

# *Fred Meijer White Pine Trail State Park – Information and Index Map*

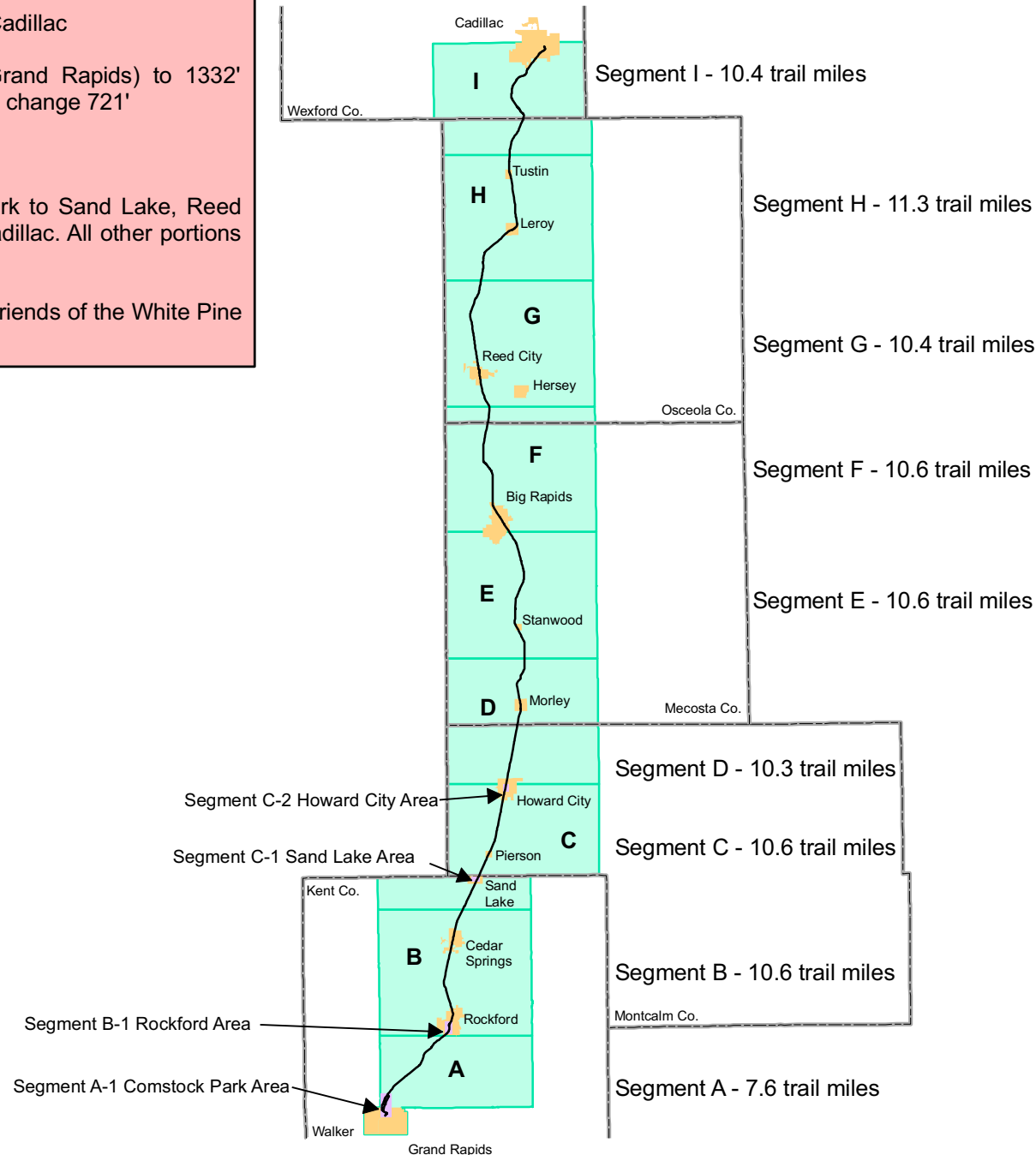
General Location: Grand Rapids to Cadillac

Trail Elevation Information: 611' (Grand Rapids) to 1332' (just south of Cadillac) total elevation change 721'

