

[Kalamazoo Nature Center](#) (Entrance Fee)

A visit to the Kalamazoo Nature Center offers 13 trails covering over 10 miles of varied habitats from ponds to prairies, fens and forest, and all things in between. [Download Trail Map Here](#)

7000 N Westnedge Ave
Kalamazoo, MI 49009

[Van Buren State Park](#) (Recreation Pass Not Required)

Situated on the shores of Lake Michigan, Van Buren State Park has one mile of sandy beach and high dune formations. It's the perfect place to lounge on the beach, walk through woodland trails and enjoy a picnic lunch. Parking is available at the Hartford trail head located on Prospect Street across from the High School. The South Haven Trailhead located on Lovejoy, does not offer parking. The trail may also be accessed via a spur from [Van Buren State Park](#) . [Michigan Linear Trail Park Guide](#)

10336 Blue Star Hwy – off Lovejoy South Haven, MI 49090 and Van Buren Trail State Park Hartford, MI 49057

[Yankee Springs Recreation Area](#) (Recreation Passport Required for some activities)

Yankee Springs Recreation Area was once the hunting grounds of the Algonquin Indians and the famous Chieftain, Chief Noonday. The site was established in 1835 and the village was made famous by Yankee Bill Lewis who owned and operated a hotel along the stagecoach run from Kalamazoo to Grand Rapids. The rugged terrain, the bogs and marshes, the lakes and streams, and the unique beauty of the park's 5,200 acres lend itself to many forms of recreation.

As a year-round park, cross-county skiing on its more than ten acres of Nordic ski trails, snowmobiling, snowshoeing and ice fishing are all popular winter activities. Three special points of interest in the park are: Devil's Soup bowl, a glacially carved kettle formation, Graves Hill Overlook and the Pines, accessible from the extensive trail systems.

Favorite fairweather activities include 30 miles of hiking trails, 12 miles of challenging mountain

bike trails, ten miles of horseback trails, as well as two public beaches, picnic shelters and two universally accessible fishing piers one at Gun Lake and one at Deep Lake.

2104 S Briggs Rd
Middleville, MI 49333

[Asylum Lake Preserve](#)

Asylum Lake Preserve is a 274-acre parcel of land that is owned by Western Michigan University. The lake and adjoining property lie in the West Fork of the Portage Creek Watershed

[Click here for printable trail map](#)

3836 S Drake Rd
Kalamazoo, MI 49008

[Kal Haven Trail](#) (Recreation Passport Not Required)

The 33 mile former railroad bed has a limestone/slag surface. Linking the city of South Haven to the city of Kalamazoo the trail crosses over bridges, passes through small towns and by points of historical interest. [Michigan Linear Trial Park Guide](#)

Kal-Haven Trail State Park
4143 10th St N
Kalamazoo, MI 49009

and

Kal-Haven Trail Sesquicentennial State Park

South Haven, MI 49090

[Kalamazoo River Valley Trail](#)

Currently, there are 22 miles complete of this non-motorized, paved-asphalt trail. One stretch begins at 10th Street, heading east from the Kal-Haven Caboose and stretching 4.8 miles to Westnedge Ave. You can also enjoy a section that connects 35th St. in Galesburg to D Avenue, traveling through River Oaks County Park, Mayors' Riverfront Park, Verburg Park, along Riverview Dr., and heading north along Markin Glen County Park and the Kalamazoo Nature Center. These two segments are connected by a signed-route throughout downtown Kalamazoo, featuring the Arcadia Creek Festival Place as well as many places to eat and shop.

[Saugatuck Dunes State Park](#) (Recreation Passport Required)

A day-use park along a secluded strip of Lake Michigan shoreline, Saugatuck Dunes State Park offers 2.5 miles of shore line. The park has fresh water coastal dunes that are over 200 feet tall. The park's terrain varies from steep slopes to rolling hills.

3834 66th Street,
Saugatuck, MI 49453

[Battle Creek Linear Park](#) (No charge)

The Battle Creek Linear Park offers unlimited recreational and educational opportunities. With more than 26 miles of paved pathway, the park is perfect for a brisk jog or leisurely stroll. The park is also a resource for learning more about the world around you as it features unique plant, animal, picnicing, playgrounds, fishing, historical and cultural points-of-interest.

Trail end points: Dickman Rd. at Brady Rd. and Bailey Park in Battle Creek

[Woodland Park Nature Preserve](#)

Woodland Park and Nature Preserve is the only community park and nature preserve within the city limits of Battle Creek. This park is a 145-acre nature area with one entrance on Helmer Road, just 2 miles north of I-94, and another on Gethings Road. [Click to download a PDF map](#)

2518 Gethings Road Battle Creek MI 49015

[Fort Custer Recreation Area](#) (Recreation Passport Required)

This recreation area has three lakes as well as the Kalamazoo River, high rolling meadows, soggy wetland, and abundant woods. There are 22 miles of hiking, biking, and horse trails. [Click for Map](#)

5163 Fort Custer Dr Augusta, MI 49012

[Lillian Anderson Arboretum](#)

Kalamazoo College's Lillian Anderson Arboretum comprises 140 acres of marsh, meadow, pine plantation and second-growth deciduous forest in Oshtemo Township, Kalamazoo County, Michigan. The Arboretum is located on M43 (West Main Street), about 5.5 miles away from Kalamazoo College. From the College's campus, head west along West Main Street, away from downtown, for about 4.5 miles. You will pass the bridge over 131, and Meijer. West Main Street will become M43. Once you've passed Meijer, the newly constructed parking lot to the Arb is located about a mile away, on the left hand side of the road, just after a white farmhouse. [Trial Map](#)

[Mount Baldhead Park](#) (Vehicle Fee)

Rated among the 25 best shorelines in the world by Conde Nast's Traveler, Oval Beach has the right combination of sand dunes, seclusion and services that create its cachet. Discover it best by riding across the Kalamazoo River on a hand-pulled chain ferry from the town of Saugatuck, climbing 282 steps to Mount Baldhead, and descending onto the grassy coastal sands.

698 Water Street
Saugatuck, MI 49453

[Warren Dunes State Park](#) (Recreation Passport Required)

Warren Dunes has three miles of shoreline, six miles of hiking trails and is open year-round. It also has a dune formation that rises 260 feet above the lake with spectacular views and 1,952 acres of recreational opportunity.

12032 Red Arrow Highway
Sawyer, MI 49125

[Grand Mere State Park](#) (Recreation Passport Required)

Grand Mere State Park is characterized by magnificent sand dunes, deep blowouts and one mile of Lake Michigan shoreline. Three inland lakes lie behind the dunes in the undeveloped natural area.

Thornton Drive
Stevensville, MI 49127