



2026

TrailLink Unlimited 

Guides   



**Little  
Traverse  
Wheelway**  
*Michigan*



# Little Traverse Wheelway

Michigan

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Closure notice: Dangerous conditions due to erosion of the trail have necessitated the closure of the trail between East Park and Magnus Park. Visit the trail manager's [website](#) for closure details as well as updates on repairs. Picture-postcard-worthy views of Lake Michigan and its shoreline greet visitors to the Little Traverse Wheelway in Michigan's northern Lower Peninsula. The paved trail rolls for 26 miles from Charlevoix to Petoskey to Harbor Springs as it follows the curve of Little Traverse Bay.

## About the Route

Leaving off from the trail's western end at Shanahan Field in Charlevoix, the trail heads east for 0.4 miles on the shoulder of Waller Road to reach the trail that runs close by US 31 for the next 16 miles (At the park, trail users can

also opt to take the Charlevoix Township Bike Path connector into town). The trail crosses a 0.6-mile boardwalk in a nature preserve in the westernmost mile and is gazing out toward a magnificent lake view at a roadside park by mile 3.

The trail rolls inland at about mile 6, but in another 5 miles, the trail arrives at the marina-resort community of Bay Harbor. Descending through East Park, the trail offers scenic views of Little Traverse Bay from a bluff for about 1.5 miles before arriving at the Magnus Park public campground.

A mile from East Park, the trail arrives at a marina and Bayfront Park in Petoskey. This is the path of the original wheelway, marked by the first of three replica arches that announce "No Teaming or Driving", referring to prohibitions against riding horses or horse-drawn carriages on the original trail. The town's history is remembered at the Little Traverse History Museum, located in a circa-1892 railway depot at the park. A touristy shopping area is accessible through a US 31 underpass near the foot of Bay Street.

Leaving Petoskey, the trail passes a fishing pond left over from an old limestone quarry. It's only a few steps away from Little Traverse Bay, where the exposed cobble on the shoreline is a good place to look for Petoskey stones, and pebbles containing designs from fossilized coral.

Soon after leaving the park, salmon-colored sidewalks signal the entry into the historic Bay View neighborhood. This community, dominated by Victorian homes, has long been a summer getaway for prominent Michigan families. The trail leaves the side of US 31 at Division Street and, in 1.4 miles, passes a trail entrance to Petoskey State Park, where you can find sweeping sand dunes and a swimming beach. Along this stretch, there is also a short spur that crosses on the right over MI 119 and connects with the North Western State Trail.

The wheelway continues for 2.5 miles parallel to busy MI 119 before cutting away to follow the northeast edge of the Harbor



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**States:** Michigan

**Counties:** Charlevoix, Emmet

Length: 26 miles

**Trail end points:** Waller Rd. (Charlevoix) to E Lake Rd. (Harbor Springs)

**Trail surfaces:** Asphalt

**Trail category:** Rail-Trail

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

## Parking & Trail Access

The Little Traverse Wheelway runs between Waller Rd. (Charlevoix) and E Lake Rd. (Harbor Springs), with parking available at both ends.

Parking is also available at:

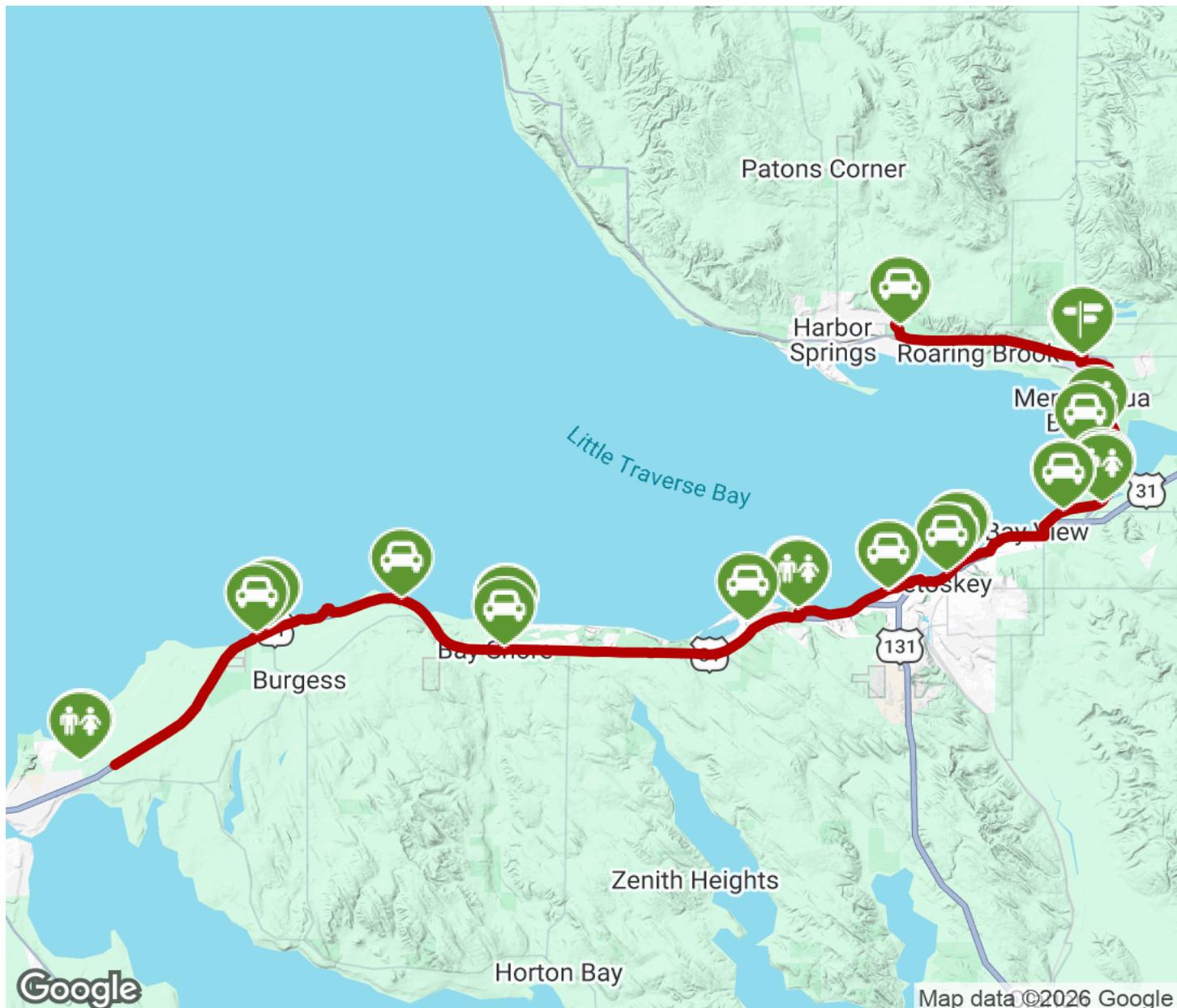
- 9601 US-31 (Charlevoix)
- Sunset Park, 101 E Lake St. (Petoskey)
- Petoskey State Park, 2475 M-119 (Petoskey)

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



# Little Traverse Wheelway

Michigan



Trailhead



Restroom



Parking



Water Fountain



Tunnel



**TrailLink**  
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