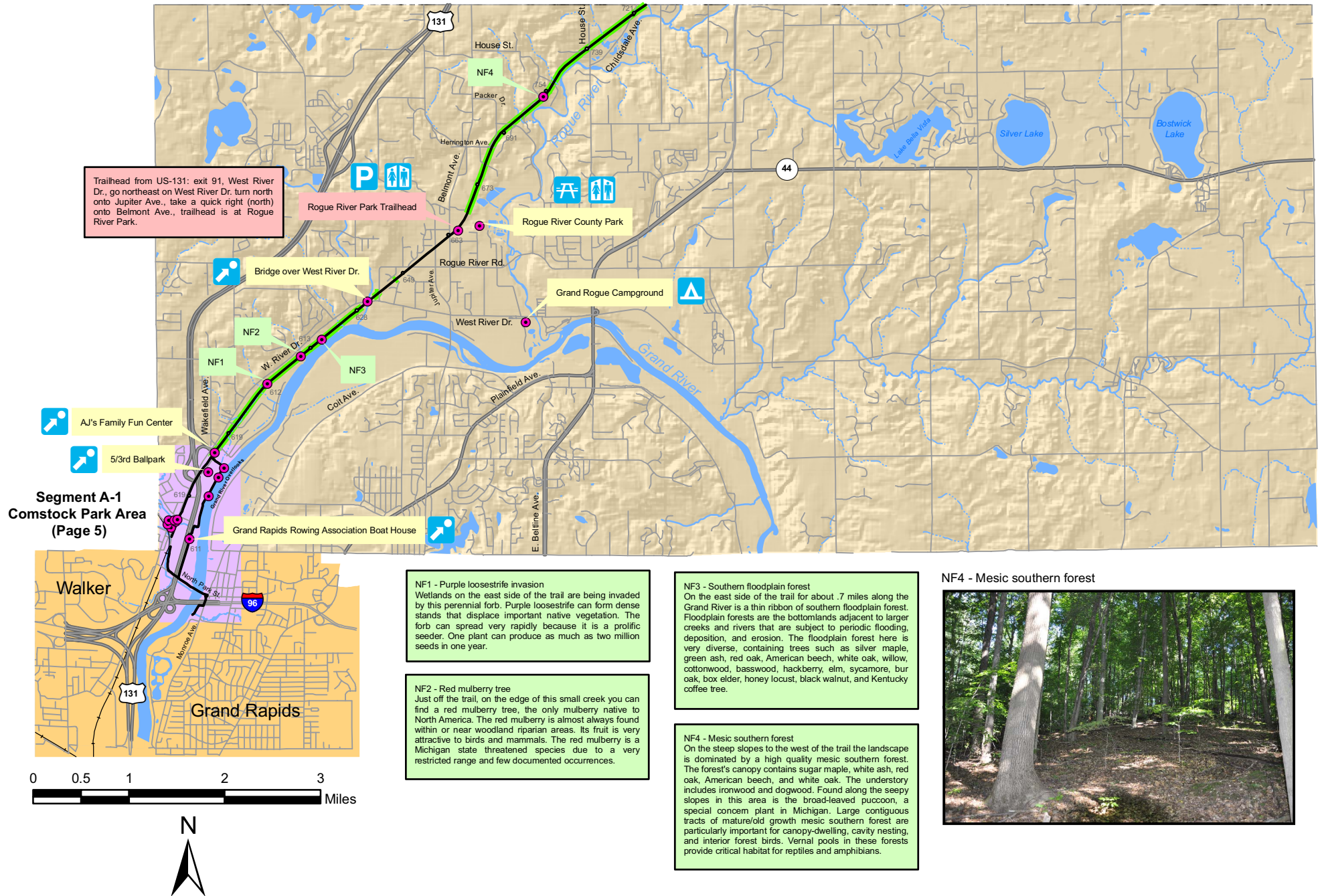
Total Mileage: 92.4

Surface: Asphalt from Comstock Park to Sand Lake, Reed City to Big Rapids, and LeRoy to Cadillac. All other portions of the trail are grass/dirt

For More Information Contact: The Friends of the White Pine Trail - [www.whitepinetrail.com](http://www.whitepinetrail.com)

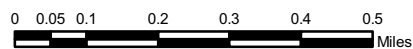
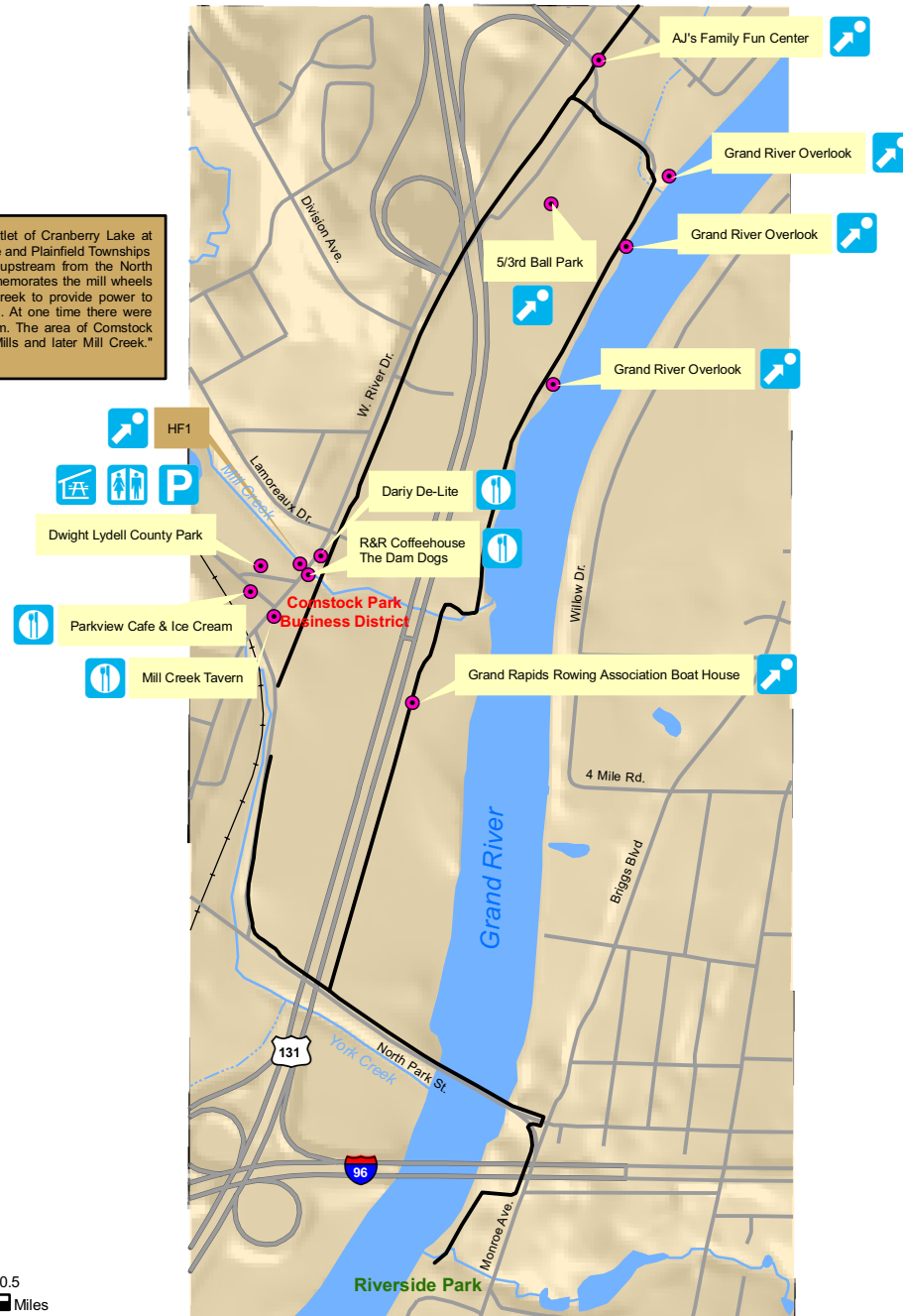


# Segment A - Comstock Park Area to Rockford Area



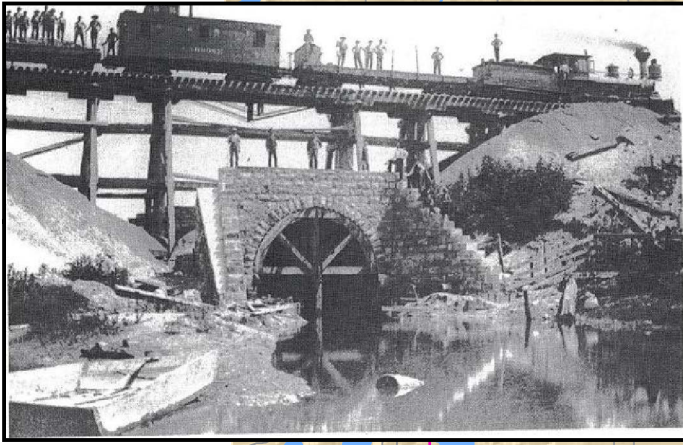
# Segment A-1 Comstock Park Area

HF1 - "Mill Creek begins as an outlet of Cranberry Lake at Nine Mile Road, flows through Alpine and Plainfield Townships and empties into the Grand River upstream from the North Park bridge. The water wheel commemorates the mill wheels that early settlers erected in Mill Creek to provide power to grind their grain and saw their logs. At one time there were seven operating mills on this stream. The area of Comstock Park was originally known as Six Mills and later Mill Creek." (From posted historic sign)





# Segment B - Rockford to Cedar Springs



**HF2 - Trestle Park - Grand Rapids & Indiana Railroad Culvert**  
This historic photo shows a construction crew replacing the wood trestle with a new viaduct. Stegman Creek is in the foreground. Photo taken in 1885. (From: Railroads of the Cedar Springs Area- Vol. 1, by the Cedar Springs Historical Society & Museum, 2001.)

