



2025

TrailLink Unlimited



Guides



# Lansing River Trail

*Michigan*



# Lansing River Trail

## Michigan

*The Lansing River Trail traces the course of three waterways for more than 25 miles across Michigan's capital city. Visiting all four*



The Lansing River Trail traces the course of three waterways for more than 25 miles across Michigan's capital city. Visiting all four main points of the compass in Lansing, the trail provides a route for self-propelled transportation to numerous parks, cultural and commercial attractions, workplaces, and a major university.

### About the Route

The trail rolls through waterfront parks on the Grand River from Moores Park in the west to Dietrich Park in the north. It follows the Red Cedar River from Elm Park to Michigan State University in the east. A branch along the woody Sycamore Creek tributary goes south to Maguire Park, where it joins the Sycamore Trail. Another trail

branch from Maguire Park heads west on a utility right-of-way to South Waverly Road. An orphaned trail section heads north along Waverly Road back to the Grand River and Frances Park.

The trail started as a paved path through the downtown Riverfront Park redevelopment project in 1975. In 1983, the city added a half-mile section of former railroad and later extended the trail to include passage to the zoo and university in the east and Maguire Park in the south. The park district completed the nearly 5-mile South Lansing Pathway south of Jolly Road in 2014 and rebranded it as part of the Lansing River Trail.

Despite the urban setting, trail users will experience wetlands and woodlands and probably catch sight of the trail's resident ducks, squirrels, and butterflies. The path has sections of wooden boardwalk passing under highways and skirting out over the water, avoiding almost all contact with motorized traffic.

Starting at Dietrich Park, head south along the Grand River to Turner Dodge Park, where trail users can find the circa 1855 Turner-Dodge House, which offers tours. Past that, the eclectic Old Town area represents a revitalized arts and entertainment district. The trail passes the Brenke Fish Ladder, which gives migratory fish a route around the dam.

Still traveling along Grand River, the trail comes to the Lansing City Market, where residents have been buying locally sourced food for more than a century. In 0.3 miles, the trail reaches the hands-on Impression 5 Science Center and the R. E. Olds Transportation Museum.

Just past the zoo, the trail comes to another junction; a left goes 4.8 miles through the Michigan State University campus, passing wooded Crego Park and the Red Cedar Natural Area along the way. A right turn at the junction heads south through forest and wetlands alongside Sycamore Creek,



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**States:** Michigan

**Counties:** Ingham

Length: 25.3miles

**Trail end points:** Dietrich Park (Lansing) to  
Moores Park (Lansing)

**Trail surfaces:** Asphalt

**Trail category:** Rail-Trail

**Trail activities:** Bike, Inline

Skating, Fishing, Wheelchair

Accessible, Walking, Cross Country Skiing

## Parking & Trail Access

The Lansing River Trail runs between Dietrich Park (Lansing) and Moores Park (Lansing), with parking available on both ends.

Parking is also available at:

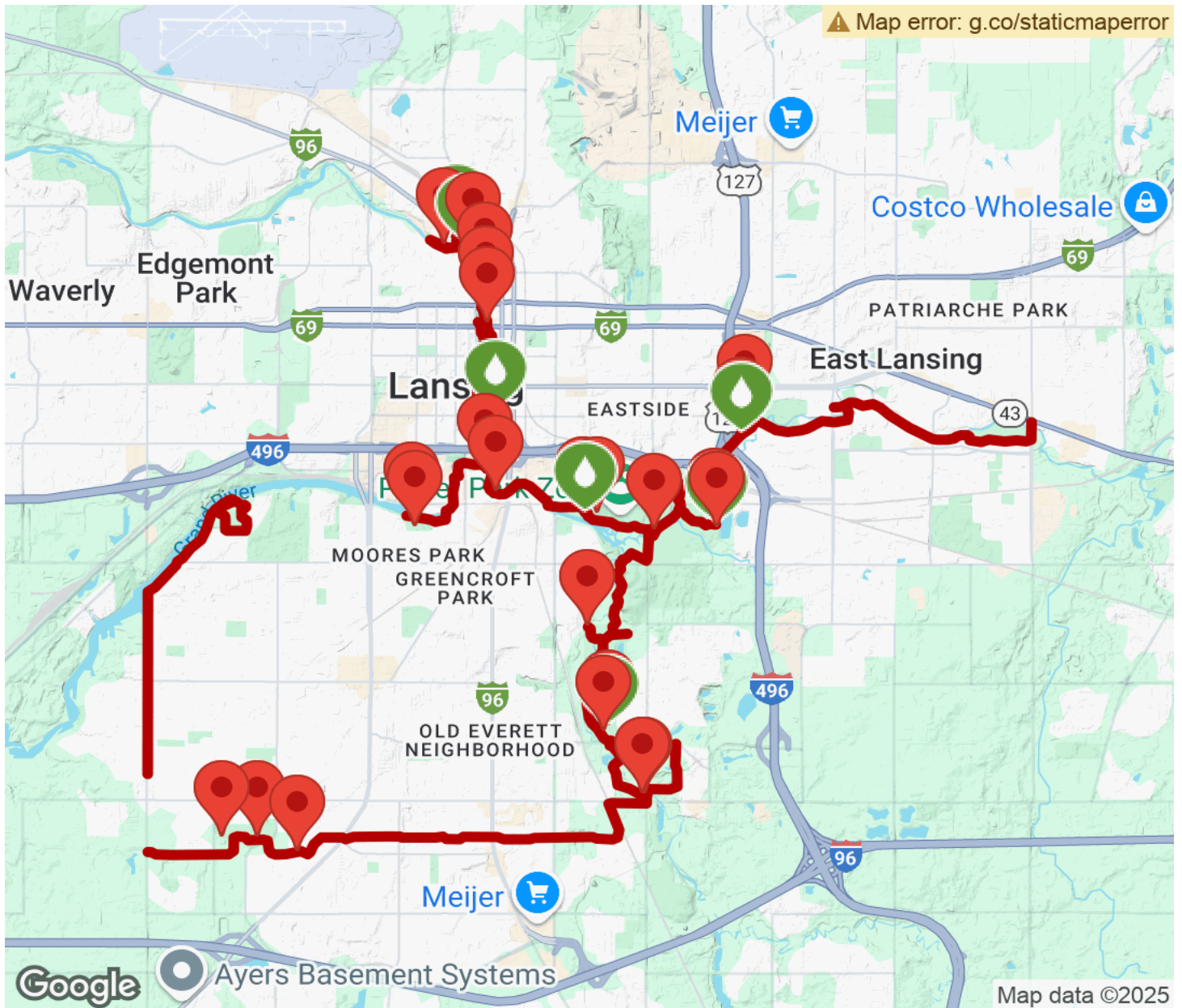
- Potter Park Zoo, 1301 S Pennsylvania Ave (Lansing)
- Kircher Park, 301 S Clippert St. (Lansing)
- Francis Park, 2701 Moores River Dr. (Lansing)

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



# Lansing River Trail

Michigan



Trailhead



Restroom



Parking



Water Fountain



Tunnel



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

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