



2026

TrailLink Unlimited 

Guides



**Newport
Southbank
Bridge (Purple
People Bridge)**
Kentucky, Ohio



Newport Southbank Bridge (Purple People Bridge)

Kentucky, Ohio

The Newport Southbank Bridge, commonly known as the Purple People Bridge due to its unique paint scheme, links the large Ohio



ultimate successor) ceased running trains on the bridge in 1987, and the bridge was closed to automobile traffic in 2001.

The Newport Southbank Bridge, as it was officially named after its reopening in 2003, is now the centerpiece of the Newport on the Levee development in Kentucky. The urban renewal project features a movie theater, bookstore, the Newport Aquarium and a host of restaurants and bars.

On the Cincinnati side, the bridge is an integral component of Sawyer Point and Yeatman's Cove, both offering a variety of recreational amenities along the riverfront. U.S. Bank Arena and Great American Ball Park—home to MLB's Cincinnati Reds—are a couple blocks west of the bridge approach along the [Ohio River Trail](#).

The Newport Southbank Bridge, commonly known as the Purple People Bridge due to its unique paint scheme, links the large Ohio city of Cincinnati with Newport, Kentucky, a medium-sized city rapidly becoming the entertainment hub of fast-growing Northern Kentucky. A \$4 million restoration of the original railroad bridge over the Ohio River led to its reopening for walking and biking in 2003.

The bridge originally opened in 1872 as the Newport and Cincinnati Bridge, and was the first railroad bridge to connect Cincinnati and Kentucky. In 1896, the bridge was converted to accommodate streetcar, pedestrian and automobile traffic in separate lanes. The Louisville and Nashville Railroad purchased the bridge—not yet painted purple—in 1904, and the bridge was appropriately renamed the L&N Railroad Bridge. CSX (the L&N's



Newport Southbank Bridge (Purple People Bridge)

Kentucky, Ohio

States: Kentucky, Ohio

Counties: Campbell, Hamilton

Length: 0.5 miles

Trail end points: Pete Rose Way/US 52
(Cincinnati, OH) to 3rd St. and Saratoga St.
(Newport, KY)

Trail surfaces: Concrete

Trail category: Rail-Trail

Trail activities: Bike, Inline

Skating, Walking, Wheelchair Accessible

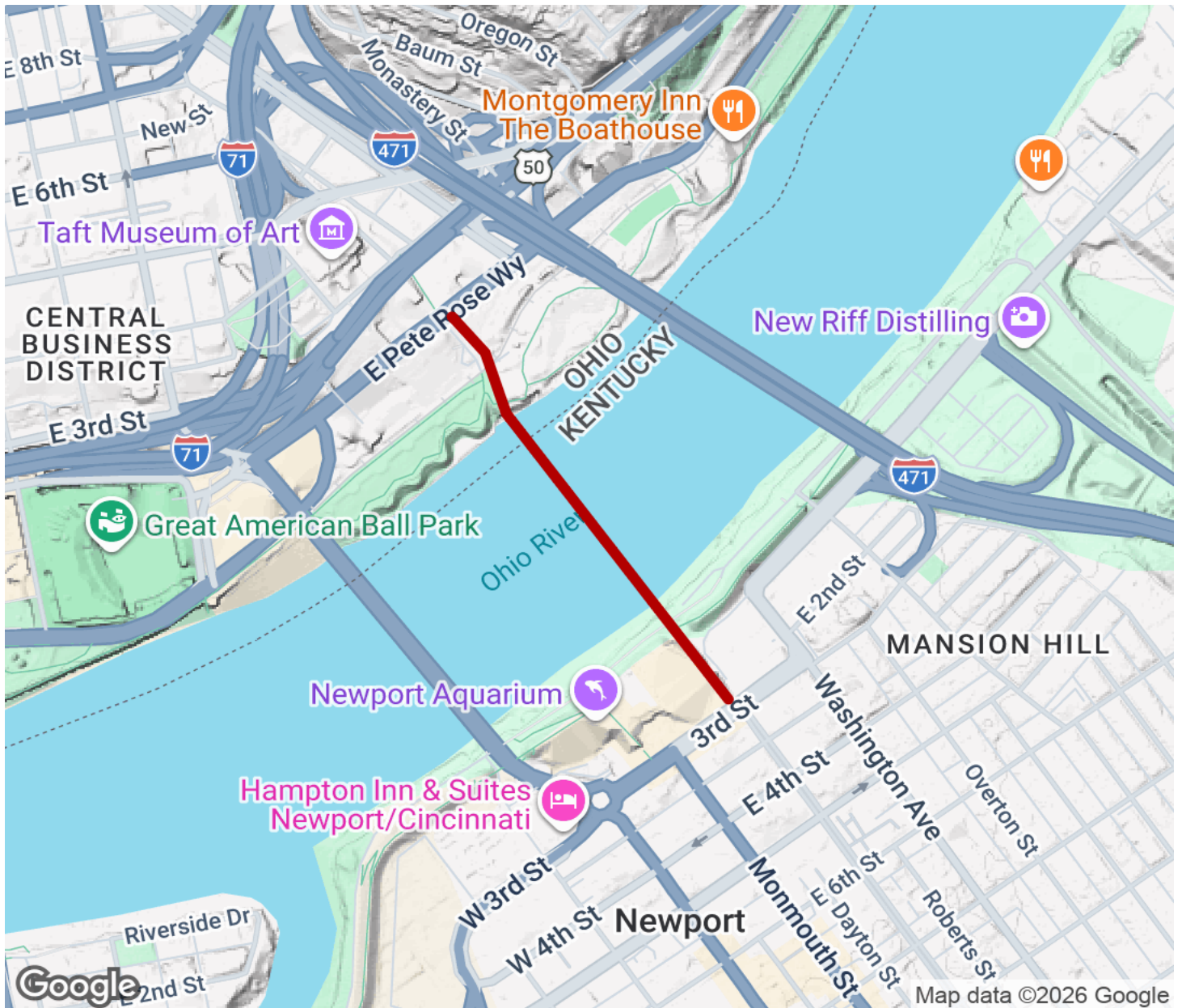
Parking & Trail Access

Parking for the Purple People Bridge can be found in Cincinnati in several paid lots along Pete Rose Way/US 52 or on-street in downtown Cincinnati, a short distance away. In Newport, park in metered spaces on Riverboat Row under the bridge, in paid lots for Newport on the Levee or on city streets in the Mansion Hill neighborhood.



Newport Southbank Bridge (Purple People Bridge)

Kentucky, Ohio



Trailhead



Restroom



Parking



Water Fountain



Tunnel



TrailLink
by Rails-to-Trails Conservancy

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