles M. Hays, who lost his life sailing back from England on the RMS Titanic just after securing the necessary funds to complete a second transcontinental railroad. The venture was never

completed.

## Brimfield Section

Depart from the western end of the trail on the outskirts of Brimfield and ride southeast for an easy jaunt through wooded lands and cut-stone embankments. You can quickly see how early railroads were competing for land and revenue opportunities.

For most of its route, the trail is actually comprised of two paralleling former railbeds, both usually within viewing sight of one another. One line was owned by the Southern New England Railway, a subsidiary of Grand Trunk Railway of Canada; the other tracks belonged to a trolley line that ran between Southbridge and Springfield. Although most of the trail is along the trolley alignment, this section of the larger gauge Grand Trunk Railway is the trail's namesake.

The trail effectively ends on the western bank of the Quinebaug River. Though you won't find a bridge over the river, another 0.5 mile of trail continues on the eastern bank and runs up to East Brimfield Holland Road.

## Westville Lake Section

On the City of Southbridge's western border, you can enjoy a pleasant ride on the rail-trail and a loop around Westville Lake. The best place to begin your adventure is the trailhead parking lot located at the Westville Lake Recreation Area. Heading northeast from here, you will be riding along a mostly tree-covered path dotted with picnic tables for welcome breaks.

The route takes you across the Westville Dam, which you may not really appreciate the size of until you are right up on it. The structure is 78 feet high and 560 feet across. From the dam, the trail runs along the western edge of Westville Lake to the Westville Recreation Area, which has a ball field, picnic



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**States:** Massachusetts

**Counties:** Hampden, Worcester

Length: 6.8 miles

**Trail end points:** US 20, near W Old Sturbridge Rd (Brimfield) to Westville Dam at Marjorie Ln (Southbridge)

**Trail surfaces:** Crushed Stone, Dirt, Gravel

**Trail category:** Rail-Trail

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

## Parking & Trail Access

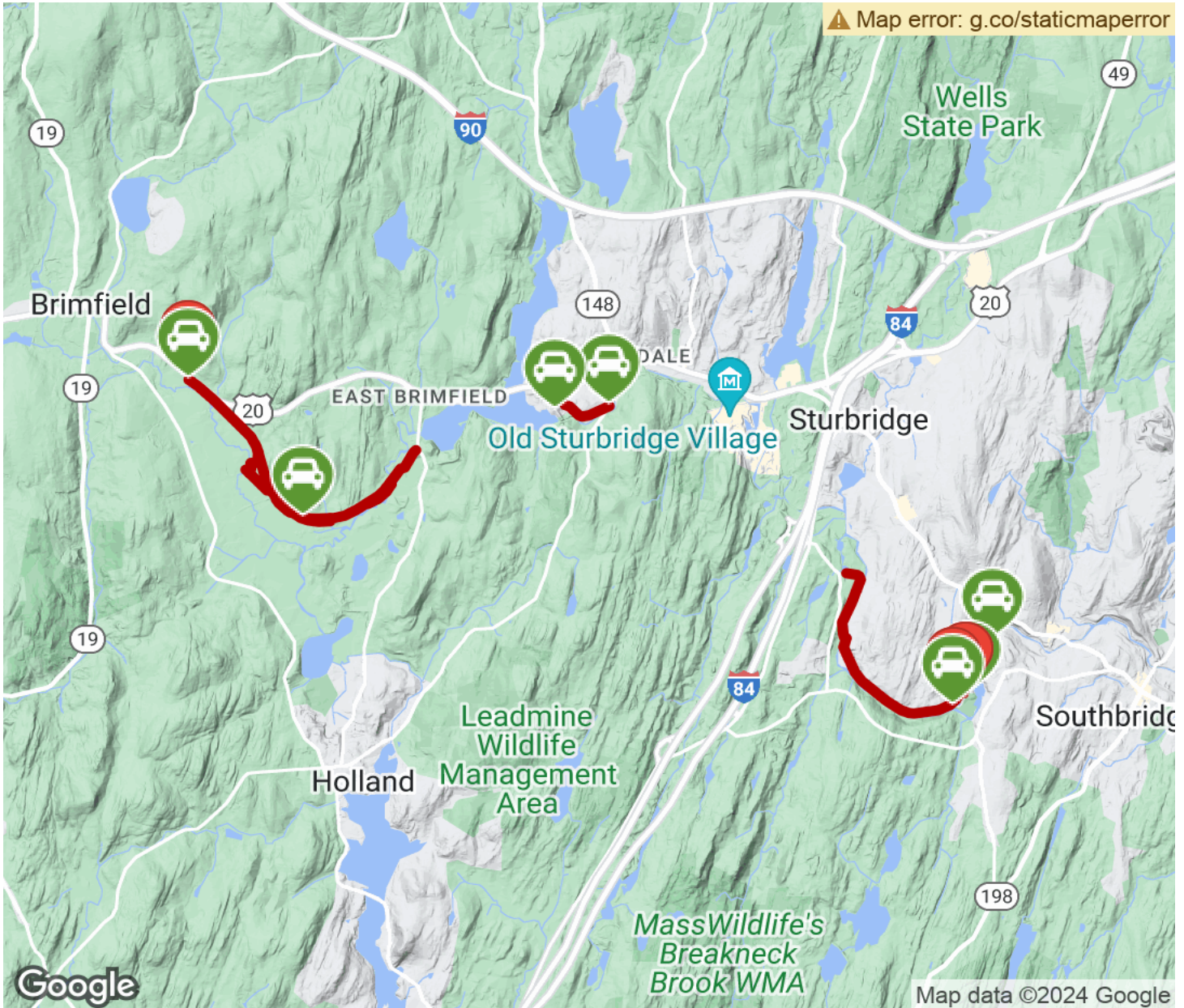
Parking is available at a number of locations along the trail. Visit the [TrailLink map](#) for all options and detailed directions. Locations include the northern trailhead in Brimfield (115 Sturbridge Rd, Brimfield), midway along the northern trail section (131 Five Bridge Rd, Brimfield), and at the Marjorie Lane roundabout in Westville.





# Grand Trunk Trail

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Trailhead



Restroom



Parking



Water Fountain



Tunnel



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

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