## The North Country National Scenic Trail

When the trail is completed it will span from North Dakota to New York, linking scenic, natural, historic, and cultural areas across the northern U.S. It will have the distinction of being the longest continuous hiking trail in the Country.

**HF2 - Trestle Park - Grand Rapids & Indiana Railroad Culvert**  
"The Grand Rapids and Indiana Railroad (GR&I) reached Algoma Township in 1867. A series of wooden trestles were built to cross Wicked Creek, later named Stegman Creek. In 1885, after repeated fires and floods, the GR&I hired James House to cut fieldstones from his farm and build this culvert to stabilize the trestle. Eventually, the GR&I abandoned the trestle and buried it intact within a wall of dirt above the culvert." (From: Registered Michigan Historic Site Marker)

**NF5 - Rum Creek**  
The main tributary of Rum Creek is approximately 4.1 miles long and drains from the east into the Rogue River. The creek is designated by the State of Michigan as a "Natural River" corridor. Because of this, the creek flows through a well vegetated riparian corridor helping to protect water quality and aquatic habitat. Water quality in the creek is generally very good and supports a viable trout population.

**NF6 - Southern floodplain forest**  
On the west side of the trail is an extensive floodplain forest along the Rogue River. Floodplain forests are the bottomlands adjacent to larger creeks and rivers that are subject to periodic flooding, deposition, and erosion. The floodplains here are dominated by silver maple and green ash. Our floodplain forests, particularly in southern Michigan, form some of the largest contiguous tracts of mature/old growth forests. These forests are particularly important for canopy-dwelling, cavity nesting, and interior forest birds and are crucial habitat for reptiles and amphibians.

**NF7 - Rogue River**  
The Rogue River watershed drains 262 square miles of land mostly north and west of this point on the trail. The basin, which is approximately 25 miles long (north-south) and 15 miles wide (east-west), includes 15 major creek tributaries. The river flows generally south from its headwaters in Newaygo County, passing through the City of Rockford, and then emptying into the Grand River. Tributaries on the eastern side of the watershed are considered major cool-cold water streams that support viable trout populations (the trail passes over 4 of them). Water quality of the river is generally very good allowing it to support a healthy trout fishery.

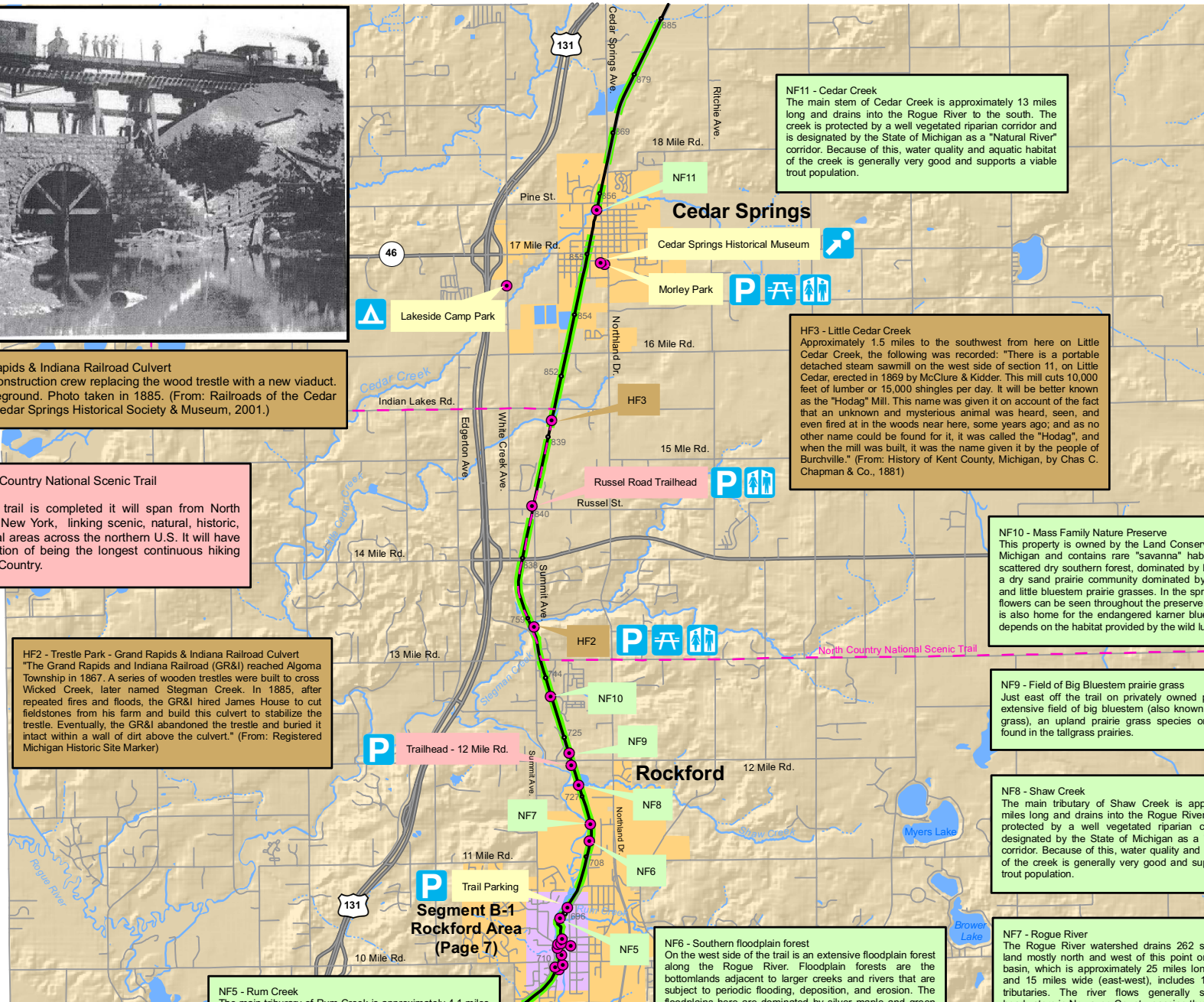
**NF8 - Shaw Creek**  
The main tributary of Shaw Creek is approximately 3.6 miles long and drains into the Rogue River. The creek is protected by a well vegetated riparian corridor and is designated by the State of Michigan as a "Natural River" corridor. Because of this, water quality and aquatic habitat of the creek is generally very good and supports a viable trout population.

