



2025

TrailLink Unlimited 

Guides



**Paulinskill
Valley Trail**
New Jersey



Paulinskill Valley Trail

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Overview

The Paulinskill Valley Trail follows a creek by the same name through a section of rural New Jersey with a strong German influence. In fact, the word kill is Dutch for “riverbed or stream channel.” German refugees from European wars settled along the Paulins Kill during the Colonial period, and their influence survives in communities along the 27-mile trail. Visitors will see plentiful wildlife, such as bear, bobcat, mink, and deer, along the path, and sightings of more than 100 species of birds have been documented. Fishing is also available in the Paulins Kill.

About the Route

The path runs from near the Paulins Kill confluence with the Delaware River in the west to active railroad tracks at Sparta Junction in the east. The trail’s primarily cinder surface is better suited to bikes with wide tires. Note that the tips of the trail are where you will encounter different surfaces; there is a short section (about 20 feet) of ballast at the trail’s western end, and a 0.6-mile section of dirt and grass from Sunset Inn Road to the trail’s eastern end.

Start on the west end at the Brugler Road trailhead in Knowlton Township. In 1.1 miles the trail arrives at the massive Paulinskill Viaduct, also known as the Hainesburg Trestle. Built by the Delaware, Lackawanna & Western Railroad in 1910, the viaduct soars 115 feet above Paulins Kill and Station Road as seven arches carry it 1,100 feet across. At one time, it was the world’s largest reinforced concrete structure.

In 4 miles, you’ll arrive at Blairstown Airport, which interrupts the trail. Take Airport and Lambert Roads to resume the trail in 0.6 mile. Footbridge Park in Blairstown is 2 miles ahead, where you can find something to eat or explore the town’s historic district that features a gristmill dating to 1825. This is the last chance to stock up on trailside snacks.

Crossing the creek four times in the next 4.5 miles, the trail also passes the 400-acre White Lake Natural Resource Area. Nine miles past Blairstown, trail users descend a side path to cross West End Drive/Paulinskill Lake Road, and then go left a short distance to South Shore Terrace, where they regain the railroad grade. The trail provides an elevated view of 3-mile-long Paulinskill Lake. The path crosses Swartswood Road/County Road 622 in 2.2 miles in the Paulinskill River Wildlife Management Area.

Access the [Great Valley Trail](#) in 0.9 mile at Plott Road, just north of Newton; it makes a 13-mile loop with the Paulinskill Valley and Sussex Branch Trails.



Paulinskill Valley Trail

New Jersey

States: New Jersey

Counties: Sussex, Warren

Length: 27 miles

Trail end points: Brugler Rd (Columbia) to
Sparta Junction (Sparta)

Trail surfaces: Ballast, Cinder, Crushed
Stone, Dirt, Grass

Trail category: Rail-Trail

Trail activities: Bike, Fishing, Horseback
Riding, Mountain Biking, Walking, Cross
Country Skiing

Parking & Trail Access

The Paulinskill Valley Trail runs between Brugler Rd (Columbia), where parking is available, and Sparta Junction (Sparta).

Parking is also available at:

- Station Rd (Columbia)
- Footbridge Park (Blairstown)
- Spring Valley Rd (Hardwick Township)

These are not official addresses, please visit the [TrailLink map](#) for all parking options and detailed directions.



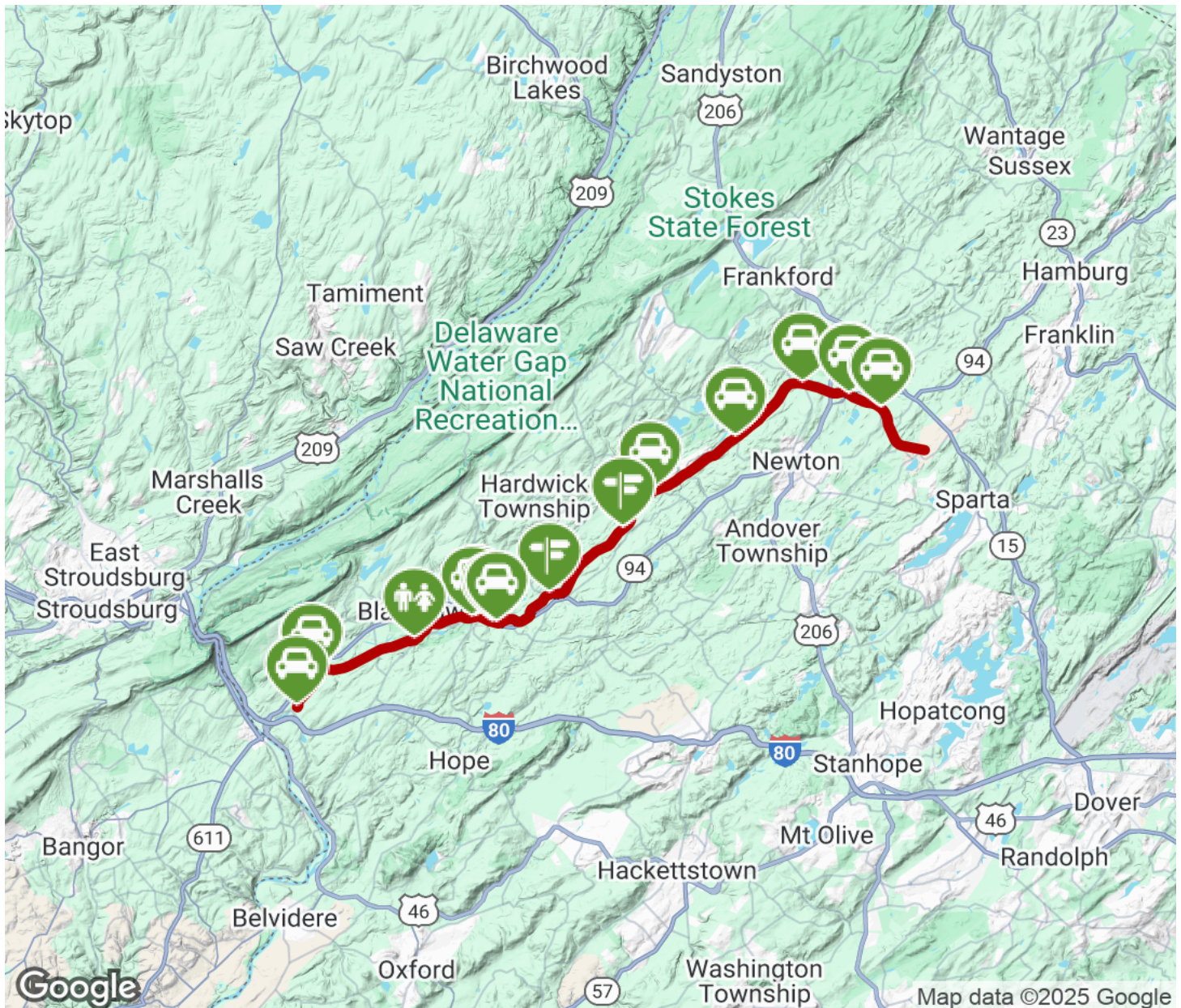
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Paulinskill Valley Trail

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Trailhead



Restroom



Parking



Water Fountain



Tunnel



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