



2026

TrailLink Unlimited 

Guides



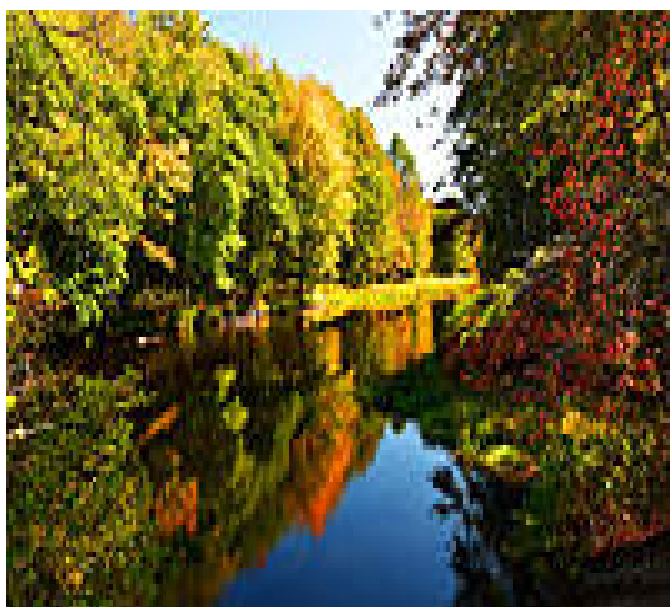
**Common
Pathway**
New Hampshire



Common Pathway

New Hampshire

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The Common Pathway travels 5.5 miles from the outskirts of Peterborough south to downtown's Noone Falls area, paralleling US 202 and the Contoocook River for most of its journey. The small town of Peterborough boasts the Peterborough Town Library, the oldest tax-supported public library in the United States. Founded in 1833 by Reverend Abiel Abbot, the library collection has grown from 100 to more than 43,000 books, and the space supports research and hosts a variety of educational programs and events.

About the Route

The pathway offers easy, mostly level terrain, with crushed stone making up the very northern portion of the trail and a paved portion spanning from Southfield Lane to

the trail's southern endpoint. Note that there are a few small, narrow, or poorly maintained sections, so hybrid bikes are recommended.

Beginning at the northern trailhead on Scott Mitchell Road, you'll find a small parking lot adjacent to the trailhead, and additional parking just south where US 202 intersects Scott Mitchell Road.

Heading south, the trail alternates between quiet on-road and wooded off-road segments. Bike route signs help with wayfinding, although they are not prevalent, so proceed carefully. About 2.5 miles along the trail from Scott Mitchell Road, you'll pass another parking area accessible from Summer Street.

The trail runs south to and beyond the small town of Peterborough, which is a hot spot for home-based entrepreneurs and telecommuters, and a popular tourist spot for those seeking outdoor pursuits such as fishing. Access to downtown Peterborough is provided through mostly residential, low-traffic streets; here, you'll find a quaint main street with restaurants, shops, preserved historical buildings (to reach the Peterborough Town Library on Concord Street head east on Main Street for one block), and a restored train depot that now hosts shops and a café.

South of downtown Peterborough, the route is not well signed and may be difficult to navigate for those not familiar with the trail. You'll continue south on US 202 to the intersection with SR 101, turn left, and loop around a gas station to the SR 101 underpass by the Contoocook River. You'll then head around the east side of the Peterborough Shopping Plaza and then west to a side-path portion of the trail (composed of asphalt that is not regularly maintained), which travels on the left side of busy US 202 S (across the highway is another strip mall) to the trail's end just before Cabana Drive.

