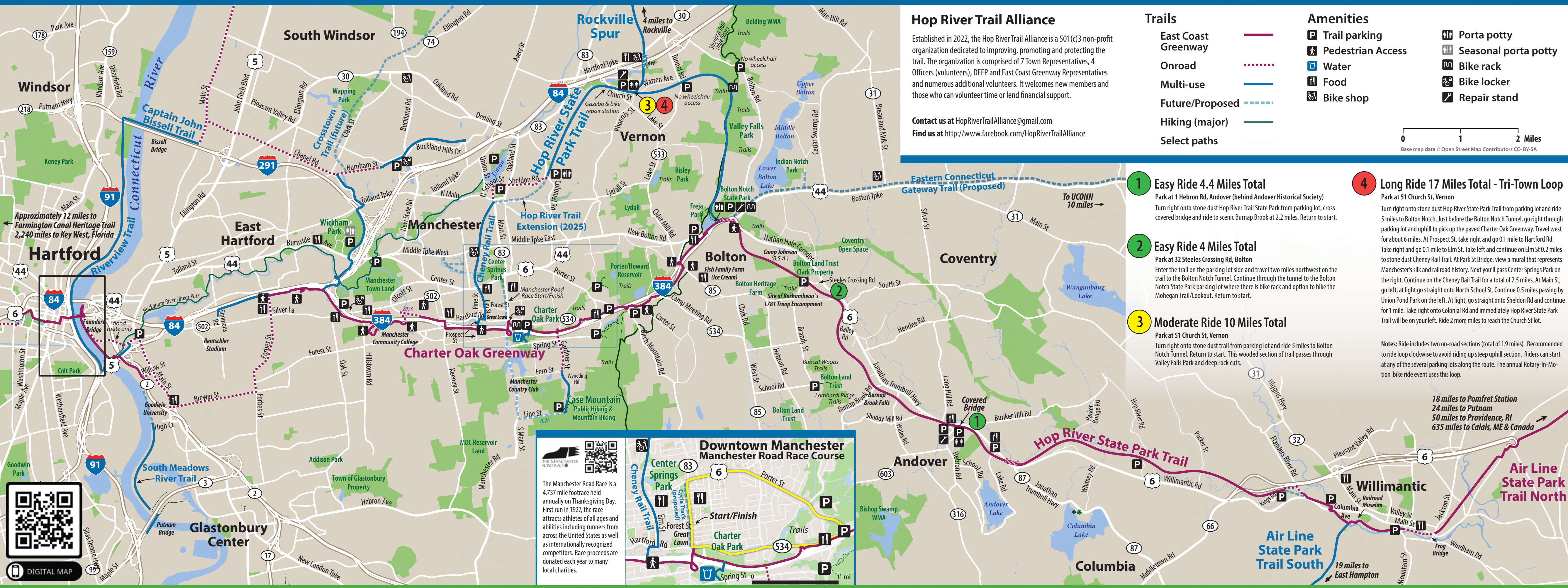


Charter Oak Greenway & Hop River State Park Trail

Hartford • East Hartford • Manchester • Vernon • Bolton
Andover • Coventry • Columbia • Windham/Willimantic

Legend & Trip ideas

2025



Hop River Trail Alliance

Established in 2022, the Hop River Trail Alliance is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization dedicated to improving, promoting and protecting the trail. The organization is comprised of 7 Town Representatives, 4 Officers (volunteers), DEEP and East Coast Greenway Representatives and numerous additional volunteers. It welcomes new members and those who can volunteer time or lend financial support.

Contact us at HopRiverTrailAlliance@gmail.com
Find us at <http://www.facebook.com/HopRiverTrailAlliance>

Trails

- East Coast Greenway (solid purple line)
- Onroad (dotted purple line)
- Multi-use (solid blue line)
- Future/Proposed (dashed blue line)
- Hiking (major) (solid green line)
- Select paths (dotted green line)

Amenities

- Trail parking (P icon)
- Pedestrian Access (walking stick icon)
- Water (water tap icon)
- Food (fork and knife icon)
- Bike shop (bicycle icon)
- Porta potty (porta potty icon)
- Seasonal porta potty (porta potty icon with snowflake)
- Bike rack (bicycle rack icon)
- Bike locker (bicycle icon with lock)
- Repair stand (wrench icon)

0 1 2 Miles
Base map data © Open Street Map Contributors CC-BY-SA

- 1 Easy Ride 4.4 Miles Total**
Park at 1 Hebron Rd, Andover (behind Andover Historical Society)
Turn right onto stone dust Hop River Trail State Park from parking lot, cross covered bridge and ride to scenic Burnap Brook at 2.2 miles. Return to start.
- 2 Easy Ride 4 Miles Total**
Park at 32 Steeles Crossing Rd, Bolton
Enter the trail on the parking lot side and travel two miles northwest on the trail to the Bolton Notch Tunnel. Continue through the tunnel to the Bolton Notch State Park parking lot where there is bike rack and option to hike the Mohegan Trail/Lookout. Return to start.
- 3 Moderate Ride 10 Miles Total**
Park at 51 Church St, Vernon
Turn right onto stone dust trail from parking lot and ride 5 miles to Bolton Notch Tunnel. Return to start. This wooded section of trail passes through Valley Falls Park and deep rock cuts.

