



2024

TrailLink Unlimited



Guides



**Pere
Marquette
Rail Trail**
Michigan



Pere Marquette Rail Trail

Michigan

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Many factors contribute to the Pere Marquette Rail Trail's popularity. It runs for 30.1 miles on smooth asphalt that is well maintained and, at 14 feet, wide enough to ride or walk side-by-side. At either end, Midland and Clare offer convenient services for weary travelers, as do small towns along the route. Forests, parks, bridges, and historical sites provide diversions and opportunities for reflection along the way.

About the Route

Leaving off from the southern endpoint at the Midland Area Farmers Market (open in season on Wednesdays and Saturdays), trail users can take a quick side trip over

the confluence of the Chippewa and Tittabawassee Rivers on a three-span bridge called The Tridge.

Riverside parks and cultural attractions border the trail as it leaves town. Trail users can find covered picnic spots at Emerson Park, statues and blooming flowers at Dahlia Hill, and local history exhibits at Herbert D. Doan Midland County History Center or the Herbert Dow Museum (Dow Chemical got its start in Midland). Another attraction located just off the trail is Bradley House. This restored 1874 home offers visitors a glimpse into the everyday life of an early Midland family.

After passing through woods for about 8.4 miles, the trail arrives in Sanford. There's plenty to explore here, such as restaurants and shops or the riverside park. Just across the steel trestle, trail users can find the Sanford Centennial Museum, complete with a relocated circa-1870 railroad depot and railroad cars. About a mile ahead is Veterans Memorial Park, which features 200-year-old red and white pines. Hiking, mountain biking, and cross-country skiing trails at Pine Haven Recreation Area are 2.7 miles off the Pere Marquette Rail Trail via Saginaw Road to Northwest River Road and then West Maynard Road.

The forest opens to farmland in a few miles, and Coleman comes into view about 11 miles past Sanford. Meals are available right next to the trail, or you can explore the town for shops and more cafés. The old railroad depot has been renovated, and trail users can visit the library about two blocks away at Railway and First Streets, or the bike shop at Railway and Seventh Streets.

In another 4.7 miles, the trail arrives at Loomis. Like other towns along the route, Loomis also started with a sawmill during the timber boom and benefited from the railroad. A general store and a few homes are all that remain today.

The Pere Marquette Rail Trail reaches its northern endpoint in Clare in another 5.4 miles.



Pere Marquette Rail Trail

Michigan

States: Michigan

Counties: Clare, Isabella, Midland

Length: 30.1 miles

Trail end points: 101 Ashman St (Midland) to E Fourth St & Pine St (Clare)

Trail surfaces: Asphalt

Trail category: Rail-Trail

Trail activities: Bike, Inline

Skating, Fishing, Wheelchair

Accessible, Horseback Riding, Walking, Cross Country Skiing

Parking & Trail Access

The Pere Marquette Rail Trail runs between 101 Ashman St (Midland) and E Fourth St & Pine St (Clare), with parking at both ends.

Parking is also available at:

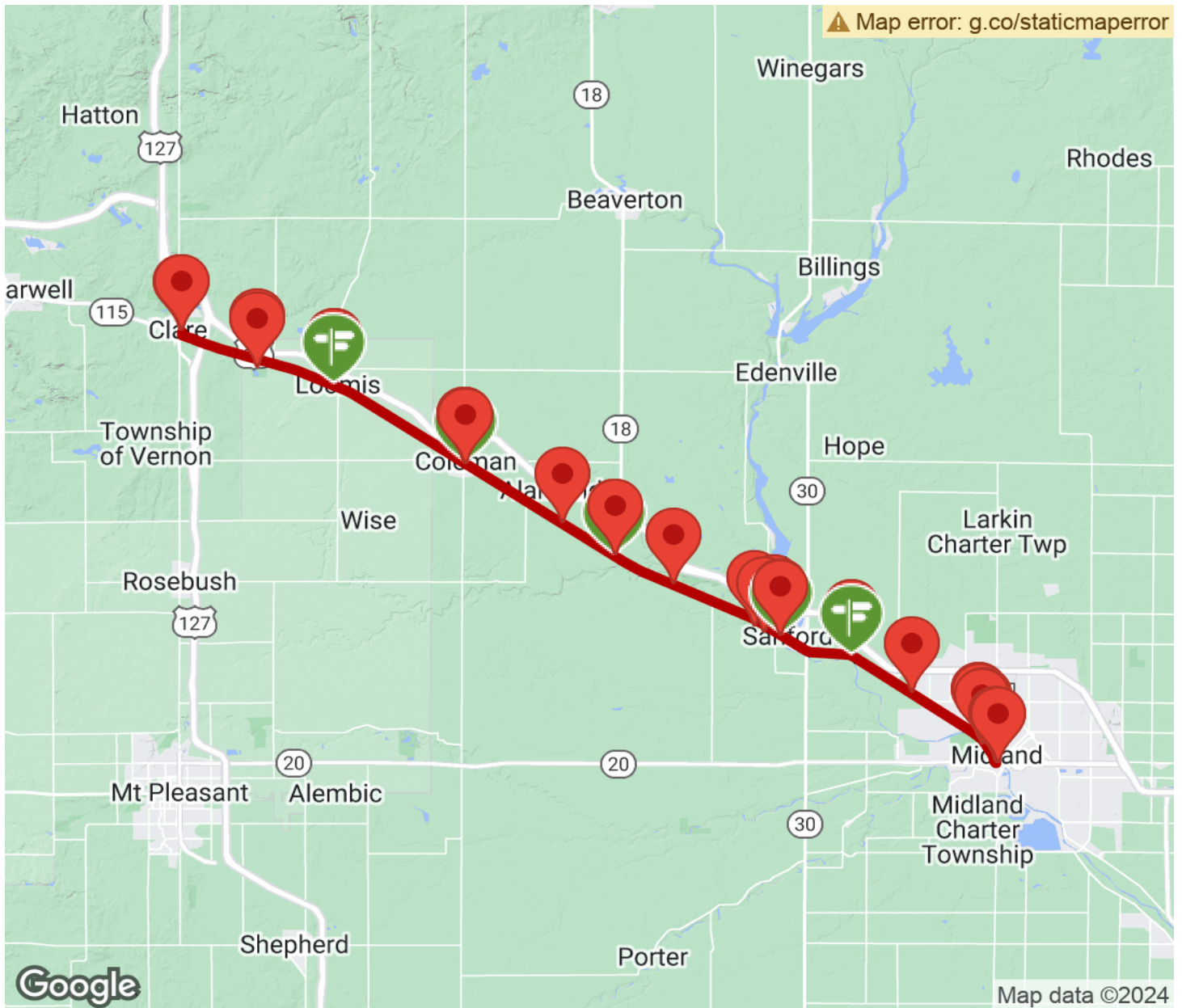
- 1426 W Cole Rd (Sanford)
- 8790 E Saginaw Rd

Please see [TrailLink Map](#) for all parking options and detailed directions.



Pere Marquette Rail Trail

Michigan



Trailhead



Restroom



Parking



Water Fountain



Tunnel



TrailLink
by Rails-to-Trails Conservancy

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