



2026

TrailLink Unlimited



Guides



Portland Riverwalk

Michigan



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Michigan

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The Portland Riverwalk ushers visitors around the charming town of Portland on 9 miles of paved trail. Also known as the Rivertrail Linear Park, the trail connects a handful of parks, scenic views overlooking the Grand and Looking Glass Rivers, and a renovated downtown that features restaurants, an ice-cream shop, and bakeries.

The trail's backbone is a 3.5-mile rail-trail conversion that follows the route of the Ionia and Lansing Railroad, which launched operations in 1869. A series of acquisitions and mergers put it under control of the Pere Marquette Railroad in 1899 and the Chesapeake and Ohio Railway in 1947. CSX took over C&O in 1987 and subsequently stopped using this section of rail bed.

Beginning at Portland High School north of town, you'll head east on the trail and pass beneath a canopy of maples and pines on the old rail corridor until you reach a junction at 0.9 mile. Take the left fork that follows the Grand River for 1.6 miles through the Bogue Flats Recreation Area, where you'll find sports fields, restrooms, and turnouts overlooking the river.

Turn left as the trail returns to the railroad grade and cross the Grand River on a vintage 1899 railroad bridge, the first of three historic bridges that you'll cross. Fishing is allowed on all of them, and you will likely see anglers casting for smallmouth bass, perch, or trout. After crossing the bridge, a spur trail on the right loops through Two Rivers Park, which fronts the Grand and Looking Glass Rivers and passes a band shell for concerts. Another side trip from the park crosses a pedestrian bridge into historic downtown Portland on a boardwalk.

Returning to the main trail, you'll immediately cross Looking Glass River on the so-called Burroughs Street Bridge that was relocated here from its original location in Kent County, Michigan, in 1995. For the next 1.4 miles, you'll follow the river and pass through the woodsy Community Lake park and a short tunnel beneath I-96 before making a hard right onto a multiuse path that runs along Cutler Road, Charlotte Highway, and I-96 to another Grand River bridge. Known as the Kent Street Bridge, it was built in 1907 and relocated here.

The trail rolls between Market Street and the river for 0.6 mile to Thompson Field, where it runs along the shoreline.



Portland Riverwalk

Michigan

States: Michigan

Counties: Ionia

Length: 9miles

Trail end points: Portland High School at Ionia
Road between Juniper Lane and Rosmond St. to
Cutler Road to I-96 to Market and Canal Sts.
back to Portland High School (Portland)

Trail surfaces: Asphalt

Trail category: Rail-Trail

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

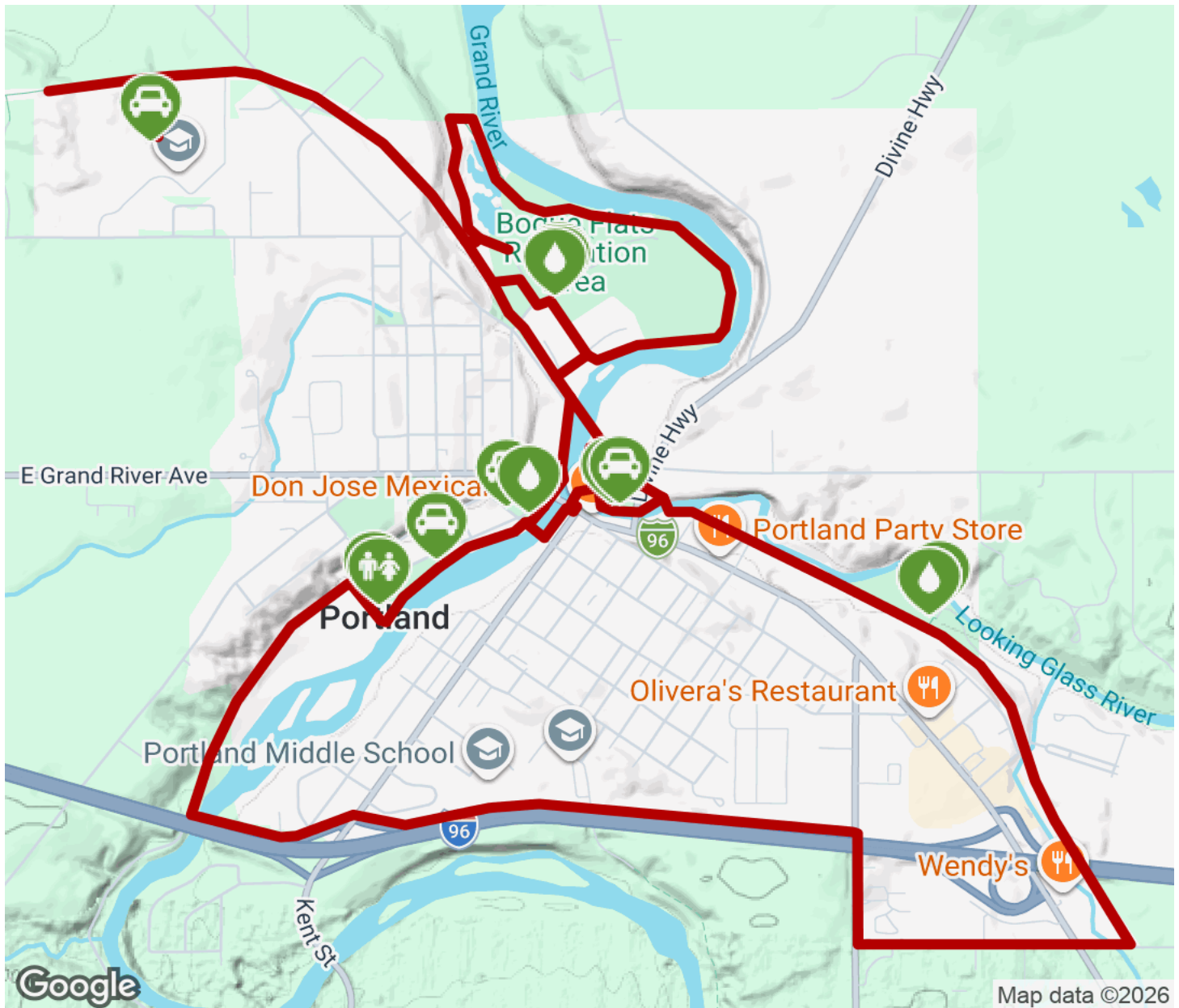
Parking & Trail Access

To reach the northern trailhead at Portland High School from I-96, take Exit 77 onto E. Grand River Ave., heading northwest. Go 1.3 miles, crossing the Grand River, and turn right (north) onto Water St. Go 1.1 miles—Water St. becomes Lyons Road—and turn left into the driveway for Portland High School. Follow the driveway for 0.2 mile, and make the first right. Look for parking near the football stadium.



Portland Riverwalk

Michigan



Trailhead



Restroom



Parking



Water Fountain



Tunnel



TrailLink
by Rails-to-Trails Conservancy

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