



2025

TrailLink Unlimited



Guides



**Putnam
Trailway**
New York



Putnam Trailway

New York

The old New York Central rail line that ran from the Bronx to communities north of the city in Westchester and Putnam Counties



The old New York Central rail line that ran from the Bronx to communities north of the city in Westchester and Putnam Counties carried commuters during the workweek, but on the weekends, tourists heading to resorts and vacation homes in northern Putnam County filled those passenger seats. Today, the Putnam Trailway follows nearly 12 miles of that rail-line route to popular lakes in the wooded hills around Carmel and Brewster.

About the Route

The paved Putnam Trailway leaves off from its southeastern endpoint at the old passenger depot site in Baldwin Place. Although the trail slopes downhill toward Brewster from here, there are a few short, steep climbs in the wooded watersheds surrounding lakes and reservoirs

in the north.

The trail follows US 6 through residential and commercial areas and arrives in Mahopac in about 2.2 miles at an old railway depot that's now an American Legion Hall. The hamlet encircles the 500-acre Lake Mahopac. Though the shoreline is privately owned, marinas rent boats for those who want to fish.

Crossing Croton Falls Road on the way out of Mahopac, the trail enters a hardwood forest that surrounds the path nearly to Brewster. In a mile, trail users will pass the south shore of Lake Casse; a beach is at the lake's north end.

Traveling through the woods another 3 miles, trail users will meet up again with US 6 on the shores of Lake Gleneida. These hills shelter numerous lakes and reservoirs chosen by New York City for its water supply. That's why swimming is prohibited in this lake, but boating, fishing, and ice fishing are allowed. Leaving the lake, the trail dips to cross a creek and in 2 miles crosses a 1,000-foot causeway across Middle Branch Reservoir.

The trail reaches its northwestern end at Putnam Avenue in Brewster.

Trail History

The Putnam Trailway follows a corridor created in the 1880s by several railroad companies that eventually became the New York and Putnam Railroad in 1894—soon known as the Old Put. By 1913, it had become the Putnam Division of the New York Central Railroad, providing passenger service until 1958. The railroad continued hauling freight into the 1980s.

Connections

In the wake of the old railroad's demise, four trails have opened along the 45-mile route. South to north, they are [Old](#)



TrailLink
by Rails-to-Trails Conservancy

TrailLink.com



Putnam Trailway

New York

States: New York

Counties: Putnam

Length: 11.8 miles

Trail end points: Tomahawk St. (Baldwin Place)
to SE Train Yard (Brewster)

Trail surfaces: Asphalt

Trail category: Rail-Trail

Trail activities: Bike, Inline

Skating, Fishing, Wheelchair

Accessible, Walking, Cross Country Skiing

Parking & Trail Access

The Putnam Trailway runs between Tomahawk St. (Baldwin Place) and SE Train Yard (Brewster).

Parking is available at:

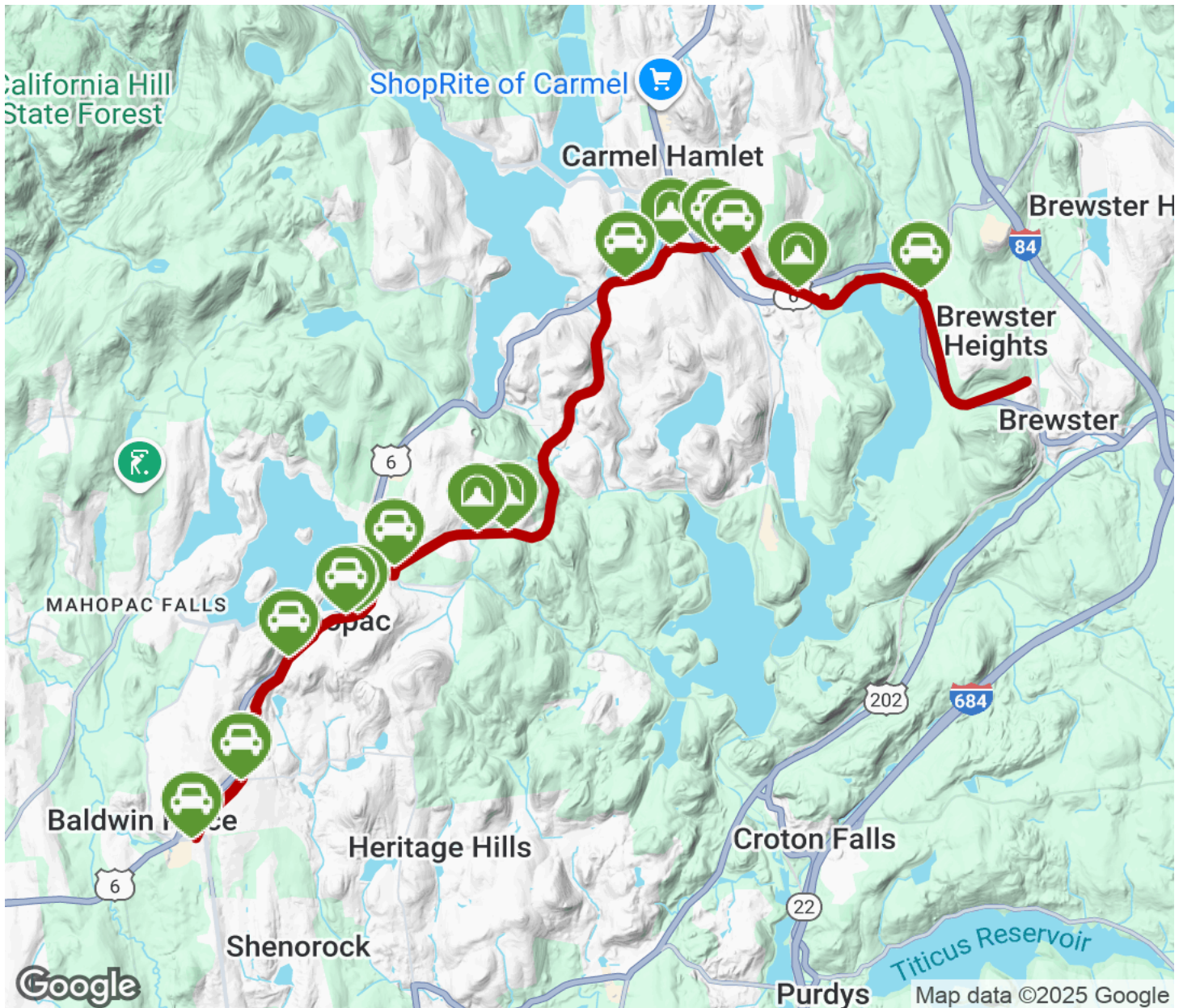
- 24 Tomahawk St. (Baldwin Place)
- 30 Tilly Foster Rd. (Brewster)

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



Putnam Trailway

New York



Trailhead



Restroom



Parking



Water Fountain



Tunnel



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