



2026

TrailLink Unlimited 

Guides



Jackson River Scenic Trail

Virginia



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Waterfalls, river views, rugged rock formations, vibrant fall foliage, and delicate flowers in the spring: These are the sights that make up the scenery in the Jackson River Scenic Trail. This 16-mile serene rail trail, nestled in the Allegheny Highlands of western Virginia, traces the route of what was once the Hot Springs Branch of the Chesapeake & Ohio Railway. Much of the route is wooded, and trail users might see deer, rabbits, groundhogs, and other wildlife along the way. In addition to walking and biking, horseback riding is permitted on all sections of the trail.

About the Route

A good place to begin your ride on the Jackson River Scenic Trail is at the Intervale Trailhead, just north of the

city of Covington. Heading north, the winding trail hugs the curves of its namesake river. Picnic benches along the water allow trail users to rest and take in the beautiful surroundings. For added adventure, the trailside river is accessible via kayak or canoe, and is known for its excellent trout fishing. The Smith Bridge trailhead is 7.2 miles, and in another 3.5 miles, the trail reaches the Natural Well trailhead, near the Alleghany-Bath county line.

Then continue 4.6 miles to the new Cedar Creek Trailhead at the trail intersection with VA 605 in Bath County.

Returning to the Intervale trailhead, trail users can continue south another 0.7 miles toward Dry Run in Covington, the southern terminus of the trail. Round out your experience with a visit to the C&O Depot in Covington for a peek at the trail's railroad past. The restored 1908 structure now houses the Alleghany Historical Society and its exhibits on the history of the region.

Another nearby and worthwhile side trip is the Falling Spring Falls overlook. The roadside attraction is a jaw-dropping 80-foot waterfall on Hot Springs Road/US 220, 8 miles north of Covington and just south of Hot Springs Road/US 220 and Falls Road/VA 640.



TrailLink
by Rails-to-Trails Conservancy

TrailLink.com



Jackson River Scenic Trail

Virginia

States: Virginia

Counties: Alleghany

Length: 16miles

Trail end points: Jarrett Hollow (Hot Springs)
to E Overholt St. (Covington)

Trail surfaces: Gravel

Trail category: Rail-Trail

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

Parking & Trail Access

The Jackson River Scenic Trail runs between Jarrett Hollow (Hot Springs) and E Overholt St. (Covington).

Parking is available at:

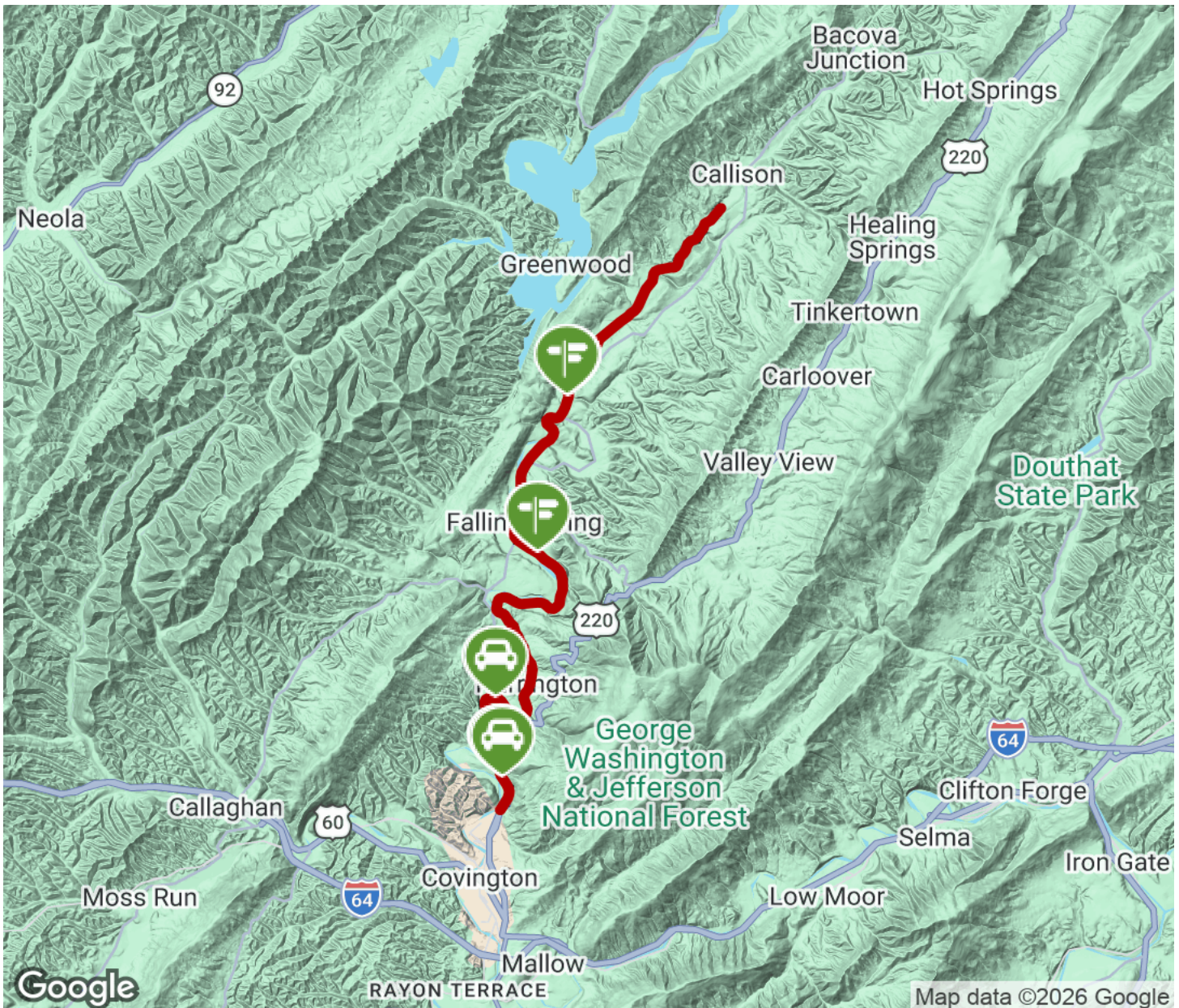
- 7206 Jackson River Rd. (Hot Springs)
- 3107 Jackson River Rd. (Covington)
- 1903 Dressler Dr. (Covington)

See [TrailLink Map](#) for all parking options and detailed directions.



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Trailhead



Restroom



Parking



Water Fountain



Tunnel



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