Bicycle Safety

Ride as if bicycles are vehicles.
Be predictable and act like a vehicle!
Your bicycle is a vehicle. Bicyclists on public roadways have the same rights and responsibilities as automobile drivers, and are subject to the same state laws and local ordinances. For everyone's safety, observe these bicycling rules and safety tips.

Always wear a helmet
Always have your helmet fitted properly! Helmets should be worn over the forehead, above the eyebrows, and should fit snugly so that they do not move around while riding. Most bicycle shops will help you fit your helmet correctly.

Roadway Safety

Ride with traffic
Motorists are not looking for bicyclists riding on the wrong side of the road. State law requires that bicyclists ride with the flow of traffic.

Make left turns safely
There are two ways: (1) Like a car: signal, move into the left turn lane, and turn, (2) Like a pedestrian: ride in a straight line to the far side crosswalk, and walk your bike across the road.

Watch for cars pulling out
Always assume that motorists do not see you. Make eye contact with the driver to assess your safety before proceeding in front of a vehicle. Cyclists should keep a sharp eye out for cars pulling into traffic from a parking space, entering the street from driveways, and from doors opening on parked cars. Weaving between parked cars will increase this danger.

Go slow on sidewalks
Pedestrians have the right-of-way on walkways. Give them an audible warning when you are going to pass. Bells or some other mechanical noisemaker are required by law.

Watch for hazards
Watch out for sewer grates, slippery manhole covers, oily pavement, snow and ice. Cross railroad tracks at right angles. For better control, stand up on your bike pedals when crossing bumpy areas.

Use lights at night
State law requires it. A front light visible for 500 feet and a red reflector visible for 600 feet are required.

Do not pass on the right
Keep right except to pass. When passing, look to be sure no one is coming, give an audible signal to the person you are passing, and pass on the left.

Ride in a straight line
Do not weave across the road. Ride at least a car door's width away from parked cars. You will be more visible to cars turning right and out of the way of car doors opening suddenly.

Be seen
Wear light, bright and/or reflective clothing at all times because they aid in visibility. Dress in layers and bring gear for unforeseen bad weather. In many situations, a flag is also useful to increase visibility.

Use hand signals
Hand signals tell pedestrians and motorists what you intend to do. It is state law that you use hand signals.

Illustrations courtesy of the City of Portland (OR) Office of Transportation.

Bike Clubs and Organizations

LOCAL INFORMATION

Kalamazoo
Kalamazoo Bicycle Club
www.kalamazoobicycleclub.org

Battle Creek
Battle Creek Bicycle Club
http://bcbikeclub.home.comcast.net/

Holland
Macatawa Cycling Club
www.macatawacyclingclub.org Phone: (269) 751-5779

Berrien County
Three Oaks Spokes Bicycle Club
www.applecidercentury.com Phone: (269) 756-3361

