



2026

TrailLink Unlimited



Guides



**Van Buren
Trail State
Park**
Michigan



Van Buren Trail State Park

Michigan

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Head for Van Buren Trail State Park and take a walk (or ride) on the wild side. Wildlife abounds on this rural 14.3-mile trail between Hartford and South Haven. While you might see deer, rabbits, foxes, and eagles, this is an undeveloped trail that has rough ballast stones, long sections of sand, and a grassy two-track. The combined result is a trail suited to hearty mountain bikers, birders, and naturalists.

About the Route

Heading north from the grass-covered parking lot in Hartford, which has portable toilets, the trail glides quietly over the bridge spanning the Paw Paw River. Cruising northwest to South Haven the route passes beneath tall pines, maples, and various hardwood trees.

The scent of pine lingers as you emerge from the woodlands and enter fields of blueberry bushes and vineyards.

At mile 8 the small town of Covert is located one block south of the trail. A convenience store in town has the only refreshments and restroom facilities on this rural trail. Trail users will have to navigate rural State Route M-140 at this point, with no real busy traffic.

The northernmost 8 miles from Covert, the trail passes through woods, open fields, and commercial fields of blueberries (growing on treelike bushes) and grapes. This part of Michigan is noted for its wine and fruit. At 16th Avenue, just south of South Haven, there is a connection to the Van Buren Trail Spur. It offers a paved, off-road route to the 400-acre Van Buren State Park, where you will find more trails and access to the Lake Michigan shoreline.

Connections

Near the Gerald Ford Freeway, trail users will have access to the [Van Buren Trail Spur](#).



Van Buren Trail State Park

Michigan

States: Michigan

Counties: Van Buren

Length: 14.3miles

Trail end points: Prospect St. (Hartford) to S. Haven St. (South Haven)

Trail surfaces: Ballast

Trail category: Rail-Trail

Trail activities: Horseback Riding, Mountain Biking, Snowmobiling, Walking, Cross Country Skiing

Parking & Trail Access

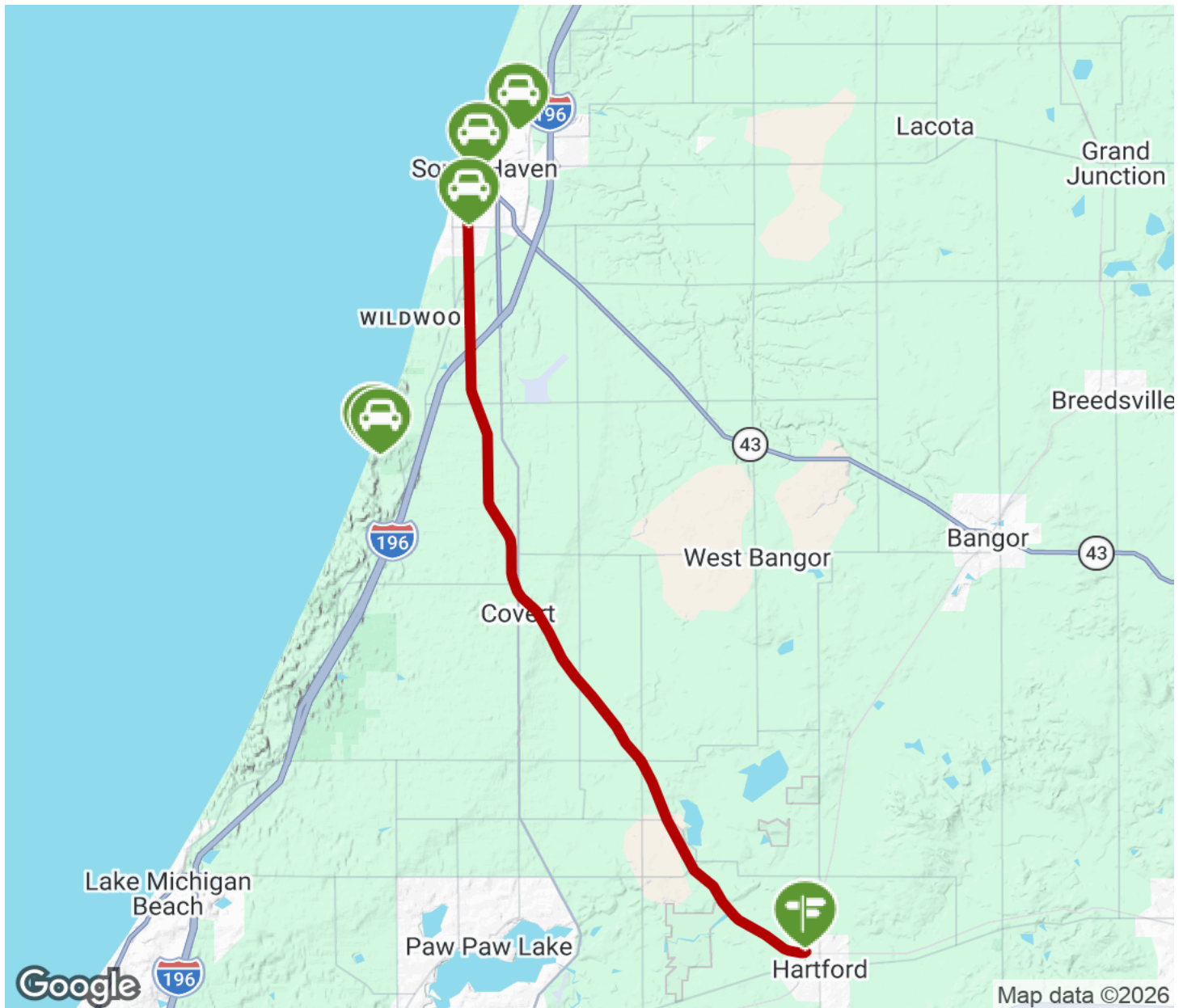
The Van Buren Trail State Park runs between Prospect St. (Hartford) and S Haven St. (South Haven), with parking available at both ends.

Parking is also available along Alyworth Ave. in South Haven. There is no official address for this parking, so please see [TrailLink Map](#) for all parking options and detailed directions.



Van Buren Trail State Park

Michigan



Trailhead



Restroom



Parking



Water Fountain



Tunnel



TrailLink
by Rails-to-Trails Conservancy

TrailLink.com