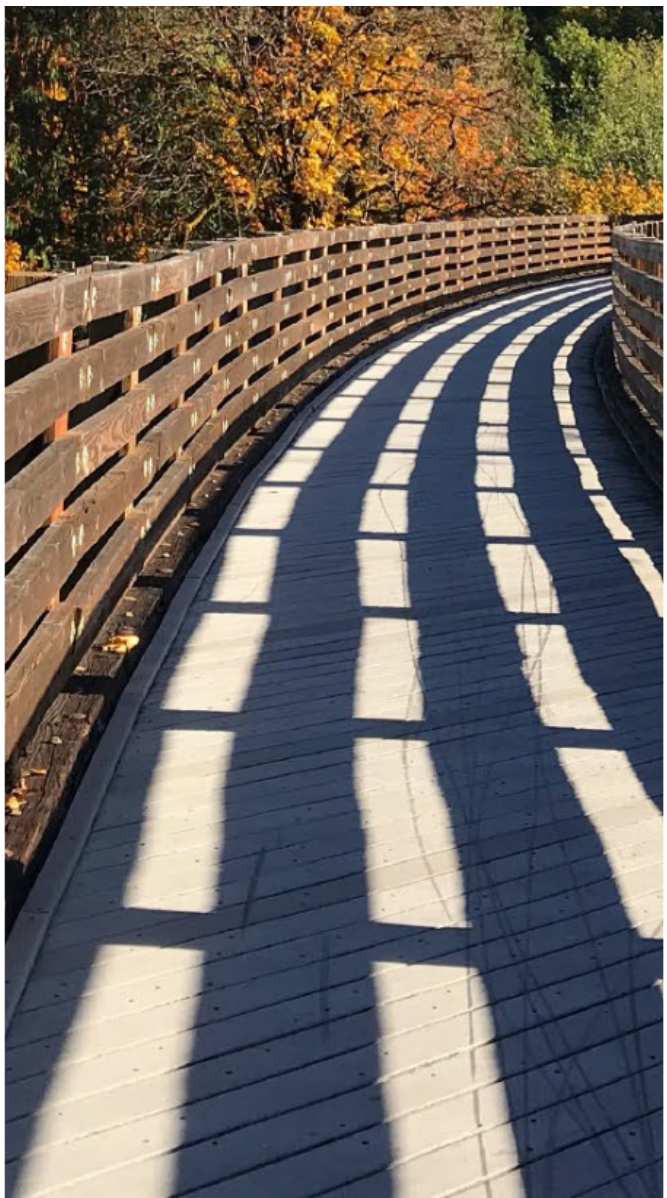
TrailLink
by Rails-to-Trails Conservancy

2025

TrailLink Unlimited

Guides



Allegheny River Valley Trail

New York

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The towns of Allegany and Olean (OH-lee-an) once sat at the hub of the river, railroad, wagon road, and canal traffic during New York's early history. It's no wonder that today the area is home to a popular trail that connects the two towns.

The Allegheny River Valley Trail comprises a 5-mile main loop and a 1-mile cutoff around St. Bonaventure University in Allegany, and a 2-mile connector on paths and sidewalks into Olean. The entire 8 miles is paved, traveling along the wooded Allegheny River shoreline for about 3 miles, encircling the college campus, and passing through the industrial and retail center of Olean to a trailhead brewery. The trail mileage totals 8.1 miles.

About the Route

Leaving off from the trailhead near the tennis courts at St. Bonaventure University, take the trail to the left to reach the Allegheny River in about 0.25 miles. The river carried early settlers west and brought commerce to the region.

Oak, maple, ash, and cherry trees provide welcome shade in the summertime. At 1.2 miles, the route passes a mile-long trail on the left that offers a loop around the university and can serve as a shortcut back to the trailhead. On the main loop, the trail crosses a few bridges over small tributaries and experiences short dips and climbs.

At 2 miles, the route arrives at Gargoyle Park, which has parking, athletic fields, and restrooms. East and west of the park, the trail passes earthen berms—all that's left of a 368-acre oil tank facility that held some 300 tanks until the early 1940s. The 4.5-foot embankments surrounded each tank in case of fire or a rupture. Company owners created the park for tank farm workers and their families.

The trail turns away from the river at 3 miles and heads north along an unshaded utility right-of-way for about a mile to a trail fork. A right turn goes 2 miles through residential and retail areas of Olean on paths and sidewalks along Constitution Avenue, Wayne Street, and an active railroad line to the local campus of Jamestown Community College, where trail users may see a 1940s vintage Pennsylvania Railroad passenger station. The trail continues south along Olean Creek to a sidewalk on Adams Street that ends at Edwards Court.

A left turn at the previously mentioned fork follows the main loop. After crossing Constitution Avenue, the route passes a popular ice cream shop and travels within sight of the rail yard. The route returns to the St. Bonaventure campus about a mile after the fork and arrives at the same starting spot in about another 0.5 miles.