STATE INFORMATION

League of Michigan Bicyclists
www.lmb.org (517) 334-9100

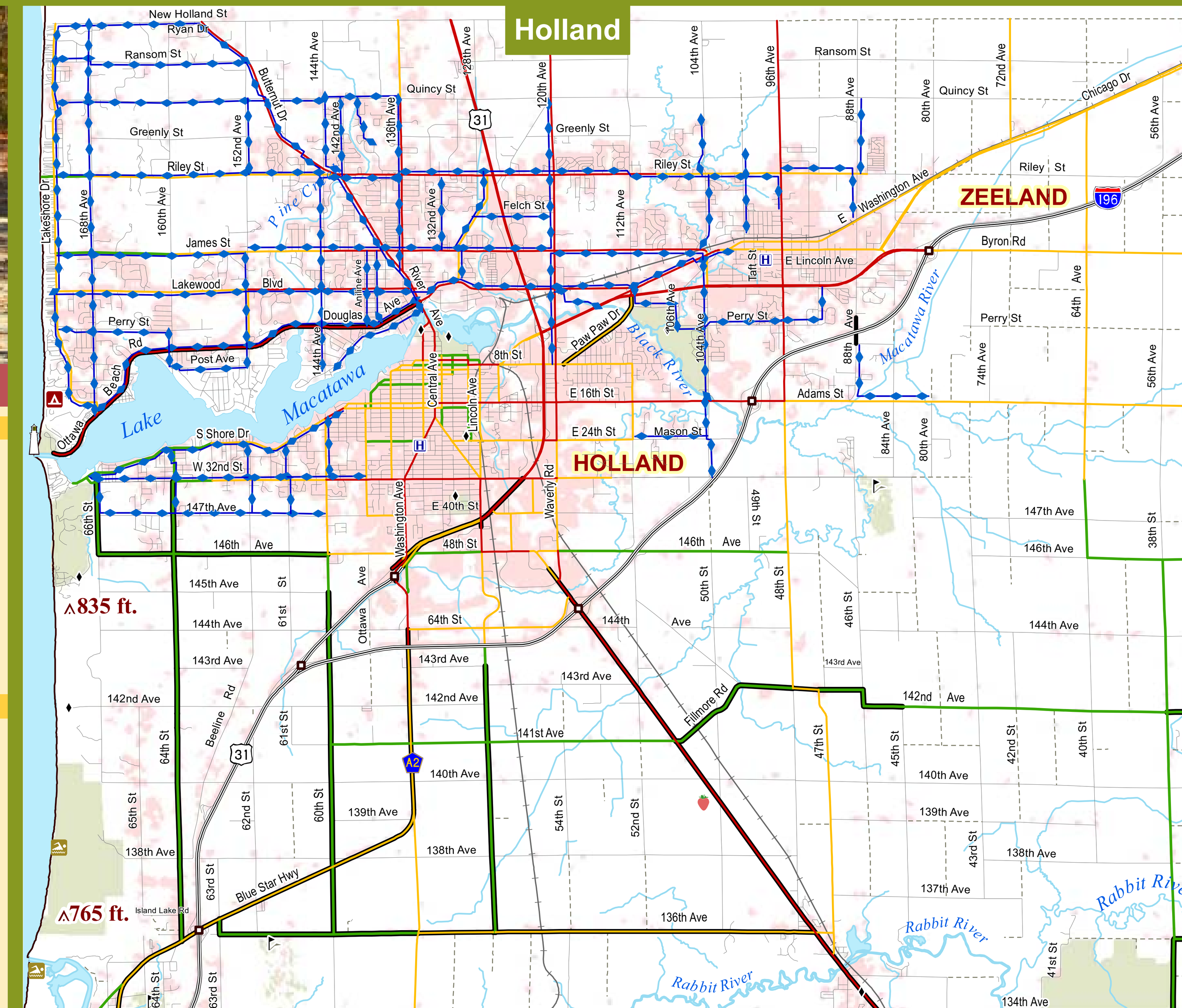
Michigan Mountain Biking Association
www.mmba.org (248) 288-3753

