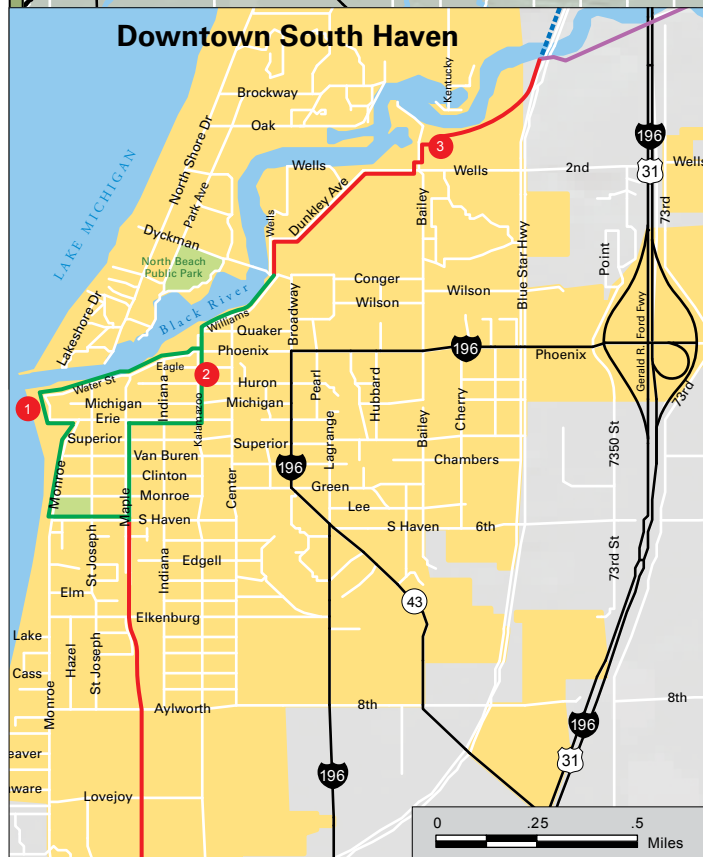


Kal-Haven Trail State Park

Kal-Haven Trail State Park



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Kal-Haven Trail State Park

The 34.5-mile Kal-Haven Trail runs from South Haven to Kalamazoo on the former Kalamazoo & South Haven Railroad. The trail now extends into the heart of downtown South Haven, where you can enjoy downtown shopping and dining and connect with the Van Buren Trail State Park and South Beach Park.

The Kal-Haven Trail opened in 1991 and was one of Michigan's first rails-to-trails conversions. Towns like Gobles, Bloomingdale and Grand Junction, which popped up when the railroads prospered in the 1870s, now provide food and amenities for trail users.

Cyclists, runners and hikers alike will enjoy a peaceful journey past blueberry fields, cool tunnels of trees, quaint villages, and over six bridges, including a covered bridge over the Black River near South Haven. The trail is mostly flat with some slight grades at each end. Well suited for most bicycles, the finely screened and compacted white limestone surface is exceptionally smooth and remains in good condition. We love riding this trail in the fall when the maples are ablaze in vibrant colors, or in the spring, when a sea of trilliums line the trail near the 10th Street Trailhead.

Designated a "Michigan Heritage Trail" in August 2019, the Michigan History Center installed a series of interpretive kiosks highlighting historic places, people and events along the former railway, including the ghost town of Mentha, a historic mint growing area, and the Bloomingdale Oil Boom in the 1930s.

The Kal-Haven Trail offers two top-notch trailheads; the 10th Street Trailhead near Kalamazoo, with its famous red caboose, and the Bailey Street Trailhead in South Haven, perched on a bluff overlooking the Black River waterway. The Bloomingdale Depot is a great half-way point with a shady park and picnic area near local stores.