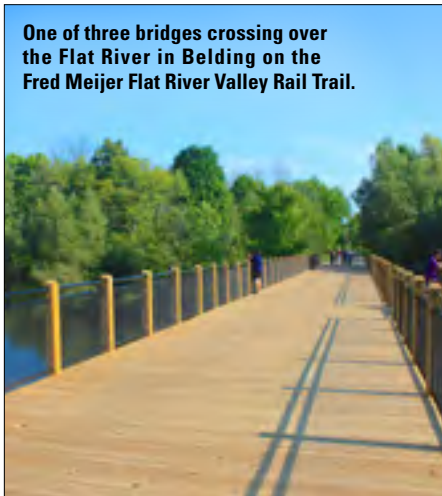


Fred Meijer Flat River Valley Rail Trail

The story of the 22-mile Fred Meijer Flat River Valley Rail Trail began in 2006, when Swedish conglomerate, Electrolux, closed down the world's largest refrigerator factory in Greenville and moved operations to Juarez, Mexico. The Mid Michigan Railroad lost its biggest and only customer on the Lowell to Greenville rail line and abandoned the rail corridor. On September 22, 2010, a broad coalition of government and non-profit organizations purchased the entire length of abandoned railway for \$1.3 million for recreational use.

The first 2.28-mile section of trail through the city of Belding was opened in 2014. This section from the M-44 bridge to Long Lake Road is paved with asphalt and crosses three bridges over the Flat River.

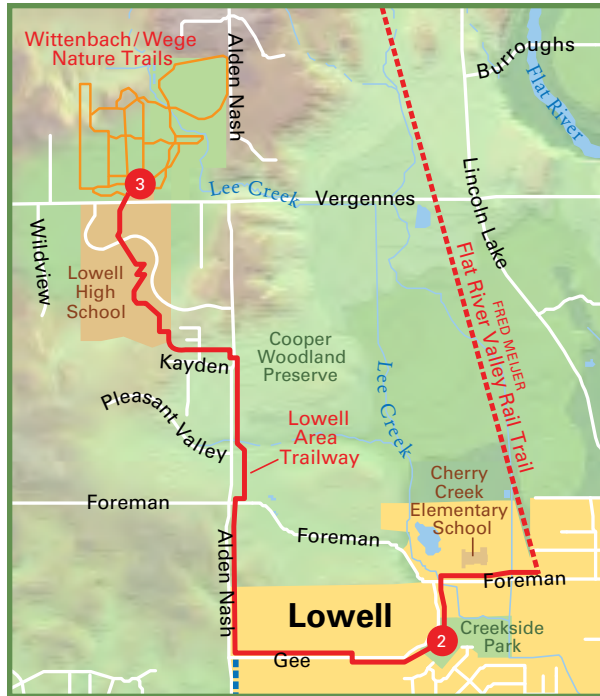
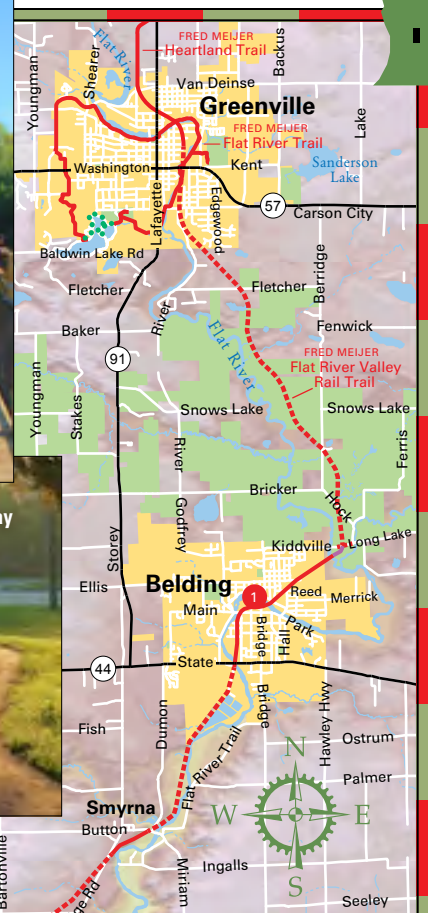
The Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund awarded Ionia and Montcalm counties \$580,000 in grants to complete the funding needed to begin construction on the rest of the trail later this summer or fall. The entire trail should be ready to ride by June 2019. When completed, the trail will be surfaced with finely screened and compacted limestone through the rural and natural areas and paved with asphalt through Greenville, Belding and Smyrna. The current trail surface is mostly grass and gravel and mowed throughout the summer by the Friends of the River Valley Rail Trails. This scenic corridor is a popular day ride for fat bike riders. The Lowell Area Recreation Authority is developing a route to connect the Fred Meijer Flat River Valley Rail Trail to the Fred Meijer Grand River Valley Rail Trail.



