There are two types of trails: (1) a riverside hiking trail and (2) a wide, flat walking trail. The trails can be accessed from several parking sites and are intersected by several alternate trails at various points.

The riverside hiking trail is 2.3 miles long and blazed with orange markers. It begins at the Water Treatment Plant on Windsorville Road (Rt. 74) and runs south 1.4 miles to Dart Hill Road. A 0.3 mile walk west along Dart Hill Road connects to a continuation of the trail south of Dart Hill Road. In 0.6 miles it joins the walking trail.

The walking trail, a.k.a. the Stone Dust Trail, is 1.2 miles long. It begins at the Dart Hill South parking lot and is ideal for easy walking in a natural environment while perpetuating a feeling of safety. This trail features three historic markers with seating to view the river landscape.

Vernon is part of a larger plan to create a continuous river walk along the Hockanum River in Ellington, Vernon, Manchester and East Hartford. See the Hockanum River Watershed Association web page for specifics at www.hockanumriverwa.org.
Vernon
Hockanum River Trail
(North of Dart Hill Road)
Type: Hiking
Orange Markers: 1.4 Miles
Note: One section impassible in wet weather. Divert to Alternate Trail at 0.3 Miles.

Miles Description
0.0 From Windsorville Rd. (Rt. 74), enter Water Treatment Plant driveway. Park in lot by Kiosk. Follow Orange Blazes down to the Canoe/Kayak Launch on the river. Cross over bridge and go to open field.
0.1 Pass through the open field (Public Works large parcel open area) and go down stairs on the right.
0.3 Enter Vernon Gardens property. Stay on the right around the swimming pool.
0.5 Cross narrow water stream on wooden bridge and enter Woodmere property.
0.7 Pass behind the Woodmere units.
0.8 Enter Country Wood property. Pass the tennis courts and swimming pool.
1.0 On south end of Country Wood two side trails on the left lead to a 0.4 mile alternate trail loop (loop also accessible from a dirt parking lot by Paul’s Pizza).
1.2 Enter the north end of Dart Hill North Park on a hill top. Alternate trail to the left goes directly to the Dart Hill North parking lot.
1.4 Arrive at the picnic area by Dart Hill Road. Access the parking area to your left.

Complete the remainder of the Vernon Hockanum River Trail System by using Vernon Hockanum River Trail (South of Dart Hill Road) map.

There is an orange marker connector trail to Ellington in place that starts at the Water Treatment Plant, goes to Franklin Street and turns L into a wooded parking lot.