**NF9 - Field of Big Bluestem prairie grass**  
Just east off the trail on privately owned property, is an extensive field of big bluestem (also known as turkey foot grass), an upland prairie grass species once commonly found in the tallgrass prairies.

**NF10 - Mass Family Nature Preserve**  
This property is owned by the Land Conservancy of West Michigan and contains rare "savanna" habitat containing scattered dry southern forest, dominated by black oak, and a dry sand prairie community dominated by big bluestem and little bluestem prairie grasses. In the spring wild lupine flowers can be seen throughout the preserve. The preserve is also home for the endangered karnar blue butterfly that depends on the habitat provided by the wild lupine.

**NF11 - Cedar Creek**  
The main stem of Cedar Creek is approximately 13 miles long and drains into the Rogue River to the south. The creek is protected by a well vegetated riparian corridor and is designated by the State of Michigan as a "Natural River" corridor. Because of this, water quality and aquatic habitat of the creek is generally very good and supports a viable trout population.

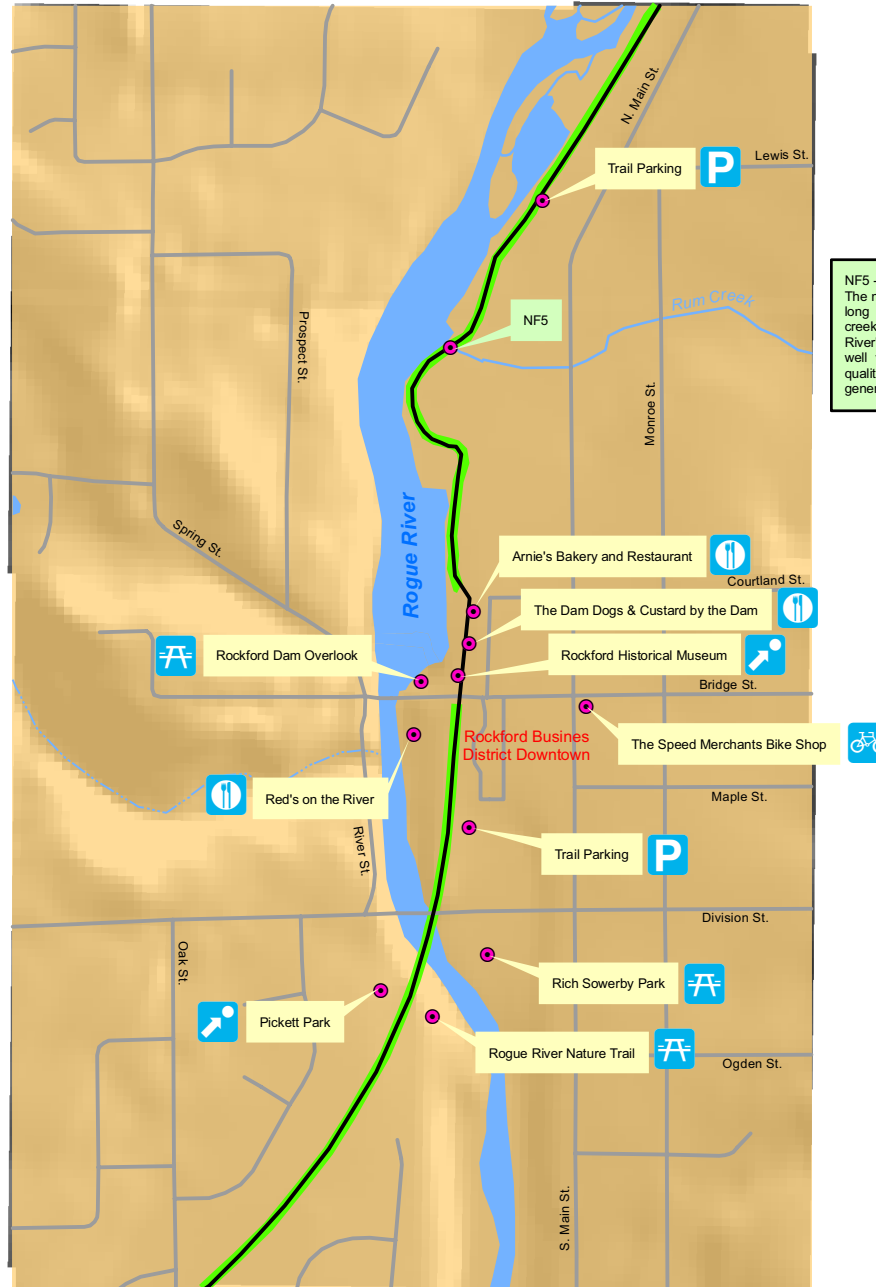
**HF3 - Little Cedar Creek**  
Approximately 1.5 miles to the southwest from here on Little Cedar Creek, the following was recorded: "There is a portable detached steam sawmill on the west side of section 11, on Little Cedar, erected in 1869 by McClure & Kiddier. This mill cuts 10,000 feet of lumber or 15,000 shingles per day. It will be better known as the "Hodag" Mill. This name was given it on account of the fact that an unknown and mysterious animal was heard, seen, and even fired at in the woods near here, some years ago; and as no other name could be found for it, it was called the "Hodag", and when the mill was built, it was the name given it by the people of Burchville." (From: History of Kent County, Michigan, by Chas C. Chapman & Co., 1881)



