



2026

TrailLink Unlimited



Guides



Sussex Branch Trail

New Jersey



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The Sussex Branch Trail is a 21.2-mile trail that runs between Branchville and Byram in northern New Jersey. Following a former railroad corridor, the surface of the unpaved trail is a mix of dirt, grass, and cinder. The rail-trail is great for mountain biking and horseback riding.

About the Route

The north end of the trail starts just south of downtown Branchville due to a couple of missing railroad bridges. The rustic trail moves southeast, paralleling Dry Brook before emerging into classic Garden State farmland. This stretch is sometimes overgrown with weeds—and bears have been spotted in the adjacent woods—so trail users should exercise caution. Just before Augusta Hill Road, the trail crosses the [Great Valley Trail](#), an unpaved 3.5-

mile route that heads southwest.

Bridges provide dry passage approaching Lafayette, which offers several food, drink, and antiques shopping options not far from the trail. South of Lafayette, the path travels through dense and quiet woodlands. There is an intersection with the Paulinskill Valley Trail and a subsequent road crossing. The peaceful wooded route soon resumes, though, traveling to the outskirts of Newton.

The town of Newton completed an extension of the trail in the fall of 2021, allowing trail users to continue along the corridor into the charming town. This helps to replace a previous on-road detour along Hicks Avenue that was not very hospitable to cyclists and pedestrians. There is still a gap in the trail within Newton, local officials are working on extending the trail to fill in the gap. In the interim, trail users can utilize Diller Avenue and Sparta Avenue to head south for about two-thirds of a mile, where a grassy section of the trail picks up again at Hicks Avenue.

Back on the former rail corridor, the trail is enveloped by trees and a cut through bedrock is spectacular. Soon there is access to campgrounds and Lake Aeroflex in Kittatinny Valley State Park.

Entering Andover, another short on-road detour on low-stress Railroad Avenue is required. The trail resumes adjacent to Main Street, where low-hanging branches, tree roots, and a narrowed width may prove to be a challenge. At Whitehall Hill Road, trail users may find that vegetation has completely consumed the trail, so another short on-road detour may be desired. (Note that while Whitehall Hill Road is not a busy road, it is hilly.)

Trail users are rewarded for their determination upon reaching scenic Cranberry Lake, whose eastern shore the trail closely follows. Pause to watch boaters enjoying the crystal-clear water. The path widens considerably after the



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States: New Jersey

Counties: Sussex

Length: 21.2miles

Trail end points: 27 Mill Ln (Branchville) to
Waterloo Rd & Continental Dr (Byram
Township)

Trail surfaces: Cinder,Dirt,Grass

Trail category: Rail-Trail

Trail activities: Bike,Horseback
Riding,Walking,Cross Country Skiing

Parking & Trail Access

The Sussex Branch Trail runs between 27 Mill Ln (Branchville) and the intersection of Waterloo Rd & Continental Dr (Byram Township).

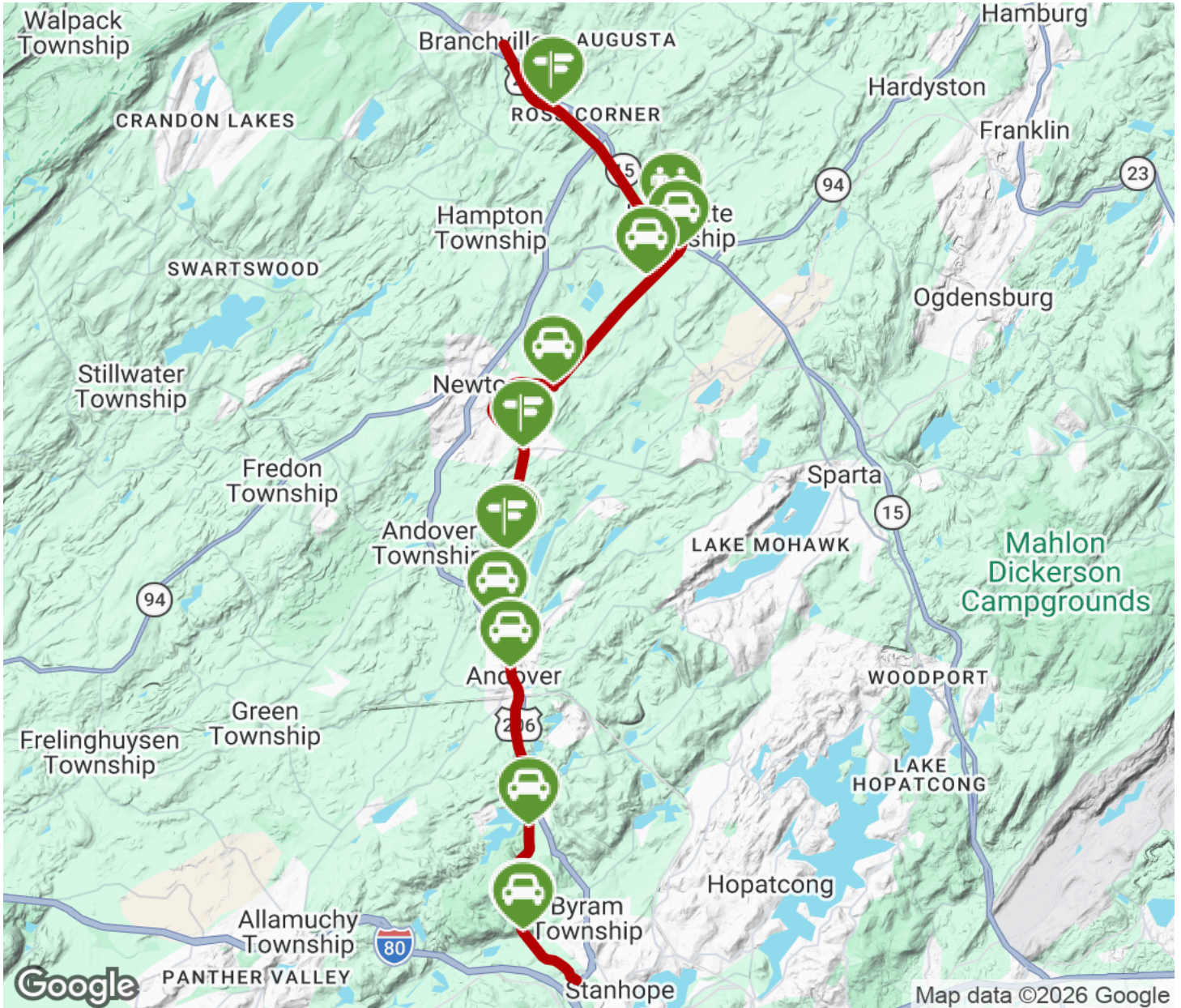
- Kittatinny Valley State Park, 199 Goodale Rd (Newton)

Visit the [TrailLink map](#) for all parking options and detailed directions.



Sussex Branch Trail

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Trailhead



Restroom



Parking



Water Fountain



Tunnel



TrailLink
by Rails-to-Trails Conservancy

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