



2024

TrailLink Unlimited



Guides



**Kennebec
River Rail
Trail**
Maine



Kennebec River Rail Trail

Maine

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Overview

Visitors to the 6.79-mile-long Kennebec River Rail Trail mostly stay within sight of the wide river as the paved trail links the state capital of Augusta with the river towns of Hallowell, Farmingdale, and Gardiner. The trail is part of the off-road East Coast Greenway, which will connect Calais, Maine, with Key West, Florida, when it is complete. No motorized use is allowed on the trail, which is plowed of snow in the winter.

About the Route

Leaving off from a riverside parking lot in Augusta, the trail heads south beneath the US 201/Memorial Drive bridge. The first mile of the trail is often crowded with

office workers stretching their legs during lunchtime and after work. About 0.7 miles from the trailhead, a side trail heads right to more parking and Capitol Park at the foot of the State Capitol building. The Maine State Museum and State Library are nearby.

At mile 2, measured by 0.25-mile trailside markers, the trail arrives at the waterfront in Hallowell, once a logging, mill, and shipbuilding center. Parking and restrooms are at a riverfront park that's home to the farmers market in season. Trail users might be drawn to the colorful Adirondack chairs that overlook the river here, or could visit antique stores, art studios, or restaurants along Water Street.

Leaving Hallowell, the trail veers away from the rail corridor for a short distance, then hugs the shoreline of Kennebec River to Farmingdale. At one time polluted by industrial discharges, the river Kennebec—named so by the area's original inhabitants for its "large body of still water"—has benefited from clean water laws. Removal of the Edwards Dam in Augusta in 1999 has helped bring back migratory fish. You may see osprey or bald eagles that feed on the river life.

The trail reaches its southern end at a shopping center on the north end of Gardiner, a former mill town. About a block south is a vintage Maine Central Railroad depot built in 1911 and used by the railroad into the 1950s. Just a few blocks farther south, trail users may find Gardiner Waterfront Park, a popular event space and put-in for boats, kayaks, and canoes. The future Merrymeeting Trail project is proposed to follow the rail corridor south of here for 32 miles to Brunswick on the coast.

Connections

The Kennebec River Rail Trail is part of the developing East Coast Greenway, a 3,000-mile route between Florida and Maine.



Kennebec River Rail Trail

Maine

States: Maine

Counties: Kennebec

Length: 6.79miles

Trail end points: Water St. (Augusta) to Maine Ave. (Gardiner)

Trail surfaces: Asphalt

Trail category: Rail-Trail

Trail activities: Bike, Mountain

Biking, Walking, Cross Country Skiing

Parking & Trail Access

The Papermill Trail runs between Water St. (Augusta) and Maine Ave. (Gardiner), with parking available at both ends.

Parking is also available at:

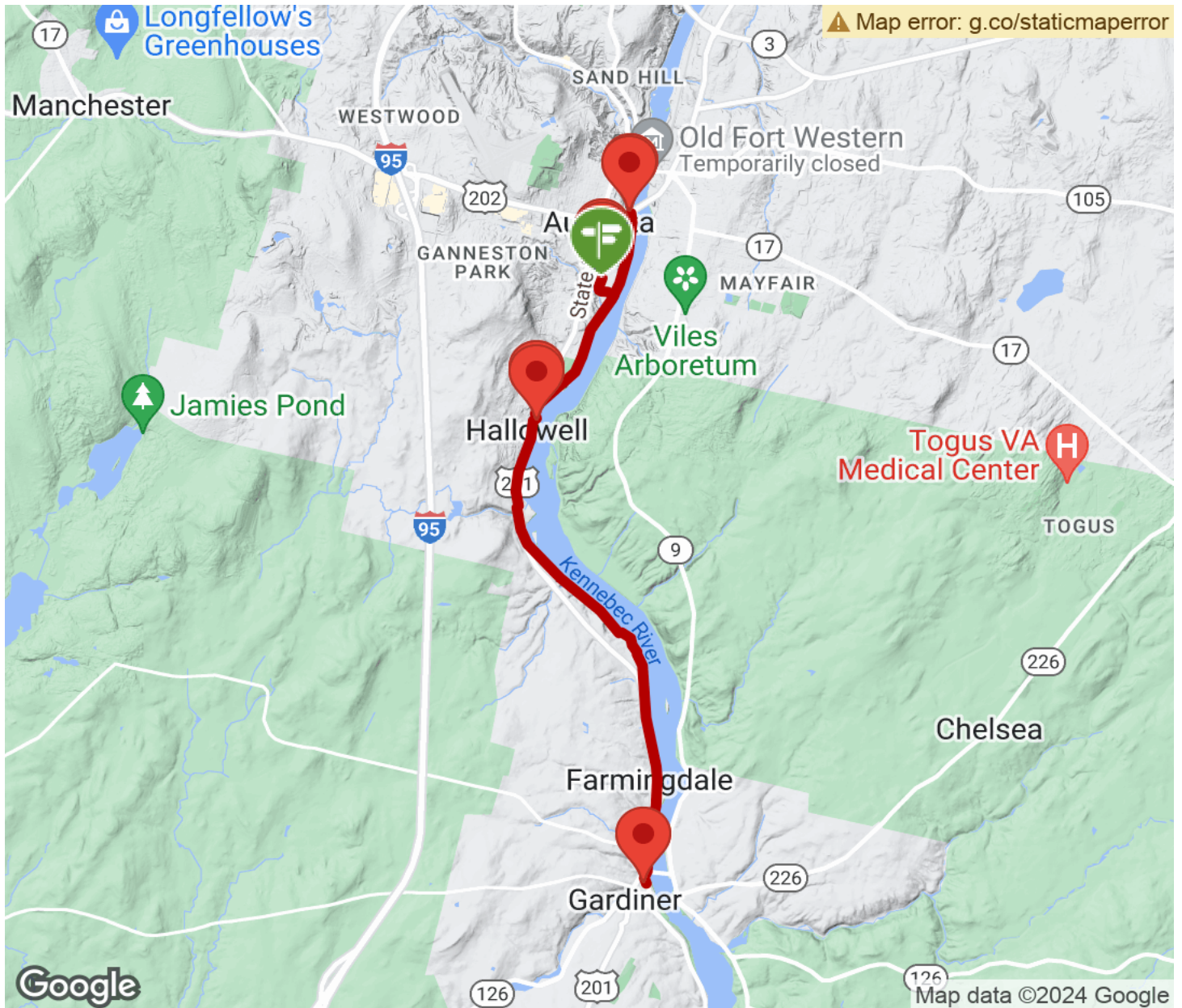
- 94 Water St (Hallowell)

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



Kennebec River Rail Trail

Maine



Trailhead



Restroom



Parking



Water Fountain



Tunnel



TrailLink
by Rails-to-Trails Conservancy

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