



2026

TrailLink Unlimited



Guides



Augusta Canal National Heritage Area Trails

Georgia



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Taking a trek through Augusta's industrial past is as easy as hopping on the towpath and the Mill Village Trail. They form a nearly 8-mile level track nestled between the Savannah River and the Augusta Canal and create a backbone for a network of trails in the Augusta Canal National Heritage Area, designated by Congress in 1996.

About the Route

The trail—mostly hard-packed dirt—runs along the old towpath from the canal headgates at Savannah Rapids Park north of Augusta to the Old Turning Basin at 13th St. in the town's central business district. The trail surface is suitable for bicycles and is wheelchair accessible. Fishing is a popular pastime along the trail, as long as you follow the rules—don't feed the alligators!

Leaving off from the trail's northern end, trail users will find plenty of parking at the headgates trailhead in Savannah Rapids Park, where bicycle and kayak rentals are available. After crossing the 1875 gatehouse and locks at the head of the canal, the trail heads south on the towpath on a narrow, wooded strip of land between the canal and the river. In about 2.5 miles, a clearing provides a spot to picnic or wade into the river

While Augusta's skyline emerges as the trail moves south, the first trailside buildings arise in another mile at the pump station, which has been drawing drinking water from the canal since 1899. This is also the junction with the 2.5-mile Mountain Bike Singletrack and a pedestrian bridge crossing the canal to parking and ballfields.

Another 1.3 miles brings trail users to the Lake Olmstead Trailhead, where trail users will cross a bridge to continue on a paved main trail (the Mill Village Trail). Trail users can also continue south for 0.5 miles on the old towpath or take excursions on the Lake Olmstead and River Levee Trails, which meet here.

In 0.6 miles, the trail reaches the Mill Village Trailhead, after which the remaining trail is paved. Just south of the trailhead, the trail crosses the old redbrick Confederate Powder Works chimney and Sibley Mill. In another mile, the trail crosses back to the north side of the canal and passes the Enterprise Mill, a former textile factory that houses historical exhibits in the Discovery Center. The trail reaches its southern end in 0.4 miles at the Old Turning Basin, formerly a wide spot where canal boats could turn around.

Trail History

Completed in 1845, the canal carried commercial traffic and harnessed the river's energy to power local textile mills, which helped establish the city as one of the South's few manufacturing centers by the Civil War. Today, the waterway



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States: Georgia

Counties: Columbia, Richmond

Length: 7.9 miles

Trail end points: 3300 Evans to Locks Rd (Martinez) to 13th St (Augusta)

Trail surfaces: Asphalt, Concrete, Dirt

Trail category: Canal

Trail activities: Bike, Fishing, Mountain Biking, Walking

Parking & Trail Access

The Augusta Canal National Heritage Trails runs between 3300 Evans to Locks Rd (Martinez) and 13th St (Augusta), with parking available at both ends.

Parking is also available at:

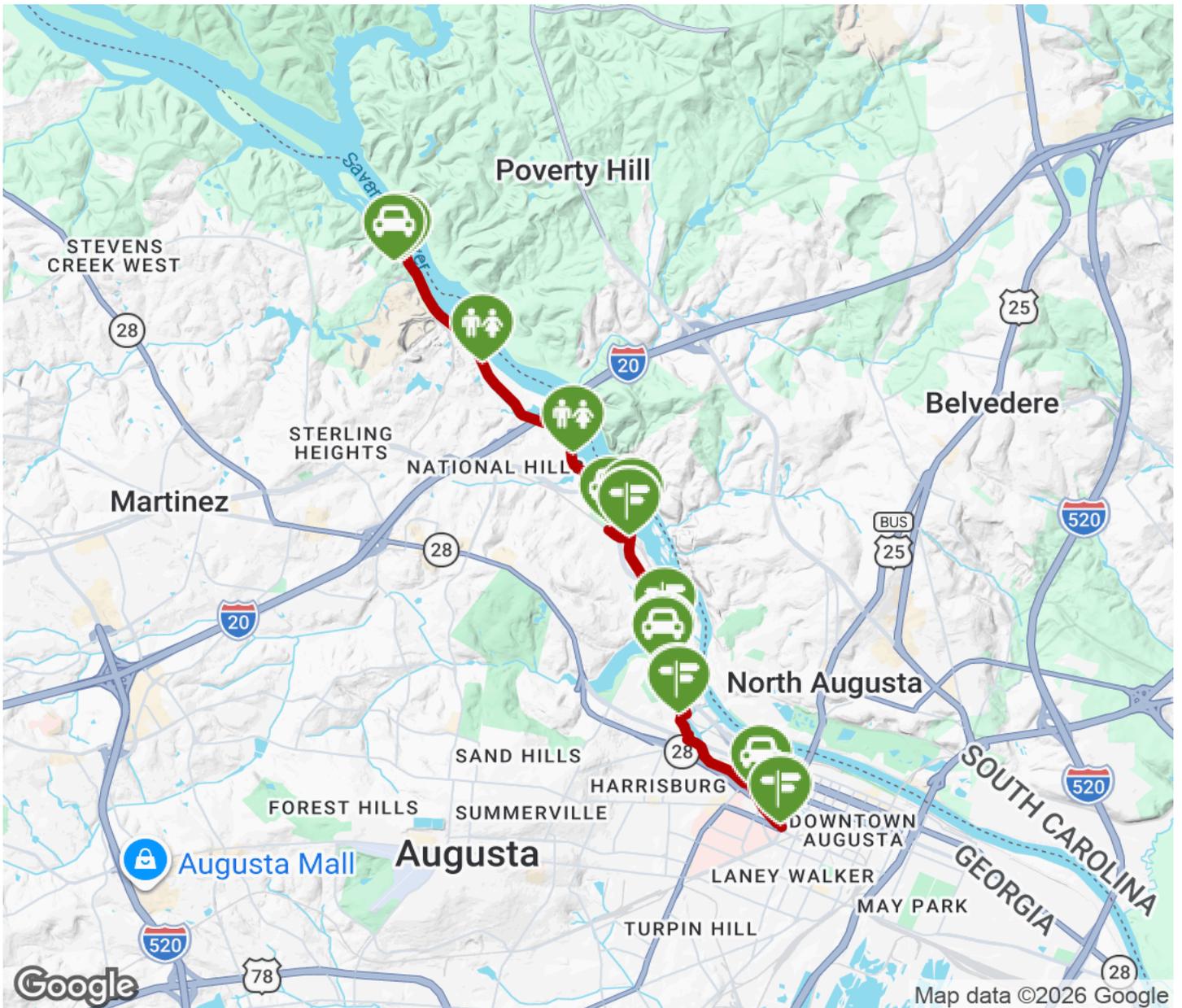
- Eisenhower Park, 1488 Eisenhower Dr (Augusta)
- 1 Milledge Rd (Augusta)

Please see the [TrailLink Map](#) for all parking options and detailed directions.



Augusta Canal National Heritage Area Trails

Georgia



Trailhead



Restroom



Parking



Water Fountain



Tunnel



TrailLink
by Rails-to-Trails Conservancy

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