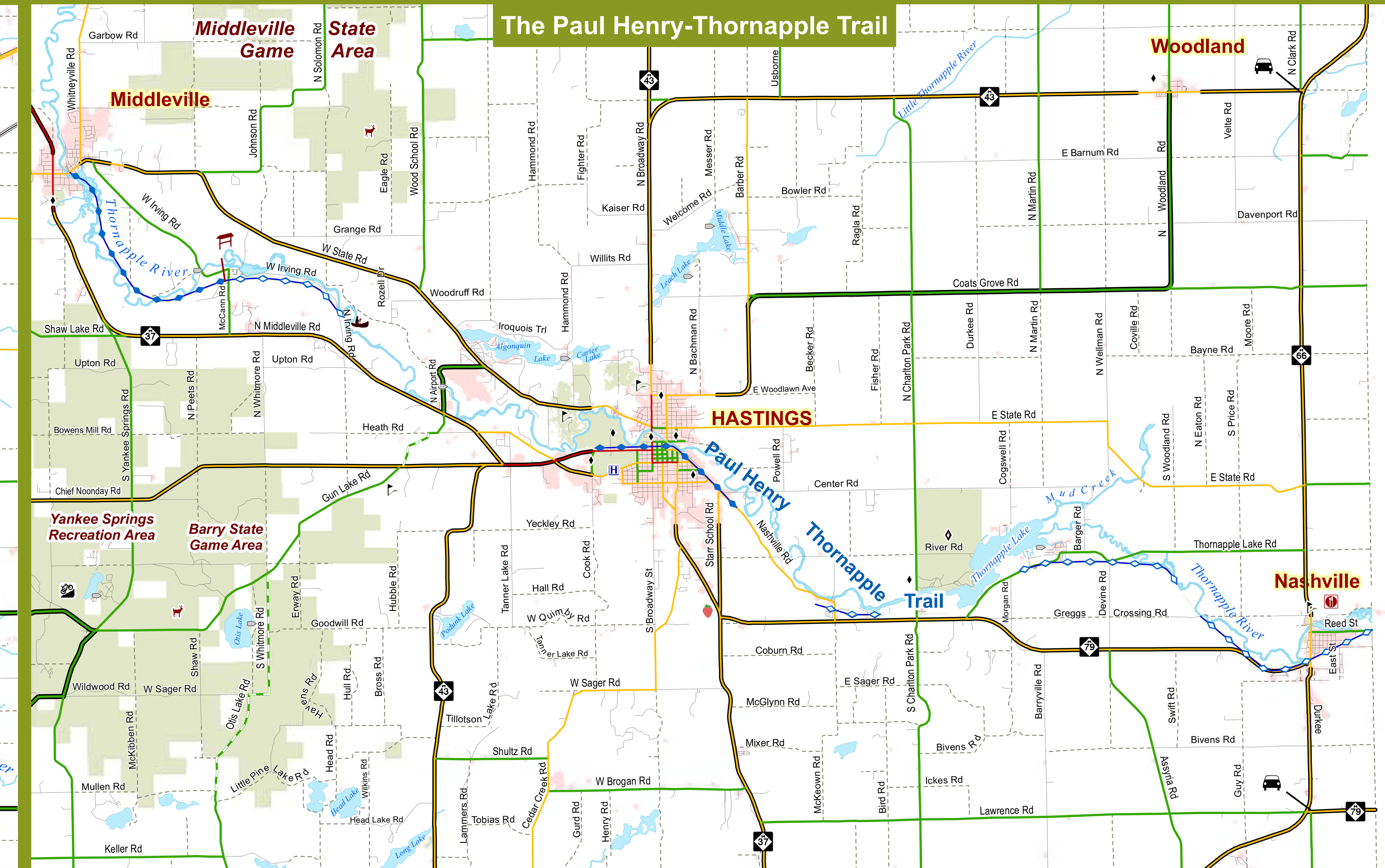
Michigan Trails and Greenways Alliance
www.michigantrails.org (517) 485-6022

