



2024

TrailLink Unlimited



Guides



**Jay McLaren  
Memorial  
Trail**  
*Massachusetts*



## Jay McLaren Memorial Trail

Massachusetts

*Nestled in the woodlands on the northern end of Merrimac in the far northeastern corner of Massachusetts, lies the beautiful Jay*



farmland with horses grazing in the pastures at its northern end.

Nestled in the woodlands on the northern end of Merrimac in the far northeastern corner of Massachusetts, lies the beautiful Jay McLaren Memorial Trail. The town, once known as West Amesbury, had a thriving industry of horse-drawn carriage shops. To expand on this business, the West Amesbury Branch Railroad, a spur off the Boston and Maine Railroad, was completed in 1873. By 1972, the rail corridor was no longer used and eventually became the rail-trail.

Although the trail's surface is unimproved (primarily hard-packed dirt), walkers, mountain bikers, horseback riders, and cross-country skiers are welcome to enjoy its diverse views. The pathway travels for 2 miles from its busy southern end in town, continuing under a dense canopy of trees, along wetlands, and on through open



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**States:** Massachusetts

**Counties:** Essex

Length: 2miles

**Trail end points:** Church Street Cemetery to  
New Hampshire stateline (north of Brush Hill  
Road)

**Trail surfaces:** Dirt,Grass,Gravel

**Trail category:** Rail-Trail

**Trail activities:** Horseback Riding,Mountain  
Biking,Walking

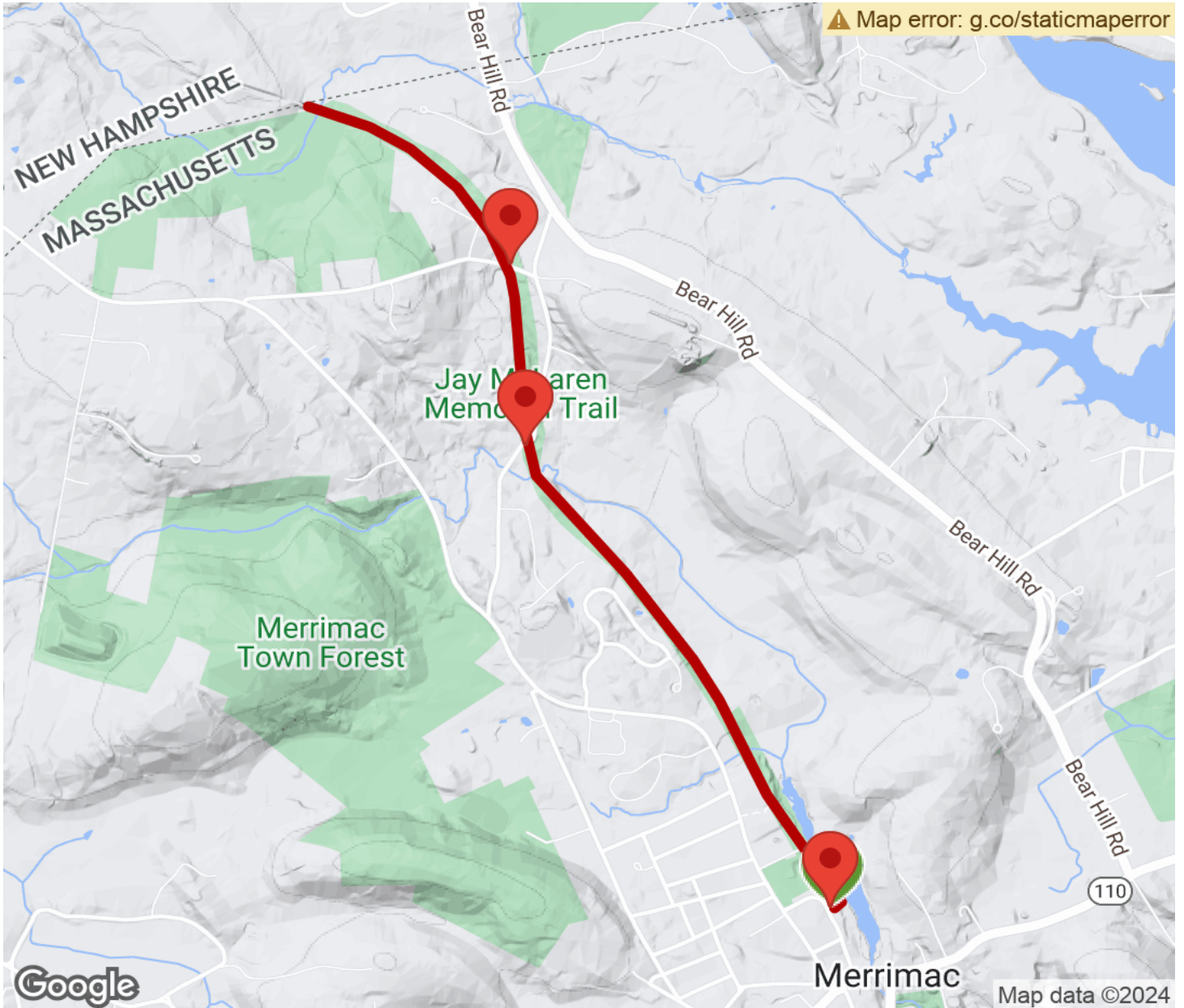
## Parking & Trail Access

Parking is available at the trail's southern end at 61 Church Street (near the street's intersection with Abbott Street). Look for the wooden trail sign by the stone wall; a short pathway from the parking area will bring you to the rail-trail.



# Jay McLaren Memorial Trail

Massachusetts



Trailhead



Restroom



Parking



Water Fountain



Tunnel



**TrailLink**  
by Rails-to-Trails Conservancy

**TrailLink.com**