



## TrailLink Unlimited 🔯



Guides 🕫 🤝









Atlantic County **Bikeway** New Jersey



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If you're looking for a change of luck on your gambling getaway to Atlantic City, try visiting the 7.6-mile Atlantic County Bikeway. The paved trail runs straight and flat as it offers a relaxing escape from the crush of traffic around the beachfront gaming and resort town located about 10 miles away.

The trail connects shopping and residential areas as it runs between the nexus of the heavily traveled Atlantic City Expressway and Garden State Parkway in the east through a dense forest to a government complex in the west. Numerous at-grade road intersections are well-marked for pedestrians and motorists. Two-lane side roads parallel long sections.

About the Route

Start at the eastern trailhead across West Jersey Avenue from Harbor Square, where trees screen the trail from adjacent streets and residential subdivisions as it heads northwest beneath power lines. The trail occasionally curves around utility poles in its path.

There are frequent benches for taking a breather, as well as informational signs about railroad history and the flora and fauna of the New Jersey Pinelands.

After 4.7 miles, the trail enters undeveloped woodland for about 2 miles to the outskirts of Mays Landing, the county seat of Atlantic County. The path ends at a vocational school on 58 acres that serves high school students and adults in the county. Although the trail ends here, historic downtown Mays Landing is about 2 miles ahead on Atlantic Avenue. Mays Landing sits on the eastern border of the 1.1-million-acre New Jersey Pinelands National Reserve, the largest open space in the Mid-Atlantic Seaboard between Boston and Richmond, Virginia.

#### Trail History

The bikeway got its start as the West Jersey and Atlantic Railroad, a 40-mile subsidiary of the West Jersey Railroad's parent Pennsylvania Railroad. Completed in 1880, the tracks ran from Newfield to near Atlantic City. It later became known as the Newfield Branch of the West Jersey & Seashore Railroad, another subsidiary of the Pennsylvania Railroad, and eventually became part of the Pennsylvania-Reading Seashore Lines. The railroad stopped using the western half of the line between Newfield and Mays Landing in 1958 and the remainder in 1966. A section between Shore Mall (now Harbor Square) and the Atlantic County Institute of Technology reopened as the bikeway in 2003.





**States:** New Jersey **Counties:** Atlantic Length: 7.6miles

Trail end points: Atlantic Ave. (Mays Landing)

to 6721 Black Horse Pike (Egg Harbor

Township)

Trail surfaces: Asphalt
Trail category: Rail-Trail
Trail activities: Bike, Inline

Skating, Walking, Wheelchair Accessible

### Parking & Trail Access

The Atlantic County Bikeway runs between Atlantic Ave. (Mays Landing) and 6721 Black Horse Pike (Egg Harbor Township), with parking available on both ends.

Please see <u>TrailLink Map</u> for all parking options and detailed directions.



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