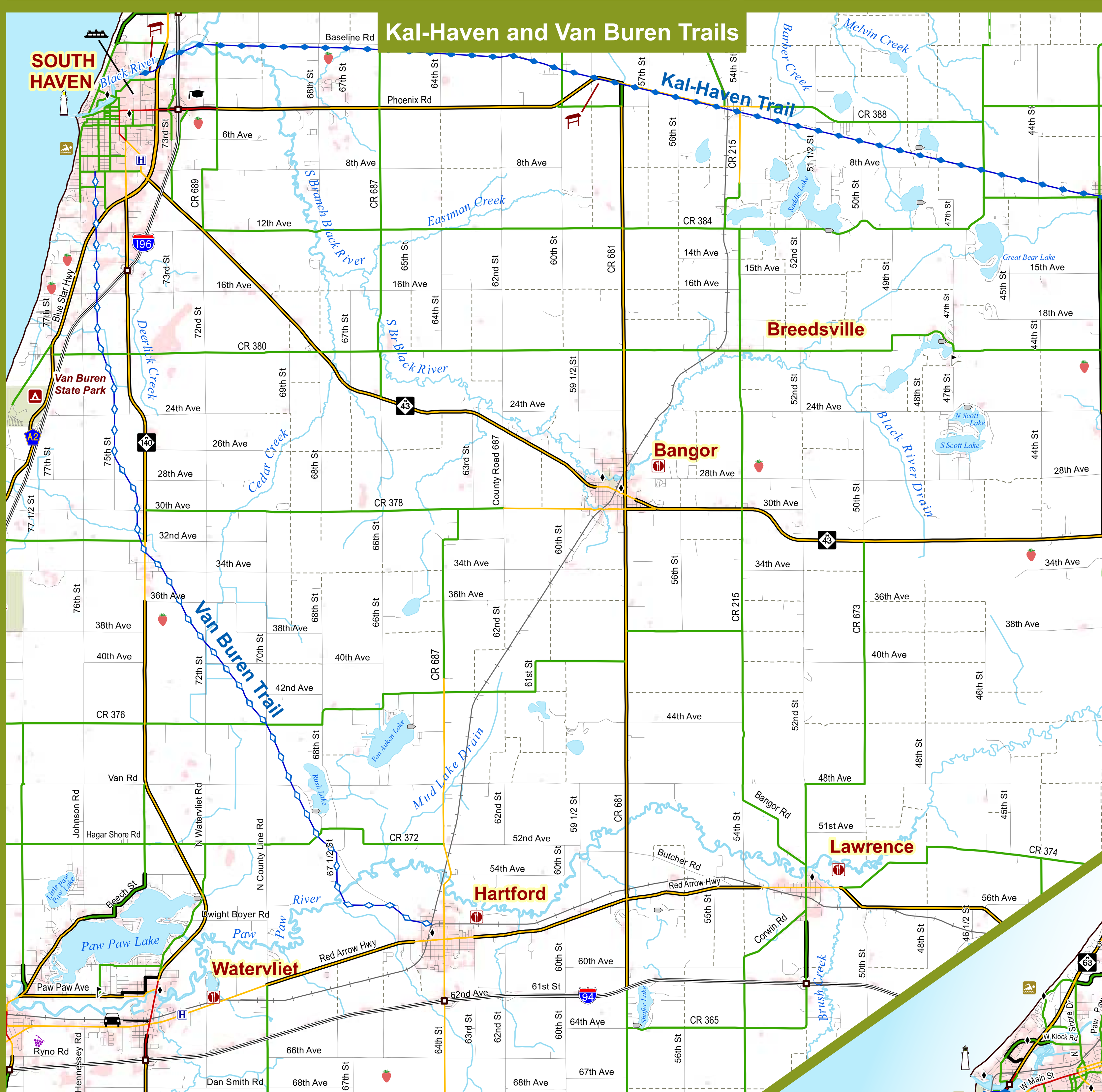
Michigan United Tandem Society
www.lmb.org/muts (616) 560-0052

