



2026

TrailLink Unlimited 

Guides



**Rio Hondo
River Trail**
California



Rio Hondo River Trail

California

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The emerging trail system in and around the greater Los Angeles area may surprise visitors. The 20.4-mile Rio Hondo River Trail has become a key component of this system. While much of it follows the concrete drainage channel for Rio Hondo through urban and suburban sprawl, two sections follow the river on open ground with varied landscapes.

Several neighborhood parks along the way provide opportunities to picnic, play, or relax, including Crawford Park in Downey, where a bridge transports trail users over the river, John Anson Ford Park in Bell Gardens, Treasure Island Park in Downey, Veterans Memorial Park in Commerce, Grant Rea Park in Montebello and the trail's northern endpoint at Peck Road Water Conservation Park in Arcadia.

The large Whittier Narrows Recreation Area is perhaps the most scenic element along the trail's route. The popular local destination offers hiking trails, lakes perfect for fishing, and tennis and volleyball courts, among many other amenities. Trail users can also connect to the winding San Gabriel River Trail from the recreation area via a trail spur extending southeast from San Gabriel Boulevard.

About the Route

Starting from the trail's southern end, where the Rio Hondo (Spanish for "deep river") meets the Los Angeles River and the Los Angeles River Greenway, which heads south 12 miles to the Port of Long Beach. While there's an entrance ramp to the Rio Hondo Trail on the east side of the river on Imperial Highway in Lynwood, the trailhead closest to parking is 1.5 miles south in Hollydale Regional Park in South Gate.

Following the channel, the trail often travels below the surrounding terrain without noticing whether you're in residential, commercial, or industrial districts. An advantage is you don't have to stop for the cross streets that pass overhead. In addition, the trail runs on both sides of the channel in one 3-mile segment, making it more accessible to residents.

About 4.7 miles along the route, trail users should be able to notice a natural landscape along the corridor in what is called the Rio Hondo Spreading Grounds. This is a 2-mile stretch where water is allowed to leave the concrete channel and percolate into the soil. Heading north, keep a keen eye out for the Montebello Barnyard Zoo on the north side of the trail. It's not unusual to look up and find an ostrich or a donkey checking out the happenings on the trail.

About 2 miles north of the spreading grounds, the route heads up a switchback up the side of a dam structure and enters the 1,500-acre Whittier Narrows Recreation Area. The scenery changes dramatically from a concrete channel to a wide-open



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States: California

Counties: Los Angeles

Length: 20.4miles

Trail end points: Peck Road Water Conservation Park, 5401 Peck Rd. (Arcadia) to Leeds St. (South Gate)

Trail surfaces: Asphalt, Concrete

Trail category: Greenway/Non-RT

Trail activities: Bike, Walking, Wheelchair Accessible

Parking & Trail Access

The Rio Hondo River Trail runs between the Peck Road Water Conservation Park, where parking is available, 5401 Peck Rd. (Arcadia) and Leeds St. (South Gate).

Parking is also available at:

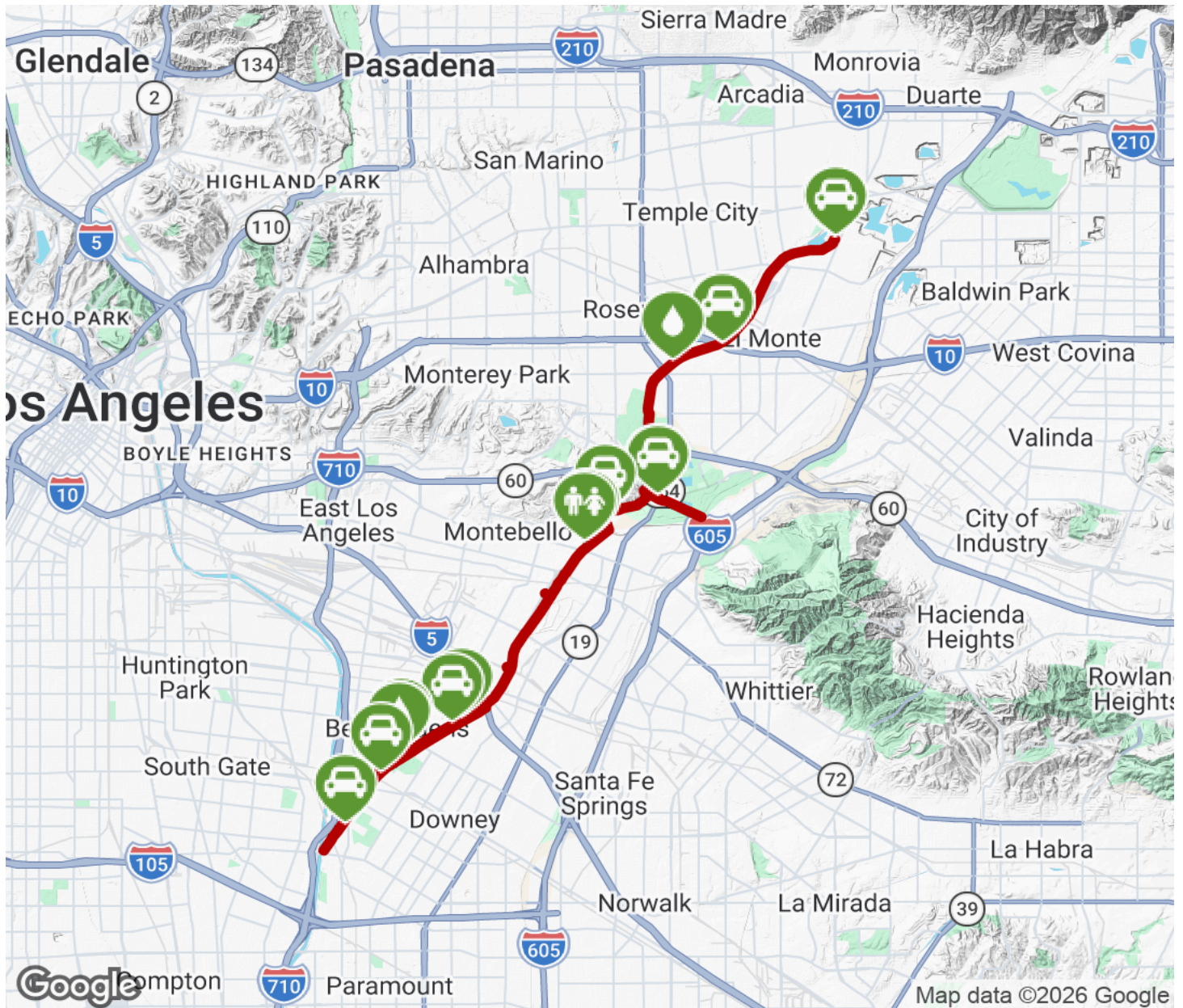
- 9311 San Gabriel Blvd. (South El Monte)
- Montebello Barnyard Zoo, 600 Rea Dr. (Montebello)
- Bell Gardens John Anson Ford Park, 8000 Park Ln. (Bell Gardens)

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



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Trailhead



Restroom



Parking



Water Fountain



Tunnel



TrailLink
by Rails-to-Trails Conservancy

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