



2026

TrailLink Unlimited 

Guides   



**Bay-Zil Rail
Trail**
Michigan



Bay-Zil Rail Trail

Michigan

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Eastern Michigan's 7-mile Bay-Zil Rail Trail is lined with trees and traverses picturesque farmland. The paved rail-trail follows the former Detroit and Mackinac Railway, which hauled both timber and passengers during its heyday in the early half of the 20th century.

True to its name, the trail links to the [Milwaukee Pathway](#) on its southern end and will link to the [Bay County Riverwalk](#) on its northern end. For now, the Riverwalk is only 2 miles away and that gap is actively being worked on. In this way, the Saginaw County to Bay County Connector is helping to close a crucial gap in the larger Great Lakes Bay Regional Trail. Once fully constructed, this regional trail will consist of nearly 100 miles of trail connecting Midland, Bay, and Saginaw counties, and the many destinations along the route. More than 60 miles of the

system are currently open.

The Bay-Zil Rail Trail is also part of an even bigger trail network across the entire state: the Iron Belle Trail. This project will stretch more than 1,200 contiguous miles from Detroit to the Michigan/Wisconsin border.



Bay-Zil Rail Trail

Michigan

States: Michigan

Counties: Bay, Saginaw

Length: 7 miles

Trail end points: Near Melbourne Rd., north of Zilwaukee to East Hotchkiss Road and Brooks Street (Frankenlust Township)

Trail surfaces: Asphalt

Trail category: Rail-Trail

Trail activities: Bike, Inline Skating, Walking

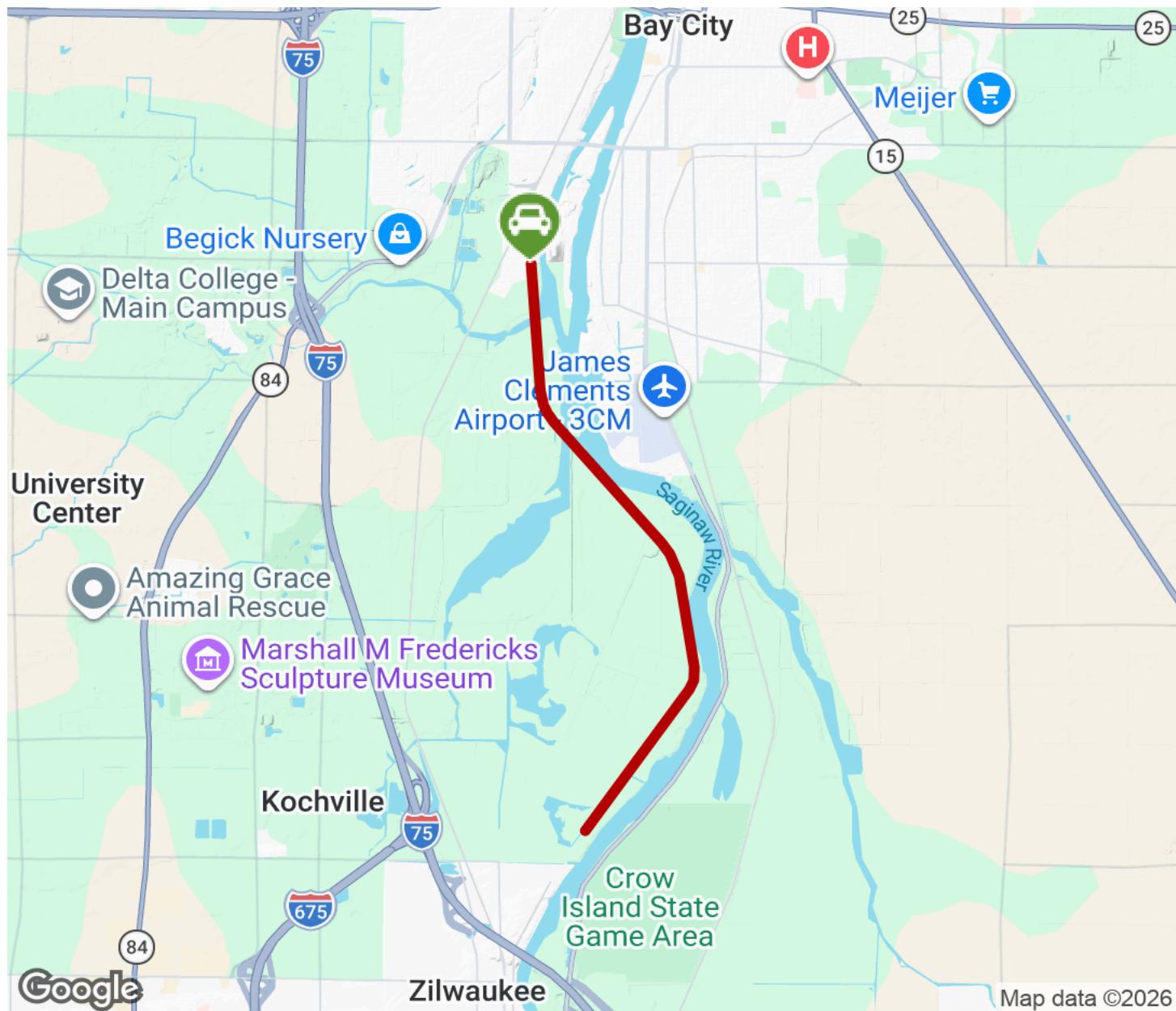
Parking & Trail Access

Parking is available at the Bay-Zil Trailhead, located at the north end of the trail, at the intersection of Hotchkiss Road and Brooks Street in Bay City.



Bay-Zil Rail Trail

Michigan



Trailhead



Restroom



Parking



Water Fountain



Tunnel



TrailLink
by Rails-to-Trails Conservancy

[TrailLink.com](https://www.TrailLink.com)