One of three bridges crossing over the Flat River in Belding on the Fred Meijer Flat River Valley Rail Trail.

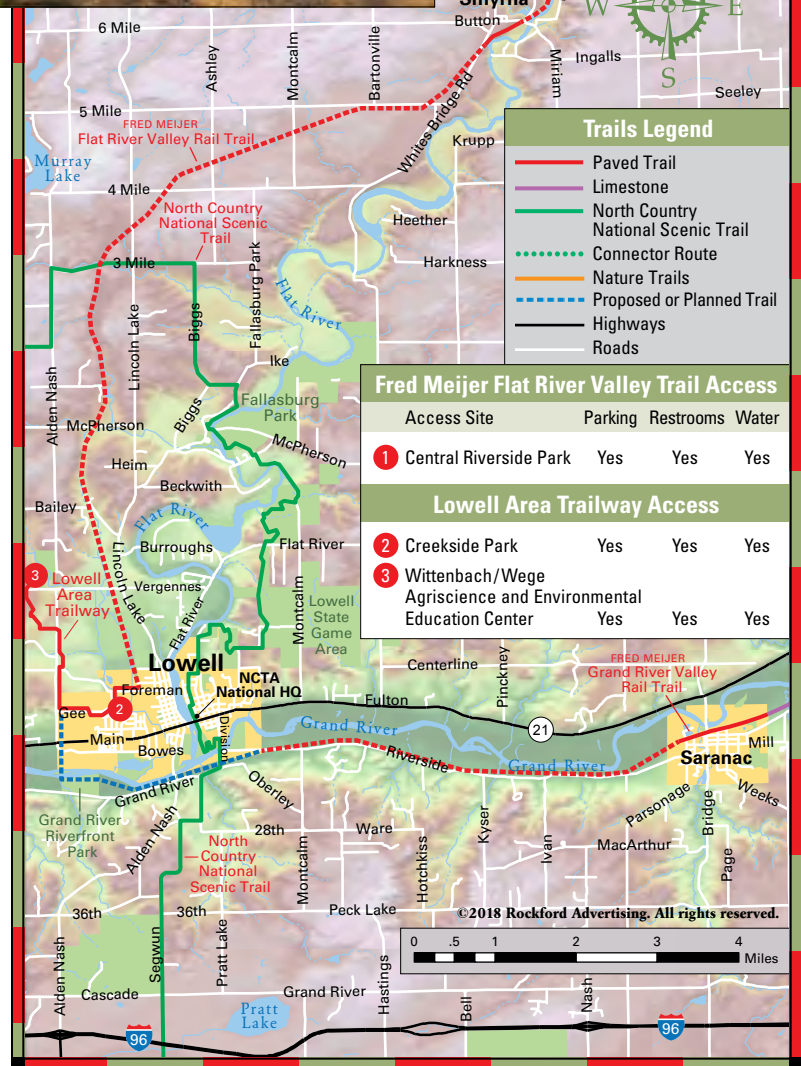


Lowell Area Trailway



Lowell Area Trailway

The 2.5-mile Lowell Area Trailway is a 10-foot-wide, paved community pathway that connects the Wittenbach/Wege Agriscience and Environmental Education Center, Lowell High School, Cooper Woodland Preserve, Creekside Park and Cherry Creek Elementary School to the Fred Meijer Flat River Valley Rail Trail in Lowell. At the northern end of the trail, you can explore a network of nearly 4 miles of nature trails at the Wittenbach/Wege Agriscience and Environmental Education Center.



Fred Meijer Flat River Valley Rail Trail • Lowell Area Trailway