



2026

TrailLink Unlimited 

Guides



**Charter Oak
Greenway**
Connecticut



Charter Oak Greenway

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The Charter Oak Greenway offers more than 16 miles of paved pathways through Hartford and its eastern suburbs. At first glance, the trail looks as if it is simply a highway side path, but the journey from east to west takes trail users through a variety of experiences, including college campuses, community parks, forests, commercial areas, a peaceful riverfront, and a vibrant city center.

About the Route

From the trail's eastern end, the Charter Oak Greenway heads west through Manchester. A short distance into the ride, the trail descends into the Birch Mountain Brook stream valley. Here along a tree-lined path, with the bubbling brook flowing beside the trail, trail users may forget that I-384 is just over the ridge.

Less than 2 miles from the Porter Street trailhead, the trail arrives at Charter Oak Park, a lovely community park in Manchester that provides access to restrooms, water, ball fields, tennis courts, a pavilion, and gardens. This intersection with the town provides an opportunity to find trailside amenities and a bite to eat. Proceeding west from Charter Oak Park, the trail passes through handsomely appointed residential and commercial communities. You'll need to navigate a 0.5-mile on-road portion of the trail along Hartford Road and Bidwell Street before leaving the road to enter the campus of Manchester Community College.

Now off-road once again, the trail traverses the college campus through sports fields and pine forests before leaving campus to head toward Hartford. Although I-384 is nearby, the trail shares the right-of-way with a utility corridor, and the emergence of tall grasses within it provides a meadowlike atmosphere as the trail approaches downtown. Before reaching Hartford, the path takes you past the University of Connecticut football stadium in East Hartford. The route will travel on-road again for the approximately 1-mile gap to the Hockanum River. The trail becomes off-road again at the intersection of Willow Street and Main Street in East Hartford.

As the path approaches the east bank of the Connecticut River, it has a decidedly more parklike feel. As you continue, the Connecticut River will be on your left, and mature trees abound. Park users may be seen all around you, enjoying the amenities, sights, and sounds of Great River Park, with its expansive views of the Hartford skyline across the river.

Heading north along the river, trail users may appreciate the many sculptures and other artwork located along the riverfront before the route ascends a flood-control levy to reach Founders Bridge. The trail crosses the Connecticut River and arrives in downtown Hartford.

Once downtown, continue on the River Walk, a series of



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States: Connecticut

Counties: Hartford

Length: 16.5miles

Trail end points: 300 Capitol Ave. (Hartford) to Hop River State Park Trail (Bolton)

Trail surfaces: Asphalt

Trail category: Greenway/Non-RT

Trail activities: Bike, Inline

Skating, Walking, Wheelchair Accessible, Cross Country Skiing

Parking & Trail Access

The Charter Oak Greenway runs between 300 Capitol Ave. (Hartford), where parking is available, and Hop River State Park Trail (Bolton). Parking is also available at:

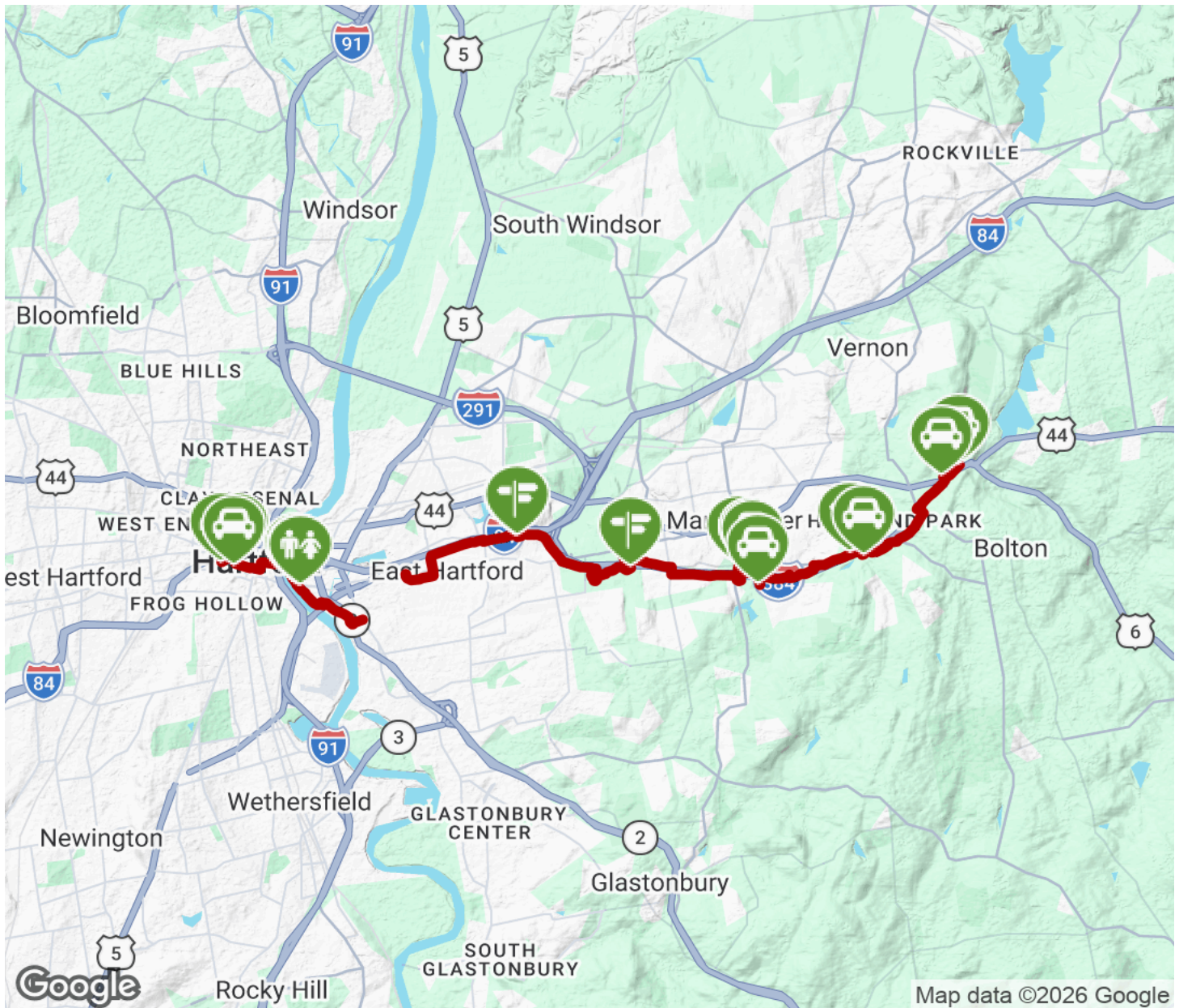
- Great River Park, 301 E River Dr. (Hartford)
- Veteran's Memorial Park, 100 Sunset Ridge Dr. (East Hartford)
- 68 Birch Mountain Rd. (Manchester)

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



Charter Oak Greenway

Connecticut



Trailhead



Restroom



Parking



Water Fountain



Tunnel



TrailLink
by Rails-to-Trails Conservancy

TrailLink.com