



2026

TrailLink Unlimited



Guides



**Lackawanna
Rail Trail**
New York



Lackawanna Rail Trail

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The Lackawanna Rail Trail runs for 8.7 miles between Elmira and Lowman along the old Delaware, Lackawanna, and Western



The Lackawanna Rail Trail runs for 8.7 miles between Elmira and Lowman along the old Delaware, Lackawanna, and Western Railroad. Following the meandering Chemung River, the trail travels through woody and historic plots of land in southern New York.

About the Route

The northern endpoint of the Lackawanna Rail Trail sits at Lake St in Elmira. The trail travels a short distance to Eldridge Park, an alternative beginning to the trail as it offers parking and access to Eldridge Lake and other amenities. As the trail heads south from the park, it heads through the city of Elmira. The trail hits the Chemung River just after the Lackawanna Trailhead in southern Elmira.

The trail is nestled between the Chemung River and I-86 until the trail's southern endpoint, but the trail is mostly screened from the expressway by woods.

The Chemung River is a tributary of the Susquehanna River and is used for canoeing and fishing for bass, trout, rock bass, and smaller sport fish. This section of trail is shaded in the summer and runs atop levees, where you'll find benches for resting and enjoying the scenery. The area is rich in Colonial history. The Continental Army battled British forces and their Iroquois allies on a nearby hillside in 1779. The battle is commemorated at the Newtown Battlefield State Park on the other side of I-86, which is not directly accessible from the trail.

Trail History

The Delaware, Lackawanna & Western Railroad was completed through Elmira in 1882 as it connected Buffalo, New York, with Hoboken, New Jersey. The popular Phoebe Snow passenger train, advertised as burning cleaner coal than its competitors and having the smoothest ride of any passenger train, traveled this route from 1949 to 1966. The line merged with its rival in 1960 to form the Erie Lackawanna Railroad, which later succumbed to flooding and declining economic conditions.



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States: New York

Counties: Chemung

Length: 8.7miles

Trail end points: Lake St., 0.1 mile north of Sullivan St. (Elmira) to Lowman Crossover, just south of I-86 (Lowman)

Trail surfaces: Asphalt

Trail category: Rail-Trail

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

Parking & Trail Access

The Lackawanna Rail Trails runs between Lake St., 0.1 mile north of Sullivan St. (Elmira), and Lowman Crossover, just south of I-86 (Lowman), with parking available at the southern endpoint.

Parking is also available at:

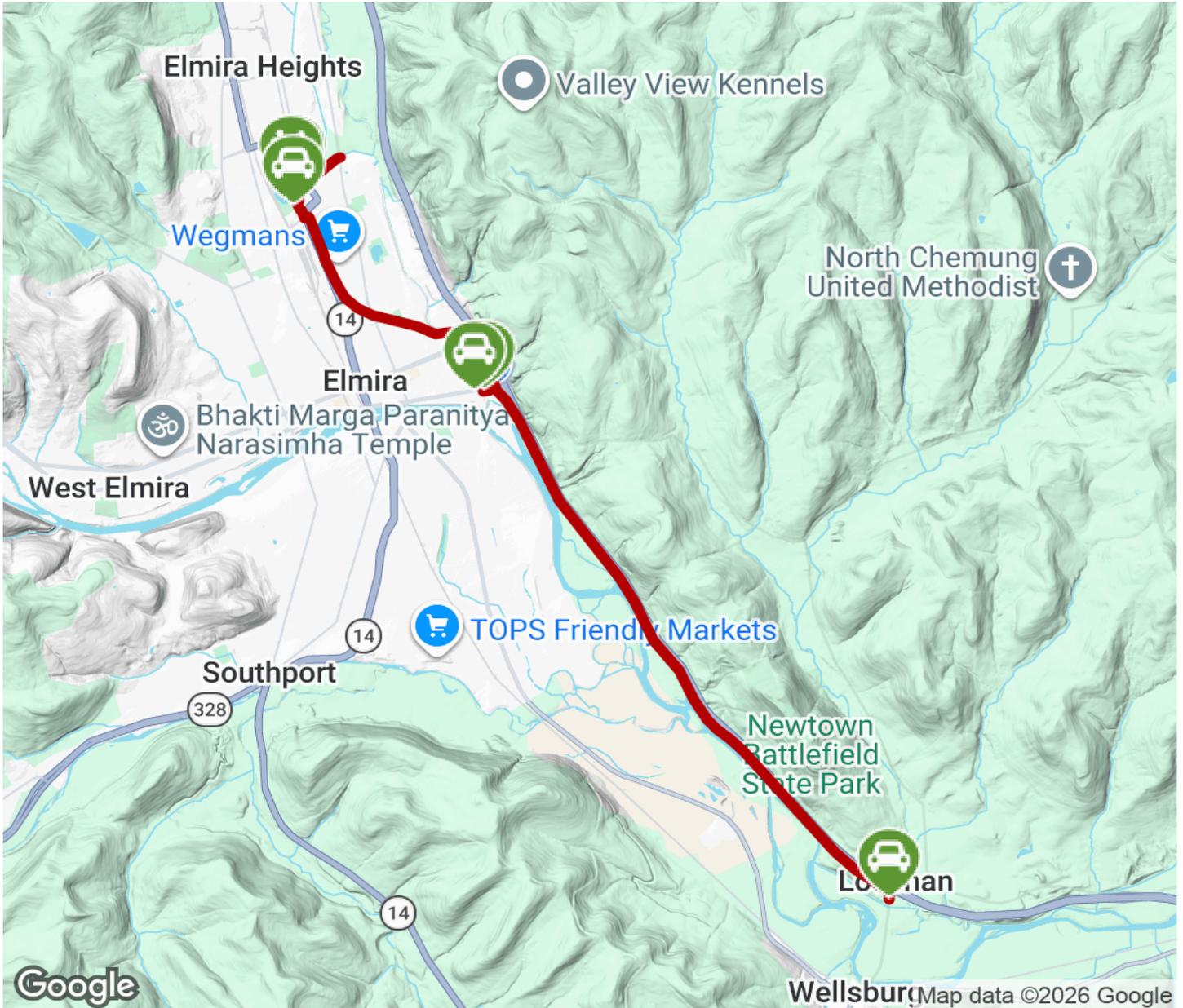
- Eldridge Park, 96 Eldridge Park Dr (Elmira)
- 1006 E Water St (Elmira)

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

TrailLink.com