



2026

TrailLink Unlimited



Guides



Tweetsie Trail

Tennessee



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greeted with a broad “Tweetsie Trail” sign arching overhead on metal scaffolding designed to resemble a railroad trestle. At their feet, a segment of the original track, dating back to the early 1880s, lies inlaid in the trail. Continuing down its firm, crushed-stone surface, the trail is bedecked with interpretative signage about the local history, geology and ecology. At either end, the trail goes through two urban communities with access to many restaurants and shops (including bike rentals in Johnson City).

Trail History

The rail-trail follows a railroad corridor that once snaked through the mountains and crossed into North Carolina. It’s been nearly two decades since trains rumbled down the narrow tracks and emitted the high-pitched whistles that gave the rail line—and later the Tweetsie Trail—its affectionate moniker. And it’s fitting that the route of the East Tennessee & Western North Carolina Railroad—once known as the “Railroad with a Heart” for its above-and-beyond service and heart-shaped ticket punches—is now the home of a beloved community amenity.

Nestled into the recreational playground of northeastern Tennessee, a homespun 10-mile pathway connects two charming towns in the Appalachian foothills. The Tweetsie Trail links Johnson City, home to East Tennessee State University, and quaint Elizabethton, one of Tennessee’s oldest towns and host to attractions like the Sabine Hill State Historic Site and Sycamore Shoals State Historic Park, both located just off the trail. Views along the route include picturesque pastures, hardwoods that put on autumnal color shows, and photo-worthy overlooks of Happy Valley.

About the Route

At mile-marker zero on the east end of Johnson City, the journey forward begins with a look back. Trail goers are



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States: Tennessee

Counties: Carter, Washington

Length: 10miles

Trail end points: Legion St (Johnson City) to
State Line Rd & Hatcher Ln (Elizabethton)

Trail surfaces: Crushed Stone

Trail category: Rail-Trail

Trail activities: Bike, Walking, Wheelchair
Accessible

Parking & Trail Access

The Tweetsie Trail runs between Legion St (Johnson City) and the intersection of State Line Rd & Hatcher Ln (Elizabethton).

Parking is available at:

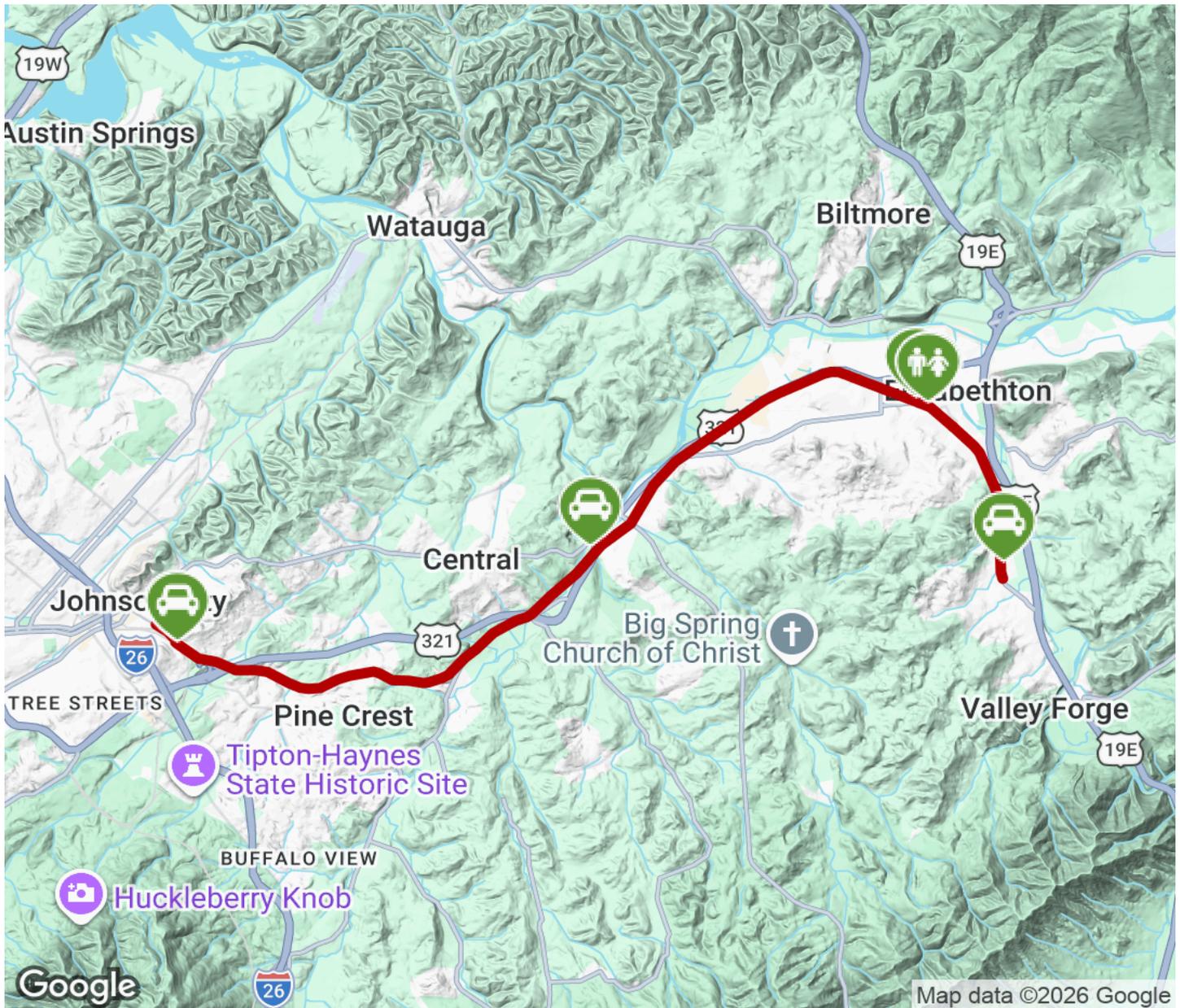
- Legion St (Johnson City)
- Blue Ridge Dr (Elizabethton)

These are not official addresses, visit the [TrailLink map](#) for all parking options and detailed directions.



Tweetsie Trail

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Trailhead



Restroom



Parking



Water Fountain



Tunnel



TrailLink
by Rails-to-Trails Conservancy

TrailLink.com