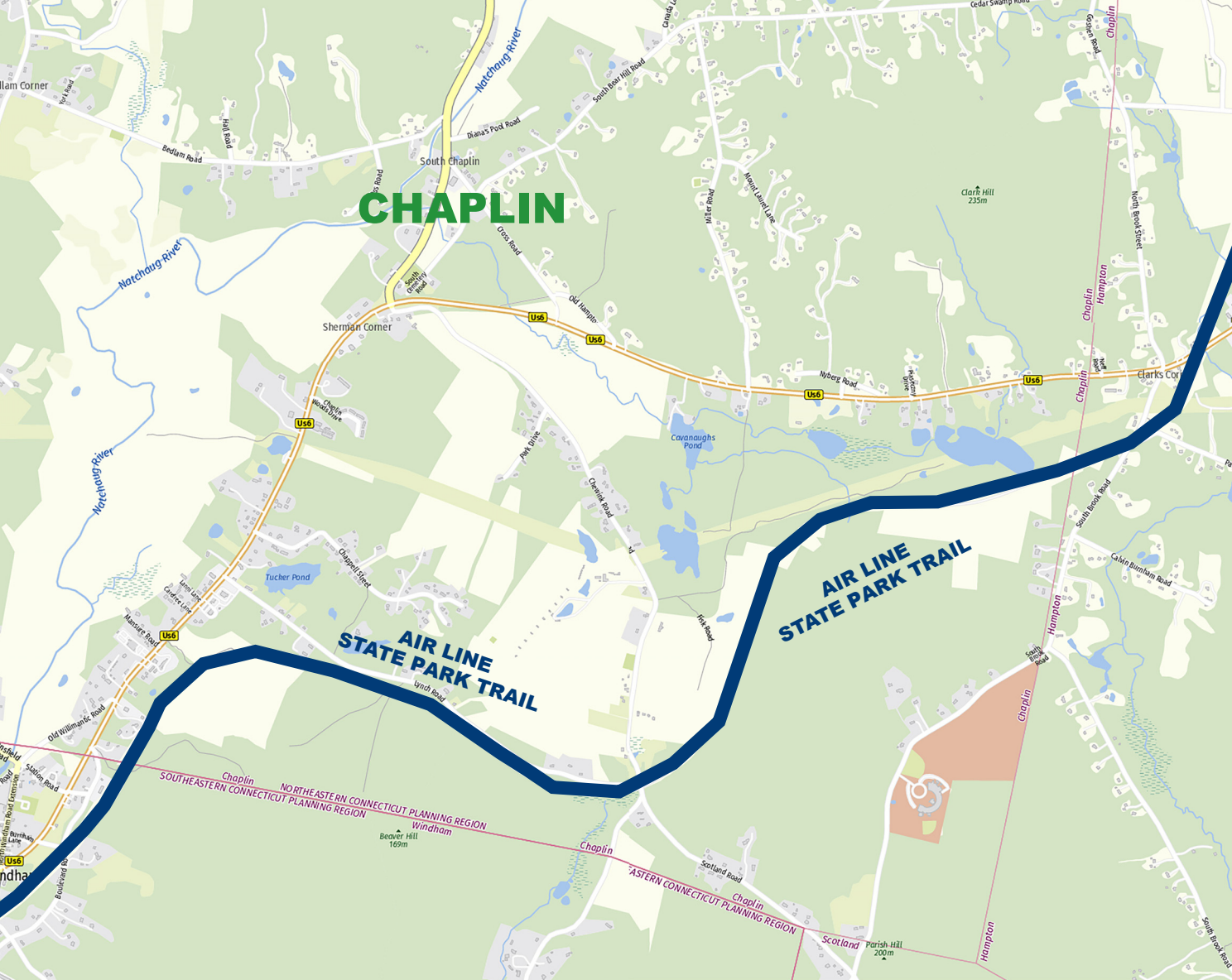




AIR LINE STATE PARK TRAIL CHAPLIN	
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Chaplin

Nestled in the heart of Connecticut's Quiet Corner, the town of Chaplin offers a rare glimpse into early 19th-century life, uniquely established without prior settlement and preserved with minimal modern development. This charming town stands as a living record of 1820s and 1830s architecture and community planning, surrounded by the pristine beauty of the Natchaug River and a network of lakes, ponds, and historic dams.

