



2026

TrailLink Unlimited 

Guides



**Sugar River
Trail**
New Hampshire



Sugar River Trail

New Hampshire

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The Sugar River Trail runs for 9.5 miles between Claremont and Newport along the old Sugar River Railroad corridor. The 9.5-mile trail crosses its namesake river seven times—twice on covered bridges—between the outskirts of Claremont and Newport.

About the Route

The trail takes a circuitous route between the historic mill towns of Claremont and Newport as it follows the Sugar River valley. In Newport, the trailhead on Belknap Avenue is only a few blocks from downtown. The town has several historical buildings and a Main Street that looks like a movie set in the 1800s, with brick storefronts, clock towers on public buildings, and church steeples.

Passing through forest for 2.5 miles, the trail crosses three trestles in quick succession. In another 3 miles, the trail arrives at the first covered bridge, known as Pier Bridge for its central pier. The second covered bridge, Wright's Bridge, appears 1.2 miles after the route passes through Chandler.

The trail passes through woods and then meets up with SR 11/ SR 103 before reaching a junction with the Bobby Woodman Trail on the outskirts of Claremont. The Bobby Woodman Trail heads 2.3 miles into downtown Claremont, with many opportunities for food and services along the way.

The Sugar River Trail is one of only a few state trails that allow ATV use, as well as trail bikes (a type of off-highway recreational vehicle) after the snows melt. Mountain bikers, hikers, equestrians, snowmobilers, and cross-country skiers also use the trail year-round (snowshoeing and dogsledding are also permitted). Wildlife is abundant in the secluded woodlands; watch for deer, rabbits, beavers, raccoons, wild turkeys, and even the occasional moose around the next bend.

Connections

At its eastern endpoint, the Sugar River Trail intersects the [Bobby Woodman Rail Trail](#).

Trail History

The Sugar River Railroad built the railroad corridor, which the trail follows, in the 1870s for the Concord and Claremont Railway. The Boston and Maine Railroad acquired this electric railway in 1887 and renamed it the Claremont Branch. In the first decade of the 1900s, the railroad rebuilt many of the river crossings as covered bridges; two remain after the railroad stopped using the rail bed between Newport and Claremont in 1997.

The Boston and Maine Railroad built the covered bridges as



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States: New Hampshire

Counties: Sullivan

Length: 9.5miles

Trail end points: Belknap Ave. near N. Meadow Road (Newport) to Washington St./SR 103 Roberts Hill Road & Bobby Woodman Trail (Claremont)

Trail surfaces: Ballast,Gravel,Sand

Trail category: Rail-Trail

Trail activities: ATV,Fishing,Horseback Riding,Mountain

Parking & Trail Access

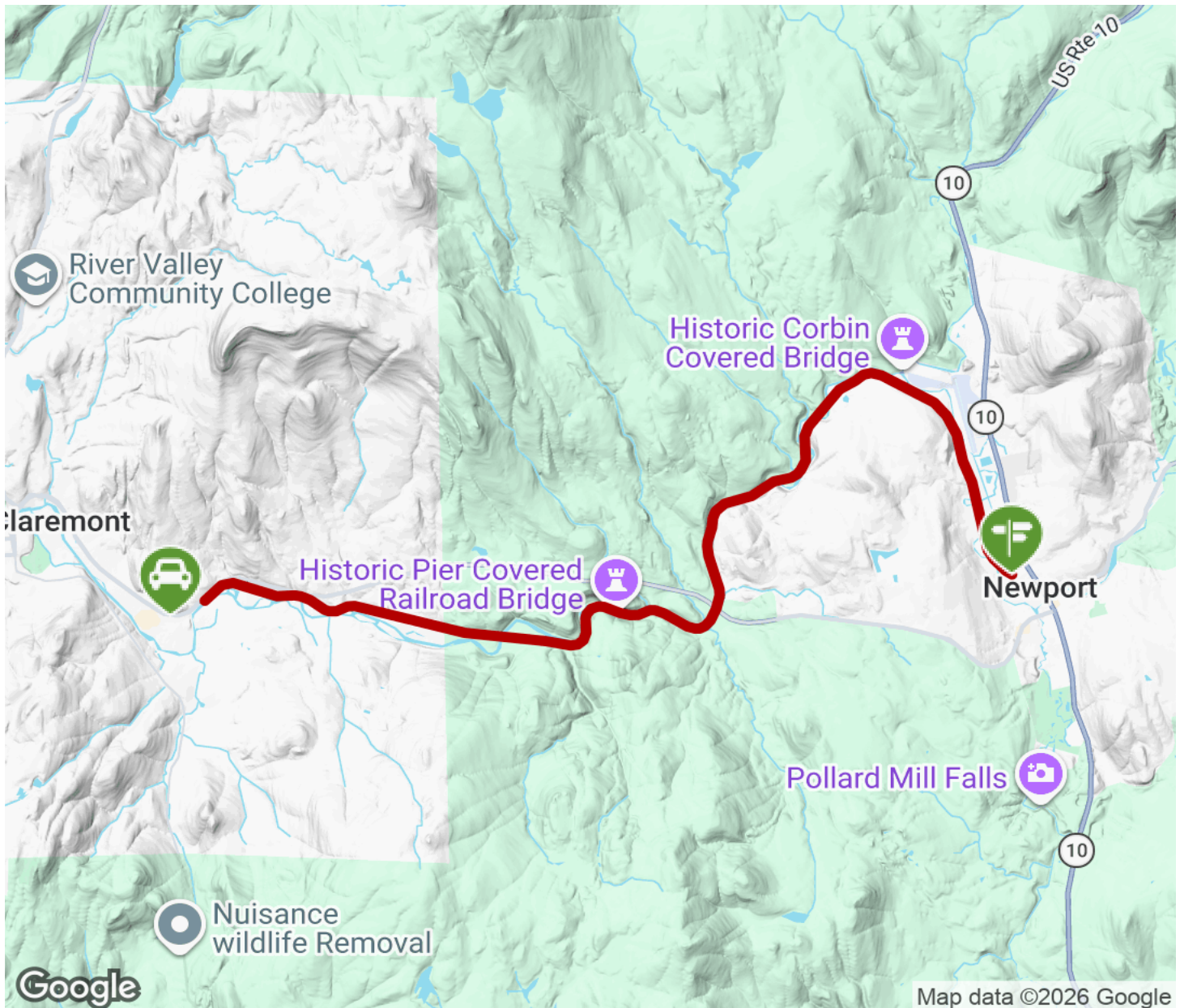
The Sugar River Trail runs between Washington St./SR 103 Roberts Hill Road & Bobby Woodman Trail (Claremont) and Belknap Ave. near N. Meadow Road (Newport), with parking available at both endpoints.

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



Sugar River Trail

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Trailhead



Restroom



Parking



Water Fountain



Tunnel



TrailLink
by Rails-to-Trails Conservancy

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