



2025

TrailLink Unlimited 

Guides



**West River
Trail
(Windham
County)**
Vermont



West River Trail (Windham County)

Vermont

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Overview

The West River Railroad, which once followed its namesake river for 36 miles, began passenger service in the late 1800s as a way to trim the two-day voyage between Brattleboro and South Londonderry to a brisk 2 hours. Plagued with difficulties from the start, the narrow line often succumbed to downed trees, falling rocks, and flooding. The line steadily lost passengers, and the railroad officially discontinued use on it in 1936, after years of attempts to keep it active.

The same challenges that inevitably doomed the West River Railroad make it an exciting location for a trail. Hikers will be rewarded with spectacular views and challenging but manageable hills. Cyclists will enjoy

several miles of open dirt trail; however, note that the two northern open sections of trail contain challenging terrain and are not entirely passable to even the most seasoned mountain bikers.

The trail is currently divided into three sections; however, the Friends of the West River Trail intends to eventually complete the missing 18 miles to fully complete the 36-mile trail.

South Londonderry to Jamaica Segment: 10.5 miles

Starting from the north at the South Londonderry trailhead on West River Street, trail users may wish to journey 0.5 miles north to an old train depot that now serves as a historical museum and rentable office space. Inside, there are exhibits and old photographs memorializing the area's railroad past.

Heading south, the wide rail trail follows the West River through dense forest. Keep in mind that while the trail is well maintained, trail users may come across an odd root or puddle, so take care. After about 2 miles, the trail winds through the Winhall Brook Campground on lightly used paved streets. Restrooms and water fountains, as well as the welcoming smell of nearby campfires, are available throughout the campground.

After passing Winhall Brook Campground, the trail continues for approximately 2.5 miles until the rail trail dead-ends. The West River Trail continues south into the mountainside, but it is only passable on foot for the next 3 miles; cyclists should not attempt to walk their bikes through this section, as the trail gets very narrow and crosses waterfalls and rocky sections on its way to the Ball Mountain Dam. The bicycle-friendly portion of the rail trail re-emerges approximately 0.5 miles past the Ball Mountain Dam and continues another 3 miles to the Jamaica State Park trailhead.

Townshend Segment: 2.3 miles



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States: Vermont

Counties: Windham

Length: 16.1miles

Trail end points: W River St. (South Londonderry) to Spring Tree Rd. (Brattleboro)

Trail surfaces: Asphalt,Dirt,Gravel,Sand

Trail category: Rail-Trail

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

Parking & Trail Access

The West River Trail (Windham County) runs between W River St. (South Londonderry) and Spring Tree Rd. (Brattleboro), with parking on either end.

Parking is also available at:

- 1112 Rice Farm Rd. (Drummerston)

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



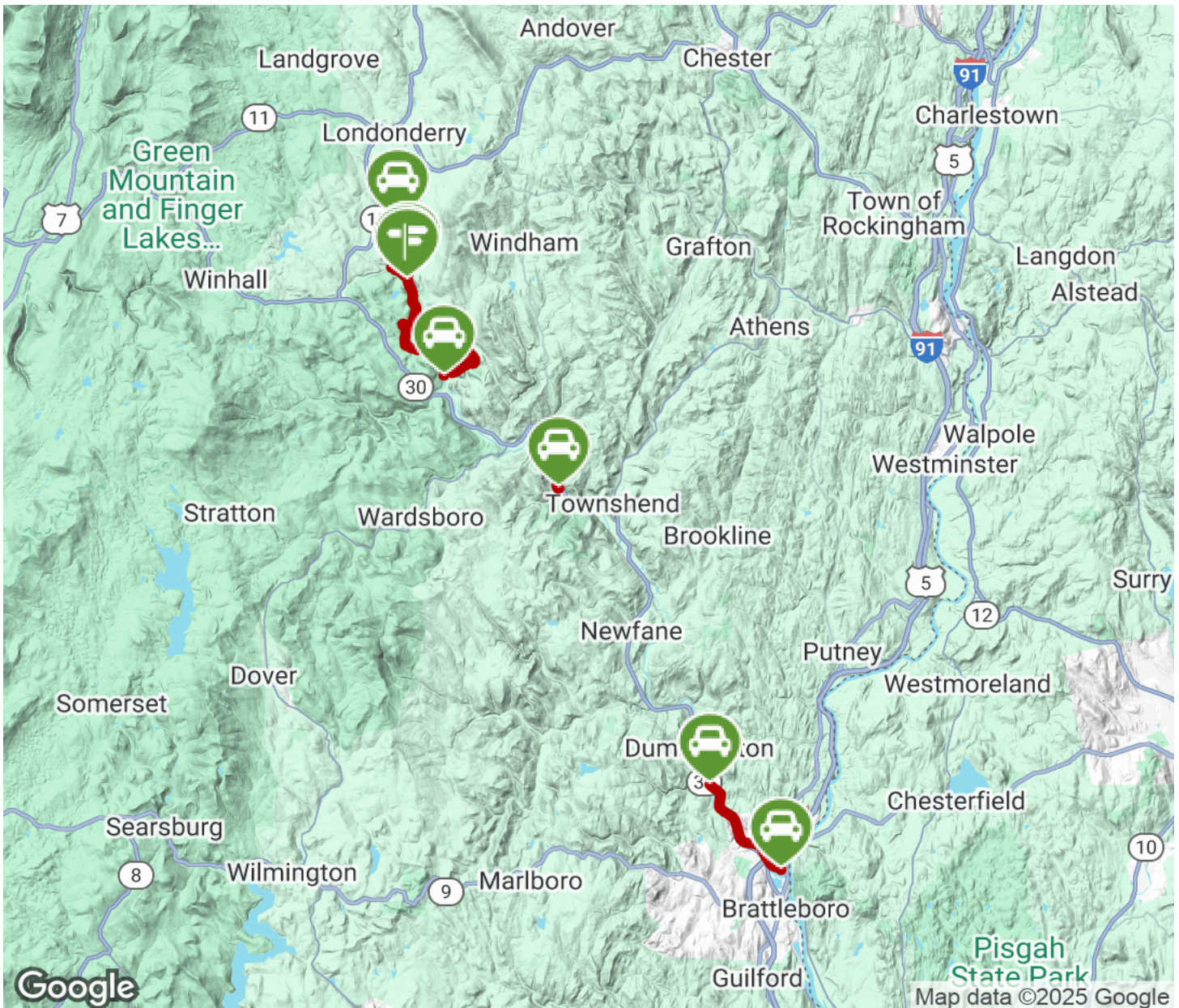
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Trailhead



Restroom



Parking



Water Fountain



Tunnel



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