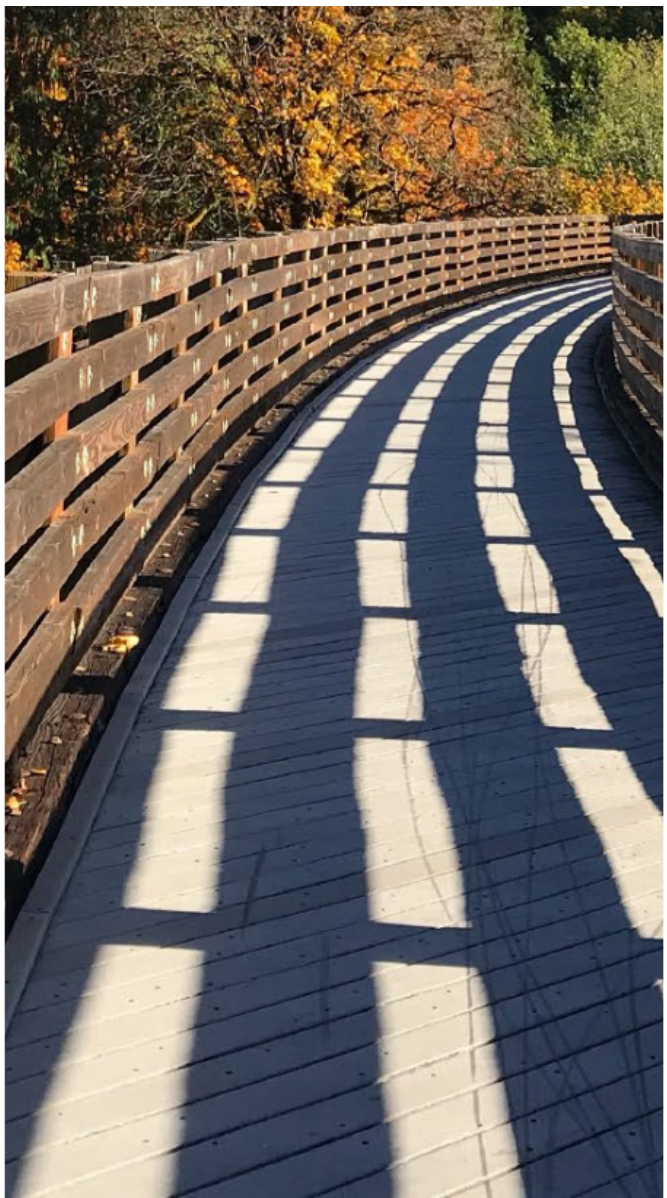
TrailLink
by Rails-to-Trails Conservancy

2025

TrailLink Unlimited

Guides



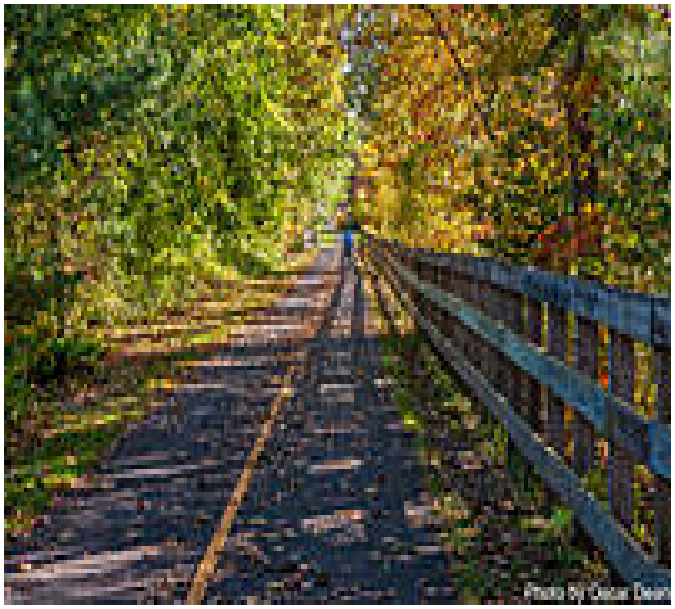
Farmington Canal Heritage Trail

Connecticut

Farmington Canal Heritage Trail

Connecticut

Closure notice: During the week of July 7th, the FCHT will be closed due to repaving from Copperhill Road to the Suffield line and then



Closure notice: During the week of July 7th, the FCHT will be closed due to repaving from Copperhill Road to the Suffield line and then from RT. 189 to Floydville Rd.

First a canal, then a railroad, and now a trail define the history of the Farmington Canal Heritage Trail. Completed segments span Connecticut south to north, from New Haven to the Massachusetts border, for nearly 50 miles. A multi-year work in progress with only a couple of gaps remaining, the trail will total 57 miles when finished.

Northern Section: Connecticut–Massachusetts State Line to Plainville

Starting from the trail's southern endpoint at the CT/MA Line, the trail heads south for 10.3 miles through farms and forests to the state line. Along the way, the trail passes pockets of residential and commercial development.

Heading into Simsbury, trail users are treated to the Simsbury Railroad Depot, built in 1875, which is now a restaurant. From Simsbury, the trail continues south for 4.2 miles through light industrial parks. Just north of Avon, the trail takes a 1.8-mile detour on sidewalks through the town center. South of Avon, the trail re-enters hardwood forests.

After passing through Simsbury, there is a large gap in the trail through Plainsville.

Southern Section: Southington to New Haven

In Southington, just south of the gap in the trail, trail users can learn more about the historical canal at the Lock 12 Historical Park in Cheshire and at the Southington Train Depot and Museum, circa. 1890, just past Meriden-Waterbury Turnpike/CT 322 in Southington.

