



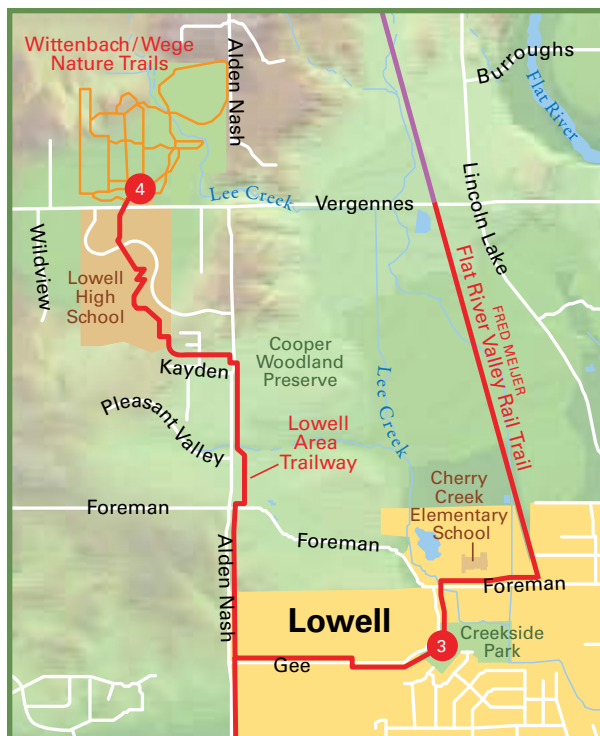
Fred Meijer Flat River Valley Rail Trail

The entire 22-mile Fred Meijer Flat River Valley Rail Trail was completed during the summer of 2020 and waiting for you to explore. The trail north and south of Belding was the first rail trail in Michigan to be surfaced with finely screened and compacted recycled asphalt. The trail surface is surprisingly smooth and firm. Most of the trail is very scenic, traveling through mostly hardwood forest and quiet farmland. The first 2.28-mile section of trail through the city of Belding was opened in 2014, paved with asphalt and crosses three bridges over the Flat River.

The story of the Fred Meijer Flat River Valley Rail Trail began in 2006, when Swedish conglomerate, Electrolux, closed down the world's largest refrigerator factory in Greenville and moved operations to Juarez, Mexico. The Mid Michigan Railroad lost its biggest and only customer on the Lowell to Greenville rail line and abandoned the rail corridor. On September 22, 2010, a broad coalition of government and nonprofit organizations purchased the entire length of abandoned railway for \$1.3 million for recreational use.

Phase one of construction should begin soon on a new trail through Lowell that will connect with the Fred Meijer Grand River Valley Rail Trail.

Most of the trail is surfaced with finely screened and compacted recycled asphalt.



Lowell Area Trailway

The 2.5-mile Lowell Area Trailway is a 10-foot-wide, paved community pathway that connects several parks, trails and schools to the Fred Meijer Flat River Valley Rail Trail in Lowell. At the northern end of the trail, you can explore nearly 4 miles of nature trails at the Wittenbach/Wege Agriscience and Environmental Education Center.