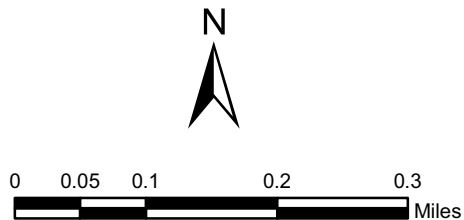


# Segment B-1 Rockford Area

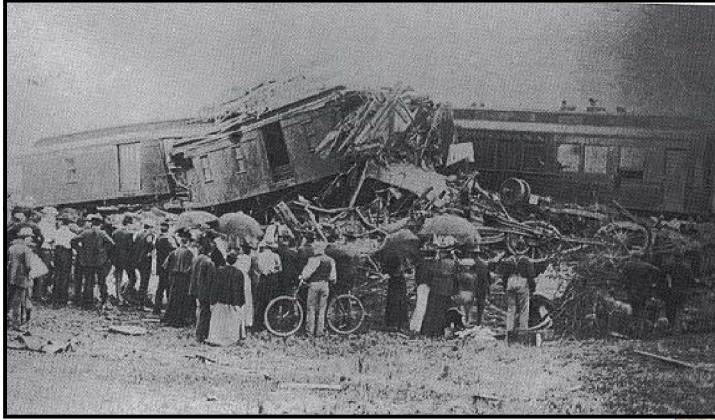
Rockford Dam Overlook



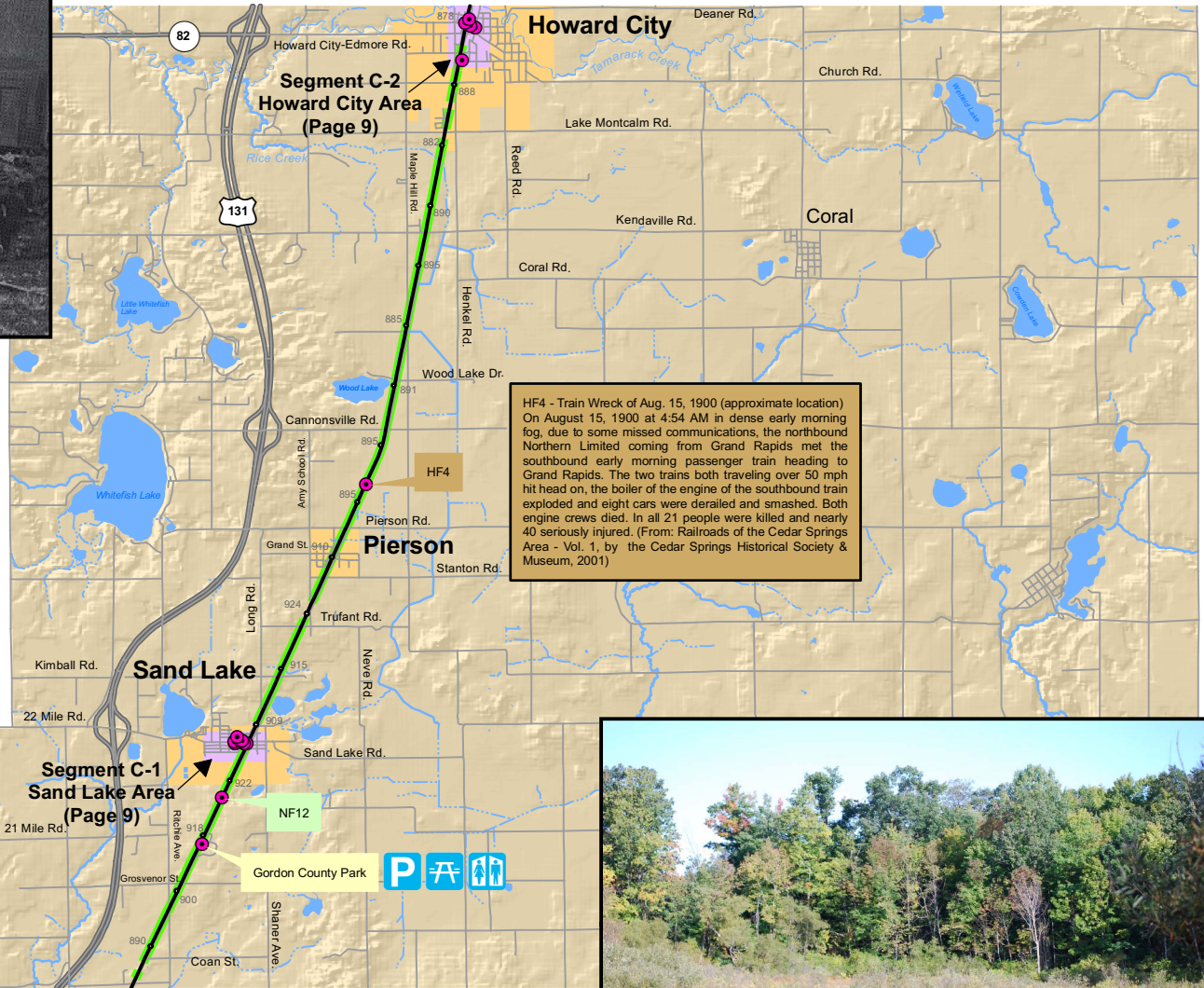
**NF5 - Rum Creek**  
The main tributary of Rum Creek is approximately 4.1 miles long and drains from the east into the Rogue River. The creek is designated by the State of Michigan as a "Natural River" corridor. Because of this, the creek flows through a well vegetated riparian corridor helping to protect water quality and aquatic habitat. Water quality in the creek is generally very good and supports a viable trout population.



# Segment C - Sand Lake to Howard City

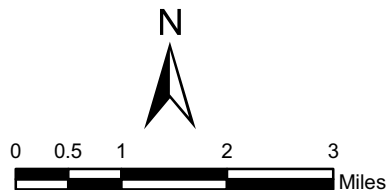


HF4 - Train Wreck of Aug. 15, 1900



NF12 - Southern wet meadow

**NF12 - Southern wet meadow**  
On the west side of the trail at this point is a small southern wet meadow, more commonly referred to as a sedge meadow. These wetlands are heavily groundwater-influenced and are dominated by a variety of carex sedges. Muskrat prefer this habitat for building lodges, and when a lodge is abandoned, Canada geese like to reuse the lodge as a nesting site. Sandhill cranes and marsh wrens also use this community for nesting.

