



2026

TrailLink Unlimited



Guides



**Paint Creek
Trail (MI)**
Michigan



Paint Creek Trail (MI)

Michigan

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Even though the Paint Creek Trail is Michigan's oldest nonmotorized rail-trail, the occasional face-lifts and renovations keep it looking as young as ever. Established in 1983, the crushed-limestone trail runs for 8.9 miles between Rochester and Lake Orion through a mostly wooded corridor alongside Paint Creek.

About the Route

The trail's many charms include a variety of wildlife, historical sites, rest stops, and a trout-filled creek that the route crosses 12 times. Maps and announcements are posted at the trailheads, where folding maps are also available. Mileage markers, left over from the days when this path was a railway, announce the distance to Detroit. Free bike fix-it stations are installed at the Rochester,

Tienken Road, and Goodison trailheads.

The northern end of the trail has several spurs which provide connections to several locations and streets in downtown Lake Orion, including: Meek's Park, S Washington Street, Glenn Ct, and S Anderson Street by the Children's Park (where there is also a public parking lot).

From Atwater Street in Lake Orion, the trail follows a barely perceptible downhill slope to Rochester. Lake Orion originally grew up around a sawmill built in 1825 but later became a resort destination. Two miles south, a historical marker notes the site of the water-powered Carpenter Rudd Mill that stood here until 1926. This is also where there is a connection to the Bald Mountain State Recreation Area for fishing, swimming, and mountain biking.

For the next couple of miles, Paint Creek meanders alongside and crosses the trail, presenting many opportunities for fishing. There is also an archery range at mile 2.5. Use caution to cross at busy Adams Road in 0.5 mile.

The trail passes some open prairie and woods before reaching the Gallagher Road trailhead at mile 5. A short side trip leads to good eats in Goodison—home of the Paint Creek Trailways Commission—at the Paint Creek Cider Mill and Goodison Cider Mill. Just before arriving at the Silver Bell Road trailhead in 0.6 mile, the trail passes the Paint Creek Heritage Area—Wet Prairie on the right, where land managers perform spot burning to remove invasive plants and restore a prairie.

The route enters the suburban sprawl of Rochester Hills (horseback riding is prohibited south of here) after crossing Tienken Road at mile 7.8 and passes several trail entrances to the 16-acre Dinosaur Hill Nature Preserve, which has nature paths and a visitor center. The southern end of the trail ends in about a half mile at Rochester Municipal Park, where there is parking, restrooms, and drinking water, as well as the annual Art & Apples Festival in the fall.



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States: Michigan

Counties: Oakland

Length: 8.9miles

Trail end points: Atwater St (Lake Orion) to Rochester River Walk in Rochester Municipal Park (Rochester)

Trail surfaces: Crushed Stone

Trail category: Rail-Trail

Trail activities: Bike,Fishing,Horseback Riding,Mountain Biking,Walking,Wheelchair Accessible,Cross Country Skiing

Parking & Trail Access

The Paint Creek Trail runs between Atwater St (Lake Orion) and the Rochester River Walk in Rochester Municipal Park (Rochester), where parking is available.

Parking is also available at:

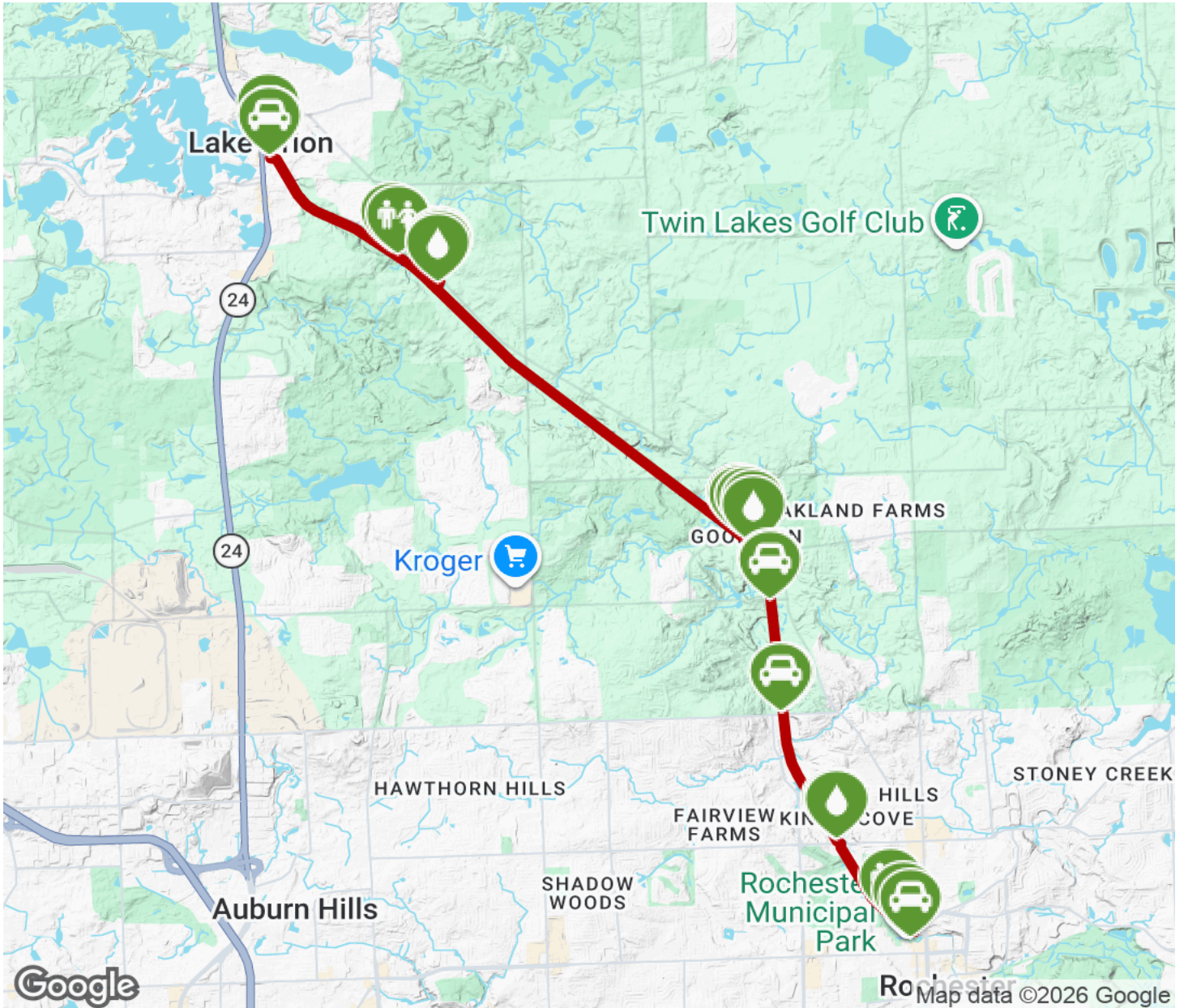
- Paint Creek Junction Park, 2210 Orion Rd (Oakland Charter Township)
- Oakland Township Parks and Recreation, 4480 Orion Rd (Rochester)

Visit the [TrailLink map](#) for all parking options and detailed directions.



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Trailhead



Restroom



Parking



Water Fountain



Tunnel



TrailLink
by Rails-to-Trails Conservancy

TrailLink.com