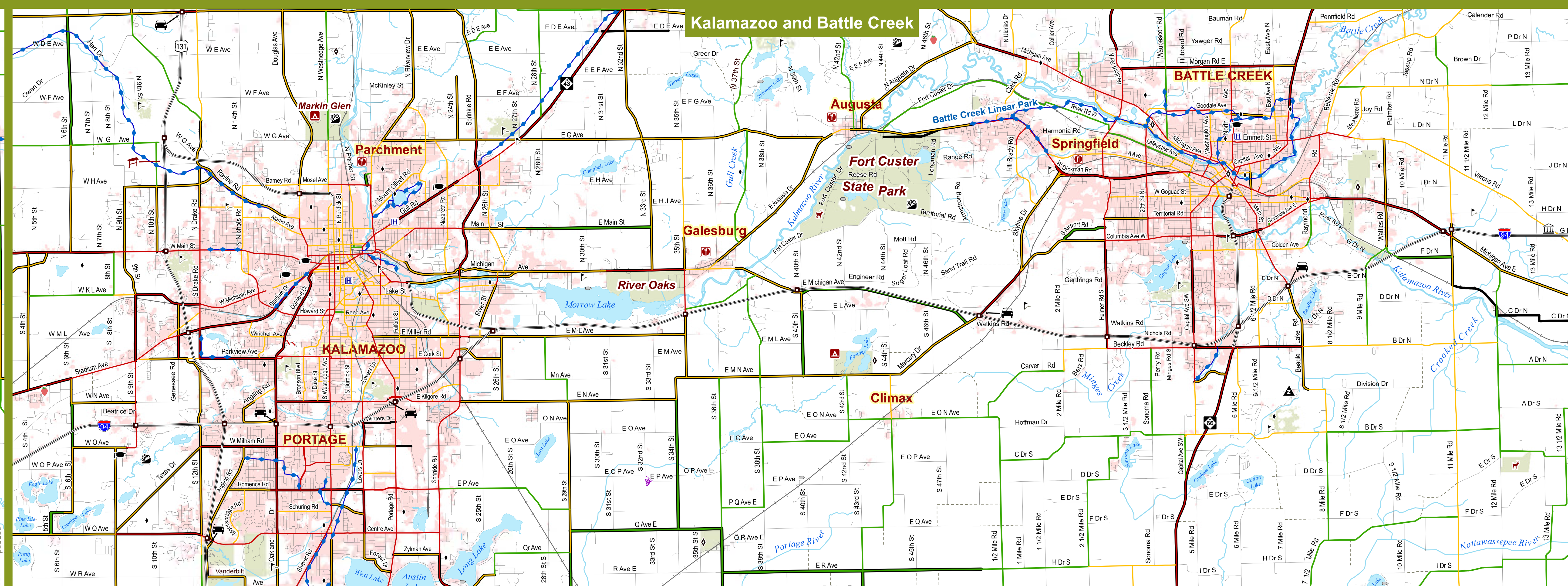
Michigan Human Powered Vehicle Association
http://www.lmb.org/mhpva/

