



2026

TrailLink Unlimited



Guides



## Black River Trail

*New York*



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New York

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This paved scenic trail, converted from the New York Central Railroad, follows a small portion of the Black River's 114 miles. Originating in the Adirondack foothills, the Black River flows west to empty into Lake Ontario, near the Thousand Islands region between northern New York State and southeastern Ontario.

### About the Route

Before setting out on the trail from Watertown and heading east to the village of Black River, consider exploring the downtown area before setting out. Watertown reached its peak during the Gilded Age, when it was rumored to have a higher percentage of millionaires than any other city in the United States, thanks to its status as a manufacturing center. Nature

lovers can explore the urban Thompson Park, designed by Frederick L. Olmsted and donated to the city by industrialist John C. Thompson in 1889. The park includes walking trails and houses the New York State Zoo.

Near the heart of downtown Watertown, the western endpoint of the Black River Trail can be found behind an apartment complex at the dead end of Walker Avenue. The western trailhead includes a small parking lot with an information panel and a map.

The Black River Trail is smooth, flat, and well-maintained, making it ideal for a relaxing stroll or bike ride following the river east. It has numerous scenic views and overlooks, as well as several drop-in points for canoe and kayak portage or fishing. In winter, the path is also suitable for snowshoeing.

After 4.5 miles, the trail reaches its eastern endpoint in the village of Black River. The small community began in the early 1800s with the erection of a mill on the south side of the river. Today, it includes two small river islands and a park that overlooks the town and river. Just before NY 3/East Rutland Street meets the river, the trail ends at the Black River Trailhead, where parking can be found.

Approaching the Black River, trail users will be greeted by a picturesque view of the Brookfield Power dam, nearby rapids, and the Poors Island Recreation Area. Poors Island is located 1 mile northeast of the eastern trailhead, heading toward the village of Black River, and boasts the best views of the river and dam. To top it off, an area complete with grill, picnic tables, and additional parking makes Poors Island the perfect spot for a picnic lunch.



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**States:** New York

**Counties:** Jefferson

Length: 4.5miles

**Trail end points:** 399 Walker Ave.  
(Watertown) to 151 Leray Street (Black River)

**Trail surfaces:** Asphalt

**Trail category:** Rail-Trail

**Trail activities:** Bike, Fishing, Inline  
Skating, Walking, Wheelchair Accessible, Cross  
Country Skiing

## Parking & Trail Access

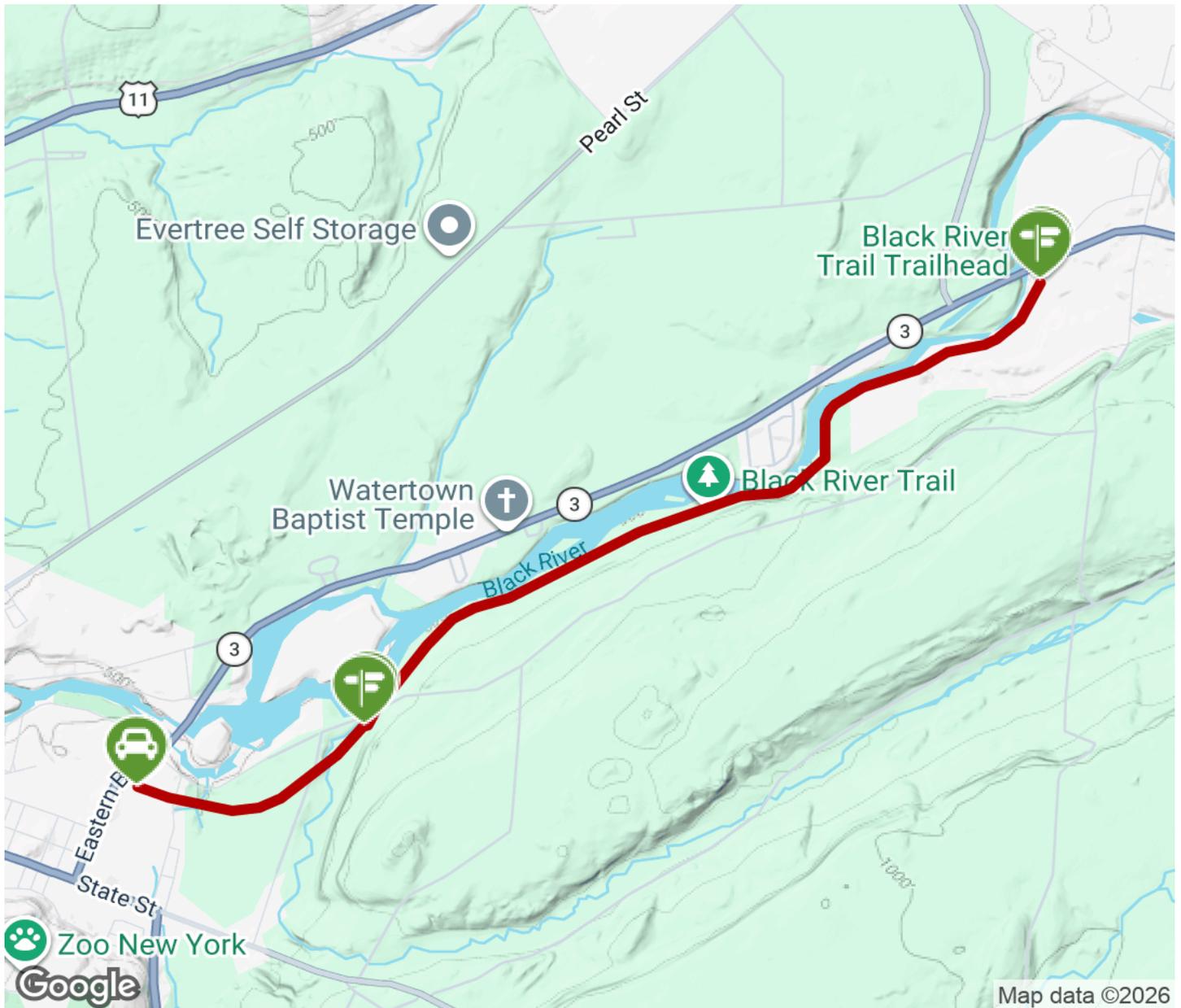
The Black River Trail runs between 399 Walker Ave. (Watertown) and 151 Leray Street (Black River), with parking available at both ends.

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



# Black River Trail

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Trailhead



Restroom



Parking



Water Fountain



Tunnel



**TrailLink**  
by Rails-to-Trails Conservancy

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