



2024

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Guides 🕫 🤝 😲









Monroe Township Bike Path

New Jersey



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The Monroe Township Bike Path carries visitors through the tranquil woodlands of the Glassboro Wildlife Management Area as it connects the southern New Jersey suburban towns of Glassboro and Williamstown. The pathway is part of the Circuit Trails, an expansive regional trail network across nine counties, including Gloucester County, which will eventually encompass 800 miles of trails.

The borough of Glassboro's name reflects the glassmaking industry that thrived here throughout the 19th century. In fact, the 6.3-mile paved trail owes its existence to that boom. The route follows the former corridor of the Pennsylvania-Reading Seashore Lines, which in 1933 acquired tracks originally laid by the Williamstown Railroad (later the Williamstown &

Delaware River Railroad) in the 1870s and early 1880s. Originally conceived to serve the many glass and bottle makers in the area, the railroad later connected to other lines to carry tourists to the Jersey Shore destinations of Atlantic City, Ocean City, Wildwood, and Cape May.

Unlike some other eastern rail corridors that follow meandering streams, the railroad followed the shortestdistance rule that results in today's nearly arrow-straight trail.

From the trail's northwest end on the south side of Glassboro, the trail heads east through a commercial-industrial complex before entering the northern edge of a hardwood forest in the Glassboro Wildlife Management Area. The 2,300 acres are popular for squirrel, grouse, and deer hunting in season. The tree cover makes for shady trail travel in the summer.

The vegetation screen thins out a bit after 1.3 miles at Moore Avenue, then gets heavy again until the path crosses County Road 655 in another 1.3 miles. After a 0.5-mile jaunt through a neighborhood, the forest becomes dense again for nearly a mile until the outskirts of Williamstown, a one-time glass-manufacturing center in its own right. The trail passes a sprawling educational campus before passing through a leafy residential neighborhood around the old station site on Railroad Avenue.

You may see a plaque near the trailhead designating this section as the George F. McDonald Sr. Memorial Bike Path, named for the 1975–1978 mayor. A nearby convenience store is a good place to stock up on snacks before heading back to Glassboro.

The trail's southeast end is on Blue Bell Road/County Road 633 between Virginia Avenue and Chestnut Street in Williamstown.





States: New Jersey **Counties:** Gloucester
Length: 6.3miles

Trail end points: Delsea Dr S/NJ 47 between Awalt Dr & Grove St (Glassboro) to Blue Bell Rd/

County Rd 633 between Virginia Ave &

Chestnut St (Williamstown)
Trail surfaces: Asphalt
Trail category: Rail-Trail
Trail activities: Bike, Inline

Skating, Wheelchair Accessible, Walking

Parking & Trail Access

Parking is available at Williamstown Middle School, located slightly northwest along the trail from the eastern trailhead. An unpaved path provides access to the trail from the parking lot by the sports fields. A paved path that provides access to the trail from the high school's southeast parking lot. Once on the trail, head southeast along the route for about 0.7 miles to reach the eastern trailhead on Blue Bell Road.

There is on-street parking on Await Drive for the western trailhead in Glassboro. Access the trail on Delsea Drive S/NJ 47, just south of Awalt Drive and just north of Grove Street.

Visit the <u>TrailLink map</u> for all options and detailed directions.



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