



2024

TrailLink Unlimited 

Guides



**Fred Lippitt
Woonasquatucket River
Greenway**
Rhode Island



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The Fred Lippitt Woonasquatucket River Greenway provides a valuable crosstown connector of nearly 7 miles from downtown



The Fred Lippitt Woonasquatucket River Greenway provides a valuable crosstown connector of nearly 7 miles from downtown Providence to the city's western neighborhoods and the nearby town of Johnston. In addition to being named for the river it parallels, the greenway honors a Rhode Island politician and philanthropist who championed the project in the early 1990s as a means to revitalize some of Providence's poorest and most underserved neighborhoods.

The rail-trail follows the route of the Providence & Springfield Railroad, which was built in 1873 to service the mill villages along the river. Around the turn of the 19th century, the line was acquired by the New York, New Haven and Hartford Railroad, but it fell into disuse by the 1960s.

While the trail's eastern half is a patchwork of on-road bike routes and off-road pathways, its western half, beginning at Riverside Park, consists entirely of paved trail. Before you set out on your journey, note that the trail lacks restrooms or drinking water, so plan accordingly.

Riverside Park makes a great launching point, with a parking lot, large playground, and signage about the local wildlife, such as great blue herons, great white egrets, and marsh wrens. Moments after starting your trip on the trail's western leg, you'll pass an observation platform in the park with a view of the Woonasquatucket River. Continuing on the path, you'll head northwest past picnic tables, a self-service bike repair station, and swaths of wildflowers. At the end of the park, the trail splits; stay right to continue on the main pathway or veer left to cross a pedestrian bridge over US 6 into Merino Park, which has another playground and athletic fields. Although you'll parallel the highway a short distance, the tree-filled stream valley between you and traffic keeps the experience pleasant.

Upon completing the first mile, you'll see a spur off to your right that provides access to Manton Gateway Skate Park and Manton Avenue beyond. A little farther on, you'll be presented with another opportunity to veer off the trail and loop around the Button Hole Golf Course; otherwise, you can continue straight ahead. At the intersection of Greenville and Traver Avenues, you pop out of the lush greenery and enter a bustling area with a couple of restaurants nearby before crossing the street and heading back into the brush. From here, it's less than a mile to trail's end; you'll continue through woodlands, but homes and industry become noticeable just beyond the trees. The path stops at a dead end for Lyman Avenue in the heart of a residential neighborhood in Johnston. There's trail signage here but no parking.

To explore the eastern half of the trail, Riverside Park is also an optimal starting point. From the park entrance, you'll turn right onto Aleppo Street, followed by another right at the very



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States: Rhode Island

Counties: Providence

Length: 6.8miles

Trail end points: Finance Way and Francis St.
(Providence) to Lyman Ave. (Johnston)

Trail surfaces: Asphalt

Trail category: Rail-Trail

Trail activities: Bike, Inline

Skating, Wheelchair Accessible, Walking

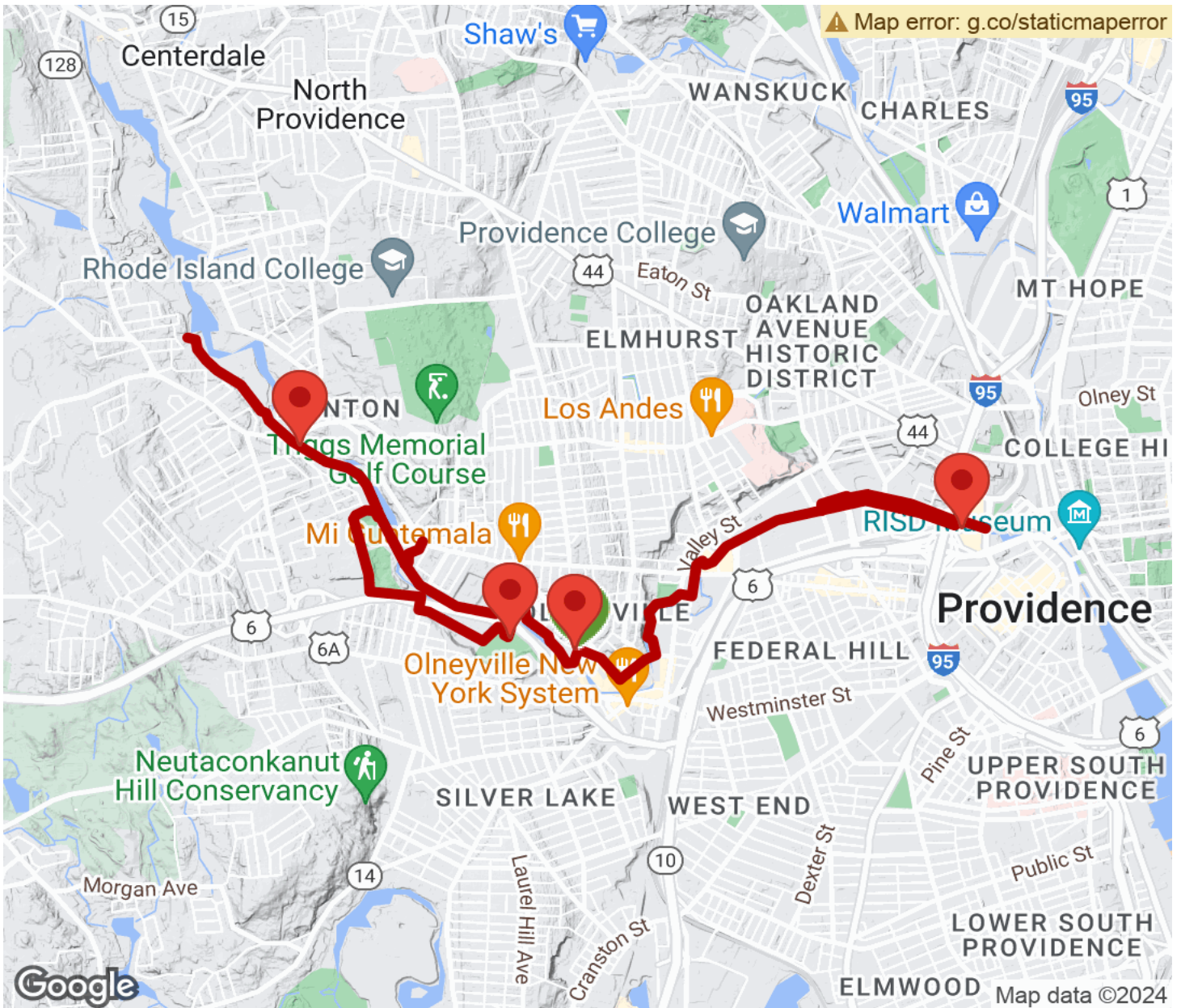
Parking & Trail Access

Parking is available at Riverside Park (50 Aleppo St., Providence), roughly the midpoint of the trail. From downtown Providence, take Memorial Blvd. west to US 6 W (Huntington Expwy.). After 1.1 miles, stay right to continue on US 6. In another 0.5 mile, take the Hartford Ave. exit. At the fork, veer right and then turn right onto Hartford Ave. In just over 300 feet, turn right onto Atwood St. Take the very next left onto Plainfield St. and travel 0.1 mile to a left turn onto Manton Ave. Continue on Manton 0.2 mile until you reach a fork in the road; veer left at the fork onto Aleppo St. In less than 500 feet, you'll see Riverside Park and the entrance to the trail on your left.



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Trailhead



Restroom



Parking



Water Fountain



Tunnel



TrailLink
by Rails-to-Trails Conservancy

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