

## White Pine Trail

The White Pine Trail is Michigan's longest Rail Trail State Park (formerly the Grand Rapids and Indiana Railroads), stretching a distance of 92 miles from Comstock Park to Cadillac. The trail is paved with asphalt for 22 miles from Comstock Park to Sand Lake, one mile in Howard City and for 40 miles from Big Rapids to Cadillac. The balance of the trail has a surface of natural ballast and hard-packed gravel.

The trail is open along its entire length for all non-motorized recreational uses. Snowmobile use is restricted to the area from Russell Road (just north of M-57) to Cadillac. The trail passes through 31 municipalities and townships. At Reed City, the Trail crosses the Pere Marquette Rail-Trail. The meeting point for the two Trails can be accessed from the parking lot at the east end of Upton Street.

**Parking & Trail Access:** To Cadillac trailhead: Take US-131 north to the M-115 exit and go northwest for a half mile. Take North 41 Road one mile north to North 44 Road. Go west on North 44 Road approximately a half mile. To Big Rapids trailhead: Take US-131 to Big Rapids, exit 139. Take M-20 east to Maple Street. Proceed straight for 1/10 mile to the depot staging area; turn south. To Rogue River Park, Belmont, trailhead: Take US-131 to exit 95 (Post Dr.). Take Post Drive east to Belmont Road. Take Belmont Road 1/4 mile south to Rogue River Park entrance; turn left.

The corridor of the Fred Meijer White Pine Trail was formerly the Penn Central Railroad, also known as the Michigan Northern. The trail was dedicated on July 20, 1994. The park is managed by the Parks and Recreation Division of the Michigan Department of Natural Resources. Support of the White Pine Trail is coordinated by:

The Friends of the White Pine Trail  
PO BOX 159  
Belmont, MI 49006



## White Pine Trail Information

### • **Trail Overview**

- Longest rail-to-trail corridor in Michigan
- Comstock Park Southern Terminus, Cadillac Northern Terminus
- 5 county area, Kent, Montcalm, Mecosta, Osceola, Wexford
- Corridor width ranges from 36 to 200 feet wide, (avg. width 100 feet)
- The trail has 14 open deck bridges
- Largest bridge, White's Bridge, 319 feet long, crosses the Muskegon River, one mile north of Big Rapids
- At least 17 staging areas are planned along the trail.

### • **Funding Overview**

- 92 miles long, 1,125 acres
- Purchased on July 20, 1994, from the Michigan Department of Transportation
- Former Penn Central Railroad (also known as Michigan Northern)
- Acquisition Cost, \$850,850
- Funding Source: MNRTF \$485,000 and ISTEPA \$400,000
- Development costs, to-date:
- Deck and rail White's Bridge: \$120,000 funding source Recreation Improvement Fund (RIF)
- Basic trail improvements/RIF, ISTEPA, Snowmobile Fund
- West River Drive Pedestrian Bridge: \$638,000

### • **Park Overview**

- Trail will be developed to barrier-free specifications as the 29 remaining miles of natural ballast and hard-packed gravel is hopefully paved in 2020 and 2021.
- Current trail surface is 63 miles of asphalt pavement from Cadillac to Big Rapids and from Sand Lake to Comstock Park.

MECOSTA COUNTY  
CONVENTION &  
VISITORS BUREAU

[www.BigRapids.org](http://www.BigRapids.org)  
1.888.229.4fun

Welcome Center  
127 S. State St.  
Big Rapids, MI 49307



**Come and enjoy everything  
that the White Pine Trail  
has to offer!**

**Cadillac DNR 231-745-4651**



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