



Little Traverse Wheelway • Bear River Trail

Little Traverse Wheelway

One of the most popular trails in all of Michigan, the 26-mile Little Traverse Wheelway takes you from Charlevoix to Harbor Springs with stunning views of Little Traverse Bay all along the way.

The Wheelway's history dates back to the late 1800s when locals used it as a bicycling and walking path. The Grand Rapids and Indiana Railroad and the Chicago and West Michigan Railway eventually developed tracks along the route. The Wheelway was reclaimed as a bicycling and walking path in the 1990s after the railroads were abandoned.

The paved asphalt trail travels over a mostly flat, occasionally hilly terrain running parallel to the bay. Resort Bluff, west of Petoskey, offers some of the most spectacular scenery on the trail. Other highlights include a long boardwalk through wetlands east of Charlevoix, and Nine Mile Point where you can relax, picnic and explore the rocky beach along Little Traverse Bay. At Tannery Creek Trailhead, you'll see a massive painted mural depicting the modes of transportation on the Wheelway corridor throughout its history.

Be advised, due to erosion from high water levels, the trail between Magnus Park and East Park has been closed and rerouted along a sidewalk on M-31. Look for directional signs at each park guiding you to the temporary half-mile detour.



Bear River Trail

As you ride through Petoskey, look for the Bear River Trail when you cross the Bear River bridge. This scenic 1.1-mile paved trail runs south through a steep ravine and natural area along the Bear River rapids. The rapids plunges 75 feet through the ravine and was modified with large boulders to create a thrilling whitewater experience for paddlers.

Take in the magnificent views of Little Traverse Bay at East Park.

