



2026

TrailLink Unlimited 

Guides



**Elizabeth  
River Trail**  
*New Jersey*



## Elizabeth River Trail

New Jersey

*The idea of a greenway along the Elizabeth River was actually put forward in 1912 by the famous Olmsted Architectural Firm.*



a gate at S. Broad Street.

In subsequent years, the trail was extended and now stretches from Elizabeth High School, paralleling Pearl Street as it ducks under US 1/9, through the Elizabeth River Parkway and along Mattano Park, ending at the Erxleben Recreation Center. Although the trail ends there, users can take the protected bikeway on Clifton Street and Trenton Avenue, to the bike path along the Goethals Bridge to Staten Island.

There is a new, very short segment of the trail located just south of the longer section. The 400-foot section of trail curves from the intersection of Bayway Avenue and Trenton Avenue to the intersection of Atlantic Street and Clifton Street. At the intersection of Bayway Avenue and Trenton Avenue, there is a trailhead with seating, a trail map, and a large "Welcome To Elizabeth" sign.

The Elizabeth River Trail reconnects residents to their river, allowing them to experience nature in the heart of a dense urban area.

The idea of a greenway along the Elizabeth River was actually put forward in 1912 by the famous Olmsted Architectural Firm. However, continuous flooding made building a trail on the riverbank all but impossible. The US Army Corps of Engineers channelized the river in the 1970s, mitigating the flooding but also creating a barrier between residents and their river.

Thanks to the efforts of the city's leadership and residents, as well as the nonprofit Groundworks Elizabeth, the City of Elizabeth was finally able to celebrate the opening of the first phase of the Elizabeth River Trail, a century after Olmsted's proposal. The first quarter mile stretched between Elizabeth High School on Pearl Street to S. Broad Street, near the public library. The first phase also features public art installations along its length including



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

**TrailLink.com**



# Elizabeth River Trail

*New Jersey*

**States:** New Jersey

**Counties:** Union

Length: 2.3miles

**Trail end points:** S Broad St to 563 Clifton St,  
Elizabeth

**Trail surfaces:** Asphalt

**Trail category:** Greenway/Non-RT

**Trail activities:** Bike, Walking

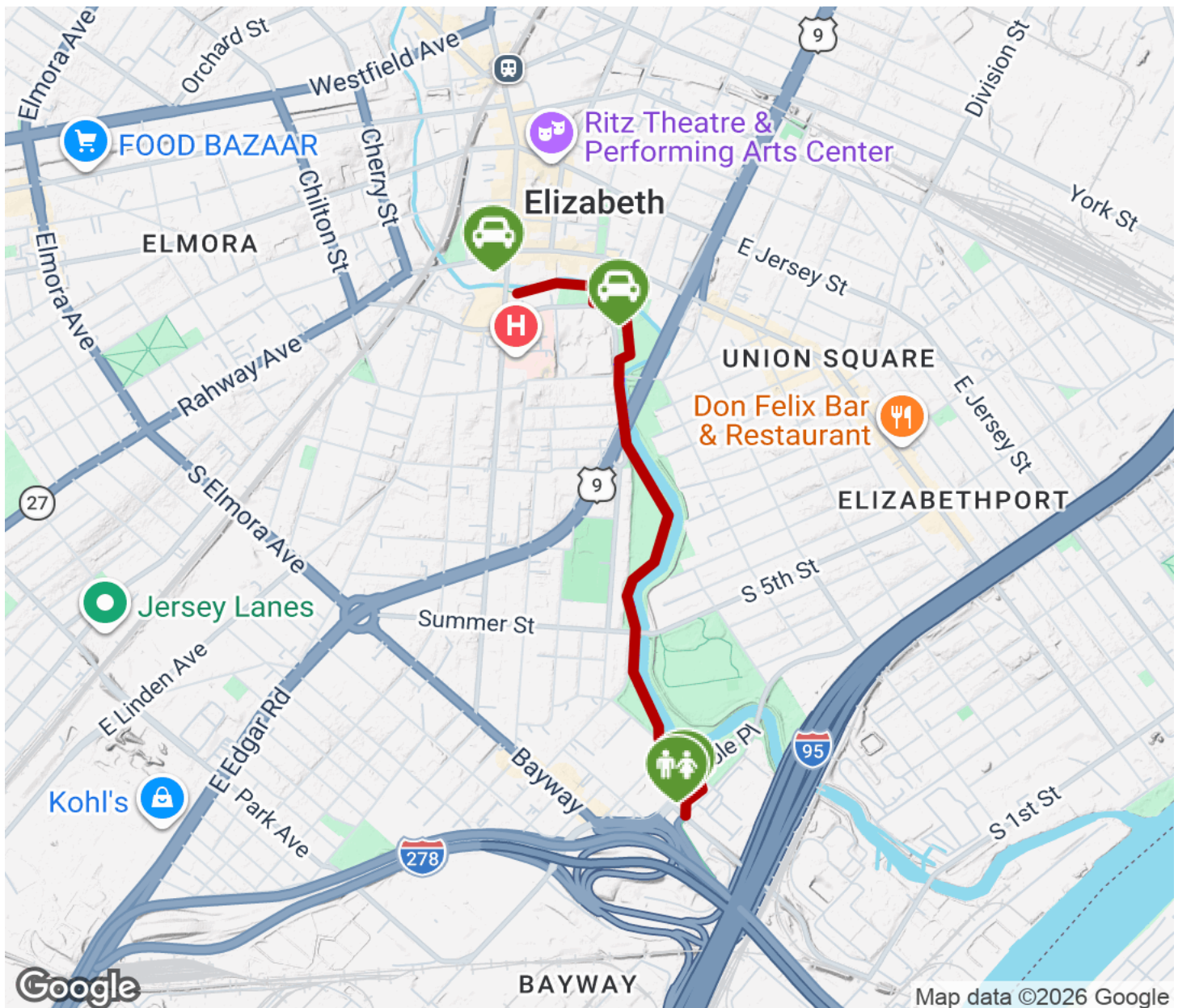
## Parking & Trail Access

At the north end, users can park at the Public Library on 11 South Broad Street or at the Elizabeth High School parking area on Pearl Street.



# Elizabeth River Trail

New Jersey



Trailhead



Restroom



Parking



Water Fountain



Tunnel



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

**TrailLink.com**