Trail Atlas of Michigan, 3rd Edition
http://www.michiweb.com/trailatlas/ (517) 349-4683



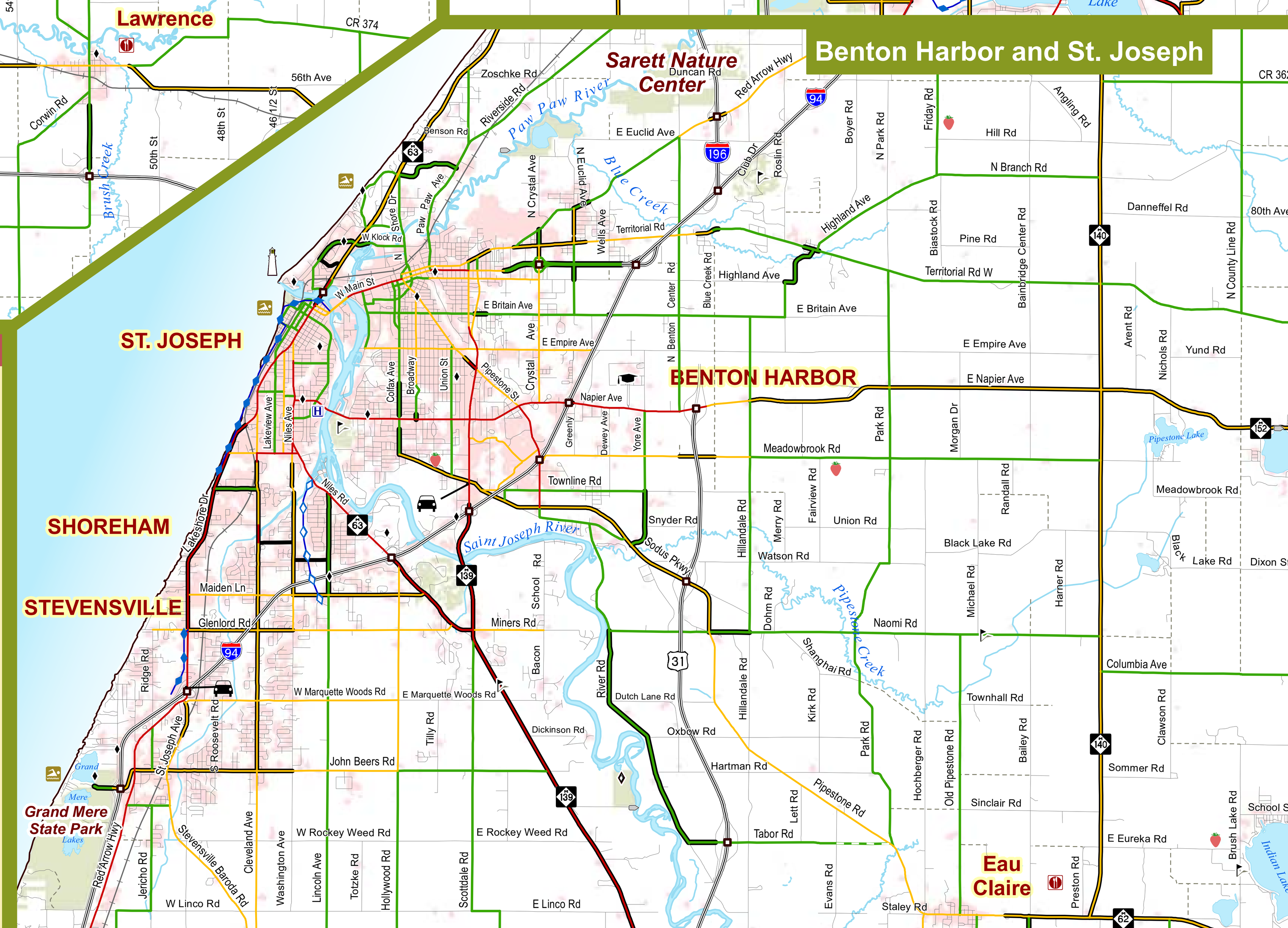






Southwest Michigan Trails

Linear Trails	Description	Mountain Biking Trails	Description
Kal-Haven Trail (269) 674-8011 In Kalamazoo – From US 31, M-43 W. to 10th St. then N. 2 miles. In South Haven – Off Blue Star Hwy turn onto Wells St and R. on Bailey St.	A **34-mile** crushed limestone/slag path connecting South Haven and Kalamazoo. The trail meanders through wooded areas, past farmlands and over rivers and streams. The trail is usable for all non-motorized bicycles, hiking and equestrian. www.vbco.org	**Yankee Springs Rec. Area** (269) 795-9081 2104 S. Briggs Road Middleville	**13 miles** of mountain biking trails, includes four-mile loop of the Deep Lake Trail, leads through some of the most rugged hills in the area.
Van Buren Trail (269) 674-8011 From I-94, Hartford Exit - go N. 2 blocks past first stop light then left on Prospect St. for 2 blocks	A **14-mile** dirt/gravel multi-use trail that runs between Hartford and South Haven. Birders and hikers will find this a pleasant place. www.vbco.org	**Dr. T.K. Lawless Park** (269) 445-8611 15122 Monkey Run Street Cassopolis	**12 miles** of tight mountain biking trails for all difficulties. M-60 to Lewis Lake Rd. S. on Lewis Lake 1 mi. to Monkey Run Rd. Turn East onto Monkey Run Rd. Park on left.
Battle Creek Linear Trail (269) 966-3431 Access to the trail is across the bridge near Friendship Park in downtown Battle Creek.	Over **17 miles** of paved pathway winds through wooded areas, open fields, parks, and even some commercial areas. Historical, cultural and point of interest signs are also found along the way. www.bcparks.org/jsps/linear_park.jsp.	**Ft. Custer State Park** (269) 731-4200 5163 Fort Custer Drive Augusta	**25+ miles** of mountain biking trails. Accessible from Eagle Lake & Whitford Lake parking areas, trailhead and through the campground.
The Paul Henry-Thornapple Trail West end is located near Gr. Rapids/Kentwood border. Trail's east end is in Vermontville	The Paul Henry - Thornapple Trail, when complete, will be a **42-mile** multi-use trail, from Gr Rapids to Vermontville. Trail passes through farmlands, woodlands, small towns & along rivers and creeks. www.thornappletrail.com	**Madeline Bertrand Park** (269) 683-8280 **Love Creek Park** (269) 471-2617 www.berriencounty.org/parks	**MB: 2.2 miles** of trail hard packed natural surface along the St. Joseph River. **LC: 4.25 miles** beginning to intermediate level mountain bike trail.
Holland Zeeland Bike Path Network (800) 506-1299	**114 miles** local bike path network. Multi-use trails separated from the main roads. Lakeshore Connector Path runs along Lakeshore Dr. between Holland & Grand Haven. www.hollandchamber.org/visitor/bike_trails.htm	**Markin Glen Park** (269) 381-7570 5333 North Westnedge Kalamazoo	Only the **downhill course** is open to biking. This downhill course maximizes the little amount of elevation change available.
Three Oaks Spokes Bicycle Club (269) 756-3361	Offers maps of 12 recommended back road bike routes in southern Berrien County. www.applecidercentury.com	**Al Sabo Land Preserve** Texas Drive Kalamazoo (269) 375-1591	**7 miles** of mountain bike trails through this land preserve. Located near Kalamazoo Valley Community College.
Portage Bicentennial Linear Park (269) 329-4522	A network of biking trails with parking at Milham Road (just east of Westnedge), Garden Lane (at Celery Flats), or Portage Library.	**Kellogg Forest, MSU** On 42nd Street 0.5 miles south of M-89 near Augusta	This area has several two-track roads great for beginner riders.