Outdoor enthusiasts will find endless opportunities for adventure in Natchaug State Forest and James L.

DINING

Blondie's Country Diner
250 Willimantic Rd

A welcoming local eatery where visitors can enjoy a warm, small-town atmosphere and classic American comfort food. Known for its friendly service and cozy charm, it's a favorite stop for both locals and travelers exploring the Scenic Northeast.

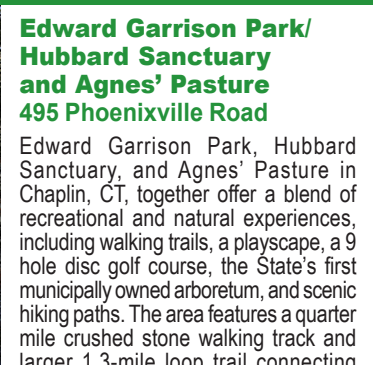


PARKS & RECREATION



Diana's Pool
20 Diana's Pool Rd.

Diana's Pool in Chaplin, Connecticut, is a hidden gem nestled along the Natchaug River, offering a serene escape into nature. This state-designated water access site features crystal-clear waters, short scenic trails, and remnants of historic mill ruins that whisper stories of the past. Surrounded by lush hemlocks and maples, the area is perfect for peaceful walks, trout fishing, and soaking in the natural beauty. Though swimming is no longer permitted, the cascading waterfalls and tranquil atmosphere make it a must-visit for nature lovers and history buffs alike.



Edward Garrison Park/ Hubbard Sanctuary and Agnes' Pasture
495 Phoenixville Road

Edward Garrison Park, Hubbard Sanctuary, and Agnes' Pasture in Chaplin, CT, together offer a blend of recreational and natural experiences, including walking trails, a playscape, a 9 hole disc golf course, the State's first municipally owned arboretum, and scenic hiking paths. The area features a quarter mile crushed stone walking track and larger 1.3-mile loop trail connecting forested land, hayfields, and Darling Pond, ideal for walking, birdwatching, and nature exploration. These spaces support both community recreation and wildlife conservation, making them valuable assets for residents and visitors alike.



Natchaug State Forest

Nestled in the heart of Chaplin, Connecticut, Natchaug State Forest offers a serene escape into nature with lush woodlands and scenic trails. Visitors can enjoy hiking along the Blue Natchaug Trail, fishing in the tranquil Natchaug River, or simply relaxing at one of the forest's peaceful picnic spots. The forest's rich history and natural beauty make it a perfect destination for outdoor enthusiasts and families alike. Whether you're seeking adventure or tranquility, Natchaug State Forest is a must-visit gem in Chaplin. Ample parking is available near 243 Chaplin Road in Eastford, providing convenient access to the forest's main trailheads and picnic areas leading into Chaplin.

AIR LINE STATE PARK TRAIL



James L. Goodwin State Forest

James L. Goodwin State Forest spans over 2,000 acres and offers one of the most immersive nature experiences in the Quiet Corner. Visitors can explore more than 14 miles of scenic trails, and paddle or fish on Black Spruce Pond or Pine Acres Pond. The forest also features native plant gardens, wildlife observation areas, and access to the historic Air Line Trail, making it a favorite for hikers, birdwatchers, and families alike. Parking is available just over the Chaplin town line at 23 Potter Road in Hampton, providing easy access to trailheads, the lake, and visitor facilities.



