



CAPITOL REGION EAST COAST GREENWAY STUDY

SIMSBURY — BLOOMFIELD — HARTFORD — EAST HARTFORD

INTRODUCTION

The Capitol Region Council of Governments (CRCOG) has initiated a study to identify the preferred alignment of the East Coast Greenway through the last remaining 12-mile gap in the Capitol Region in Simsbury, Bloomfield, Hartford, and East Hartford.

The East Coast Greenway is an off-road walking and biking route stretching 3,000 miles from Maine to Florida. The entire route is approximately 35% complete with new sections completed every year.

In Connecticut, the East Coast Greenway consists of a 200-mile route between the Rhode Island state line at Sterling and the New York state line at Greenwich. The East Coast Greenway route includes multi-use walking and biking trails such as the Air Line Trail, the Hop River Trail, and the Farmington Canal Trail.

WHAT IS A GREENWAY?

A greenway is a walking and biking path through open space, separated from roads. At their heart, greenways are safe routes and public spaces for all to enjoy.



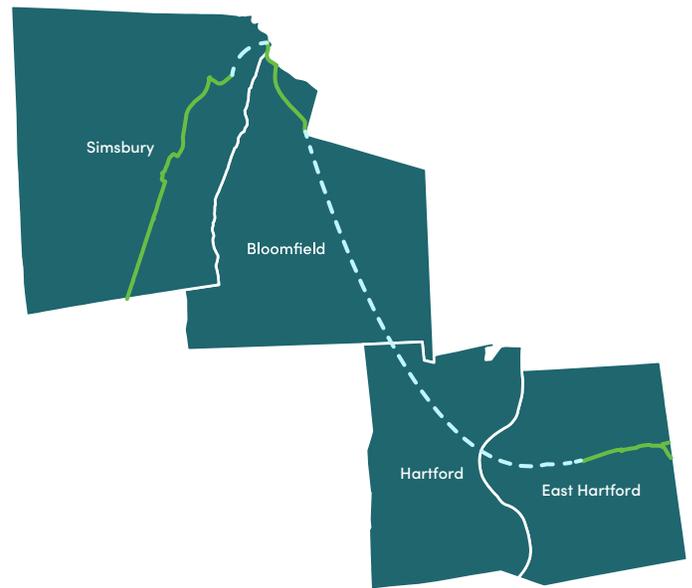
Recreation

Greenways provide protected routes for walking, running, and biking to support active lifestyles.



Environment

Greenways preserve open space which protects wildlife habitat and supports vegetation important for stormwater drainage and air quality.



Existing Trail

Gap in Trail



Connectivity

Greenways create links between communities and offer alternative transportation modes. They may increase access to downtown areas, parks, and other destinations.



Community

Greenways may be destinations themselves. Amenities along trails may include rest areas, bike racks, or playgrounds depending on the community's desired uses.

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ABOUT THE STUDY

This study consists of two distinct gaps in the East Coast Greenway route in the region. The first gap runs between the Bloomfield Greenway on Tunxis Avenue in Bloomfield and the Charter Oak Greenway on Simmons Road in East Harford.

The second gap is focused on connecting the Farmington Canal Trail to the Tariffville section of Simsbury and to the Tariffville Connector trail currently in construction along Route 189.

The Capitol Region East Coast Greenway Study will result in a final preferred alignment and will include conceptual design. This will allow for the route to seamlessly progress into design and construction following the conclusion of this study.

At a Glance

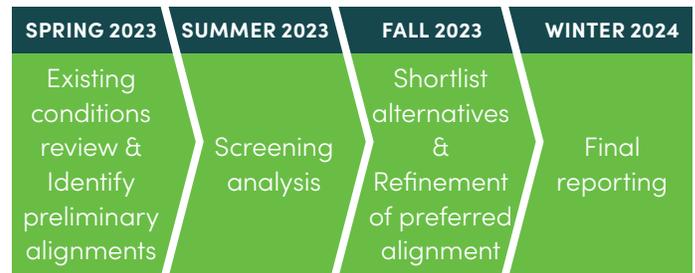
Greenways and trails throughout Connecticut are already well utilized. Completing the remaining gaps in the region will improve the experience for current and future users. According to the Connecticut Trail Census:

- Completed sections of the East Coast Greenway in the region see up to **70,000 users per year**.
- Users in Connecticut were reported to spend an average of **80 minutes of activity** on a trail per visit.

Public Involvement

The Study will be completed in four phases throughout 2023 and early 2024. There will be various opportunities for public involvement during each phase.

An Advisory Committee has also been established for purposes of this project, consisting of city/town staff and organizations directly involved in the decision making, funding, and construction process, including town engineers and planners, East Coast Greenway Alliance, CTDOT, DEEP, National Park Service, and others.



UPCOMING EVENTS

CRCOG is interested in your thoughts! Please consider participating in public events during this Study.

- Town Focused Workshops**
April 2023
- Pop-ups**
Summer 2023

Please visit the Study website for more information.

STAY INVOLVED

① Visit the Study website:

www.crcog.org/capitol-region-ecg-study



- ② Contact the Study Team:
psorenson@fhstudio.com
- ③ Submit comments via the Study website's interactive mapping tool:

