



2025

TrailLink Unlimited 

Guides   



**James River  
Foot Bridge**  
*Virginia*



## James River Foot Bridge

Virginia

*The James River Foot Bridge carries the Appalachian Trail over the James River in Snowden, Virginia, approximately 20 miles*



note: While this is indeed a footbridge, its name actually refers to Bill Foot, an Appalachian Trail enthusiast who spearheaded the conversion of the bridge into its present use.

The James River Foot Bridge carries the Appalachian Trail over the James River in Snowden, Virginia, approximately 20 miles northwest of Lynchburg.

### About the Route

The bridge was built on the piers of a demolished CSX bridge that had been replaced with a longer trestle just east of the original bridge, providing a straighter course for freight traffic. Trains pass by frequently against the scenic backdrop of rolling hills and refreshing water below.

When opened in 2000, the James River Foot Bridge eliminated a dangerous crossing of the James River that mixed hikers with vehicular traffic on US 501. A curious



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**States:** Virginia

**Counties:** Amherst

Length: 0.12miles

**Trail end points:** 8354 US-501 (Big Island) to  
South Bank of the James River

**Trail surfaces:** Boardwalk

**Trail category:** Rail-Trail

**Trail activities:** Walking

## Parking & Trail Access

The James River Footbridge spans between 8354 US-501 (Big Island), where parking is available, and the South Bank of the James River.

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



# James River Foot Bridge

Virginia



Trailhead



Restroom



Parking



Water Fountain



Tunnel



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