CHAPLIN CAMPING

Nickerson Park Family Campground
1036 Phoenixville Rd. (Rte 198)

Nestled deep in the Natchaug River Valley, Nickerson Park Family Campground offers an escape from the bustle and noise of every-day life. With over 12,000 acres of State Forest, Nickerson Park offers a wide range of campsites; from riverside sites with water, electrical and cable connections, to full-hookup pull-through sites that include 50 amp electrical service and on-site sewer.



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
- The trail is open year-round for biking, running, hiking, horseback riding, and even cross country skiing

For additional copies of this map, please email
Jordan.Lumpkins@neccog.org

Pizza Mike's Pizzeria
187 Willimantic Rd

Local favorite known for its creative and satisfying take on classic pizza. The menu features a variety of specialty pies like Buffalo Chicken, Philly Cheesesteak, and the crowd-pleasing Twice-Baked Potato Pizza—each crafted with bold flavors and generous toppings. Whether you're dining in or grabbing takeout, Pizza Mike's delivers a delicious, no-fuss experience perfect for families and road-trippers alike.



Bach Dor Café
9 Willimantic Rd

Bach Dor Café, located on Route 6 in Chaplin, CT, is a lively local hangout known for its welcoming atmosphere, live music, and strong community spirit. A favorite among motorcyclists and locals alike, the café offers indoor and outdoor seating, weekend entertainment, and a laid-back vibe perfect for relaxing with friends. Whether you're stopping by for a casual drink or enjoying one of their popular outdoor events, Bach Dor Café delivers a fun and memorable experience.



Baker's Dozen of Chaplin
64-66 Willimantic Rd

Baker's Dozen, now proudly serving Chaplin, CT, is a beloved local coffee shop and bakery that's been fueling the Quiet Corner since 1980. Known for its fresh-baked donuts, muffins, and breakfast sandwiches, this family-owned gem offers a variety of hot and iced coffee drinks, seasonal specialties, and refreshing fusions. Baker's Dozen invites you to "Drink Like a Local" and experience the flavors that keep the community coming back.

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 its 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 alspt.alliance@gmail.com or visit airlinestateparktrailalliance.org.



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AIR LINE STATE PARK TRAIL ALLIANCE



PARKING

Many parking areas serve the Air Line State Park Trail. Some primary locations are:

THOMPSON

- Large parking lot at 121 Riverside Dr, (Rt 12, Mechanicsville)
- Pull off for a few cars at Air Line trail crossing, 388 Sand Dam Rd
- 5 car parking lot, located at 662 East Thompson Rd, near the junction of New Rd

PUTNAM

- 18 Kennedy Dr, across from Canal
- 80 Kennedy Dr, directly across from the South entrance of Simonzi Park
- 98 Kennedy Dr
- 165 Kenedy Dr (DMV lot)

POMFRET

- 18 car paved parking lot at Pomfret Station, 13 Railroad Ave (off of Rt 169)
- Pomfret Town Hall, 5 Haven Road (Rt 44) paved parking adjacent to trail
- Parking available in rear of Town owned paved parking lot at Pomfret Community Center, 207 Mashamoquet Rd (Rt. 44)
- Wrights Crossing Road

HAMPTON

- Potter Rd 0.6 mile north of its intersection with Rt 6 in Goodwin State Forest

WINDHAM

- Intersection of Beaver Hill Rd and Windham Rd (Rt 203) in North Windham, at the CT Eastern Railroad Museum and in downtown Willimantic.

COLUMBIA

- Rt 87, Cook Hill Rd and Village Hill Rd

HEBRON

- Church Street, Rte 85; Grayville Road (limited); and Old Hartford Road.

EAST HAMPTON

- Depot Hill, Cobalt; Aldens Crossing (at Rt 16); Forest St (Between Hayes Rd and Childs Rd); Town Hall Rd (Off Main St.); Main Street; Watrous Street; Smith Street (at Cranberry Bog)

PORTLAND

- Parking at 82 Middle Haddam Rd

- Air Line State Park Trail
- Trail Entry/Parking
- Colchester Spur
- Hop River State Park Trail