



2025

TrailLink Unlimited



Guides



# Bay County Riverwalk/ Bangor Rail Trail

*Michigan*



## Bay County Riverwalk/Bangor Rail Trail

Michigan

*The 17.7 miles of the Bay County Riverwalk/Bangor Rail Trail connects a nature trail in a wildlife refuge on the shores of Lake*



The 17.7 miles of the Bay County Riverwalk/Bangor Rail Trail connects a nature trail in a wildlife refuge on the shores of Lake Huron to a loop trail around the bustling port of Bay City. The part paved part boardwalk trail passes by migratory waterfowl on Saginaw Bay, cargo and naval vessels in the Saginaw Rive, and lumber barons' homes in the city's historic district.

### About the Route

A 7.7-mile-long rail corridor links the Tobico Marsh Nature Area in the north with the 9.80-mile Bay City loop in the south. Shaped overall like a lasso, the trial has many access points. It is mostly paved with asphalt as a separate path, although there are sidewalk sections alongside roads and boardwalks on the waterfront. Follow the

directional arrows to stay on the path through Bay City.

At the Bay City State Recreation Area trailhead just off East Beaver Road/State Park Drive, the trail passes the Tobico Marsh Nature Area by heading north for 1 mile of the Frank N. Andersen Nature Trail, which is a park of the Bay County Trail System. Birdwatchers use the two observation towers and the 2.7-mile nature trail to view migratory birds.

Heading south from the Bay City State Recreation Area, the trail crosses the Kawkawlin River and from here the route begins on paved paths separated from city streets or sidewalks. Just past the riverfront DeFoe Park, the trail connects to the Bay City loop. Trail users can travel counterclockwise on the loop to find many tempting eateries specializing in ethnic cuisine.

The trail continues past a bustling marina to the popular waterfront Veterans Memorial Park, featuring gardens in the Kantzler Memorial Arboretum, riverside benches and memorials of bygone shipbuilding days. Taking the Lafayette Street Bridge, the route continues south past waterfront businesses before heading into the residential district.

After Trumbull Street, the corridor opens for a smooth pass-through farmland and woodlots for a couple of miles on a former Penn Central Railroad corridor. Heading north, the trail brushes the eastern edge of Bay City's Center Avenue Historic District, where the local 19<sup>th</sup> elite built homes that still survive. In 2.4 miles, the loop ends after crossing the Saginaw River on the Liberty Bridge's sidewalk. DeFoe Park is 0.6 miles north.



# Bay County Riverwalk/Bangor Rail Trail

## Michigan

**States:** Michigan

**Counties:** Bay

Length: 17.8miles

**Trail end points:** N. Tuscola Road between 27th St. and 22nd St. (Bay City) to Killarney Beach Road near Athlone Beach Road at Bay City State Recreation Area (Tobico Marsh)

**Trail surfaces:** Asphalt, Boardwalk, Concrete

**Trail category:** Rail-Trail

**Trail activities:** Bike, Inline Skating, Walking, Wheelchair Accessible, Cross

## Parking & Trail Access

The Bay County Riverwalk/Bangor Rail Trail runs between Killarney Beach Rd near Athlone Beach Rd and the Bay City Loop with parking available along the trail.

Parking is available at:

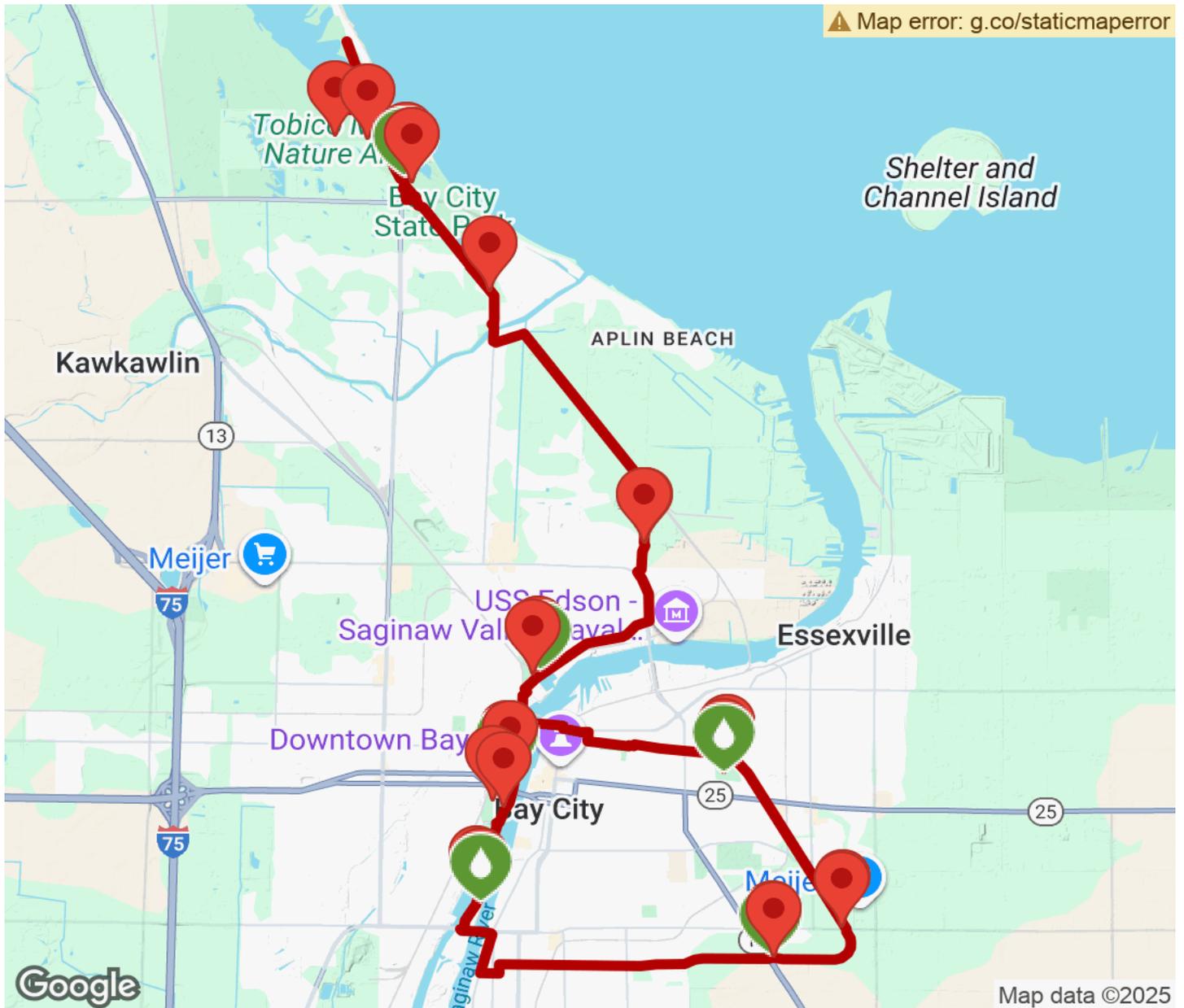
- 3582 State Park Dr (Tobico Marsh & Frank N. Andersen Nature Trail trailhead)
- John F. Kennedy Dr (Veterans Memorial Park War Memorial)
- N Tuscola Rd between 27<sup>th</sup> St and 22<sup>nd</sup> St (Riverwalk Parking Lot)

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



# Bay County Riverwalk/Bangor Rail Trail

Michigan



Trailhead



Restroom



Parking



Water Fountain



Tunnel



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by Rails-to-Trails Conservancy

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