



2024

TrailLink Unlimited



Guides



**Old Putnam  
Trail**  
*New York*



# Old Putnam Trail

New York

*Overview The Old Putnam Trail runs through New York City's fourth-largest park which is home to the oldest municipal golf*



## Overview

The Old Putnam Trail runs through New York City's fourth-largest park which is home to the oldest municipal golf course in America, the Van Cortlandt Park in the Bronx. Splayed over 1,146 acres in northwest Bronx, Van Cortlandt Park has a lot going on. The park is home to the oldest municipal golf course in America. There are playgrounds, walking trails, running tracks, scores of ball fields, a nature center, a museum, and a scenic lake.

## About the Route

The main access point for the trail is located at the northwest corner of the large parking lot near the Van Cortlandt Golf House. Trail users can head south from

this entrance (away from the main trail) a short distance to see the remnants of an old passenger platform. All that remains is the rusted metal framework.

As the route heads north, the Old Putnam Trail offers the immediate scenery. The trail skirts Van Cortlandt Lake and then passes 13 large stones along the west side of the corridor. Railroad baron Commodore Cornelius Vanderbilt had these stone slabs shipped from quarries to determine which would be best (most impervious to weathering) for building Grand Central Station in New York City. Despite the results of his experiment, Indiana limestone was chosen because it was cheaper to transport. The Indiana limestone sample is the second southernmost stone in this lineup.

As the trail continues north, the route passes several trails that connect to the John Kiernan Nature Trail. Staying on the Old Putnam Trail brings trail users over a small bridge spanning an arm of Van Cortlandt Lake. Across the lake are views of the Bronx skyline and the golf course clubhouse.

At the Westchester County line, the Old Putnam Trail reaches its northern endpoint at the South County Trailway. There is no trailhead at this end of the trail.

## Connections

At the trail's northern end, the Old Putnam Trail continues as the [South County Trailway](#).



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**States:** New York

**Counties:** Bronx

Length: 1.5miles

**Trail end points:** South County Trailway  
(Yonkers) to 189 Van Cortlandt Ave W (Bronx)

**Trail surfaces:** Asphalt

**Trail category:** Rail-Trail

**Trail activities:** Bike, Wheelchair  
Accessible, Walking

## Parking & Trail Access

The Old Putnam Trail runs between South County Trailway (Yonkers) and 189 Van Cortlandt Ave W (Bronx), which offers parking.

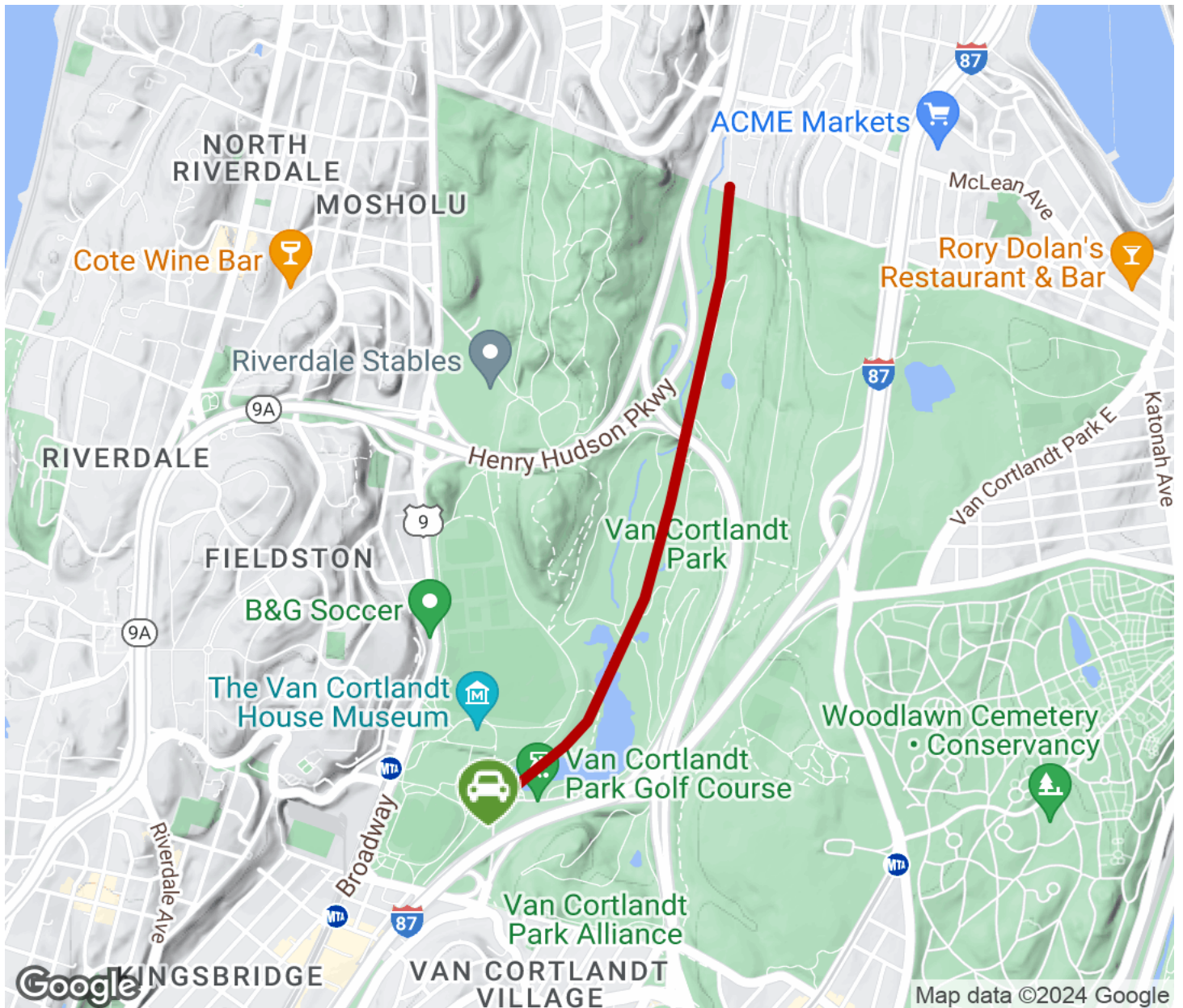
Please see [TrailLink Map](#) for detailed directions.

The trail is also accessible via. public transportation. Please see New York MTA for more information.



# Old Putnam Trail

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Trailhead



Restroom



Parking



Water Fountain



Tunnel



**TrailLink**  
by Rails-to-Trails Conservancy

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