Trail History

Allegheny River Valley Trail

New York

States: New York
Counties: Cattaraugus
Length: 8.1miles
Trail end points: Bonaventure Road and E. Union St. (Allegany) to E. Greene St. and Edwards Ct. (Olean)
Trail surfaces: Asphalt
Trail category: Rail-Trail
Trail activities: Bike,Inline Skating,Wheelchair Accessible,Walking

Parking & Trail Access

The Allegheny River Valley Trail runs in a loop around St. Bonadventure, with a spur heading east to the War Veterans Park, 551 E State St. (Olean), where parking is also available.

Parking is also available at:

- Gargoyle Park, 101 Gargoyle Rd. (Olean)

Please see TrailLink Map for all parking options and detailed directions.

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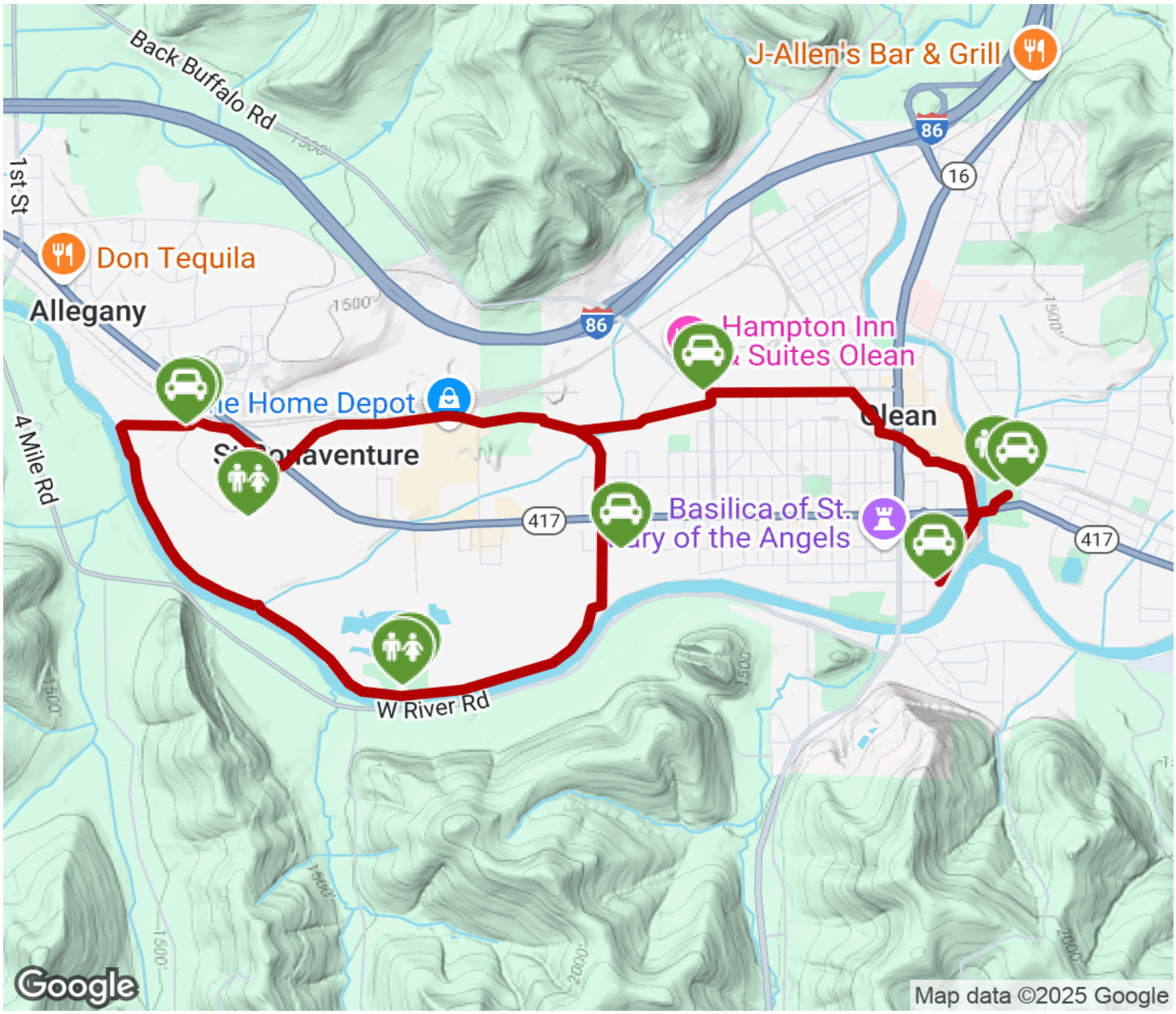

Trailhead Restroom Parking Water Fountain Tunnel

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