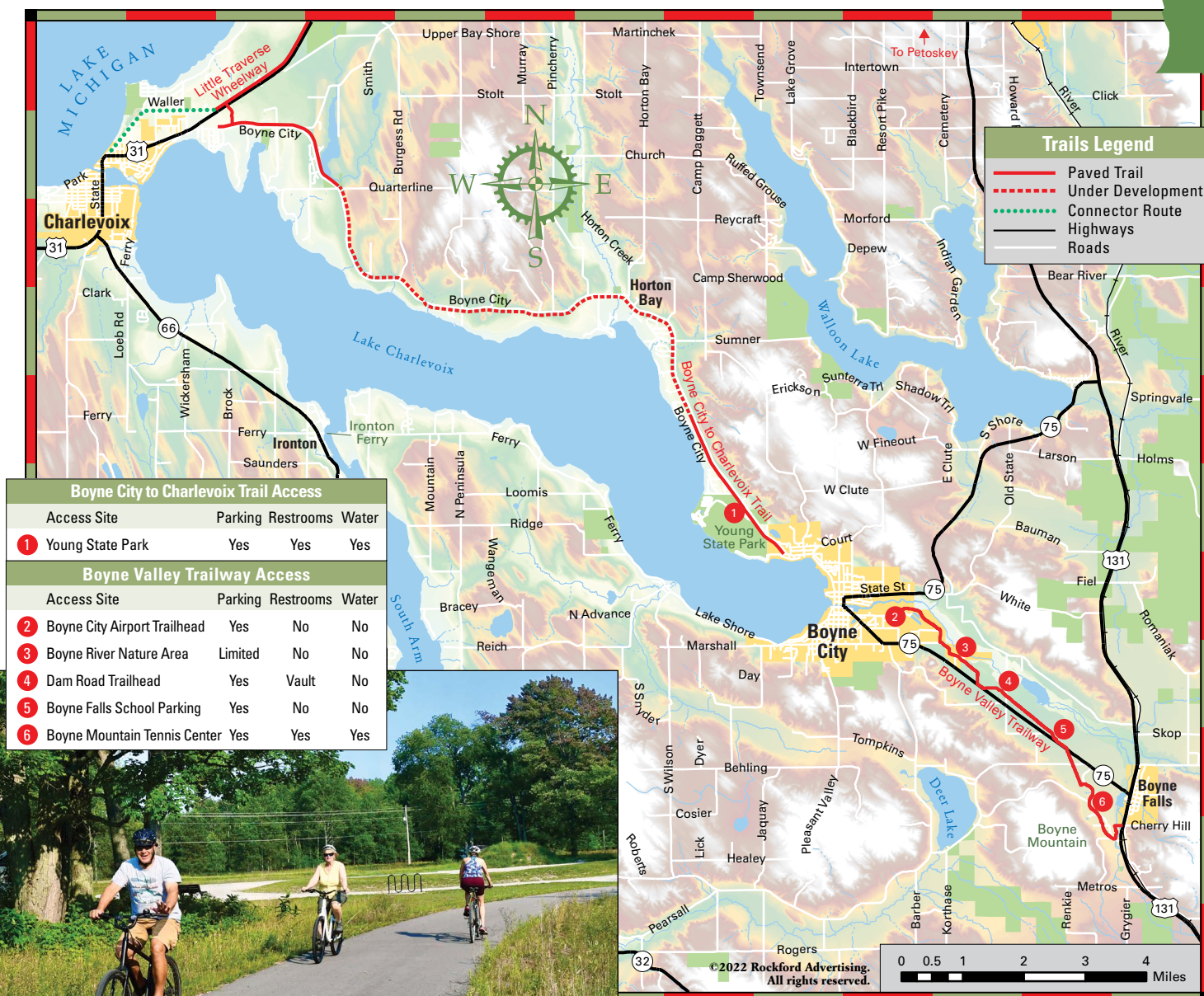




Boyne Valley Trailway

Michigan's most recent rails-to-trails conversion, the 6.2-mile Boyne Valley Trailway was completed in 2020, running from Boyne Falls and Boyne Mountain to the airport in Boyne City. Much of the paved nonmotorized trailway follows the original route of the former Boyne City, Gaylord & Alpena Railroad that hauled freight and passengers from 1893 to around 1972. In 2000, a group of local residents and government officials formed a committee to raise funds and acquire right-of-ways to develop this Trailway we enjoy today.

Known as the Boyne City Railroad in its later years, it operated primarily as a tourist attraction offering scenic excursions between Boyne Falls and Boyne City. Its colorful English steam locomotive, "the Flying Dutchess," closely resembled the "Thomas the Train" character from popular children's literature.

We rode the Trailway on a beautiful summer's day, starting at the tennis center parking area at Boyne Mountain. The Trailway is mostly flat, and fast, traveling through meadows and wooded terrain. At the Boyne City Airport Trailhead, a short ride west on Main Street takes you to the Lake Charlevoix waterfront and downtown Boyne City.

Boyne City to Charlevoix Trail

The dream of a continuous, safe, nonmotorized paved pathway connecting Boyne City to Charlevoix is inching closer to reality. The first 3.2 miles of trail was completed in 2016 from Boyne City to N. Springwater Beach Road, passing through Young State Park. At the northern end, 3 miles of paved trail was completed in 2017 from the Little Traverse Wheelway to Quarterline Road. Future construction is currently in the engineering phase. We enjoyed riding both sections of trail. The stretch passing through Young State Park is heavily wooded and very scenic.

