



2025

TrailLink Unlimited 

Guides



**Upper Tampa
Bay Trail**
Florida



Upper Tampa Bay Trail

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Widely regarded as Tampa Bay's best urban trail, the Upper Tampa Bay Trail provides a scenic escape from its congested surroundings. The nearly 14-mile trail exists in two separate sections and is paved along the entire route.

About the Route

The northern endpoint of the Upper Tampa Bay Trail is located along W Lutz Lake Farm Rd where the Suncoast Trail leaves off. This section of the trail entirely skirts the Brooker Creek Headwaters Nature Preserve. After it turns off from W Lutz Lake Farm Rd. It heads south as it borders the preserve, cutting in between dense wooded shrubbery and open grasslands until it reaches a southern endpoint at Van Dyke Rd.

Just a few miles away, the trail restarts at Peterson Park. From this trailhead, the first mile leads through a rural landscape past grazing cattle, sheep, and other livestock. At Ehrlich Road, the landscape turns suburban with restaurants and retail options aplenty. Next, the trail crosses over the busy Gunn Highway on a beautifully constructed pedestrian bridge.

The route then diverts from the original railroad corridor and takes a sharp right along the Channel A waterway, lined with native vegetation and beautiful cypress trees. Shortly after, the trail crosses a lovely wooden bridge over peaceful Rocky Creek.

The trail continues to follow the west bank of Rocky Creek as it passes the Water's Ave Trailhead. Beyond, the trail crosses Waters Avenue and parallels Memorial Highway to the southernmost trailhead at Montague St.

Connections

At the trail's northern end, it connects to the [Suncoast Trail](#).



Upper Tampa Bay Trail

Florida

States: Florida

Counties: Hillsborough

Length: 13.85miles

Trail end points: 6007 W Lutz Lake Fern Rd (Lutz Lake Fern Road) to Van Dyke Rd. (Odessa) to Peterson Rd. Park, 8203 Peterson Rd (Odessa) to Montague St. (Tampa)

Trail surfaces: Asphalt

Trail category: Rail-Trail

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

Parking & Trail Access

The Upper Tampa Bay Trail runs between the Suncoast Trail, 6007 W Lutz Lake Fern Rd (Lutz Lake Fern Road), where parking is available, and Van Dyke Rd. (Odessa) and Peterson Rd. Park, 8203 Peterson Rd (Odessa), which offers more parking, and Montague St.

Additional parking is available at:

- Rocky Creek Trails Nature Preserve, 7415 Manhattan Dr (Tampa)
- 10180 Wilsky Blvd (Tampa)
- 9201 W Waters Ave. (Tampa)

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



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by Rails-to-Trails Conservancy

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