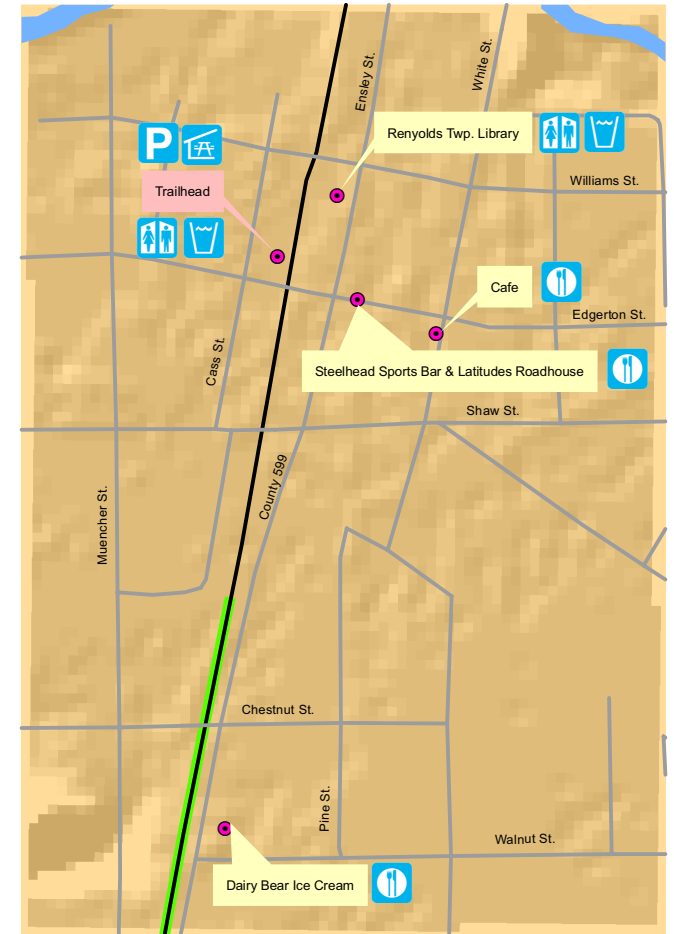


# Segment C-1 Sand Lake Area - Segment C-2 Howard City Area

## C - 1 Sand Lake Area



## C - 2 Howard City Area





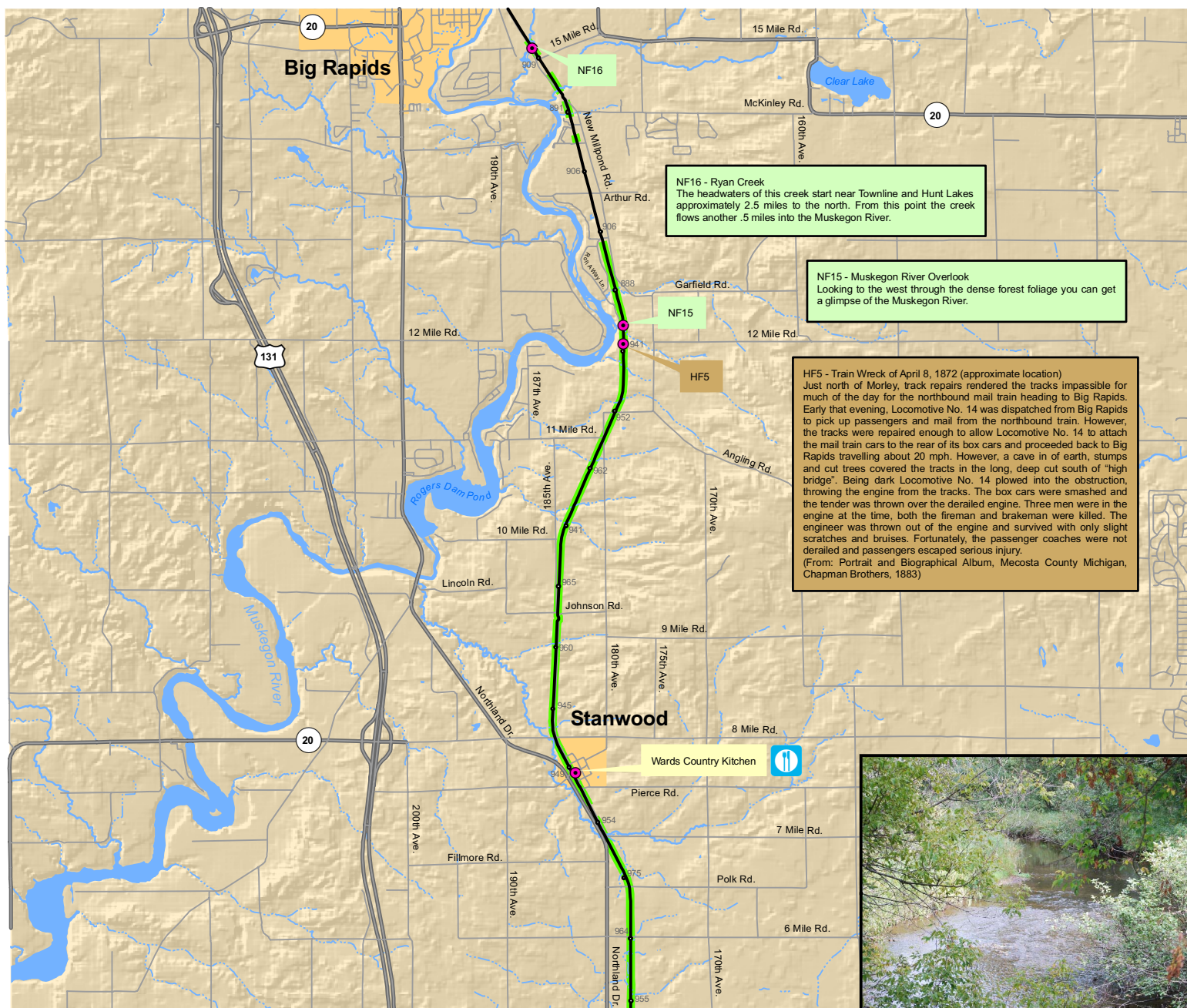
*Segment D - Howard City to Morley Area*