State and Area Parks

Park	Beach House	Biking	Park Store	X-Country Skiing	Hiking	Trail Biking	Picnic Area	Camping	Playground	Swimming
Allegan State Game Area 4590 118th Street, Allegan				✓	✓			✓		
Coldwater Lake State Park Old 27 take Copeland Rd. E. @ Kinderhook (2 ½ mi. E.) (517) 780-7866				✓	✓					
Fort Custer State Park 5163 Fort Custer Dr., Augusta. (269) 731-4200	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
Grand Mere State Park I-94 exit 22, John Beers Rd. S. to Thornton Dr. (269) 426-4013				✓	✓		✓			✓
Holland State Park 2215 Ottawa Beach Rd, Holland. (616) 399-9390	✓		✓				✓	✓	✓	✓
Dr. T.K. Lawless Park From Cassopolis E. 7.4 mi. on M-80, S. 1.1 mi on Lewis Lake Rd. E. on Monkey Run Rd.		✓		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	
Saugatuck Dunes State Park I-196 exit 41 W. ¼ mi. to 64th St., W. on 138 Ave. to park ent. (269) 637-2788				✓	✓		✓			✓
Van Buren State Park 23960 Ruggles Rd. S. Haven (269) 637-2788					✓		✓	✓	✓	✓
Warren Dunes State Park 12032 Red Arrow Hwy. Sawyer (269) 426-4013	✓		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓
Warren Woods State Park Red Arrow Hwy. S. to Three Oaks Rd. S. 5 mi. to Elm Valley Rd. W. ½ mi. (269) 426-4013				✓	✓		✓			
Yankee Springs Recreation Area 2104 S. Briggs Rd., Middleville (269) 795-9081			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

Area Bike Shops

Battle Creek
E-Bike World
23047 M78
(269) 441-2453

Getaway Sports
2809 Capital Ave SW
(269) 979-1996

Buchanan
Chain Reaction Cyclery
117 N. Redbud Trail
(269) 695-2889

Coloma
True Value Hardware
280 N. Paw Paw St
(269) 468-3462

Galesburg
Billy's Bike Shop
63 E. Battle Creek
(269) 665-5202

Holland
Beachside Bike Rental
2011 Ottawa Beach Road
(616) 399-9230

Cross Country Cycle
345 Douglas
(616) 396-7491

Holland Cycling & Fitness
326 S. River Avenue
(616) 393-0046

Lakeshore Cycle & Fitness
650 Riley Square Center
(616) 399-0414

Velo City Cycles
587 E. 8th Street
(616) 355-2000

Kalamazoo
Alfred E. Bike
320 E. Michigan Ave
(269) 349-9423

Portage
Breakaway Bicycles & Fitness
185 Romence
(269) 324-5555

Paw Paw
Adventure Bikes
210 W. Michigan Avenue
(269) 657-1907

South Haven
Rock 'n' Road Cycle
315 Broadway
(269) 639-0003

St. Joseph
Cycle and Fitness
1507 Niles Avenue
(269) 983-2453

St Joseph Bike Rental
120 State Street
(269) 985-1111

Sturgis
Kickstand Schwinn Cyclery
1240 E. Chicago Road
(866) 651-5088

TRANSPORTATION NETWORK

Primary Roads with Traffic Volume* **(Vehicles per day)** — Unpaved / Paved / Paved (Wide outside traffic lane or paved shoulder)
- Light - Under 2,500
- Medium - 2,500 to 10,000
- Heavy - Above 10,000

Minor Roads‡ — no volume information
Limited Access Highways — Interchanges
Active Rail Line
Bicycle Trail (Multiuse)
- Improved (Paved or Crushed Fines)
- Unimproved (Gravel or Dirt)

* Traffic volumes are estimated based on an average 24-hour period. Rush hour (peak period) traffic volume can be much greater than at other times of the day. Traffic volumes also vary by season and day of week.

‡ Minor roads generally have lower traffic volume but road width and surface type may make them less appropriate as a bike route. Consult local county road commissions for more information. www.micountyroads.org

POINTS OF INTEREST

Lighthouse, Lake Michigan Beach, Boat Charter, Boat Launch, Campground, Canoe Rental, Farm Market, Game Area/Preserve, Golf Course, Hospital, Museum, Mountain Biking, County Park, Local Park, University, Winery, Zoo, Park & Ride, Summit, Trail Head

CITY AND VILLAGE SERVICES

CITY/VILLAGE NAME (ALL UPPER CASE)
A city or village that has food and lodging
City/Village Name (Upper & Lower Case)
A city or village with identified facilities only
Food Lodging

LAND USE

Developed (residential, commercial, industrial) — Park or Golf Course — River or Lake

0 1 2 3 4 Miles
0 1 2 3 4 5 6 Kilometers
1 inch equals 1.54 miles