



2025

TrailLink Unlimited 

Guides



Marblehead Rail-Trail

Massachusetts



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The Marblehead Rail-Trail appears on maps as a Y resting on its side, connecting Marblehead and Salem in the north and the city limits of Swampscott in the west. The 3.34-mile trail knits together a coastal area that's steeped in Colonial history, from The Spirit of '76 painting hanging in a Marblehead museum to the infamous Salem witch trials of the 1690s.

About the Route

The old station site in downtown Marblehead is a central starting point with plenty of parking. It's only a few blocks from the town's historical waterfront, where fishing and whaling ships docked alongside privateers during the American Revolution. Reflecting the spirit of those times, the distinctive Abbot Hall museum on Washington Street

displays The Spirit of '76, a painting depicting a fife and drum corps marching across a battlefield.

Follow the sandy path across from Round House Road for 0.25 mile to a utility yard, and take the right fork toward Salem. The sandy trail enters the 10-acre Hawthorn Pond Conservation Area, where there are marshes, ponds, and nature trails. Crossing West Shore Drive, the route enters the 34-acre Wyman Woods Conservation Area to find more wetlands and hardwood forests alongside Salem Harbor. Trail users can hike down a sandy footpath to the water's edge or view the scenic harbor from a bridge.

The trail's southwest end is at MA 114/Lafayette Street, where it connects to the [Salem Bike Path](#) (also known as the Mayor Anthony Salvo Bike Path). If continuing along the 1.8-mile paved bike path, use caution when crossing busy MA 114/Lafayette Street. Heading west before curving north, the Salem Bike Path passes Salem State University and parallels an active rail corridor until it ends at Mill Street. The MBTA Salem Station, Salem Old Town Hall, the harbor, and museums related to the witch trials are all close by.

The left fork at the Marblehead utility yard heads toward Swampscott, nearly 2 miles away. The sand and gravel trail crosses Pleasant Street and runs beside playing fields at Marblehead High School. Students from nearby homes use the trail as a commuter route. About 0.5 mile past the Temple Emanu-El parking lot, the trail passes a side path to the 9-acre Ware Pond Conservation Area, where nature trails provide access to the pond and the wildlife refuge.

The trail becomes a narrow path before it ends on Seaview Avenue at the Swampscott town limits. Residents voted in 2017 to design a 2-mile extension along the old railroad right-of-way to the MBTA Swampscott Station, where the 1868 Eastern Railroad station is located.

Connections



TrailLink
by Rails-to-Trails Conservancy

TrailLink.com



Marblehead Rail-Trail

Massachusetts

States: Massachusetts

Counties: Essex

Length: 3.34miles

Trail end points: Lafayette St, near
Marblehead/Salem town line (Salem); Bessom
St & Round House Rd (Marblehead) to
Swampscott Rail Trail at Seaview Ave
(Swampscott)

Trail surfaces: Asphalt,Dirt,Gravel,Sand

Trail category: Rail-Trail

Trail activities: Bike,Horseback

Parking & Trail Access

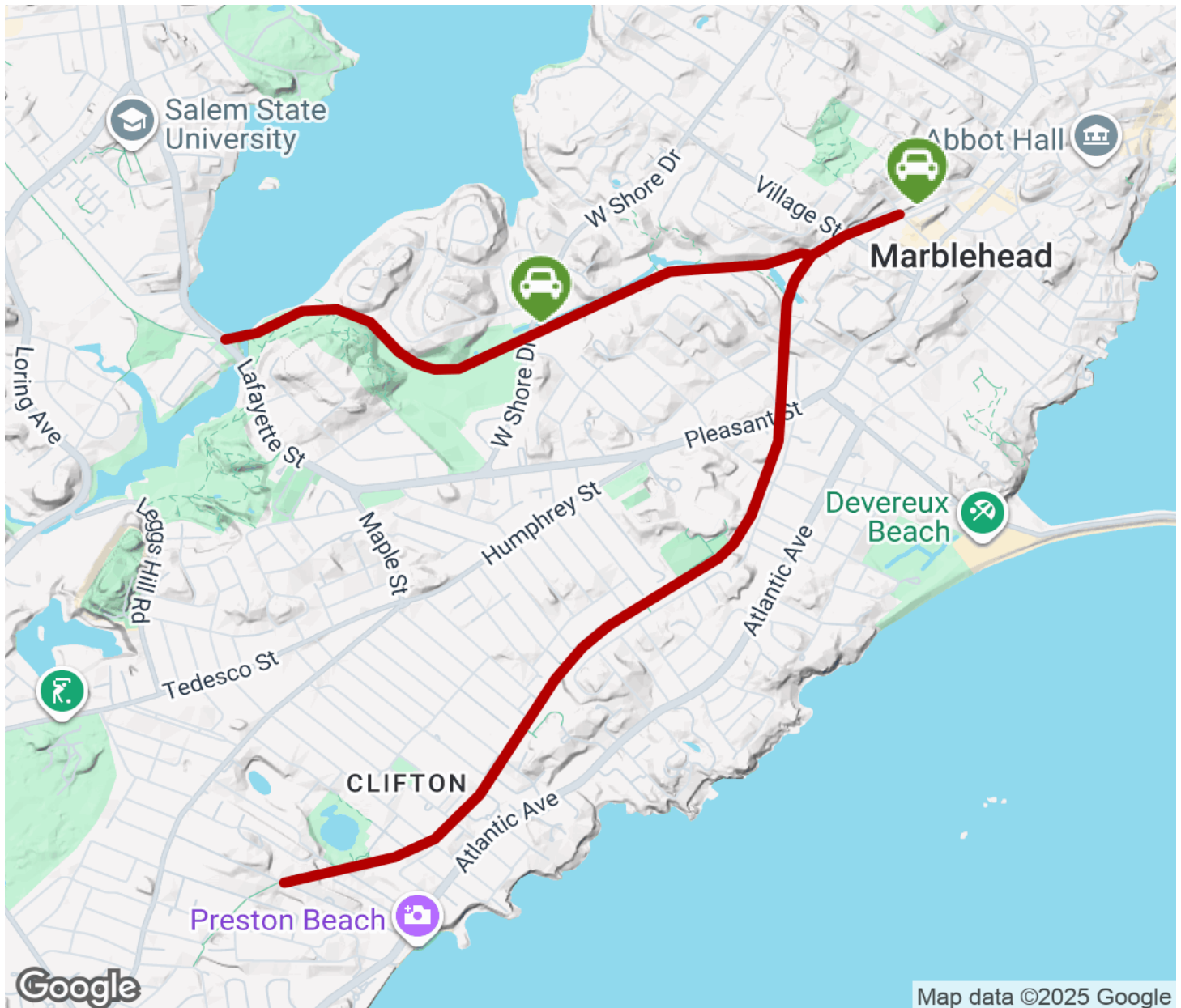
The Marblehead Rail-Trail runs between the intersection of Bessom St & Round House Rd (Marblehead), where there is parking, Lafayette St near the Marblehead/Salem town line (Salem), and the Swampscott Rail Trail at Seaview Ave (Swampscott).

Visit the [TrailLink map](#) for all parking options and detailed directions.



Marblehead Rail-Trail

Massachusetts



Trailhead



Restroom



Parking



Water Fountain



Tunnel



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