



Pere Marquette State Trail
Baldwin to Ewart

The 58.5-mile Pere Marquette State Trail slices through Michigan's midsection on a former CSX Railroad line from Baldwin to Clare. Along this route, you will encounter a diversity of landscapes as the trail takes you past woodlands, wetlands and farmland, with picturesque views of the Baldwin, Hersey and Muskegon rivers.

The 33-mile section from Baldwin to Ewart begins at the trailhead in downtown

Baldwin where you will see the World's Largest Brown Trout Sculpture, measuring 25 feet from front tooth to tail fin. The trailhead is close to several stores, restaurants, lodging, an ice cream shop and a museum.

The 20-mile section from Baldwin to Reed City is surfaced with finely screened and compacted limestone. A staging area at the US-131/US-10 interchange offers convenient access to the trail. The Reed City Depot, at the intersection of the Fred Meijer White Pine Trail, is a great place to begin or conclude your ride, or stop for a picnic, and

is close to several stores and restaurants in downtown Reed City.

The paved 13-mile section from Reed City to Ewart follows along the Hersey and Muskegon rivers, passing by farms, pine groves and clusters of seasonal wild flowers. Halfway between Hersey and Ewart, you'll discover a scenic overlook offering stunning views of the Muskegon River. A beautifully restored rail depot welcomes you to downtown Ewart with convenient access to several stores and restaurants, and camping and picnicking at Riverside Park (on both the east and west sides of the river).

Ewart to Clare

The 31.5-mile section of the Pere Marquette State Trail from Ewart to Clare is now fully paved with a smooth asphalt surface. The trail takes you on a scenic tour with long expanses of natural beauty, traveling through two distinctly different landscapes.

The restored rail depot in Ewart offers an excellent starting point. From the Muskegon River bridge, the trail passes through two tunnels as it gradually climbs a ridge and reaches its highest elevation as it crosses M-66. It then begins a

gradual descent into a complex of lakes and wetlands that surround the village of Lake Station.

The rail depot in Lake Station features a fairly new staging area. Just east of Lake Station you'll see a towering concrete "coal dock," a silent reminder of the steam locomotives that once powered down this historic rail line.

This was a milestone year for the Pere Marquette State Trail, as the infamous "Clare Gap" exists no more. A new 2.5 miles of paved trail was built in 2024 between Moose Lodge and the Clare Depot, including a new bridge over the

Tobacco River. To continue east on the Pere Marquette Rail-Trail to Midland (see page 150), you will need to ride 2 blocks east of the Clare Depot on 4th Street to the public library where the Pere Marquette Rail-Trail begins.

A Trail for All Seasons
Your Adventure Begins in
Baldwin
Trailhead for the
Pere Marquette State Trail
Your up north destination for
quaint shops & boutiques,
restaurants, lodging,
ice cream, and local
history museum.

See the
world's largest
brown trout sculpture
at the Baldwin
Trailhead.

Go to "Let's Talk Baldwin" on
Facebook for local events.

1 See location on map.

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THE CLARE GAP IS
'BRIDGED'
Baldwin ← Clare → Midland

The "Clare Gap" is complete!
Providing continuous travel between the Pere Marquette Rail Trail
in Midland and the Pere Marquette State Trail in Baldwin.

Help us celebrate this milestone as well as support
ongoing trail improvements by becoming a member
of the Friends of the Pere Marquette Rail Trail.

<https://www.peremarquetterailtrail.org/>

Pere Marquette State Trail