

AirLine Cycles

66 Main St., (860) 365-5496 Visit our family friendly, local bike shop in the Belltown Village Center for new or

used bicycles, tune-ups and repairs.

Located on the trail (about 1/2 mile on

the right after Cranberry Bog toward

The Joseph N. Goff House **Museum and Cultural Center** 2 Barton Hill Rd.

This historically preserved building contains artifacts and memorabilia of Connecticut's 84th Governor and East Hampton native, William A. O'Neill, The Cultural Center sponsors musical and enrichment programs, a proud testament to our community's cultural, civic, and architectural heritage.



Lake Pocotopaug

Sears Park, 68 North Main St.

Nestled on the westerly shore of Lake

Pocotopaug is our beautiful Sears

Park. Featuring a public beach,

playscape, pavilion, picnic shelter.

gazebo, boat launch, tennis and

basketball courts open to East

Hampton residents. Please use

extreme caution while cycling on the

AIR LINE STATE PARK TRAIL **Belltown Village Center**



EAST HAMPTON

Comstock Covered Bridge East Hampton

The Bridge spans the Salmon River in southeastern East Hampton and is named after the town's first postmaster. Franklin G. Comstock. It is listed on the National Register of Historic Places as one of only three remaining historical covered bridges in the state. It serves as a well-preserved example of a Howe truss – a design patented in 1840 – and also provides the only remaining example in Connecticut of a wooden pony truss.



TRAIL TIPS

- Horses and riders have right of way.
- Bring water and a cell phone.
- Let someone know where you're going and when you might return.
- Clean up after your pets.
- Carry out what you carry in.
- If you see something, say something.

For additional copies of this map, please email ihall@easthamptonct.gov

AIR LINE STATE PARK TRAIL

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EAST HAMPTON

- Bike Shop/Repair 1. Air Line Cycles 2. Repair Station

Camping 1. Nelson's Family Camporounds

- 2 Markham Meadows
- **P** Parking Food/Snacks Pizzeria DaVinci

The Tavern on 66

Main Street Pizza

ECO Coffee

5

6

PO's Rice and Spice

Gulf Gasoline Station

Sellew Preserve

East Hampton, CT

LAND TRUS

1. Depot Hill 2. Aldens Crossing 3. Forest Street Town Hall Road 5. Main Street 🕉 🖺 6. Watrous Street 🕉 7. Smith Street

FOOD & SNACKS

2. The Tavern on 66 227 West High Street thetavernon66.com 860-267-6569



97 Main Street

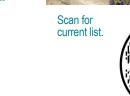
4. ECO Coffee House 82 Main Street eco-coffee-house.business.site

5. Main Street Pizza 87 Main Street A 860-267-0326

6. Gulf Gasoline **100 Main Street** 860-267-1990

3. Po's Rice and Spice posriceandspice.com 860-365-5955









loaded with displays of historic artifacts, photographs, bells, toys, costumes, tools and items of interest.





Hurd State Park

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AIR LINE STATE PARK TRAIL **EAST HAMPTON**

Meshomasic Forest

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Mileage	Date
Mileage	Date

strive to preserve our rural-suburban

south of the state capital of Hartford for its rich history, environmental assets, and small town charm. We Salmon River.

heritage, and building community are among our highest priorities.

We are home to one of Connecticut's campgrounds, Nelson's Family largest inland water bodies, Lake Campground and Markham Meadows.

East Hampton East Hampton is located 22 miles Pocotopaug, at 512 acres. State

parks and forests surround us on our

and is equidistant from Boston and northern, southern and western New York City. Our town is known borders, along with the famous Comstock Covered Bridge across the

character, our farmlands, watershed In East Hampton you will find a land, and historic structures by community that supports a rural/ taking a long-term view. Enriching suburban lifestyle that is family quality of life, respecting town oriented. It is supported by a quality school system, two public libraries, two history museums, local parks with recreational programming, and two







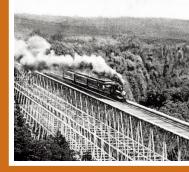


AIR LINE STATE PARK TRAIL HISTORY

In the 1960s, over fifty miles of the rail bed from East Hampton to the Massachusetts border were acquired by the Connecticut State Park System to construct a recreational linear park.

This trail has a colorful past. The "Air Line" was envisioned as a direct line between New York City and Boston. It opened in 1873 and 25 miles shorter, it offered fierce competition to the shoreline rail service from New York to Boston. The mesmerizing, white-painted express train, known as the Ghost Train, made the run between Boston and New York in six hours, a record time for 1884.

The construction of the new rail line contained ambitious feats of engineering, blasting through granite hills, navigating deep valleys and rivers along the route. The Air Line Railroad's "Ghost Train" began in 1891 and was designed to attract wealthy travelers. Luxurious Pullman cars were painted white with gold trim, and the staff of the train wore formal white uniforms.



The catastrophic Great East Thompson Train Wreck on December 4, 1891 clouded the introduction of this fast new rail service. It was one of the greatest train wrecks in American history, and the only train accident to involve four trains. Still, over the next four years, successful businessmen and prominent citizens, including President Benjamin Harrison, rode the increasingly well-known Ghost Train. As it sped across eastern Connecticut, its luminescent cars were easily recognized, especially at twilight.

In the new 20th century, technology increased, railroad engines became faster, rail cars became longer, everything became heavier and after World War II, access to automobiles and interstate highways reduce the profitability of rail travel. The quaintness of the Air Line's winding grades as well as the weight restrictions of the spindly trestle bridges began to show it limitations. During its construction, the Air Line Railroad was expensive and controversial, but its operational costs would lead to its ultimate demise and abandonment. Passenger service on the Air Line ceased by 1937, and the track was completely abandoned by 1965.

Today, visitors enjoy scenic panoramas, village life, wildlife, hiking trails, and the tranquility of the rural landscape. The United States Department of the Interior recognized the southern section of the Air Line State Park Trail as a national recreation trail in 2002.

For more maps in this series, email outreach@ctrcd.org or visit ctrcd.org.