- 4 Long Ride 17 Miles Total - Tri-Town Loop**
Park at 51 Church St, Vernon
Turn right onto stone dust Hop River State Park Trail from parking lot and ride 5 miles to Bolton Notch. Just before the Bolton Notch Tunnel, go right through parking lot and uphill to pick up the paved Charter Oak Greenway. Travel west for about 6 miles. At Prospect St, take right and go 0.1 mile to Hartford Rd. Take right and go 0.1 mile to Elm St. Take left and continue on Elm St 0.2 miles to stone dust Cheney Rail Trail. At Park St Bridge, view a mural that represents Manchester's silk and railroad history. Next you'll pass Center Springs Park on the right. Continue on the Cheney Rail Trail for a total of 2.5 miles. At Main St, go left, at light go straight onto North School St. Continue 0.5 miles passing by Union Pond Park on the left. At light, go straight onto Sheldon Rd and continue for 1 mile. Take right onto Colonial Rd and immediately Hop River State Park Trail will be on your left. Ride 2 more miles to reach the Church St lot.
- Notes: Ride includes two on-road sections (total of 1.9 miles). Recommended to ride loop clockwise to avoid riding up steep uphill section. Riders can start at any of the several parking lots along the route. The annual Rotary-In-Motion bike ride event uses this loop.

Downtown Manchester Manchester Road Race Course

The Manchester Road Race is a 4.737 mile footrace held annually on Thanksgiving Day. First run in 1927, the race attracts athletes of all ages and abilities including runners from across the United States as well as internationally recognized competitors. Race proceeds are donated each year to many local charities.

Start/Finish
Charter Oak Park
Center Springs Park
Cheney Rail Trail

greenway.org

← Become a member of the East Coast Greenway Alliance

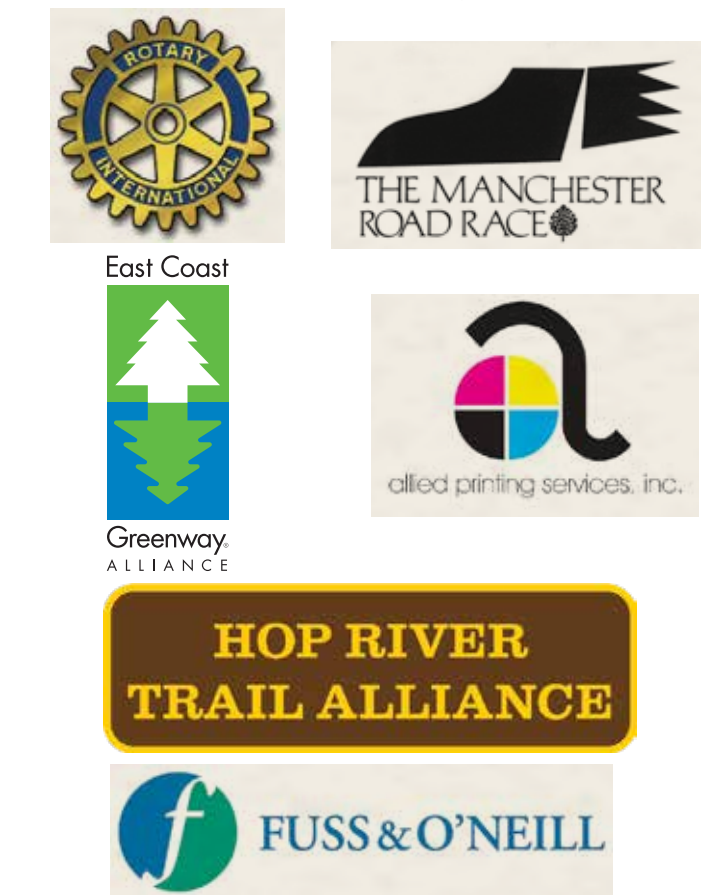
A 34 mile segment of the EAST COAST GREENWAY

Greenway Map



Charter Oak Greenway and Hop River State Park Trail 2025

This map was made possible through the generosity and support of these organizations



The Charter Oak Greenway and the Hop River State Park Trail

We wish to acknowledge that the land on which the Charter Oak Greenway and Hop River State Park Trail exist is the unceded territory of the Mohegan, Nipmuck, Podunk, Tunxis, and Wangunk tribes, who have stewarded the land and its surrounding areas for thousands of years.