Connections



Common Pathway

New Hampshire

States: New Hampshire

Counties: Hillsborough

Length: 5.5miles

Trail end points: Old Railroad Trail
(Peterborough) to US 202 (Peterborough)

Trail surfaces: Asphalt, Crushed Stone

Trail category: Rail-Trail

Trail activities: Bike, Fishing, Inline
Skating, Walking, Wheelchair Accessible, Cross
Country Skiing

Parking & Trail Access

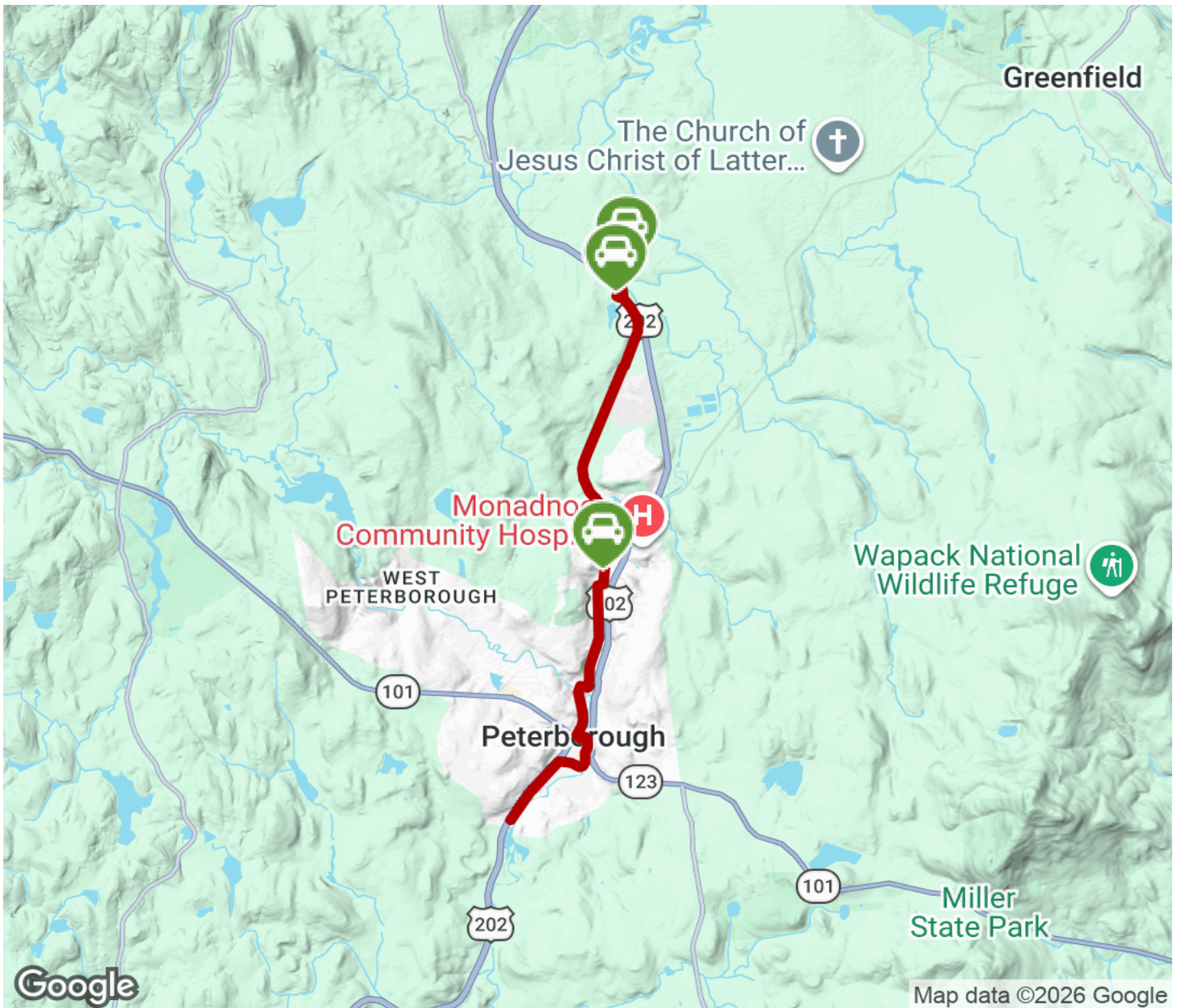
The Common Pathway runs between Old Railroad Trail (Peterborough) and US 202 (Peterborough), with parking available at the northern end.

Please see [TrailLink Map](#) for detailed directions.



Common Pathway

New Hampshire



Trailhead



Restroom



Parking



Water Fountain



Tunnel



TrailLink
by Rails-to-Trails Conservancy

TrailLink.com