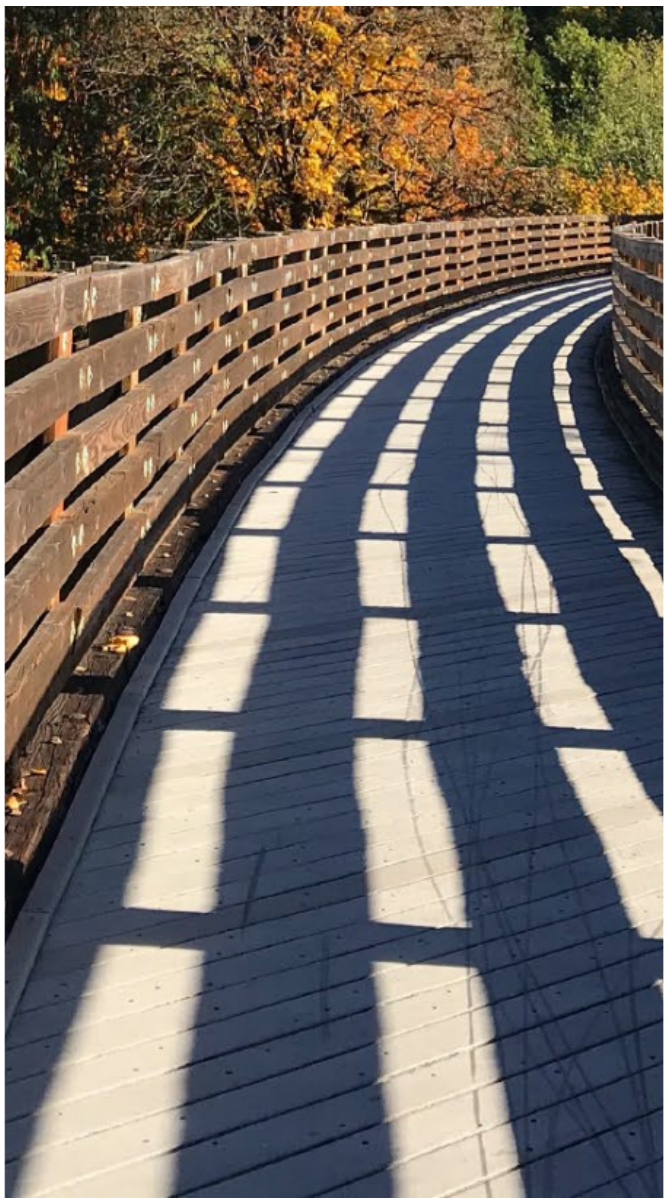
TrailLink
by Rails-to-Trails Conservancy

2026

TrailLink Unlimited

Guides



Butterworth Trail

Michigan

Butterworth Trail

Michigan

Closure Notice: Access to the Butterworth Trail in Oxford is currently interrupted by trail construction projects. The

Closure Notice: Access to the Butterworth Trail in Oxford is currently interrupted by trail construction projects.

The Butterworth Trail connects several neighborhoods in Grand Rapids on both sides of the Grand River. The majority of the paved trail loops through a large swath of land formerly home to the Butterworth Landfill and now reclaimed as open space. The city continues to improve the area, with proposals ranging from the reopening of a dormant boat ramp to the installation of a large-scale solar array.

At the large site's northwestern edge, the Butterworth Trail connects to the extensive Kent Trails system, providing access to the John Ball Park and Zoo, Millennium Park and the communities of Wyoming, Grandville, Jenison and Byron Center.

Heading south from the loop route, the Butterworth Trail crosses a converted railroad trestle over the Grand River, offering dramatic vistas of the Grand Rapids skyline in the distance and water below. The trail follows the railroad grade on bridges over active tracks and Chestnut Street to its southern endpoint on Oxford Street, just a block away from Roberto Clemente Park.

