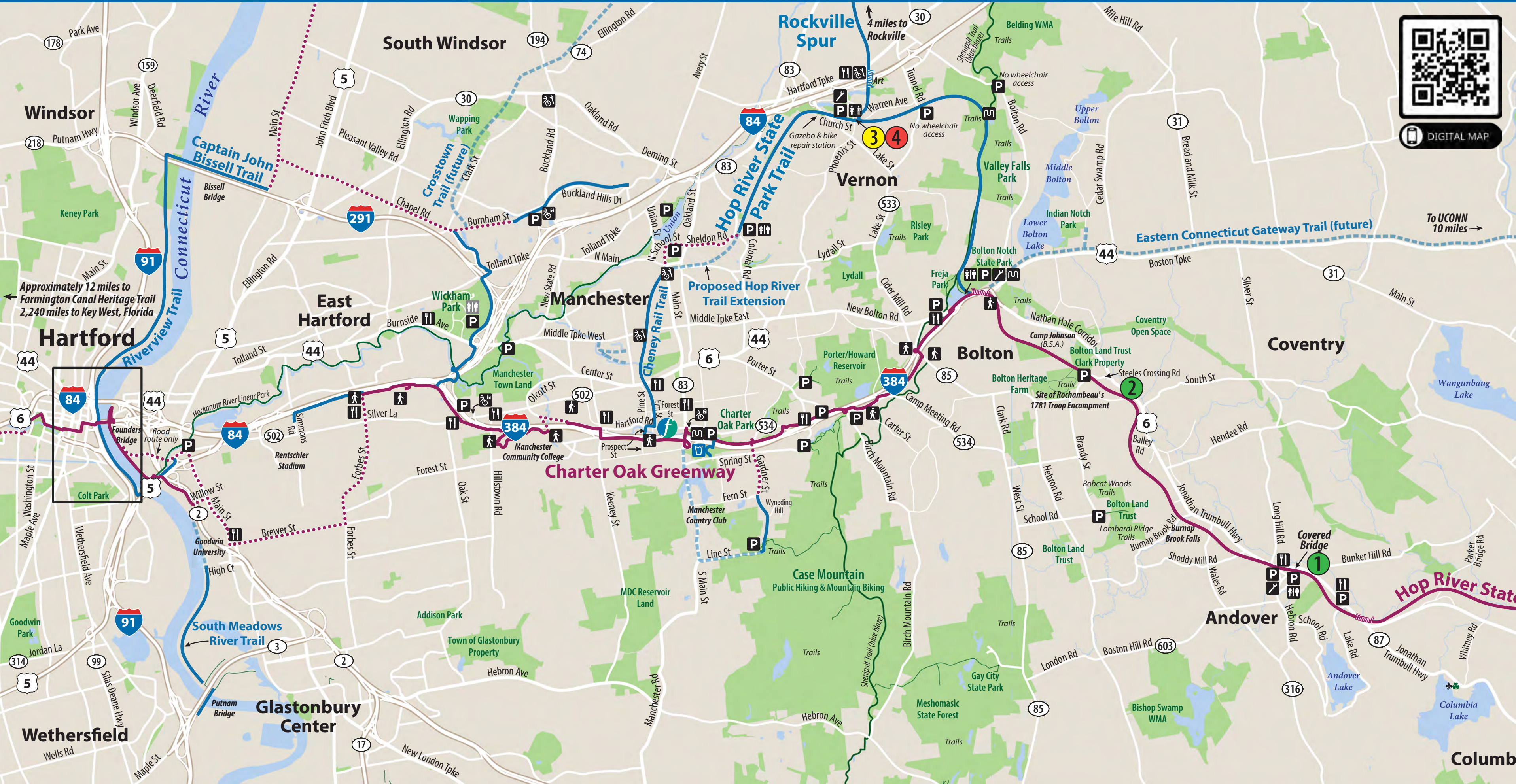


# Charter Oak Greenway & Hop River State Park Trail

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

# Legend & trip ideas

2023



### Trails

- East Coast Greenway
- Onroad
- Multi-use
- Future
- Hiking (major)
- Select paths

### Amenities

- Trail parking
- Pedestrian Access
- Water
- Food
- Bike shop
- Porto-o-pot
- Seasonal port-o-pot
- Bike rack
- Bike locker
- Repair stand

- 1 Easy Ride 4.4 Miles Total**  
Park behind the Andover Historical Society off Route 316 in Andover. 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 Steeles Crossing Rd in 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 Church St in 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 Church St in 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 Trail. 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 past 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.



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** 2023

## 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 licenseplate!**



[www.ct.gov/dmv](http://www.ct.gov/dmv), or call 860-263-5700



**Andover Bridge**

## 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.

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 Airline Trail in Windham and travels through the towns of Manchester, Vernon, Bolton, Coventry, Andover and Columbia.

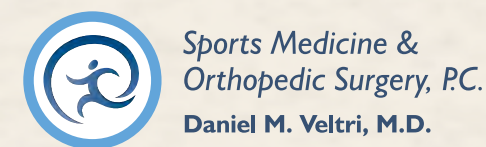
All but the 8-mile Manchester/Vernon section of the Hop River State Park Trail is part of the East Coast Greenway.

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 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.

**This map was made possible through the generosity of these organizations.**



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Route data provided by the ECGA Committee  
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## East Coast Greenway Canada to Key West



## A long distance urban trail [greenway.org](http://greenway.org) | [map.greenway.org](http://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 2023, nearly 35% of the route is trail, with 53% of the 199 miles in Connecticut complete.

## West of Bolton Notch

