



2024

TrailLink Unlimited



Guides



**Farmington  
River Trail**  
*Connecticut*



# Farmington River Trail

Connecticut

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## Overview

A dozen miles west of Connecticut's capital of Hartford, the Farmington River Trail forms a 16.5-mile arc that connects to the larger [Farmington Canal Heritage Trail](#) on both ends. The rail-trail was built largely on the former Central New England Railway right-of-way.

## About the route

Beginning in Farmington, which the Farmington Valley Trails Council marks as Mile 0, the trail follows the river northwest through residential areas and past old trees. There are many points along this trail where trail users can stop and savor breathtaking views of the Farmington River, a National Wild and Scenic River, and perhaps even

spot a heron resting on a rock. Winding through tree canopies and past old mills, rapids, and waterfalls, this paved portion of the trail connects Unionville, Collinsville, and Canton. The off-road trail experience ends in the lovely town of Canton, 10 miles from the northern endpoint.

North of Canton, the route transitions to on-road sharrows (markings that indicate a shared bicycle-vehicle lane). Follow the bike route signs on these lightly trafficked roads to Simsbury. At the intersection of Town Forest Road and Stratton Brook Road, a small section of the Farmington River Trail is once again off-road. This portion of the trail has a stone-dust surface and traverses Stratton Brook State Park. The densely wooded park offers hiking, swimming, and fishing opportunities.

When the trail reaches Bushy Hill Road, note that the trail turns left and crosses West Street to pick up another section of paved trail, which parallels the north side of West Street. When the trail arrives at Drake Hill Road, it crosses West Street again and parallel Drake Hill Road toward the Farmington River. Crossing the river on Old Drake Hill Flower Bridge provides a charming end to the journey. The metal-truss bridge was built in 1892 and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. True to its name, it includes 62 flower boxes.

## Connections

The Farmington River Trail encompasses the [Stratton Brook State Park Trail](#).

Both endpoints of the Farmington River Trail connect to the [Farmington Canal Heritage Trail](#).



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**States:** Connecticut

**Counties:** Hartford

Length: 16.5miles

**Trail end points:** Drake Hill Rd. (Simsbury) to Farmington Canal Heritage Trail, Red Oak Hill Rd. (Farmington)

**Trail surfaces:** Asphalt, Concrete, Crushed Stone

**Trail category:** Rail-Trail

**Trail activities:** Bike, Inline Skating, Fishing, Walking

## Parking & Trail Access

The Farmington River Trail runs between Drake Hill Rd. (Simsbury) and Farmington Canal Heritage Trail, Red Oak Hill Rd. (Farmington).

Parking is available at:

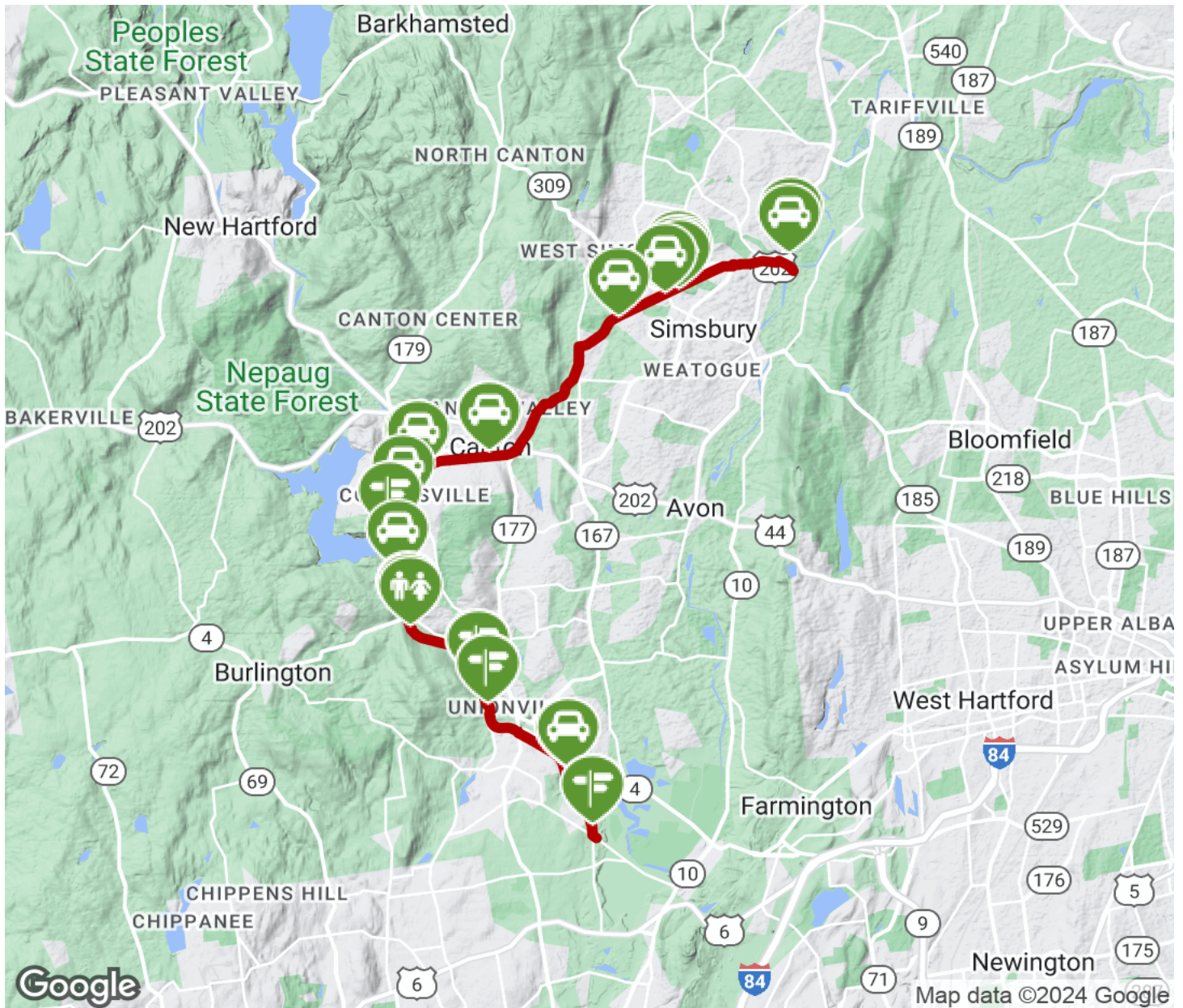
- 66 Town Forest Rd (West Simsbury)
- 50 Depot St (Canton)
- 350 Collinsville Rd (Unionville)

There are numerous parking options along this route. See [TrailLink Map](#) for all parking options and detailed directions.



# Farmington River Trail

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Trailhead



Restroom



Parking



Water Fountain



Tunnel



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

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