As the trail enters the Mount Carmel Neighborhood, it also passes Sleeping Giant State Park, which features a rocky outcropping and summit observation tower, which some claim to resemble the park's namesake sleeping giant.

South of Sleeping Giant State Park, the trail heads into the green space surrounding Lake Whitney, which covers nearly 3 miles. Yale University anchors the trail's southern terminus, with the easiest access off Hillhouse Avenue. The trail crosses underneath Whitney Ave. with a bike-ped tunnel complete with lights and canal exhibits.

Connections

At the trail's northern end, the Farmington Canal Trail becomes the Southwick Rail Trail.

Farmington Canal Heritage Trail

Connecticut

States: Connecticut
Counties: Hartford,New Haven
Length: 49.1miles
Trail end points: CT/MA State Line (Southwick) to Temple St. (New Haven)
Trail surfaces: Asphalt
Trail category: Rail-Trail
Trail activities: Bike,Inline Skating,Fishing,Wheelchair Accessible,Walking,Cross Country Skiing

Parking & Trail Access

The Farmington Canal Trail runs between the CT/MA State Line (Southwick) and Temple St. (New Haven).

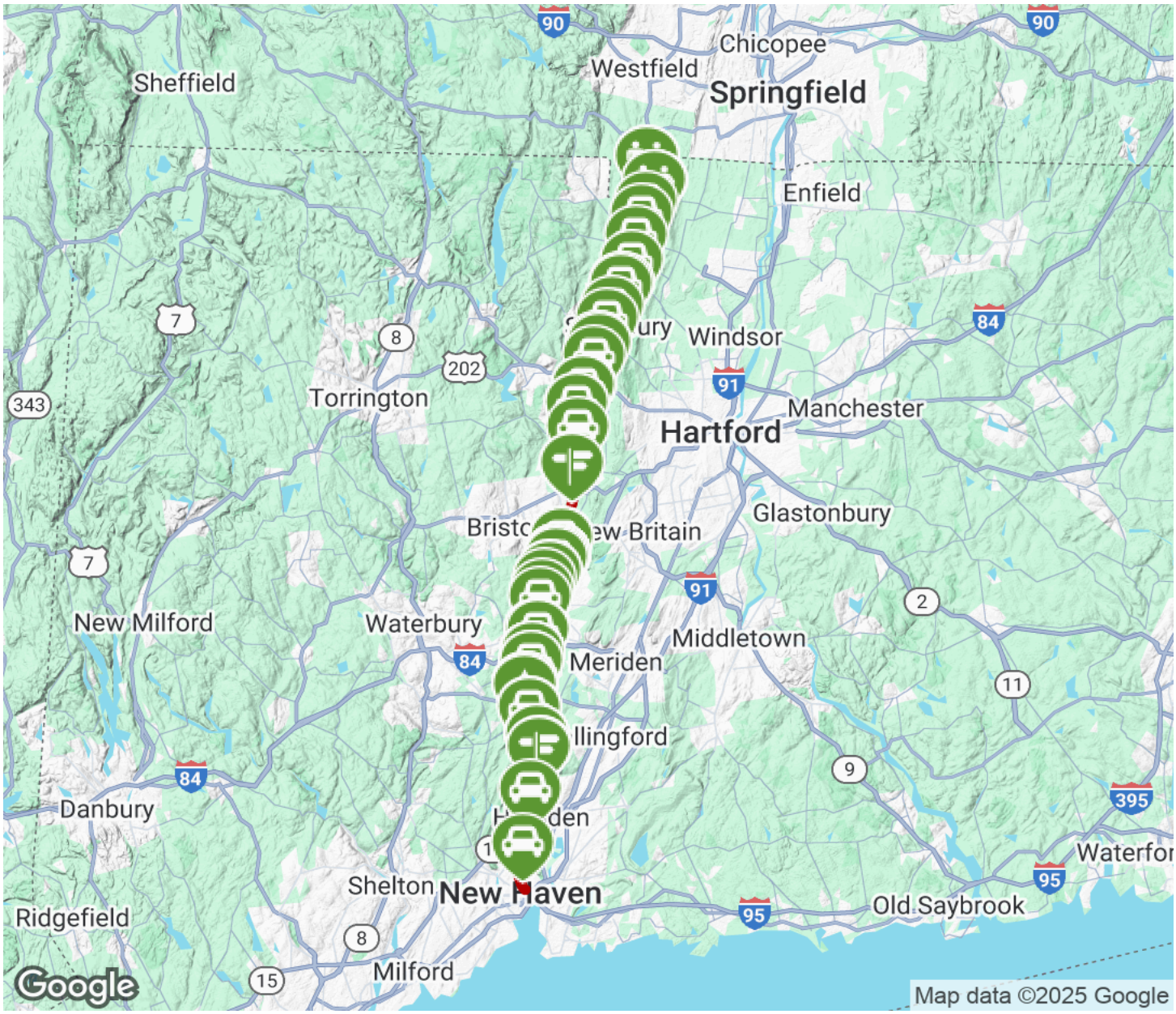
Parking is available at:

- 16 Railroad St (Simsbury)
- 45 Northwest Dr (Plainsville)
- 83 W Main St (Plantsville)

There are numerous parking options along the trail, see TrailLink Map for all parking options and detailed directions.

Farmington Canal Heritage Trail

Connecticut



Trailhead Restroom Parking Water Fountain Tunnel

TrailLink
by Rails-to-Trails Conservancy

TrailLink.com