



2026

TrailLink Unlimited



Guides



Charlotte Rail Trail

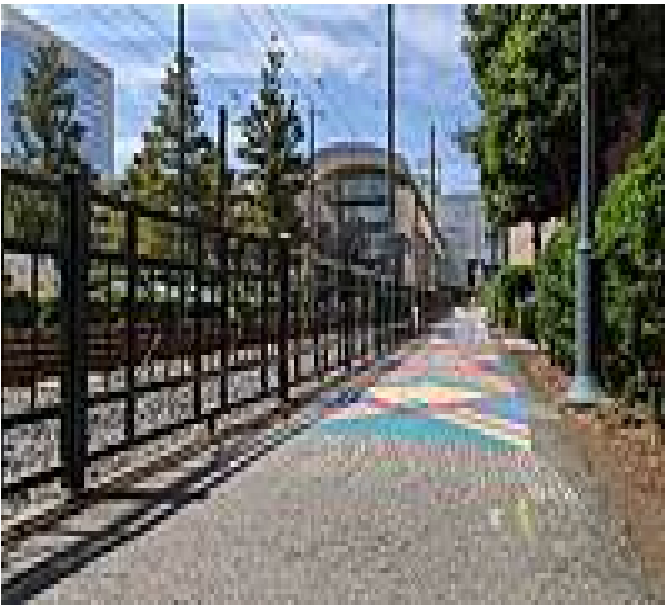
North Carolina



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Once no more than a humble maintenance path along a trolley line, the Charlotte Rail Trail now offers a vibrant pathway extending 3.5 miles from Charlotte's Center City to the South End. Flanking both sides of the LYNX Blue Line light rail, this rail-with-trail provides numerous opportunities to move from one side of the tracks to the other—something you're practically guaranteed to do as a retail shop or eatery catches your eye.

Bicycles are allowed on the trail, but due to the large volume of trail users, it may be preferable to either walk the path (perhaps riding the light rail on the return trip) or

rent an electric scooter from one of the companies servicing the city. The trail is also easily accessed by public transportation, with nine trailside train stations.

About the Route

While the route technically leaves off in the north from East 12th Street and Alpha Mill Lane, just north of the light rail's Ninth Street Station, a recommended starting point is 1.2 miles south at East Carson Boulevard (adjacent to the Carson Station), where the trail widens out, becomes fully paved, and traverses the thriving mixed-use neighborhood of South End. (Note: The northern portion of the trail is narrower and has a brick surface.)

On your way to the southern endpoint at South Boulevard in 2.3 miles, the trail is frequently dotted with public art, including brightly colored murals and sculptures. Well-trimmed bushes and trees line the pathway, and with condos and apartments lining the corridor, trail users are bound to see residents using the trail to catch the train, walk their dogs, or get to nearby destinations.

Currently, there is a gap in the middle of the trail (navigated via sidewalks), just north of Carson Station, splitting the trail into two noncontiguous sections. As it stands now, trail users coming from the rail trail's northern end must exit the protected pathway at East Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard (adjacent to the Charlotte Convention Center). To navigate the gap, turn left at East Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard and, in two blocks, turn right on South Caldwell Street, following the sidewalk along the busy roadway over the interstate to reach the southern half of the trail. The preferred on-road connection on either side of the tracks is also shown on the TrailLink map.



Charlotte Rail Trail

North Carolina

States: North Carolina

Counties: Mecklenburg

Length: 3.5miles

Trail end points: E. 12th St. (Charlotte) to South Blvd. (Charlotte)

Trail surfaces: Asphalt, Brick, Concrete

Trail category: Rail-Trail

Trail activities: Bike, Inline

Skating, Walking, Wheelchair Accessible

Parking & Trail Access

The Charlotte Rail Trail runs between E. 12th St. (Charlotte) and South Blvd. (Charlotte).

