



2026

TrailLink Unlimited 

Guides



**Chessie
Nature Trail**
Virginia



Chessie Nature Trail

Virginia

The Chessie Nature Trail travels for just over 7 miles through breathtaking rural Virginia countryside, following mile markers



About the Route

The western end of the trail leaves off from Lexington and follows the northern bank of the Maury River for the first 3.7 miles while alternating between lush forested areas and farmland. A 210-ft pedestrian bridge takes the trail over the South River, in place of the former railroad bridge. This section of trail also offers a parking area, landscaping, and benches.

The easternmost 2.5 miles of trail continue to follow the Maury River for the remainder of the route. The trail passes some farmland, and the absolute easternmost mile hugs a cliff along the side of the river on your right. It is quite an impressive finale to the overall scenic Chessie Nature Trail.

The Chessie Nature Trail travels for just over 7 miles through breathtaking rural Virginia countryside, following mile markers left behind by the Chesapeake & Ohio Railroad that ran this route. Trail users should not be surprised if they find themselves sharing the trail with a wide array of birds and small mammals. There are some large mammals, too. Expect to see a few cattle grazing in the meadows that border the trail. (Trail users will also find several cattle gates along the route, which can be tricky to get around sometimes, but they do not indicate that the trail is closed).

Each fall, the Chessie Nature Trail hosts a marathon along the route which involves two complete laps along the trail, without ever crossing an intersection.



Chessie Nature Trail

Virginia

States: Virginia

Counties: Rockbridge

Length: 7.13miles

Trail end points: SR 11 (Lexington) to E
Midland Trail/US 60 (Buena Vista)

Trail surfaces: Boardwalk,Dirt,Gravel

Trail category: Rail-Trail

Trail activities: Bike,Walking

Parking & Trail Access

The Chessie Nature Trail runs between SR 11 (Lexington) and E Midland Trail/US 60 (Buena Vista).

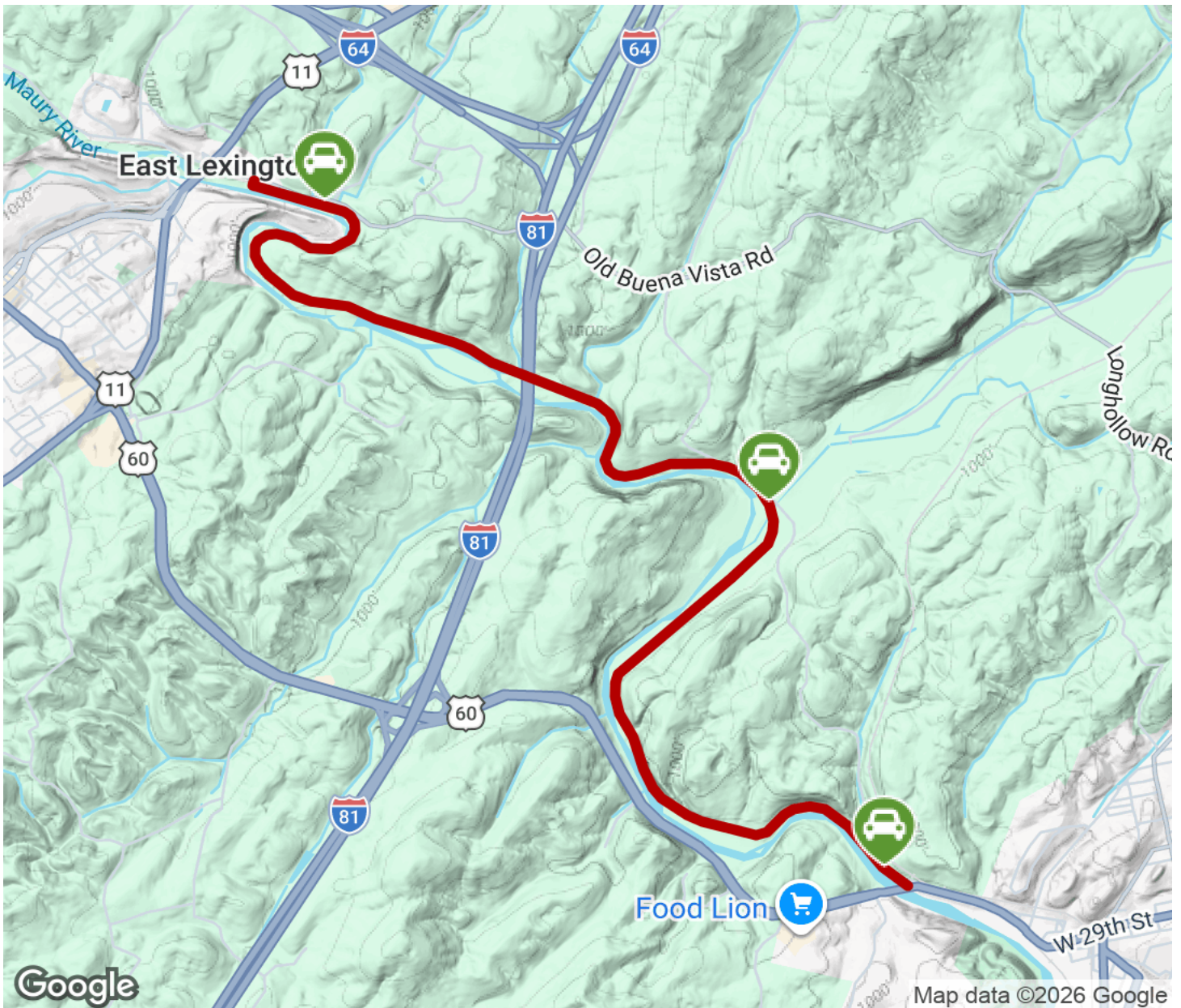
Parking is available at the VMI Route 60 Bridge Boat Launch in Buena Vista and off of Highland Farm Rd.

These are approximate addresses, please see [TrailLink Map](#) for detailed directions.



Chessie Nature Trail

Virginia



Trailhead



Restroom



Parking



Water Fountain



Tunnel



TrailLink
by Rails-to-Trails Conservancy

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