



2026

TrailLink Unlimited



Guides



**Saginaw
Valley Rail
Trail**
Michigan



Saginaw Valley Rail Trail

Michigan

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The Saginaw Valley Rail Trail offers a year-round rural retreat from the urban confines of Saginaw. Rolling through a continuous woodsy border past farms, fields, and game areas for 11 miles, the paved trail connects the manufacturing center of Saginaw with the former coal-mining town of St. Charles.

About the Route

Beginning at the Stroebel Road trailhead, the trail heads southwest on the old railroad grade. In the other direction, a newer 1.4-mile trail addition alongside Stroebel Road intersects a sidewalk for South Center Road that crosses the Tittabawassee River for access to southern Saginaw.

Luscious displays of Queen Anne's lace and other wildflowers cluster along the route, and interpretive signs identify many of these species. A thick growth of vegetation flanks much of the trail, and the intact canopy of trees makes trail users feel right at home in a large forest.

At mile 3, the route comes to a trailhead at Swan Creek and Van Wormer Roads that has restrooms, soda machines, drinking fountains, and parking. Crossing Swan Creek, there's a fishing platform where trail users may see anglers hoping to snag trout, perch, or smallmouth bass.

There are three pocket parks, complete with wooden gazebos and benches, along the trail. The first is located between Stroebel Road and River Road, the second between Spencer Road and Lakefield Road, and the third between Teft Road and Prior Road.

After crossing Marsh Creek just before mile 6, the trail skirts the Shiawassee River State Game Area. A viewing platform south of Wolf Creek at about mile 8 is a good place to watch for geese, ducks, swans, and white-tailed deer throughout the year. Approaching St. Charles, the trail crosses the Bad River on a scenic restored bridge and enters the southern trailhead at Lumberjack Park.

Connections

About 2 miles from the Stroebel Road trailhead, the Saginaw Valley Rail Trail comes to a junction with the [Thomas Township Trail](#).

Trail History

The Saginaw Valley Rail Trail follows a rail bed first used by the Jackson, Lansing, and Saginaw Railroad in the late 1860s. By 1881, it extended north all the way to Mackinaw City and was under the control of the Michigan Central Railroad, a subsidiary of the New York Central Railroad. Ownership



Saginaw Valley Rail Trail

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States: Michigan

Counties: Saginaw

Length: 11miles

Trail end points: 307 E Water St (St. Charles) to Stroebel Rd. (Saginaw)

Trail surfaces: Asphalt

Trail category: Rail-Trail

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

Parking & Trail Access

The Saginaw Valley Rail Trail runs between 307 E Water St (St. Charles), where parking is available, and Stroebel Rd. (Saginaw).

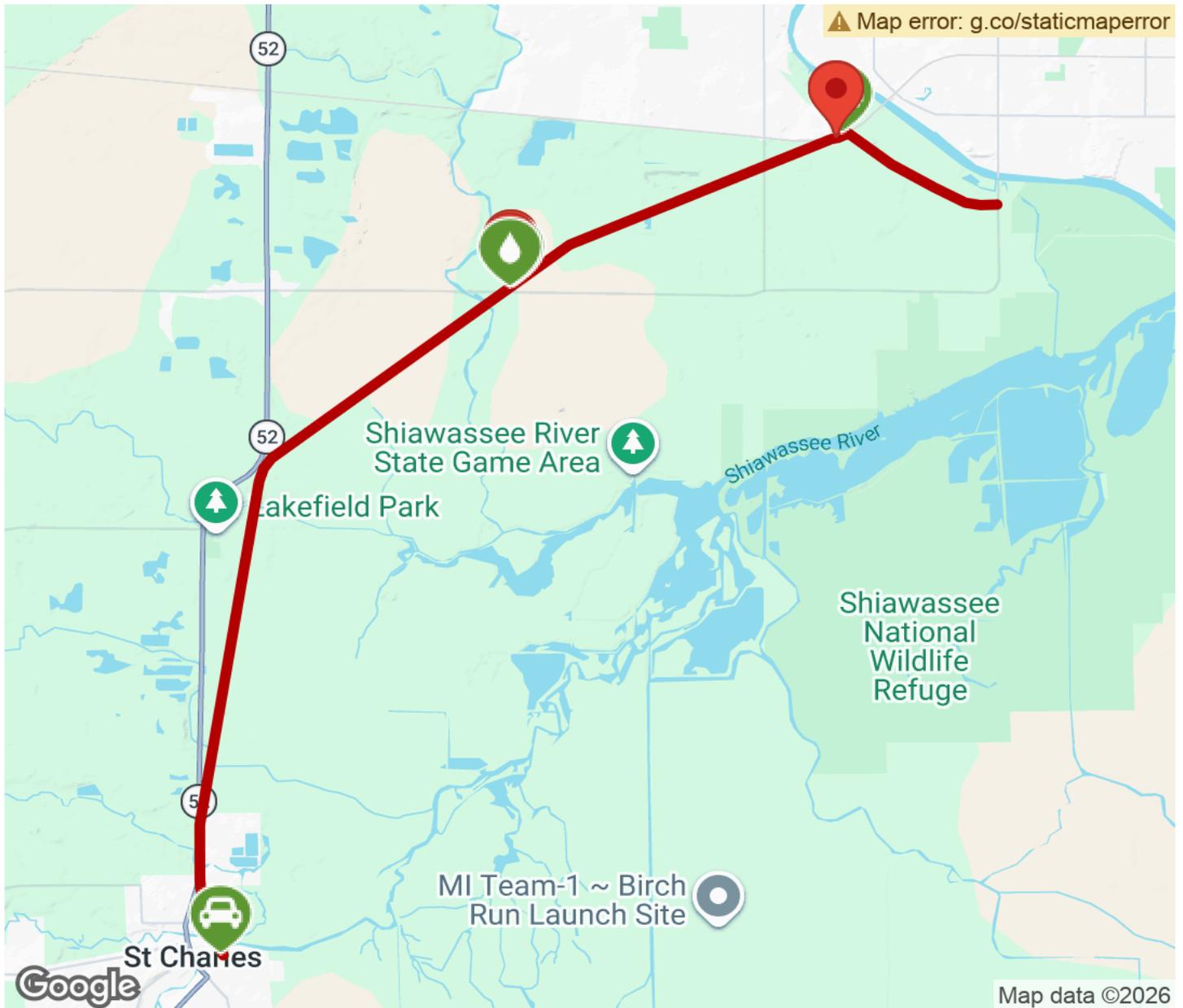
Additional parking is available along Stroebel Rd. and Van Womer Rd. These are not official addresses.

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



Saginaw Valley Rail Trail

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Trailhead



Restroom



Parking



Water Fountain



Tunnel



TrailLink
by Rails-to-Trails Conservancy

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