



2025

TrailLink Unlimited 

Guides   



**Old Colony
Rail Trail**
Massachusetts



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Overview

The Old Colony Rail Trail, named after the railroad line that operated in Massachusetts and Rhode Island, offers a serene journey through quiet Cape Cod beach towns. At 8 miles, the trail is suitable for a short ride out and back, or a longer journey when combined with the Cape Cod Rail Trail.

About the Route

The eastern point of the trail leaves off from Depot Road, in the center of Chatham, across from the fire station and adjacent to Veterans Field, home of the Chatham Anglers baseball team of the Cape Cod Baseball League. Trail users will find ample parking in the elementary school lot

across the street, a large playground, and rest rooms just a short walk down the hill at the Chatham Community Center.

The route, in general, is flat, family-friendly, and easily managed. The easternmost 1.5 miles of the trail is mostly on quiet, quaint streets with slight vehicular activity. The remainder of the trail is on an off-road dedicated child-safe bike path. Inexperienced cyclists should face few difficulties. Should trail users wish to bi-pass the first 1.2 miles share-the-road portion of the trail, trail users can park at the Chatham Airport on George Ryder Road or the parking lot at the corner of Meetinghouse Road (Route 137) and Main Street (Route 28).

The trail then heads down Hitching Post Road for 0.2 miles, then turns left onto Tip Cart Drive. At the bottom of the hill, cross over Crowell Road to join the first segment of the off-road trail. The trail passes tennis and pickle ball courts, basketball court, and parking lot through a short wooded area emerging to cross Stepping Stones Road. At the bottom of Stepping Stones Road continue straight across the intersection and onto Wilfred Road. This on-street portion of the trail is only 0.6 mile and Wilfred Road is a quiet neighborhood street with scarcely any vehicle traffic. The off-street trail continues at the end of Wilfred Road. Here the trail begins its loop around the Chatham Airport before pausing at George Ryder Road where signage directs trail users to turn right to continue on the Old Colony Rail Trail or left for the short ride to West Chatham. This section of the Old Colony Rail Trail offers a unique view of this small airport used primarily for personal small aircraft. Lunch can be obtained at the airport restaurant, or a short ride to West Chatham, and rest rooms and water bottle fill are available at the police station located across from the airport hanger on George Ryder Road. After crossing George Ryder Road, and passing a rest area with picnic table, the remaining 5.4 miles of the trail remain off-road.

While there are several cross streets along the way, the trail, in general, is peaceful, enjoyable and extremely well



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Massachusetts

States: Massachusetts

Counties: Barnstable

Length: 8miles

Trail end points: Cape Cod Rail Trail (Harwich)
to Depot Rd.(Chatham)

Trail surfaces: Asphalt

Trail category: Rail-Trail

Trail activities: Bike,Inline

Skating,Wheelchair Accessible,Walking

Parking & Trail Access

The Old Colony Rail Trail runs between Cape Cod Rail Trail (Harwich) and Depot Rd. (Chatham), where parking is available.

Parking is also available at:

- Brooks Park, 1 Oak St. (Harwich)
- 425 Crowell Rd. (Chatham)

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



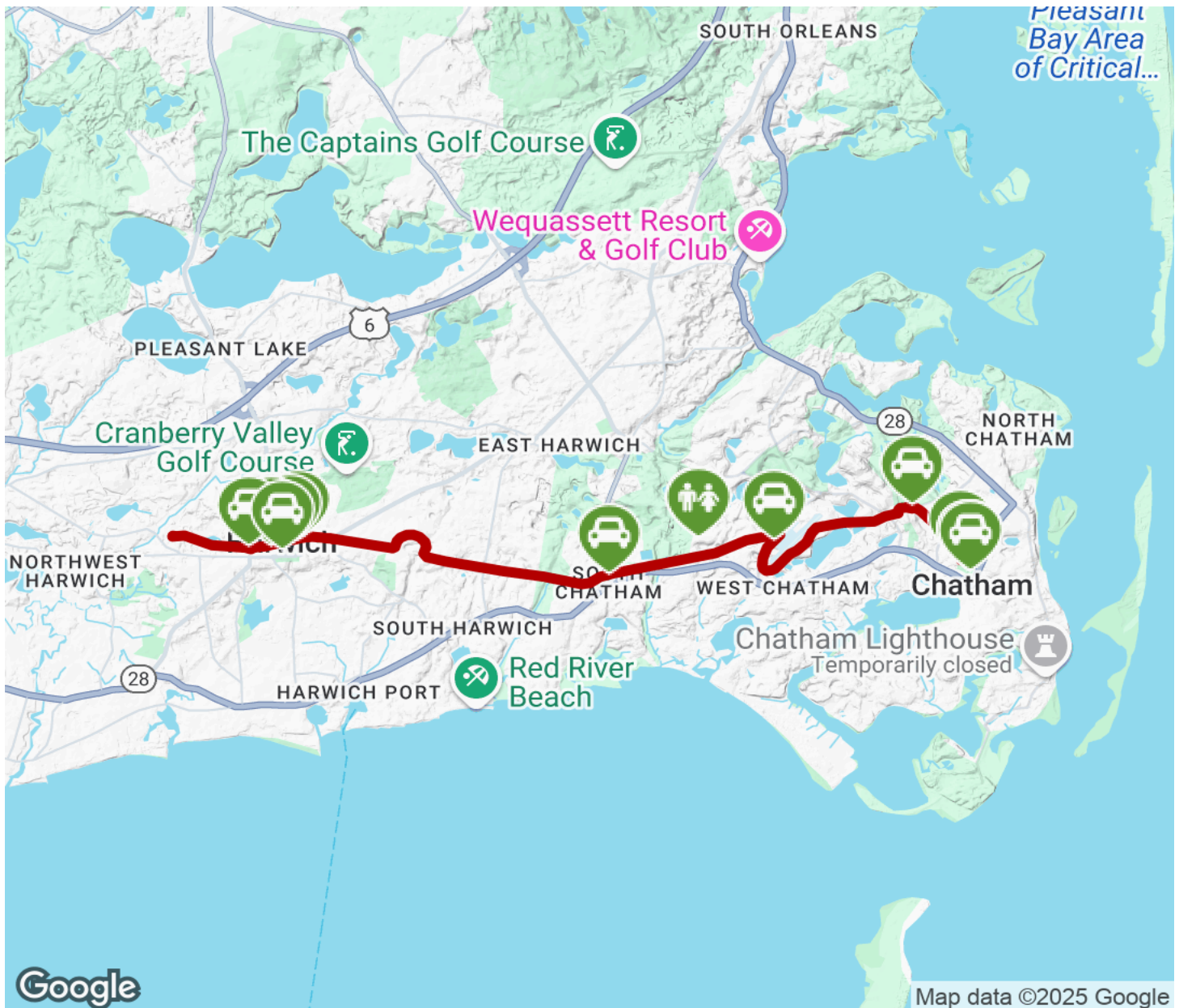
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Trailhead



Restroom



Parking



Water Fountain



Tunnel



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