Butterworth Trail

Michigan

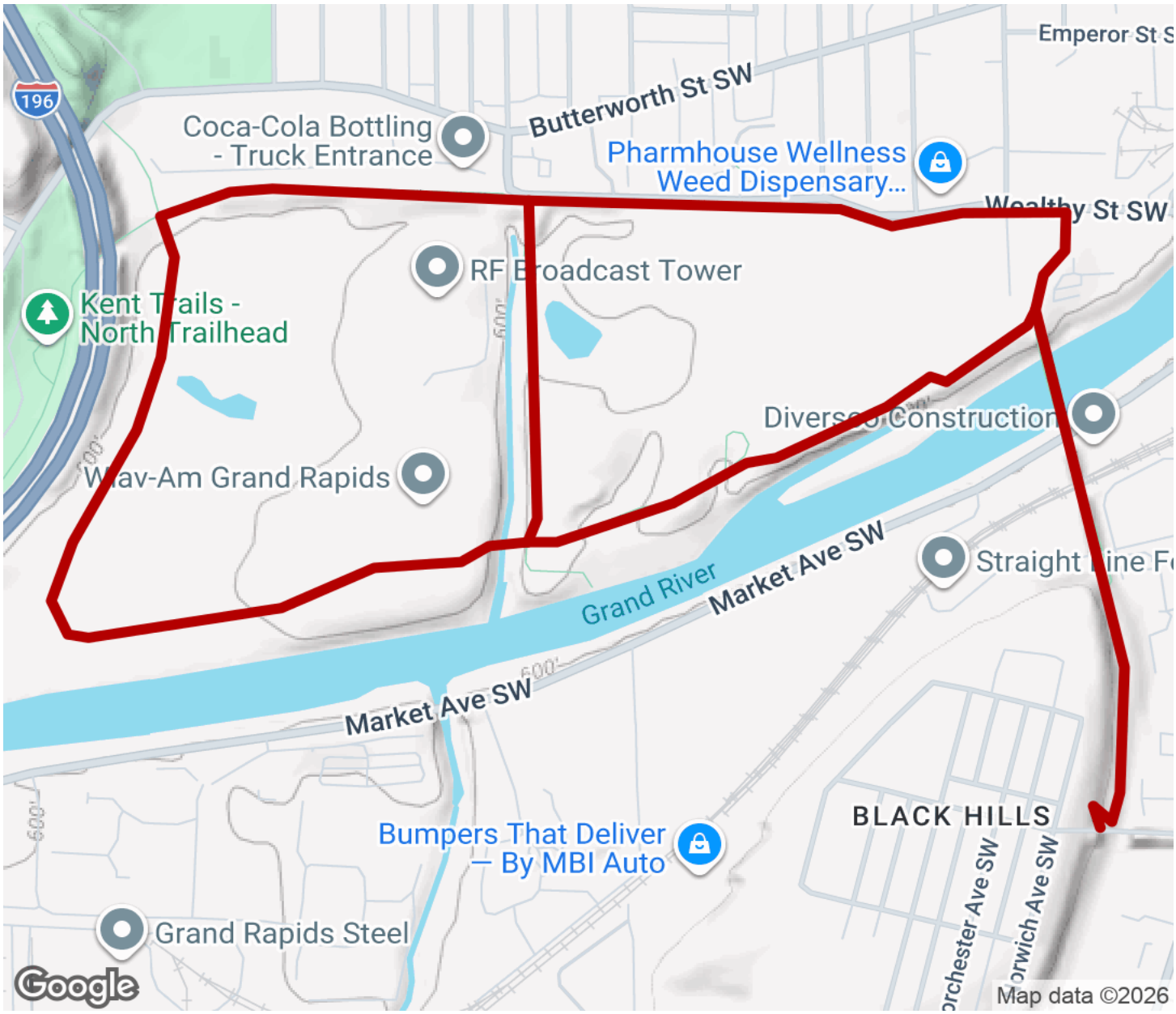
States: Michigan
Counties: Kent
Length: 3.5miles
Trail end points: Kent Trails just south of the John Ball Park & Zoo to Oxford St. SW and Norwich Ave. SW
Trail surfaces: Asphalt,Concrete
Trail category: Rail-Trail
Trail activities: Bike,Inline Skating,Walking,Wheelchair Accessible,Cross Country Skiing

Parking & Trail Access

Parking for the Butterworth Trail can be found at the Kent Trails North Trailhead at Butterworth Street and O'Brien Road. Follow the Kent Trails system east under Interstate 196 to reach the Butterworth Trail.

Butterworth Trail

Michigan



Trailhead Restroom Parking Water Fountain Tunnel

TrailLink
by Rails-to-Trails Conservancy

TrailLink.com