



2024

TrailLink Unlimited



Guides



**Independence
Greenway**
Massachusetts



Independence Greenway

Massachusetts

Overview The 5.25-mile Independence Greenway makes for a pleasant ride, providing access to lakes, parks, and nature



Overview

The 5.25-mile Independence Greenway makes for a pleasant ride, providing access to lakes, parks, and nature preserves. The paved pathway is located in the town of Peabody (pronounced by locals as “pea-biddy”), which is known as the Leather City thanks to its historical tannery industry. Be on the lookout for a variety of bird species, as well as the occasional snake sunning itself on the trail’s paved surface. For most of the ride, the trail meanders through a natural setting; however, some neighboring homes are visible along the trail for a portion of the trip.

About the Route

The trail is currently in two segments and a short spur,

but there are plans to fill in the gaps and extend the route.

Western section (2.9 miles; paved)

Starting at the northwestern trailhead on Russell Street, the Ipswich River is on the left, followed by the Norris Brook Wetlands. In 1.3 miles, be aware that the trail passes along an Aggregate Industries quarry, where blasting occurs on Thursdays at 1pm during the summer. One horn means blasting will commence in 5 minutes. If two horns are heard, make sure to move away from the area, as blasting is in progress.

In 0.9 mile from the quarry, after passing another trailhead and parking area at Russell Street and Norris Brook, the trail passes the Crystal Pond trailhead. In another 0.9 mile, the Lt. Ross Park trailhead, which includes a playground, baseball field, and soda machine, makes for a great break spot.

Note that a gap of more than 1 mile exists between the Lt. Ross Park trailhead and the next trailhead at Peabody Road. This gap requires you to ride with traffic. Coming out of Lt. Ross Park, take a right onto Johnson Street, continuing onto Lowell Street in 0.5 mile, and turning right onto Peabody Road in just under 1 mile. Only experienced road riders should take this route; a sidewalk is available for walkers.

Eastern section (1.7 miles; paved)

At the Peabody Road trailhead, the rail-trail once again becomes an off-road route. From Peabody Road and continuing southeast, the trail follows Proctor Brook. It passes Lalikos Park, Marble Meadows Conservation Area, and Jacobs Cemetery. As you near the end of the trail, you will begin to hear the buzz of traffic. There are a number of road crossings, which provide access to the surrounding neighborhoods. Cross carefully at the busy intersection of Prospect and Lowell Streets. The trail ends on Essex Center Road at the Northshore Mall, where you can stop for a snack, bathroom



Independence Greenway

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States: Massachusetts

Counties: Essex

Length: 5.25miles

Trail end points: Russell St at the Ispwich River to Ross Memorial Park (36 Johnson St, Peabody) to Peabody Rd to Northshore Mall on Essex Center Dr (Peabody)

Trail surfaces: Asphalt

Trail category: Rail-Trail

Trail activities: Bike, Inline Skating, Wheelchair Accessible, Walking, Cross

Parking & Trail Access

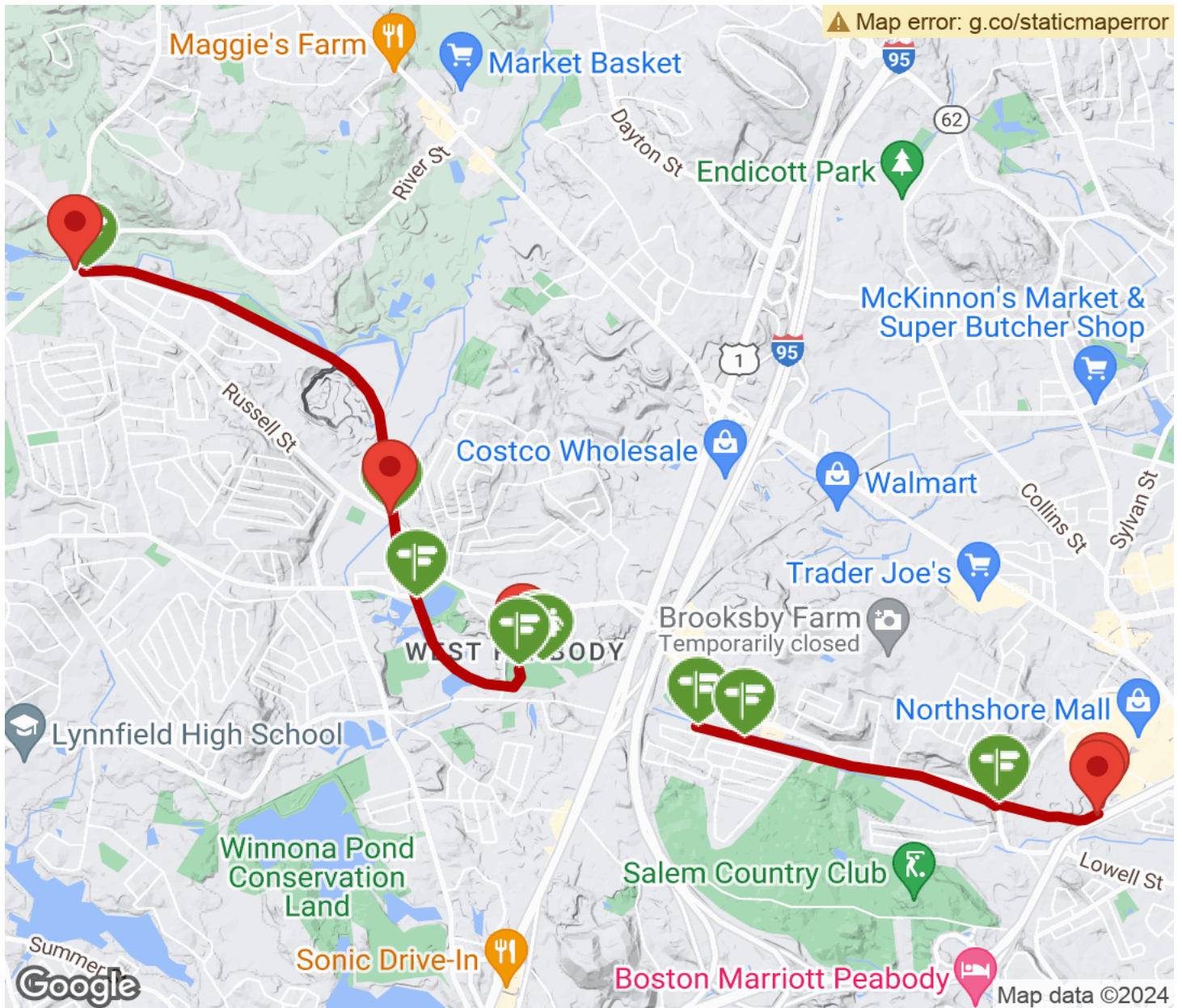
The Independence Greenway runs between Russell St at the Ispwich River and Ross Memorial Park (36 Johnson St, Peabody); and between Peabody Rd and Northshore Mall on Essex Center Dr (Peabody).

Parking is available at both ends of both sections and along the route. Visit the [TrailLink map](#) for all options and detailed directions.



Independence Greenway

Massachusetts



Trailhead



Restroom



Parking



Water Fountain



Tunnel



TrailLink
by Rails-to-Trails Conservancy

TrailLink.com