NF13 - Tamarack Creek



# Segment E - Stanwood Area to Big Rapids

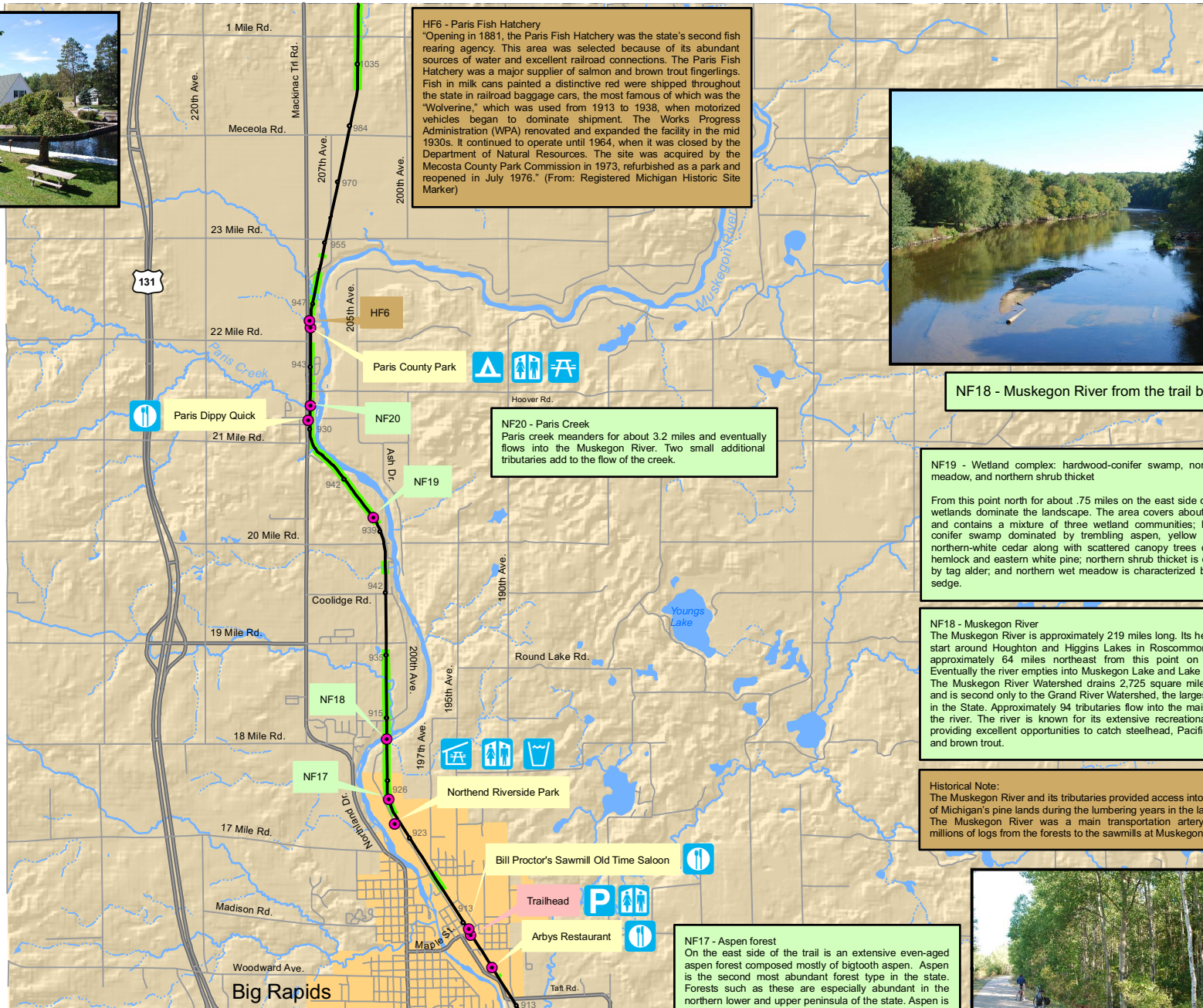




# Segment F - Big Rapids to Reed City Area



HF6 - Paris Fish Hatchery



**HF6 - Paris Fish Hatchery**  
 "Opening in 1881, the Paris Fish Hatchery was the state's second fish rearing agency. This area was selected because of its abundant sources of water and excellent railroad connections. The Paris Fish Hatchery was a major supplier of salmon and brown trout fingerlings. Fish in milk cans painted a distinctive red were shipped throughout the state in railroad baggage cars, the most famous of which was the "Wolverine," which was used from 1913 to 1938, when motorized vehicles began to dominate shipment. The Works Progress Administration (WPA) renovated and expanded the facility in the mid 1930s. It continued to operate until 1964, when it was closed by the Department of Natural Resources. The site was acquired by the Mecosta County Park Commission in 1973, refurbished as a park and reopened in July 1976." (From: Registered Michigan Historic Site Marker)



NF18 - Muskegon River from the trail bridge

**NF19 - Wetland complex:** hardwood-conifer swamp, northern wet meadow, and northern shrub thicket  
 From this point north for about .75 miles on the east side of the trail, wetlands dominate the landscape. The area covers about 70 acres and contains a mixture of three wetland communities; hardwood-conifer swamp dominated by trembling aspen, yellow birch and northern-white cedar along with scattered canopy trees of eastern hemlock and eastern white pine; northern shrub thicket is dominated by tag alder; and northern wet meadow is characterized by tussock sedge.

**NF18 - Muskegon River**  
 The Muskegon River is approximately 219 miles long. Its headwaters start around Houghton and Higgins Lakes in Roscommon County, approximately 64 miles northeast from this point on the trail. Eventually the river empties into Muskegon Lake and Lake Michigan. The Muskegon River Watershed drains 2,725 square miles of land and is second only to the Grand River Watershed, the largest by area in the State. Approximately 94 tributaries flow into the main stem of the river. The river is known for its extensive recreational fishery, providing excellent opportunities to catch steelhead, Pacific salmon, and brown trout.

**Historical Note:**  
 The Muskegon River and its tributaries provided access into the heart of Michigan's pine lands during the lumbering years in the late 1800s. The Muskegon River was a main transportation artery, moving millions of logs from the forests to the sawmills at Muskegon.



