

Michigan's longest paved trail stretches 92 miles and simply belongs on your bucket list

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Key takeaways

- **Trail Overview:** Stretching 92 miles from Comstock Park to Cadillac, the trail crosses five counties and 15 towns, now fully paved for a smooth ride end-to-end.
- **Scenic & Historic Highlights:** Features 14 bridges, including a 319-foot Muskegon River span, historic cast-iron mile markers, and towns with museums, parks, and lakeside attractions.
- **Visitor Amenities:** Bike repair stations in key towns, free parking at multiple trailheads, and bike rentals at Einstein Cycles in Big Rapids and Cadillac.



Sunrise Burns - AllTrails

Michigan is packed with rail trails, but one of them took volunteers decades to finish, and they only just got there. In 2025, the final stretch of pavement went down on the Fred Meijer White Pine Trail, making all 92 miles rideable end to end on smooth asphalt for the very first time.

Point your wheels north out of Comstock Park in the Grand Rapids metro, and you'll cross five counties and roughly 15 trail towns before rolling into Cadillac.



Dolores Sorensen – AllTrails

The Michigan DNR calls it the state's second-longest rail trail. Cadillac's visitors bureau and TrailLink go further, calling it the longest paved trail in Michigan and the third-longest paved trail in the entire country!

In April 2026, it earned a Pure Michigan Trail designation, and the DNR says new interpretive signage is on the way as it becomes a state heritage trail.

Among the [16 trails we mapped without any hiking](#), this is the best one for a multi-day point-to-point. Pack a bag and just keep pedaling.

What the Ride Is Like

The surface is asphalt with some concrete, on a gentle rail grade. Older, rougher asphalt shows up between Reed City and Big Rapids and heading into Cadillac, but there's no unpaved gap anymore.

Fourteen open-deck bridges cross the route. The longest is a 319-foot span over the Muskegon River just north of Big Rapids, and there's a Rogue River trestle entering Rockford around mile 8.2 with a dam overlook nearby.

Eighteen original cast-iron Grand Rapids and Indiana mile markers still stand along the corridor, dating to the early 1900s. They're numbered in miles from Richmond, Indiana, so the refurbished one in Big Rapids reads 289.

Reed City is the junction town, with a covered bridge over the Hersey River, a reconstructed depot replica, and a connection to the Pere Marquette State Trail. Paris puts the trail through Paris Park past a historic fish hatchery with cabins and a canoe launch, and Tustin has the Pine River Museum with railroad memorabilia.



David Knupp – AllTrails

The north end lands at Cadillac Commons on Lake Cadillac, with beaches and an amphitheater. Bike repair stations are at Cedar Springs, Howard City, Reed City, and Cadillac. If you're building out a wider trip, our take on [rail biking in Michigan](#) is a good next stop.

The Fishing Line

The Grand Rapids and Indiana Railroad was formed on January 18, 1854. The first service from Grand Rapids to Cedar Springs opened on Christmas Day 1867, reached Paris on

October 1, 1870, hit Petoskey on November 25, 1873, and ran through to Mackinaw City on July 3, 1882, covering 529 route miles.

It marketed itself as The Fishing Line, hauling tourists north to the lakes. It also hauled 244,000 tons of lumber in 1876 alone.

The Pennsylvania Railroad bought it in 1918. Operations between Grand Rapids and Cadillac ceased in 1984.

The right-of-way was transferred to the state and, eventually, to the DNR by 1994. The trail is named for grocer Fred Meijer, who donated toward its creation.

The Friends of the White Pine Trail have raised more than \$6.5 million toward paving. Cadillac earned Pure Michigan Trail Town status in 2022, and the trail itself got the Pure Michigan designation in April 2026.

Plan Your Visit

The south terminus is at North Park Street NE and Mill Creek Avenue NE in Walker, near LMCU Ballpark. The north terminus is Cadillac Commons at South Lake Street and West Chapin Street. The DNR park address is 6093 M-115, Cadillac, MI 49601, and the phone number is 231-775-7911.

Free 24-hour municipal lots are the norm at Rockford off Main Street, Cedar Springs off South Main, Big Rapids at the old depot near US-131 exit 139, Reed City Depot at exit 153, and Cadillac. The E. 44 Road trailhead at exit 176 allows free overnight parking and has a year-round pit toilet.

There's no trail-use fee. A Michigan Recreation Passport is required at DNR-managed lots, but most trail-town lots are municipal and free, so exposure is limited. No camping on the trail or in lots.



David Knupp – AllTrails

Einstein Cycles has two stores directly on the trail: 910 Maple Street in Big Rapids (231-598-9138), closed Sunday and Monday, and 303 N. Mitchell Street in Cadillac (231-468-2416), closed Sunday. They handle sales, service, and pedal and e-bike rentals.

Two flags before you go. A segment in Paris between the Mecosta County Parks office and 207th Avenue is closed through fall 2026 while a failed box culvert is replaced with a bridge, with a signed detour in place. And snowmobiles use the corridor from Cadillac south to Russel Road between December 1 and March 31. Pair it with the [little-known state park](#) for a fuller weekend.

FAQ

How long is the White Pine Trail in Michigan?

Ninety-two miles connect the Grand Rapids metro at Comstock Park to Cadillac, crossing Kent, Montcalm, Mecosta, Osceola, and Wexford counties. State officials rank it second among Michigan rail trails by length, though it's the longest paved one.

Is the White Pine Trail fully paved?

It is now. The volunteer group's chair announced the end in a state release last April, closing out an effort that had run for decades. A few older stretches in the middle and near the north end ride rough, but nothing is left unsurfaced.

Where can you rent bikes on the White Pine Trail?

Einstein Cycles operates two shops directly on the trail, at 910 Maple Street in Big Rapids and 303 N. Mitchell Street in Cadillac, renting both pedal and e-bikes. Both are closed on Sundays, and the Big Rapids store is also closed on Mondays.