



2026

TrailLink Unlimited



Guides



Gary Shell Cross-City Trail

North Carolina



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North Carolina

The Gary Shell Cross-City Trail connects the Wilmington campus of the University of North Carolina with the City of Wilmington's



Summer Rest Trail, which features a nicely wooded path that ends at the waterfront.

The trail is primarily urban, so there are a number of restaurants, coffee shops, and two excellent bike shops along the route.

Connections

The Gary Shell Cross-City Trail connects to the [River-to-Sea Bikeway](#) at Empie Park.

At Military Cutoff Rd., the trail is just a short distance away from the [Military Cutoff Trail](#).

The Gary Shell Cross-City Trail is part of the developing East Coast Greenway, a 3,000-mile route between Florida and Maine.

The Gary Shell Cross-City Trail connects the Wilmington campus of the University of North Carolina with the City of Wilmington's many recreational attractions, including Halyburton Park, Empie Park, McCrary Park, and Wade Park, providing important off-road connections across a wide swath of the coastal city.

About the Route

The trail route totals 15.8 miles in total; most of the route is a wide, paved asphalt pathway, although some sections utilize narrower sidewalks - fortunately, the city has marked the trail route on street signs to help users navigate. The 17-acre park offers scenic wetlands, a picnic shelter, a playground, and restrooms. On the opposite end of the trail, the northern terminus shares a route with the



Gary Shell Cross-City Trail

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States: North Carolina

Counties: New Hanover

Length: 15.8 miles

Trail end points: Wade Park, 3500 Bethel Rd.
(Wilmington) to 423 Summer Rest Rd.
(Wilmington)

Trail surfaces: Asphalt, Concrete

Trail category: Greenway/Non-RT

Trail activities: Bike, Inline

Skating, Walking, Wheelchair Accessible

Parking & Trail Access

The Gary Shell Cross-City Trail runs between Wade Park, 3500 Bethel Rd. (Wilmington), where parking is available, and 423 Summer Rest Rd. (Wilmington).

Parking is also available at:

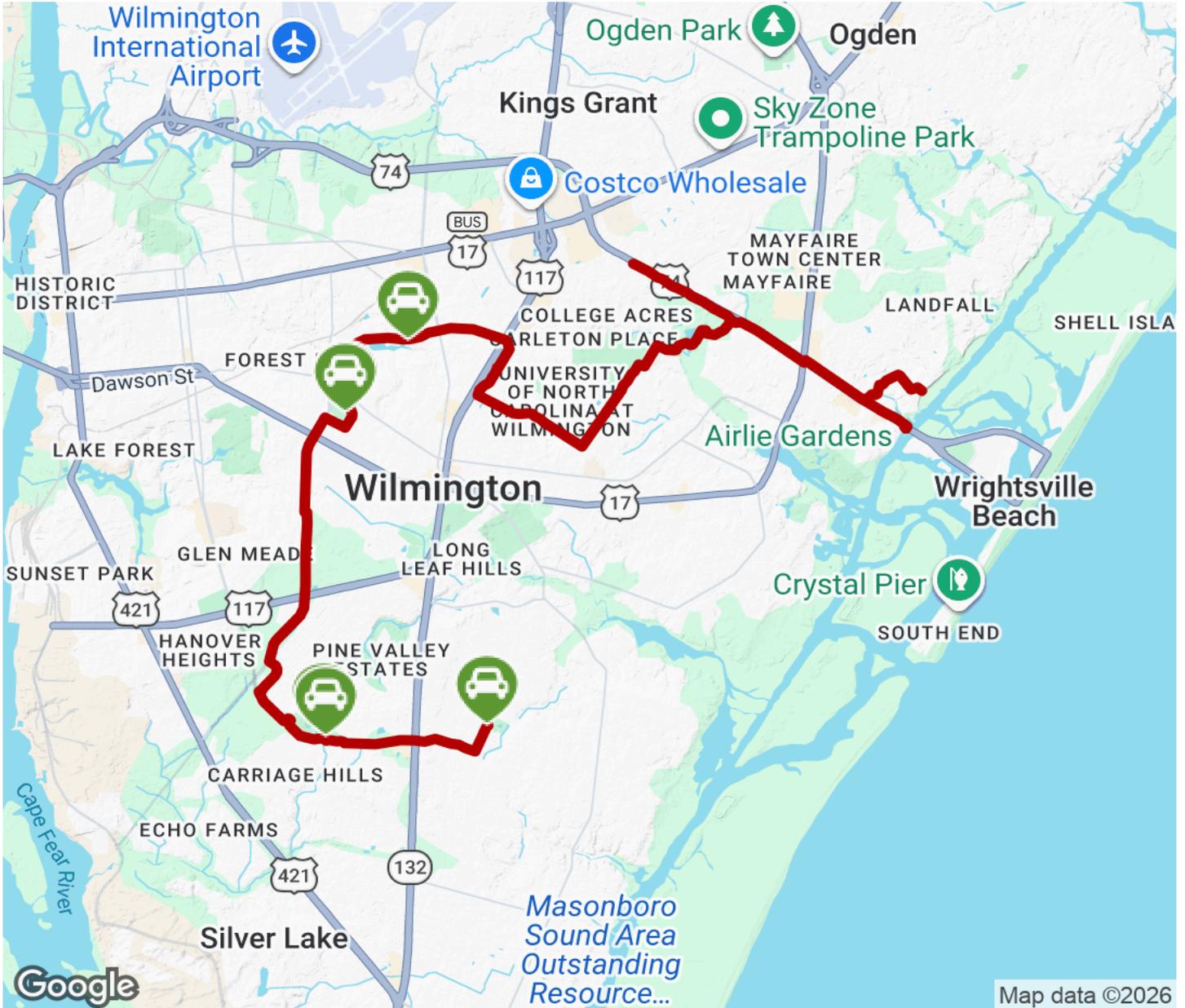
- Halyburton Park, 4099 S 17th St. (Wilmington)
- Empie Park, 3405 Park Ave. (Wilmington)
- Anne McCrary, 4000 Randall Pkwy. (Wilmington)

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



Gary Shell Cross-City Trail

North Carolina



Trailhead



Restroom



Parking



Water Fountain



Tunnel



TrailLink

by Rails-to-Trails Conservancy

[TrailLink.com](https://www.TrailLink.com)