



2025

TrailLink Unlimited 

Guides   



**Chautauqua
Rails-to-Trails**
New York



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Though mostly a continuous system of trails from Sherman North to Brocton, some segments of the nearly 26-mile Chautauqua Rails-to-Trails system go by other names (see below). All the trails are primarily grassy but some portions are gravel or crushed stone. As the experience can be challenging in some areas, mountain bikes are recommended.

The scenic Chautauqua Rails-to-Trails travel through woodlands, wetlands, and meadows, where wildflowers abound in spring and wildlife year-round, including beaver, turkey, and deer. In winter the trail is popular with both cross-country skiers and snowmobilers; however, the trailhead parking lots are not plowed, so users must park alongside roads.

The trail has two on-road portions, which skirt part of a rail bed: 1.47 miles along Hannum and Summerdale roads (west of Lake Chautauqua); and 0.92 miles along Titus and Kendrick roads (near the southern terminus in Sherman). In addition, there's a short break in the trail north of Colt Road (near Brocton), and the trail picks up again at Ellicott Road.

About the Route

The different segments of the Chautauqua Rails-to-Trails are as follows:

The Alison Wells Ney segment runs between Fuller Street in Brocton and Bliss Road. The Laurie Baer segment travels along a Niagara Mohawk right of way between Bliss and Plank roads, crossing an original railroad bridge.

The Nadine and Paul Webb Nature Trail extends 1 mile between State Routes 430 and 394. The pleasant trail passes through a wooded area and scattered farmland, ending at the Mayville lakefront at the northern end of Chautauqua Lake. Begin at Boxcar Barney's, a local ice cream and hot dog emporium. This portion also crosses an original railroad bridge. A short segment at the southern terminus in Sherman is locally called the Sherman Village–French Creek Nature Trail.

The Portage Trail takes off from the rail trail at the north end of Lake Chautauqua and heads northwest at a diagonal to Quillan Road, 3.86 miles. The trail was used by Native Americans to carry their canoes from Lake Erie to Lake Chautauqua. Later, French trappers buried lead plates along the route and to Pittsburgh. Next, the railroad came followed by a trolley line.



TrailLink
by Rails-to-Trails Conservancy

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Chautauqua Rails-to-Trails

New York

States: New York

Counties: Chautauqua

Length: 25.7miles

Trail end points: Franklin St. (Sherman) to W Main St. (Brocton)

Trail surfaces: Concrete,Crushed Stone,Dirt,Grass,Gravel

Trail category: Rail-Trail

Trail activities: Fishing,Horseback Riding,Mountain

Biking,Snowmobiling,Walking,Cross Country

Parking & Trail Access

The Chautauqua Rails-to-Trails runs between Franklin St. (Sherman) and W Main St. (Brocton), with parking available at either end.

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



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