Parking is available at:

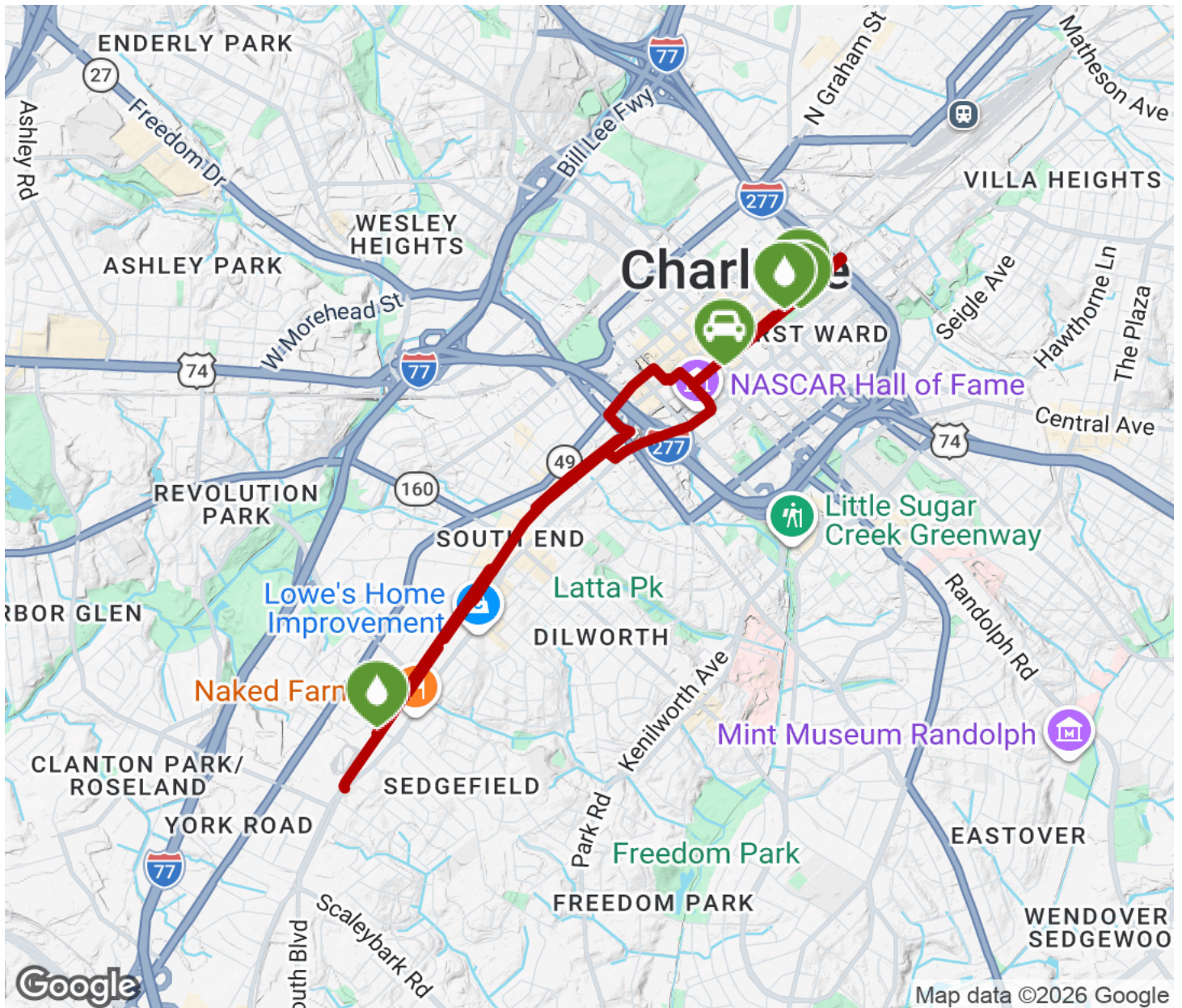
- 210S S Brevard St (Charlotte)
- 300 E 9th St (Charlotte)

Trail access is provided from any of the nine adjacent LYNX Blue Line light rail stations.



Charlotte Rail Trail

North Carolina



Trailhead



Restroom



Parking



Water Fountain



Tunnel



TrailLink
by Rails-to-Trails Conservancy

TrailLink.com