



2026

TrailLink Unlimited 

Guides



William C. O'Neill Bike Path

Rhode Island



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Imagine a wealthy 19th-century textile mill owner building an 8-mile railroad to get coal to his plant or products to market, and then adding accommodations to carry vacationers to beach resorts or voyagers to steamships: that's the story of the short-line railroad that later became the William C. O'Neill Bike Path. At just over 7 miles, the trail runs from Amtrak's West Kingston Station to within about a mile of its original destination in the town of Narragansett Pier.

About the Route

A good place to start is the Amtrak station in the West Kingston community. Built by the New York, Providence, and Boston Railroad in 1874, the station was shared with the Narragansett Pier Railroad to transfer passengers

heading to the beaches. The trail heads southeast from here under a dense canopy of trees. Although it isn't visible from the pathway, the University of Rhode Island is nearby; as you approach your first mile on the trail, you will reach the URI Bike Path, which heads north to campus.

This wooded area fringes the Great Swamp Wildlife Management Area, where, particularly in the spring and fall, you'll encounter flocks of migratory birds. Also in the woods is the Tefft Historical Park, where archaeological sites date from early Narragansett tribal occupation through Colonial settlements. At about mile 4, the trail enters the Tri-Pond Park, where there are ponds, streams, nature trails, and a nature center.

Emerging from the woods in Peace Dale (named for the railroad builder's mother), the trail takes Railroad Street for 0.2 miles. About midway on the left sits the renovated train depot, now a business. Crossing Church Street, the trail is once again off-road. In 0.7 miles, the trail crosses Main Street in Wakefield and passes a replica train station. Arriving at the commercial center on Kingstown Road, the trail follows MacArthur Boulevard for 0.2 miles, then veers right back onto the trail. The trail reaches its eastern end Mumford Road.

Connections

Just past Ministerial Rd., the William C. O'Neill Bike Path connects to the [URI Bike Path](#).

Trail History

The William C. O'Neill Bike Path is named for the late senator who spearheaded the development of the trail, previously known as the South County Bike Path. (Washington County is locally known as South County.) It follows the railbed of the Narragansett Pier Railroad, opened in 1876 by a man who owned mills in Wakefield and Peace Dale. In 1921, rail buses—actual buses adapted to ride the rails—replaced the passenger



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States: Rhode Island

Counties: Washington

Length: 7.2miles

Trail end points: Kingston Station, 1 Railroad Ave. (Kingston) to 53 Mumford Rd. (Narragansett)

Trail surfaces: Asphalt

Trail category: Rail-Trail

Trail activities: Bike, Fishing, Inline

Skating, Walking, Wheelchair Accessible, Cross Country Skiing

Parking & Trail Access

William C. O'Neill Bike Path runs between Kingston Station, 1 Railroad Ave. (Kingston), and 53 Mumford Rd. (Narragansett), with parking available at both ends.

Parking is also available at:

- 311A Main St. (Wakefield)

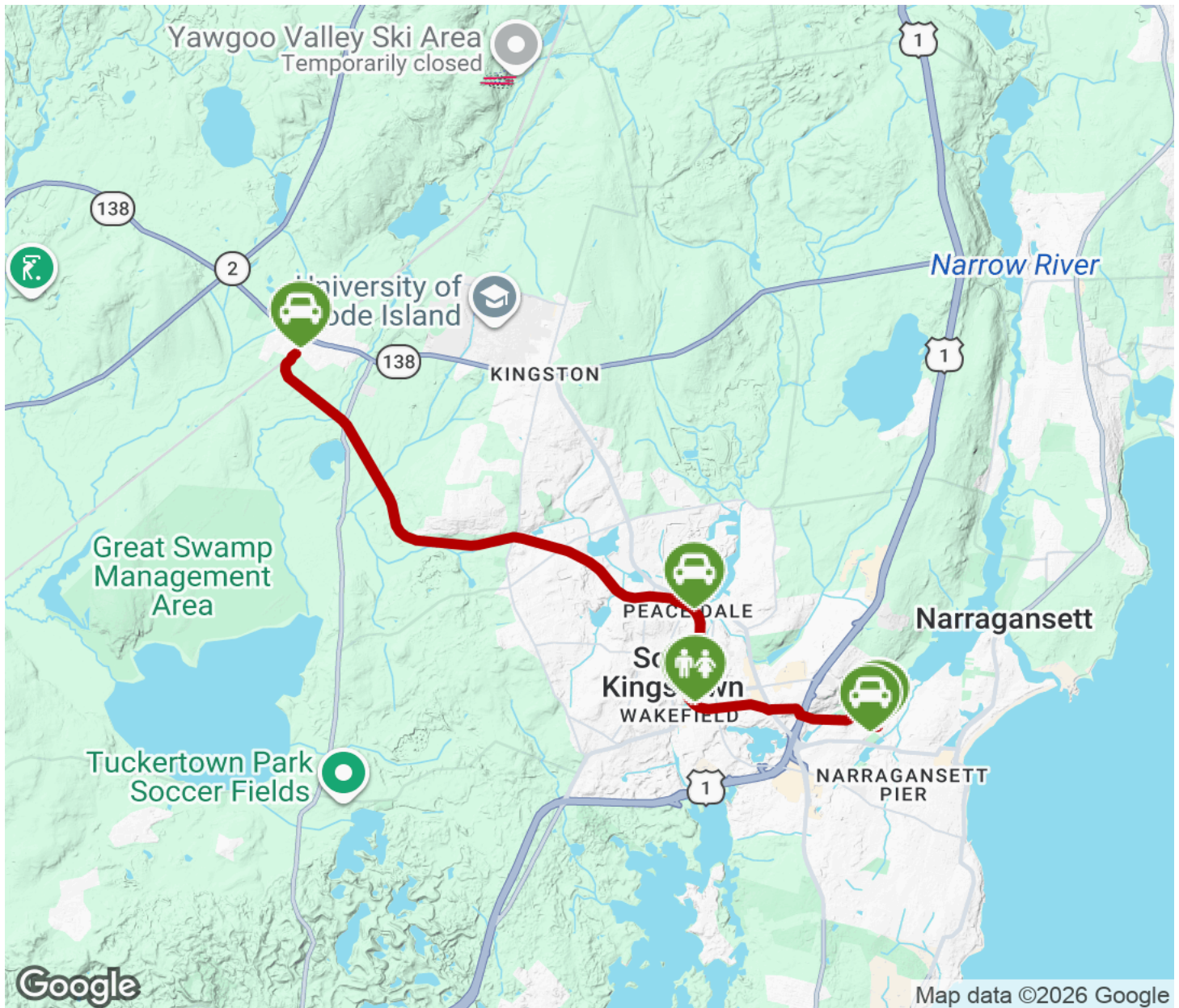
Kingston Station is an active stop on Amtrak's Northeast line between Boston and Washington, D.C. Rhode Island Public Transportation Authority (RIPTA) buses also serve the station.

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



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Trailhead



Restroom



Parking



Water Fountain



Tunnel



TrailLink
by Rails-to-Trails Conservancy

TrailLink.com