



## Van Buren Trail State Park

The 5.5-mile section of trail from Van Buren State Park to South Haven was completed in 2015, paved with a 10-foot-wide asphalt surface and extended within six blocks of the downtown trailhead. We rode it on a beautiful summer day, and it's a real gem, connecting two of Michigan's best beaches. It was over 90 degrees that day, and the cool swim at the end was refreshing.

The 15-mile Van Buren Trail State Park runs from South Haven to Hartford on the former Toledo & South Haven Railroad. The 2.5-mile spur from 16th Avenue to Van Buren State Park was built on an abandoned rail line that was used during construction of the Palisades Nuclear Power Plant. The trail surface from 16th Avenue to Hartford is unimproved grass and gravel, but nicely maintained, and mowed, and best suited for fat tire bikes. Equestrian and snowmobile use is permitted and popular along this section of the trail.

Enjoy the quiet solitude of nature as you travel through blueberry fields, woodlands and meadows and cross a bridge over the Paw Paw River just west of Hartford. The village of Covert marks the approximate halfway point. There are no public restrooms or water along the Van Buren Trail, so plan accordingly.

South Haven is an ideal location to stage your rides on the Van Buren and Kal-Haven trails with ample lodging, camping, restaurants, and lots of local attractions.

## Kal-Haven Trail Scenic Connector Route

The city of South Haven has developed a connector route that links the Van Buren Trail with the Kal-Haven Trail, passing through the downtown shopping and dining district, and along the Black River channel to South Beach Park, the lighthouse, and a bluff with panoramic views of Lake Michigan. See inset map on following page. It's a great way to enjoy the beautiful scenery as you ride through South Haven.



Van Buren Trail Access			
Access Site	Parking	Restrooms	Water
1 Prospect Avenue Trailhead	Yes	No	No
2 Van Buren State Park	Yes	Yes	Yes
3 Downtown South Haven	Yes	Yes	Yes

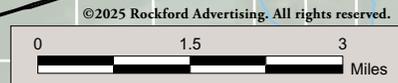
Kal-Haven Trail Access			
Access Site	Parking	Restrooms	Water
3 Downtown South Haven	Yes	Yes	Yes
4 Bailey Avenue Trailhead	Yes	Yes	Yes
5 South Beach Park	Yes	Yes	Yes

**Trails Legend**

- Paved Trail
- Grass and Gravel Trail
- Limestone Trail
- Connector Route
- Proposed or Planned Trail
- Highways
- Roads



The Golden Gears stop for a photo next to the Black River channel.  
Photo by Don Vanden Brink



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