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TrailLink Unlimited



Guides



Canalside Rail Trail

Massachusetts



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The well-maintained Canalside Rail Trail provides users with a variety of trestle bridges, views of waterbirds stalking fish and frogs, and gentle grades that alternate between open sky and forested shade. The majority of the trail lies within historic Turners Falls—the largest of the five villages that comprise the town of Montague.

About the Route

From the public parking lot at Unity Park in Montague, the trail turns left onto the paved trail, starting with views of the Connecticut River Reservoir and Turners Falls Dam to the right. Trail users can also see the Turners Falls Fishway, composed of three fish ladders that enable fish to travel beyond the dam. The fish ladders are located at the Cabot Hydroelectric Station, the dam, and the

gatehouse.

Once crossing Avenue A, the trail passes the Great Falls Discovery Center on the left. After this point, the trail parallels the canal for about 2 miles—crossing Turners Falls Road, Power Street, and 11th Street—and offers ample opportunities to see several small trestle bridges. The rail-trail takes a left onto Depot Street to leave the canal, making several turns through neighborhood streets and a light industry area, requiring users to travel on the public roadway for a short distance. Street traffic is light and the crossings are well marked, suitable for users of all ages.

In 0.4 mile, the path returns to dedicated foot and bike usage and leads to a gorgeous trestle bridge near the confluence of the Connecticut and Deerfield Rivers. The bridge was constructed in 1880, with sections repaired following a flood in 1936. From the bridge, trail users may hear the sound of nearby train horns. Following the route to its southern endpoint, the trail passes vast farmland until reaching East Deerfield Yard, an active rail yard at the end of the trail. While travel within the rail yard is not permitted, the trail is close enough to see and smell the locomotives in action—an intriguing observation point for railroad buffs.



Canalside Rail Trail

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States: Massachusetts

Counties: Franklin

Length: 3.6miles

Trail end points: 1st St. (Turner Falls) to
McClelland Farm Rd. (Deerfield)

Trail surfaces: Asphalt

Trail category: Rail-Trail

Trail activities: Bike, Fishing, Inline
Skating, Walking, Wheelchair Accessible

Parking & Trail Access

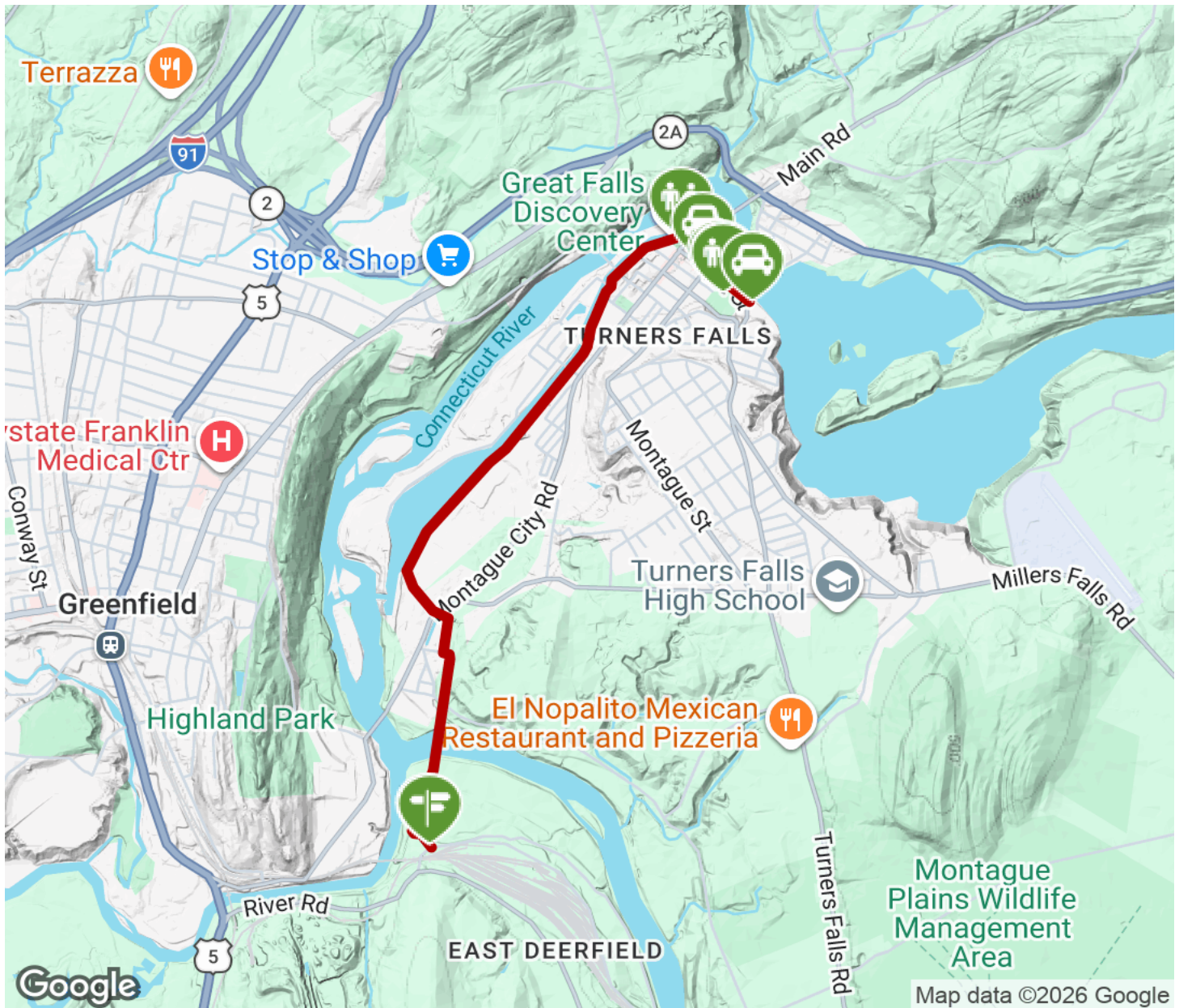
The Canalside Rail Trail runs between 1st St. (Turner Falls) and McClelland Farm Rd. (Deerfield), with parking available at either end.

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



Canalside Rail Trail

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Trailhead



Restroom



Parking



Water Fountain



Tunnel



TrailLink
by Rails-to-Trails Conservancy

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