

Photo by Nancy Moore

Most of the trail north of Big Rapids passes through a canopy of white pine and hardwood forests.

Fred Meijer White Pine Trail State Park Stanwood to Reed City

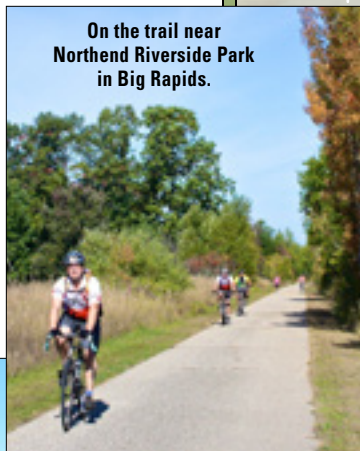
Winding through the scenic Muskegon River valley, the 21.5-mile stretch from Stanwood to Reed City is one of the most beautiful sections of the Fred Meijer White Pine Trail State Park with many stunning views of this mighty Michigan river.

The unpaved section of trail from Stanwood to Big Rapids is well maintained, passing through meadows and woodlands along the ridge of the river valley. There is no drinking water or stores along this section of the trail, so please plan accordingly.

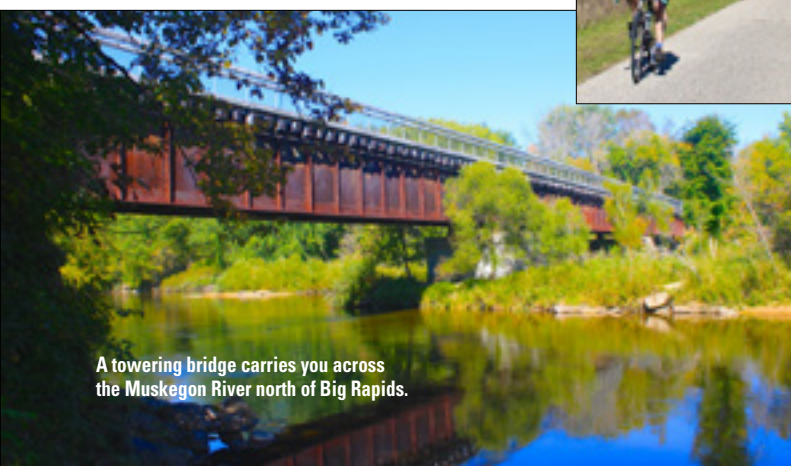
The paved section of trail from Taft Road in Big Rapids to Reed City is a very popular day trip. Big Rapids offers two nice staging areas: the historic railroad depot on Maple Street and Northend Riverside Park just north of the Baldwin Street bridge. The Big Rapids Riverwalk departs and reconnects with the White Pine Trail at the north and south ends of Northend Riverside Park and takes you along the edge of the Muskegon River. You'll find convenience stores and restaurants between Taft Road and Maple Street, or head west on Maple Street for several other stores and eateries in downtown Big Rapids.

A towering bridge carries you across the Muskegon River as the trail follows the course of the river to the quaint hamlet of Paris. Here you will find a party store, a café, Paris County Park and the historic Paris Fish Hatchery. You must purchase a pass to park at Paris County Park.

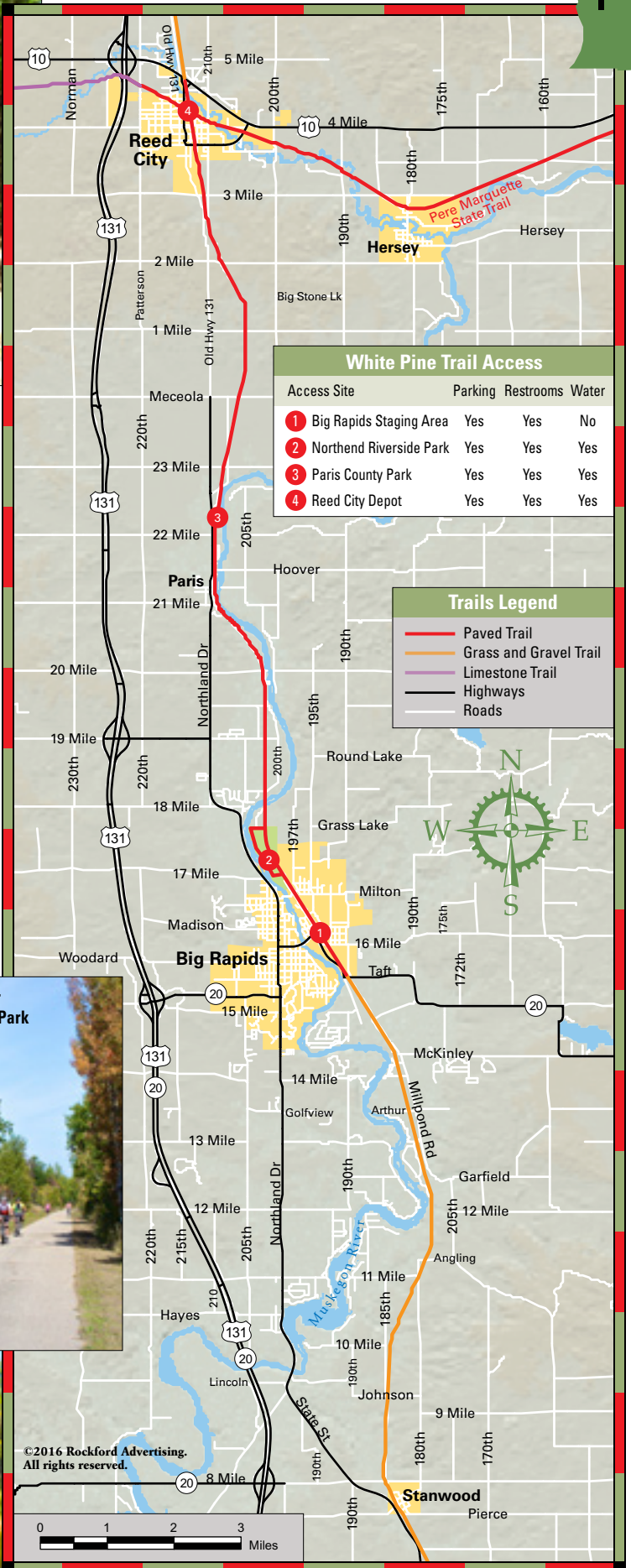
The trail climbs a slight grade on its way to Reed City where you will be greeted by a beautiful train depot at the junction of the Pere Marquette State Trail. The Reed City Depot offers tourist information, restrooms and a picnic pavilion near food stores and several restaurants in Reed City's downtown shopping district.



On the trail near Northend Riverside Park in Big Rapids.



A towering bridge carries you across the Muskegon River north of Big Rapids.



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