

WEST VIRGINIA



Panhandle Trail | Photo by TrailLink user ejbeckl

The Great American Rail-Trail travels through the Northern Panhandle of West Virginia through the town of Weirton along the Ohio River. One gap remains in West Virginia, connecting Weirton to the Ohio state line. The West Virginia section is located along the Cleveland to Pittsburgh corridor of the proposed 1,500-mile Industrial Heartland Trails Coalition (IHTC) network.

TABLE 8: GREAT AMERICAN RAIL-TRAIL MILEAGE IN WEST VIRGINIA

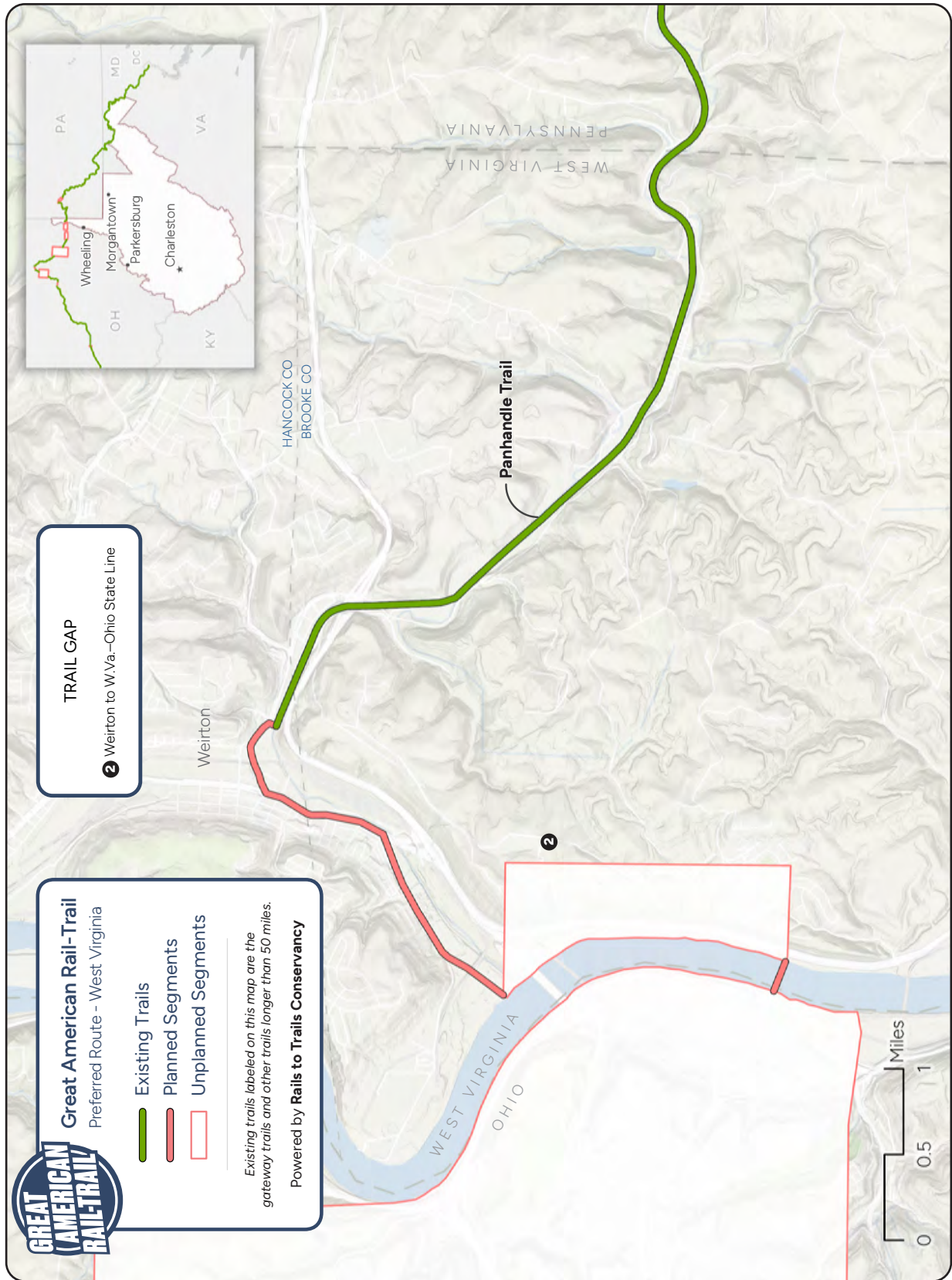
Total Great American Rail-Trail Existing Trail Miles in W.Va. (% of Total State Mileage)	4.6 (52.9%)
Total Great American Rail-Trail Gap Miles in W.Va. (% of Total State Mileage)	4.1 (47.1%)
Total Trail Gaps in W.Va.	1
Total Great American Rail-Trail Miles in W.Va.	8.7

TABLE 9: GREAT AMERICAN RAIL-TRAIL ROUTE THROUGH WEST VIRGINIA

Existing Trail or Trail Gap Name	Length in W.Va. Along Great American Rail-Trail (in Miles)
Panhandle Trail	4.6
TRAIL GAP 2 – Weirton to W.Va.–Ohio State Line	4.1
Total Miles	8.7
Existing Trail Miles	4.6
Trail Gap Miles	4.1

GREAT AMERICAN RAIL-TRAIL ROUTE ASSESSMENT 2026

MAP 4: WEST VIRGINIA





Panhandle Trail | Photo by TrailLink user stache21

PANHANDLE TRAIL

Total Length / Total Length Along Great American Rail-Trail in W.Va. (in Miles)	28.3 / 4.6
Surface Type	Asphalt, crushed stone
Trail Managers	Collier Friends of the Panhandle Trail, Montour Trail Council, Washington County Parks & Recreation Department
Website	panhandletrail.org
TrailLink Map	traillink.com/trail/panhandle-trail

Most of the Panhandle Trail is in Pennsylvania and is addressed in that chapter.

TRAIL GAP 2 – WEIRTON TO WEST VIRGINIA–OHIO STATE LINE

Planning Status	Partially planned
Funding Status	Partially funded
Construction Status/ Expected Completion Date	TBD

The city of Weirton has plans to extend the Panhandle Trail about 0.75 mile into Weirton from its current terminus and awaits notice of Transportation Alternatives funding to complete the new paving, construct a bicycle and pedestrian bridge crossing Harmon Creek near Overbrook Towers and build a new trailhead in Hancock County. From this trail extension, two trail options are proposed that could form a loop in Weirton and then head south parallel to the Ohio River.

Just south of Weirton, the Great American Rail-Trail could travel across the Ohio River to Steubenville, Ohio, via the Market Street Bridge. The bridge, which is an aging, open-decked bridge, was abruptly closed to all traffic in late 2023 after it was deemed unsafe. Funding was awarded in 2024 via the U.S. Department of Transportation Bridge Investment Program to rebuild the Market Street Bridge, including appropriate bicycle and pedestrian facilities, and will help facilitate the trail crossing of the Ohio River.

Because the potential trail along the Ohio River would be well below the surface of the Market Street Bridge, a structure would need to be built to bring trail users down from the bridge to the riverbank while also clearing the active Norfolk Southern rail line that runs along the Ohio River.