In Manchester, on the corner of Highland St and Wyllys St, this market is easily accessible from the Charter Oak Greenway.

Show your support with a license plate!



www.ct.gov/dmv, or call 860-263-5700



Andover Bridge (Installed in 2012)

Contacts

Bruce Donald, East Coast Greenway Alliance, Southern New England Coordinator, CT Greenways Council, Chairman, bruce@greenway.org

Rob Dexter, East Coast Greenway Alliance, CT Committee Co-Chair, skicouncil@gmail.com

Steven Mitchell, East Coast Greenway Alliance, CT Committee Co-Chair, stevenmitchelljp@gmail.com

Bill O'Neill, ECGA Advisory Board, CT Greenways Council, past Chair, current Member, billoneillgreenways@gmail.com

Anna Bergeron, CT Greenways Council, CT Department of Transportation Liaison, anna.bergeron@ct.gov

Kimberly Bradley, CT Greenways Council, CT DEEP Liaison, kimberly.bradley@ct.gov

John Bolduc, Hop River Trail Alliance, President, HopRiverTrailAlliance@gmail.com

East Coast Greenway Canada to Key West



The Charter Oak Greenway

The 17-mile Charter Oak Greenway connects Hartford to the Hop River State Park Trail in Bolton.

The greenway is named after Connecticut's state tree, a strong and colorful symbol of Colonial resistance to English rule. In 1687 Sir Edmund Andros, agent of King James II, came to Hartford with an armed force to seize Connecticut's Charter. After hours of debate, with the charter on the table between opposing parties, the candle-lit room suddenly went dark and the Charter disappeared. Captain Joseph Wadsworth is credited with having it hid in a majestic oak. The Charter is now on permanent exhibition at the Museum of Connecticut History in Hartford.

The section of the greenway passing through Manchester was part of an interstate highway planned in the 1970's. Local involvement, creative thinking, and Connecticut Department of Transportation cooperation, led to the preservation of recreational areas, trails and woodlands within the highway cloverleaf and right of way.

A long distance urban trail

greenway.org | map.greenway.org

The East Coast Greenway, conceived in 1991, is the nation's most ambitious long-distance urban trail. By connecting existing and planned shared-use trails, a continuous, traffic-free route is being formed, serving self-powered users of all abilities and ages. At 3,000 miles long, the Greenway links Calais, Maine, at the Canadian border, with Key West, Florida. Complementary routes add another 2,000 miles to the ECG trail system.

A linear park, the East Coast Greenway is almost entirely on public rights-of-way, incorporating waterfront esplanades, park paths, abandoned railroad corridors, canal towpaths, and pathways along highway corridors. Designed to accommodate tourists, locals, and users of all abilities, the East Coast Greenway has universal appeal. The East Coast Greenway can be used today.

As of 2025, nearly 36% of the route is trail, with 55% of the 204 miles in Connecticut complete.

Map by Steve Spindler, Steve@bikemap.com
Route data provided by the ECGA Committee
©Open Street Map Contributors CC- BY-SA

It took about a quarter of a century to move from concept to construction of the Manchester-East Hartford section of the Charter Oak Greenway. The connection to the Hop River State Park Trail was completed in 2018 making most of the 17-mile greenway off-road. Sections in East Hartford and Manchester will complete the off-road goal.

The Hop River State Park Trail

The 20-mile Hop River State Park Trail connects Manchester to the Air Line Trail in Windham and travels through the towns of Manchester, Vernon, Bolton, Coventry, Andover, Columbia and Windham.

All but the 8-mile Manchester/Vernon section of the Hop River State Park Trail is part of the East Coast Greenway.

In 1781, during the Revolutionary War parts of what is now known as the Hop River State Park Trail were used as the March Route of Rochambeau's army on its way to the Hudson River and

ultimately to Yorktown. The Rose Farm/ Bolton Heritage Farm was used on four successive nights, the 22nd through the 25th of June 1781, by the four divisions of Rochambeau's army. About 1 mile before the Bolton encampment is the March Route of Rochambeau's Army: Bailey Road, and about a mile before that is the March Route of Rochambeau's Army: Hutchinson Road, both on the way from Andover.

In 1847, promoters obtained a charter for The Hartford & Providence Railroad to build a track from the river docks in Hartford, through Manchester, Bolton, Andover, Willimantic, Baltic, and Moosup to the Rhode Island border. The Hartford, Providence & Fishkill completed the Hartford to Willimantic track in 1849. Irish laborers using picks, shovels, hand drills, ox drawn dump carts, and large amounts of black powder created the track bed and laid the first rails. Stone for the bridges and culverts was cut from the many granite boulders and ledge outcroppings that line the right-of-way. You can still see the drill holes as you travel through the rock cuts. The last train ran on September 29, 1970.

