



2025

TrailLink Unlimited 

Guides



**Cotton Valley
Rail Trail**
New Hampshire



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The Cotton Valley Rail Trail connects the small town of Wakefield, near the Maine border, and the quintessentially quaint New England vacation town of Wolfeboro. In 2017 the towns held a ribbon-cutting ceremony to celebrate the completion of a short segment between Cotton Valley Road in East Wolfeboro and Clark Road in Wakefield—resulting in a continuous 12-mile route.

About the Route

The trail is bookended by wonderful glimpses of its railroad history, making it a must-see for any railcar enthusiast. From the easternmost point in Wakefield, the

trail begins at a small park surrounding the old-fashioned Old Boston and Maine Railroad Turntable, which was refurbished in the 1990s for the benefit of riders and park patrons.

The trail makes no bones about its past as a railroad corridor, delightfully switchbacking along either side of the rails and even providing some well-paved opportunities for users to ride between the irons through the canopied northeastern woods. The eastern section includes some small hills that might prove difficult for some.

Continuing west, the Cotton Valley Rail Trail travels on a heavily wooded path leading toward Lake Wentworth. The western portion of the trail is very flat, making it ideal for horseback riding and cross-country skiing. In 3.1 miles, there is a resting point where the trail intersects State Route 109, complete with a restroom, picnic benches, shelter, and the headquarters of the Cotton Valley Rail Trail Club. In 1.3 miles, there is the Albee Beach access point and a short, winding trail portion before finding gorgeous straightaways, including some narrow causeways over beautiful lake basins. The trail passes through the Linda Baldwin Preserve before finding the edge of the Back Bay, which is surrounded by parks, eateries, and charming shops that help make Wolfeboro a vacation destination.



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States: New Hampshire

Counties: Carroll

Length: 12miles

Trail end points: Railroad Ave (Wolfeboro) to
Wakefield Parks & Recreation Department (132
Meadow St, Wakefield)

Trail surfaces: Gravel

Trail category: Rail-Trail

Trail activities: Bike, Snowmobiling, Walking,
Cross Country Skiing

Parking & Trail Access

The Cotton Valley Rail-Trail runs between Railroad Ave (Wolfeboro) and Wakefield Parks & Recreation Department (132 Meadow St, Wakefield), both of which offer parking.

Parking is also available at:

- Cotton Valley Rail Trail Club, 64 Governor John Wentworth Hwy (Wolfeboro)

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



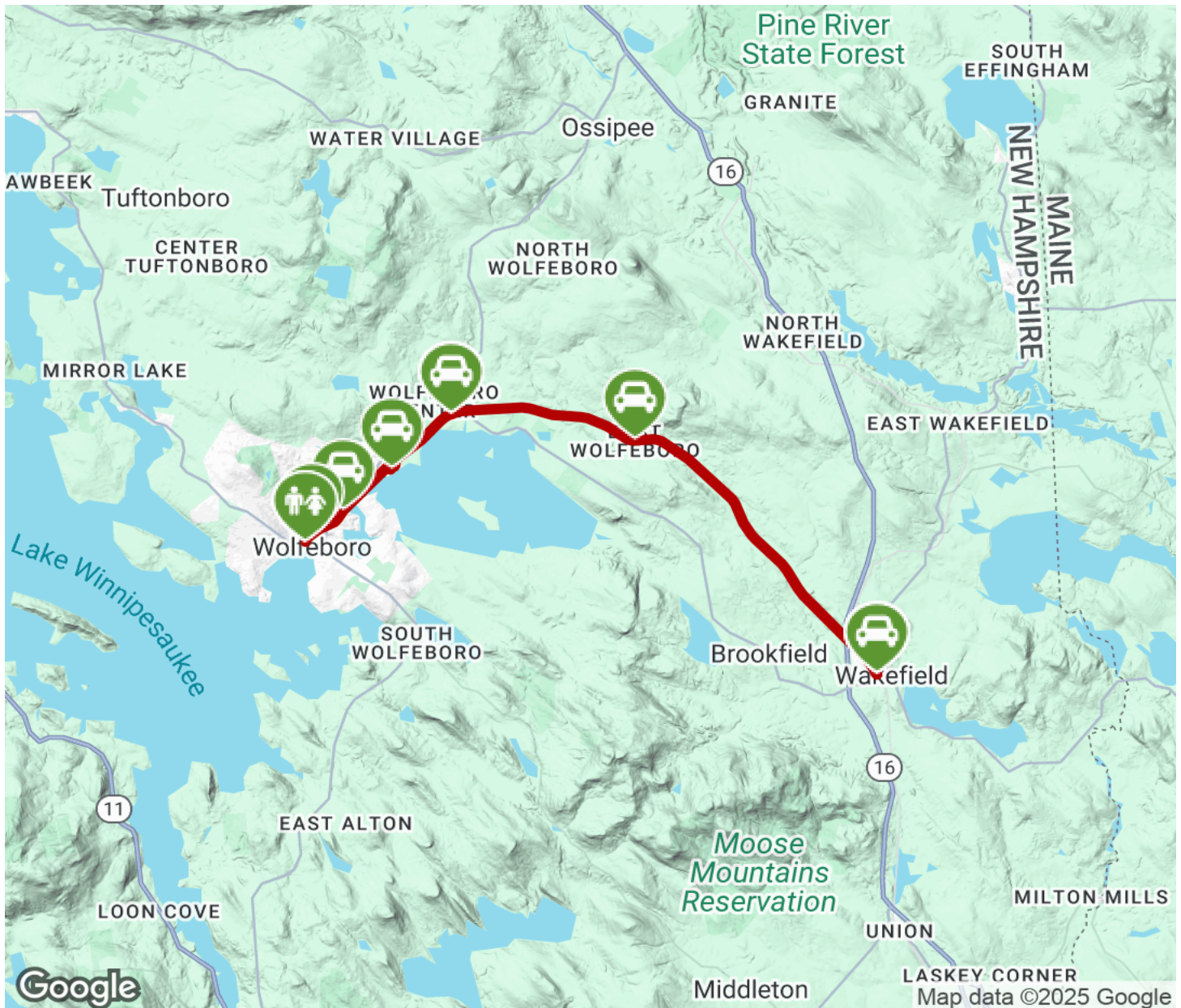
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by Rails-to-Trails Conservancy

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- Trailhead
- Restroom
- Parking
- Water Fountain
- Tunnel