



2025

TrailLink Unlimited 

Guides



# Elephant Swamp Trail

*New Jersey*



## Elephant Swamp Trail

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Walking along the Elephant Swamp Trail, it's easy to see where it picked up the swamp part of its name. As for the rest, legend has it that in the late 1800s, an elephant got loose in the swamp when a traveling circus passed through Elk Township by railroad.

The 5.1-mile community trail is unpaved, consisting mostly of large stones and wood chips that make it too bumpy for an enjoyable road or hybrid bike trip, though mountain bikes fare better. The natural flora and fauna of the trail (sometimes called the Elephant Swamp Nature Trail) make it ideal for a leisurely walk.

### About the Route

Starting at Elk Township Recreational Park, follow the

wide, trail-like sidewalks through the park past baseball fields and a soccer complex, where the wooded area becomes heavier and the trail begins. The recreational complex falls behind as greenery flanks trail users on both sides. Civilization is never too far, with the parallel Railroad Avenue—a nod to the trail's history—just barely peeking through the trees to the right. This section attracts many hikers and dog walkers.

After 1.2 miles, the route arrives at the trailhead at Elk Road, with a parking lot on the left. Equestrians may enjoy the trail from this point on. Along this portion, the trail offers burbling brooks, bunnies hopping across the path, butterflies flapping around, and a farm to the left completing this nature scene. Elk Township has provided nine interpretive signage stations detailing natural features, such as the pitch pine trees that define the Pine Barrens of southern New Jersey.

The trail opens up around mile 2.9 when it passes through the parking lot of a volunteer fire department and crosses Monroeville Road. The pathway parallels Three Bridge Road before crossing Island Road and continuing into a wooded area. Not long after, trail users will encounter the verdant swamp itself. With sunlight peeking through trees, the swamp is more picturesque than it is spooky.

Around mile 4.25, the canopy gives way to an open sky as it passes the low fields of a farm. The stillness and quiet here are punctured only by the low buzzing of nearby transmission lines that run through the farmland. The trail continues another 0.9 miles before reaching the southern terminus at Rotary Field in Elmer.

### Trail History

In 1878 the former Pennsylvania-Reading Railroad built the tracks as part of a route from Camden to Bridgeton. The tracks were removed a century later, and the Elephant Swamp Trail now stands in their place. To this day, the trail guide bids



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**States:** New Jersey

**Counties:** Gloucester, Salem

Length: 5.1 miles

**Trail end points:** Elk Township Recreational Park (Monroeville) to Elk Township Recreational Park (Monroeville) and Rotary Field, 33 Chestnut St. (Elmer)

**Trail surfaces:** Crushed Stone, Dirt, Gravel, Woodchips

**Trail category:** Rail-Trail

**Trail activities:** Horseback Riding, Mountain

## Parking & Trail Access

The Elephant Swamp Trail runs between the Elk Township Recreational Park (Monroeville) and Rotary Field, 33 Chestnut St. (Elmer), with parking available at both ends,

Parking is also available at:

- 414 Monroeville Rd. (Monroeville)

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



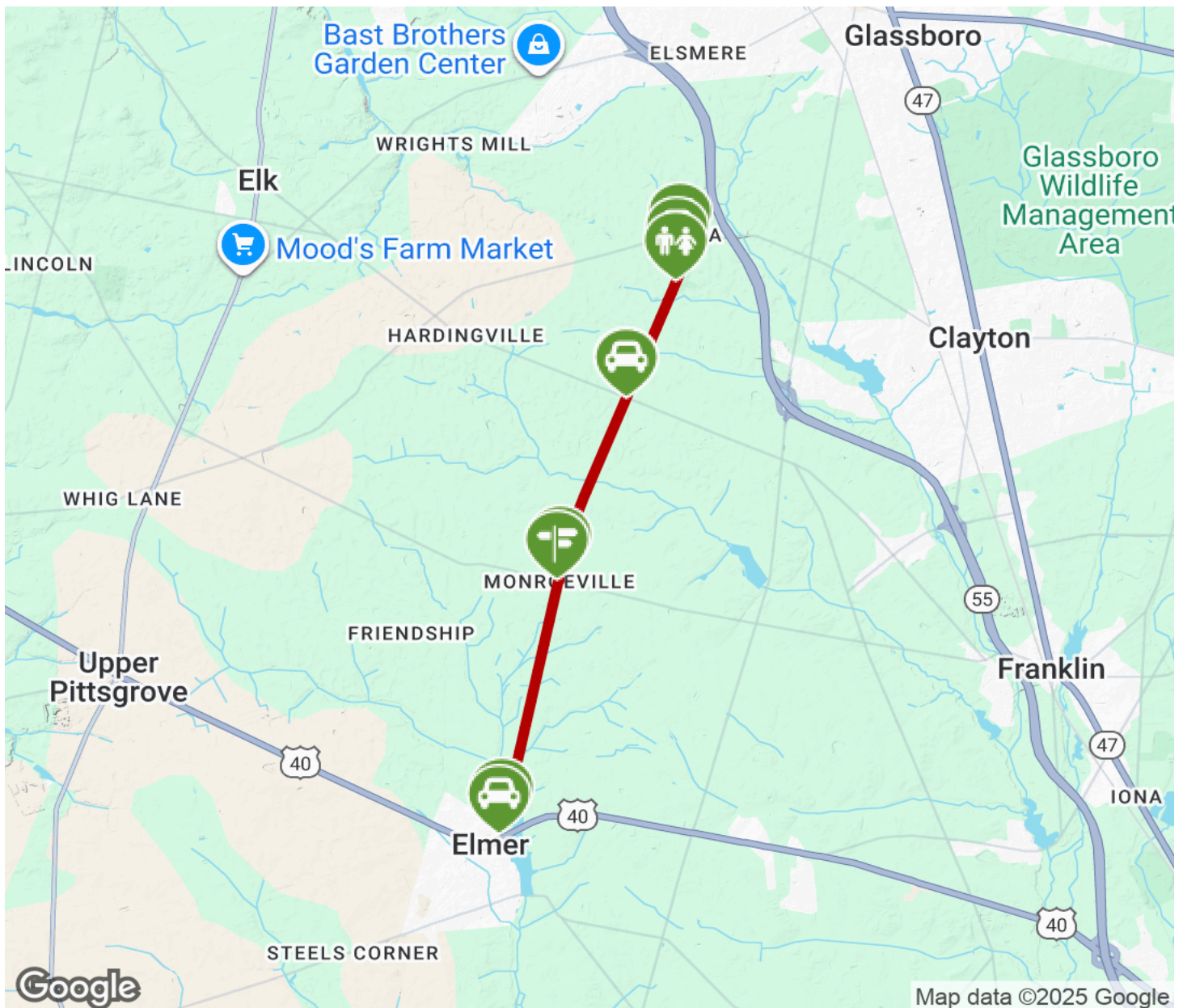
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-  Trailhead
-  Restroom
-  Parking
-  Water Fountain
-  Tunnel