



2024

TrailLink Unlimited



Guides



## Cheney Rail Trail

*Connecticut*



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*The Cheney Rail Trail follows part of the corridor of the South Manchester Railroad, built by the Cheney brothers in 1869. The line*



signage indicating a trail crossing.

[MLCT](#) leads a few walks each year with commentary on the history of the railroad and the silk mills. Truman Cowles Parklet has a small parking area, picnic table and kiosk.

The Cheney Rail Trail follows part of the corridor of the South Manchester Railroad, built by the Cheney brothers in 1869. The line was a 2.5-mile spur from the main Hartford, Providence, and Fishkill Railroad and it went to the Cheney silk mills, transporting passengers, silk goods and raw materials. This historic railroad was known as the longest privately owned passenger-and-freight railroad, as well as one of the shortest in America.

The Manchester Land Conservation Trust (MLCT) owns about 5.7 acres of the rail bed (1.7 linear miles). The trail is mostly shaded and a pleasant walk any time of the year. The terrain is fairly flat with a processed stone path, a small section of stairs (at Middle Turnpike W.) have been replaced with a ramp that was built at a 10% grade. There are three street crossings with painted cross walks and



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**States:** Connecticut

**Counties:** Hartford

Length: 1.7miles

**Trail end points:** #2 Main Street (by the tracks)  
to Center Street/US6/US44 east of Broad Street

**Trail surfaces:** Crushed Stone

**Trail category:** Rail-Trail

**Trail activities:** Bike, Walking

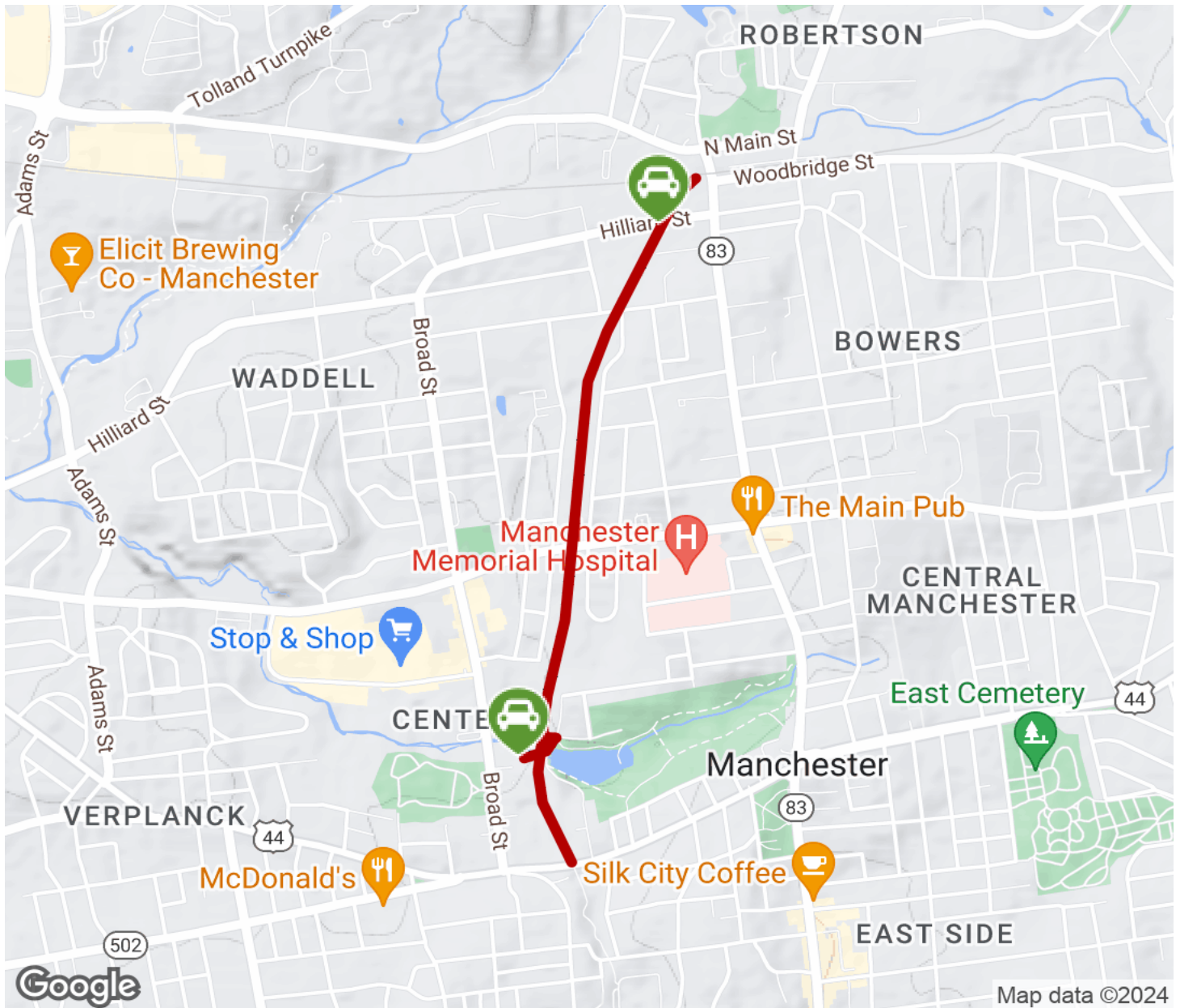
## Parking & Trail Access

Parking is available behind 2 Main Street (right by the old tracks) on the north end of Manchester. You can also park at the nearby strip mall or at the Eight District offices parking lot.



# Cheney Rail Trail

Connecticut



Trailhead



Restroom



Parking



Water Fountain



Tunnel



# TrailLink

by Rails-to-Trails Conservancy

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