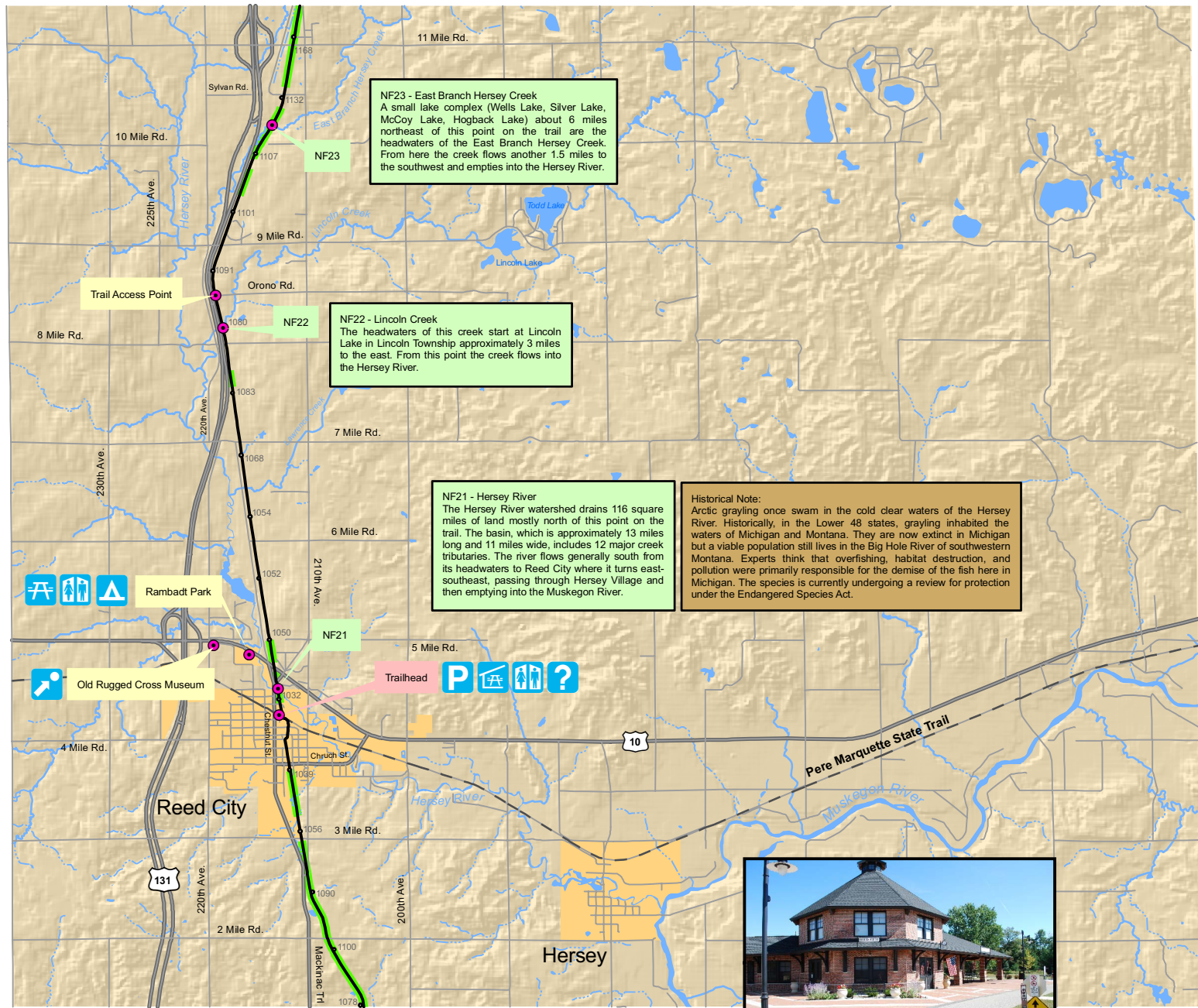
NF17 - Aspen Forest

**NF17 - Aspen forest**  
 On the east side of the trail is an extensive even-aged aspen forest composed mostly of bigtooth aspen. Aspen is the second most abundant forest type in the state. Forests such as these are especially abundant in the northern lower and upper peninsula of the state. Aspen is commercially valued for its manufacture into pulp, paper products, and structural panel products and also is a highly valued source of food and shelter for white-tailed deer and ruffed grouse.





# Segment G - Reed City Area to Leroy Area



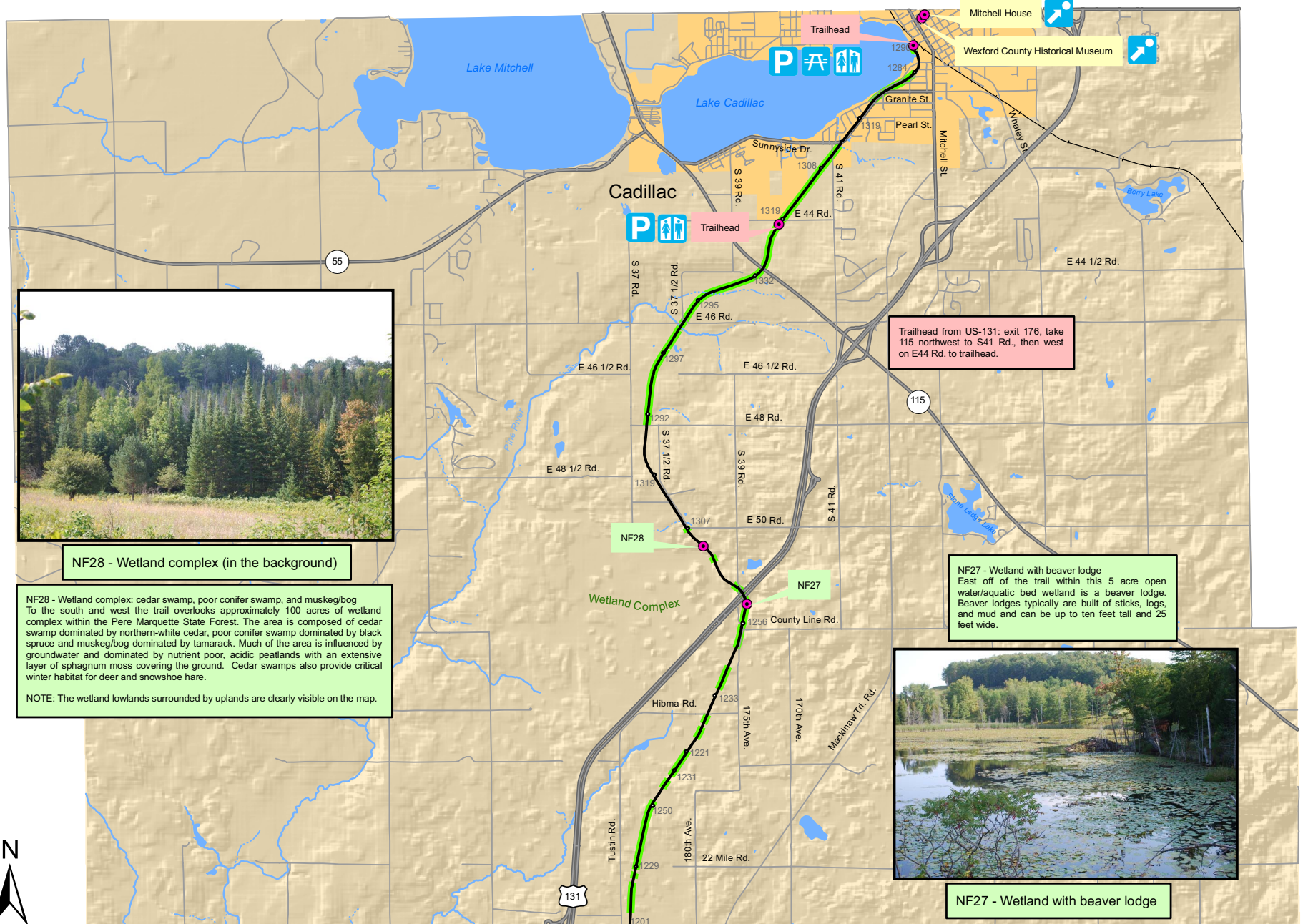
Reed City Trailhead

*Segment H - Leroy Area to Tustin Area*





# Segment I - Tustin Area to Cadillac

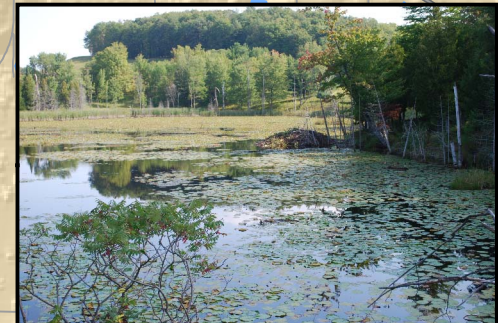


NF28 - Wetland complex (in the background)

NF28 - Wetland complex: cedar swamp, poor conifer swamp, and muskeg/bog. To the south and west the trail overlooks approximately 100 acres of wetland complex within the Pere Marquette State Forest. The area is composed of cedar swamp dominated by northern-white cedar, poor conifer swamp dominated by black spruce and muskeg/bog dominated by tamarack. Much of the area is influenced by groundwater and dominated by nutrient poor, acidic peatlands with an extensive layer of sphagnum moss covering the ground. Cedar swamps also provide critical winter habitat for deer and snowshoe hare.

NOTE: The wetland lowlands surrounded by uplands are clearly visible on the map.

NF27 - Wetland with beaver lodge. East off of the trail within this 5 acre open water/aquatic bed wetland is a beaver lodge. Beaver lodges typically are built of sticks, logs, and mud and can be up to ten feet tall and 25 feet wide.



NF27 - Wetland with beaver lodge

