



2025

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Guides 🕫 🤝









Grand Trunk Trail

Massachusetts



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The overall goal of the Grand Trunk Trail in south-central Massachusetts is to connect the communities of Brimfield, Sturbridge, and Southbridge by trail. There are two longer sections of trail, in Brimfield and Westerville, as well as one shorter section in the middle. Although they do not yet connect, they are both pleasant rides through the Quinebaug River valley and worthy of tying together for a day of adventure and railroad history.

About the Route

Depart from the western end of the trail on the outskirts of Brimfield and ride southeast for an easy jaunt through wooded lands and cut-stone embankments.

For most of its route, the trail is actually comprised of two

paralleling former railbeds, both usually within viewing sight of one another. One line was owned by the Southern New England Railway, a subsidiary of the Grand Trunk Railway of Canada; the other tracks belonged to a trolley line that ran between Southbridge and Springfield. Although most of the trail is along the trolley alignment, this section of the larger gauge Grand Trunk Railway is the trail's namesake.

A bridge takes the trail over the Quinebaug River and connects trail users to the last 0.5 miles of trail on the eastern end of this section.

On the City of Southbridge's western border, trail users can enjoy a pleasant ride on the rail trail and a loop around Westville Lake. Heading northeast from here, trail users will be riding along a mostly tree-covered path dotted with picnic tables for welcome breaks.

The route takes trail users across the Westville Dam, which is bigger than it might appear at first. The structure is 78 feet high and 560 feet across. From the dam, the trail runs along the western edge of Westville Lake to the Westville Recreation Area, which has a ball field, picnic tables and shelters, grills, restrooms, and drinking water. The park also provides opportunities for camping, boating, fishing, and ice skating on the pond during the winter. Pets on leashes are welcome.

From the recreation area, the trail curves northwest to follow the river through the forest. Heading north, the trail crosses the river via the Ed Calcutt metal bridge and continues along the river to Farquhar Road.

Connections

At the eastern end of the trail, trail users can connect to the Westville Lake Community Trail.





States: Massachusetts

Counties: Hampden, Worcester

Length: 6.9miles

Trail end points: 115 Sturbridge Rd. (Brimfield)

to Marjorie Ln. (Southbridge)

Trail surfaces: Crushed Stone, Dirt, Gravel

Trail category: Rail-Trail

Trail activities: Fishing, Horseback Riding, Mountain Biking, Walking, Cross

Country Skiing

Parking & Trail Access

The Grand Trunk Trail runs between 115 Sturbridge Rd. (Brimfield) and Marjorie Ln. (Southbridge).

Parking is also available at:

• 131 Five Bridge Rd. (Brimfield)

Please see $\underline{\text{TrailLink Map}}$ for detailed directions.



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