



2026

TrailLink Unlimited



Guides



Cheney Rail Trail

Connecticut



Cheney Rail Trail

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The Cheney Rail Trail is a 1.7-mile trail with a crushed stone surface in downtown Manchester. About the Route The trail is mostly



Parklet has a small parking area, picnic table and kiosk.

Trail History

The Cheney Rail Trail follows part of the corridor of the South Manchester Railroad, built by the Cheney brothers in 1869. The line was a 2.5-mile spur from the main Hartford, Providence, and Fishkill Railroad and it went to the Cheney silk mills, transporting passengers, silk goods and raw materials. This historic railroad was known as the longest privately owned passenger-and-freight railroad, as well as one of the shortest in America.

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About the Route

The trail is mostly shaded and a pleasant walk any time of the year. The terrain is fairly flat with a processed stone path, a small section of stairs (at Middle Turnpike W) has been replaced with a ramp that was built at a 10% grade. There are three street crossings with painted cross walks and signage indicating a trail crossing.

The Manchester Land Conservation Trust (MLCT) owns about 5.7 acres of the rail bed (1.7 linear miles). MLCT leads a few walks each year with commentary on the history of the railroad and the silk mills. Truman Cowles



Cheney Rail Trail

Connecticut

States: Connecticut

Counties: Hartford

Length: 1.7miles

Trail end points: 2 Main St (Manchester) to
Center St/US-6/US-44 (Manchester)

Trail surfaces: Crushed Stone

Trail category: Rail-Trail

Trail activities: Bike, Walking

Parking & Trail Access

The Cheney Rail Trail runs between 2 Main St (Manchester) and Center St/US-6/US-44 (Manchester).

Parking is available at:

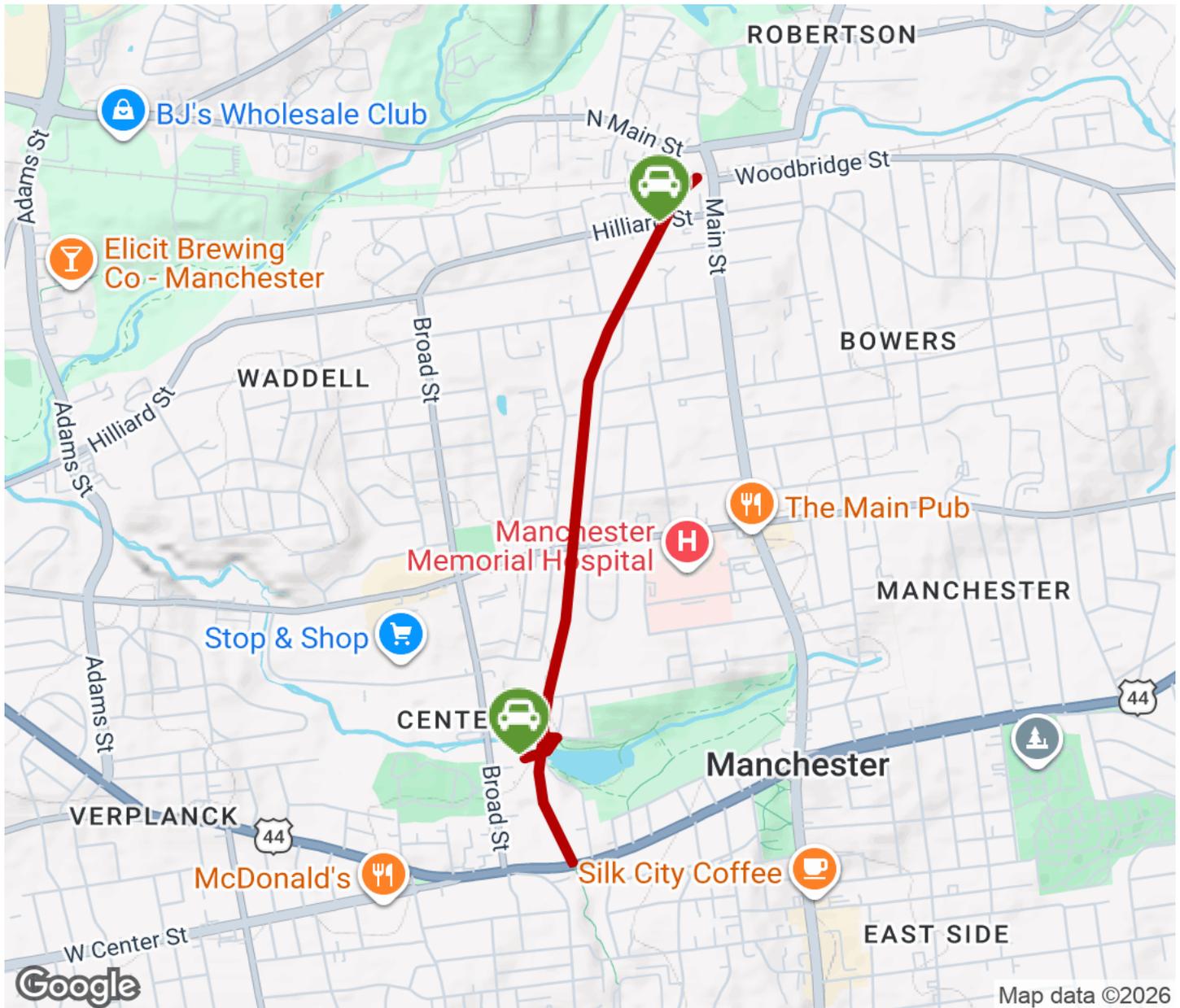
- Hilliard St (Manchester)
- Broad St (Manchester)

These are not official addresses, please visit the [TrailLink map](#) for more detailed directions.



Cheney Rail Trail

Connecticut



Trailhead



Restroom



Parking



Water Fountain



Tunnel



TrailLink
by Rails-to-Trails Conservancy

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