



2026

TrailLink Unlimited



Guides



# Paul Henry-Thornapple Trail

*Michigan*



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The Paul Henry-Thornapple Trail is a 31-mile, multi-use recreation trail, extending from Grand Rapids to Vermontville.

The trail passes through farmlands, woodlands, and small towns, coursing along and over rivers and creeks. Indeed, some people call it the most beautiful rail trail in Michigan. Part of its beauty is its proximity to the Thornapple River.

## About the Route

The trail is segmented, with 31 miles of trail split up along a 42-mile railroad corridor. The northernmost section of the trail is a long segment that heads south out of Grand Rapids towards Caledonia, following along the rail

corridor and only briefly leaving the rail right of way to take a brief sidewalk detour.

There is a brief gap in the trail between Stimson Rd. and W Crane Rd. The next section of the trail passes through Middleville, curving alongside Thornapple Rd. until coming to a stopping point along W Irving Rd.

In Hastings, another short section of trail cuts through town and is sometimes referred to as the Hastings Riverwalk. South of Hastings, three short disconnected segments of trail exist between River Rd. and Thornapple Lake Rd.

Near Thornapple Lake, another section picks back up, and trail users should note that although the trail travels east past Devine Rd., it is a dead-end past here and the small gap in the trail makes traversing these two sections directly impossible.

Similarly, the last section of the trail starts just a couple of meters past the previous section of trail, although the trail is not accessible until reaching Green Arrow Rte.

The trail reaches its absolute eastern end of the trail just past Nashville along Nut St.

## Connections

In the East Kentwood Neighborhood, the trail connects to the [East-West Trail](#) and the [Fred Meijer M-6 Trail](#).

At McCann Rd., south of Middleville, the trail intersects with the North Country Hiking Trail which runs alongside the Paul Henry-Thornapple Trail through Middleville.



# Paul Henry-Thornapple Trail

Michigan

**States:** Michigan

**Counties:** Barry, Eaton, Kent

Length: 31.1 miles

**Trail end points:** Kalamazoo Ave. SE (Grand Rapids) to Nut St. (Vermontville)

**Trail surfaces:** Asphalt, Cinder, Crushed Stone

**Trail category:** Rail-Trail

**Trail activities:** Bike, Mountain Biking, Inline Skating, Walking, Wheelchair Accessible, Cross Country Skiing

## Parking & Trail Access

The Paul Henry-Thornapple Trail runs between Kalamazoo Ave. SE (Grand Rapids) and Nut St. (Vermontville).

Parking is available at:

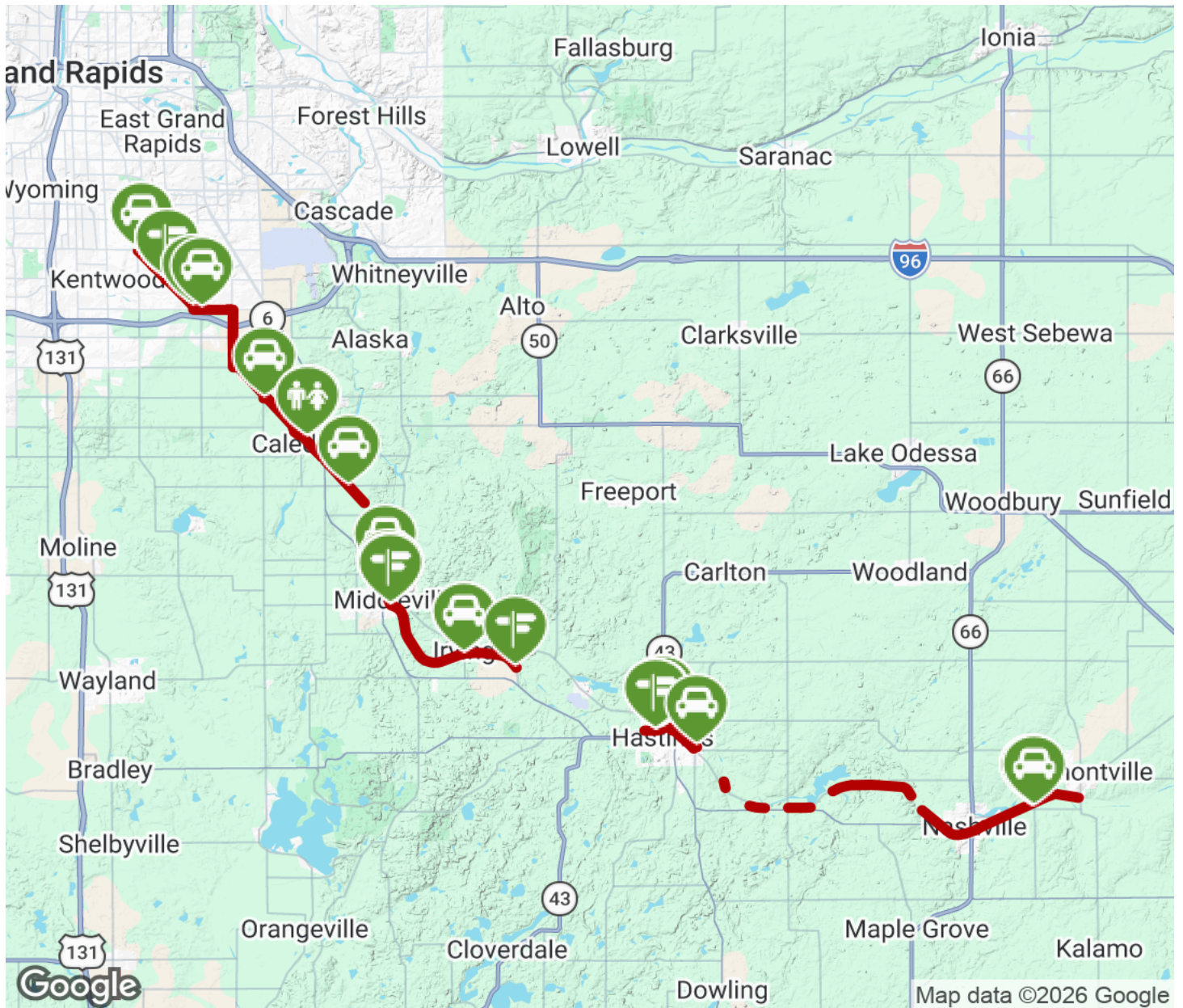
- 3213 60th St SE (Kentwood)
- 2390 McCann Rd (Hastings)
- 3130 N Mason Rd (Vermontville)

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



# Paul Henry-Thornapple Trail

Michigan



Trailhead



Restroom



Parking



Water Fountain



Tunnel



**TrailLink**  
by Rails-to-Trails Conservancy

[TrailLink.com](https://www.TrailLink.com)