

Bicycling Safety and State Law

Rights and Responsibilities
In general, bicyclists on public roadways have the same rights and responsibilities as automobile drivers and are subject to the same state laws and local ordinances.

Ride with Traffic
Motorists are not looking for bicyclists riding on the wrong side of the road. State law requires that cyclists ride with the flow of traffic.

Ride as Far to the Right as Practicable
Bicyclists should keep as far to the right as practicable, moving left to avoid hazards and to position themselves in the appropriate designated through or turn lanes.

Keep to the Right and Ride Only Two Ahead
No more than two bicyclists shall ride side by side on a public roadway. When riding in a group, form a single file line when other road users are present.

Use Lights and Reflectors at Night
State law requires a front white light visible for 500 ft. and a red reflector visible for 600 ft. at night. A rear light is recommended. More reflectors and stronger lights make you more visible.

Always Yield to Other, Slower Path Users
When operating on a shared use path or sidewalk, bicyclists must yield the right of way to pedestrians and shall give an audible signal before overtaking and passing a pedestrian. When overtaking, announce your intentions by saying "passing on your left" or ringing your bell.

Use Hand Signals
Hand signals tell pedestrians and motorists what you intend to do. It is state law that you use signals.

Carrying Items
If you plan on carrying any packages, bundles or objects, you must be able to keep both hands on the handlebars. A variety of racks, packs, and trailers can be fitted to your bicycle to transport goods.

Best Practice Safety Tips

Be Courteous and Respectful on Trails
Show courtesy to all trail users. Adhere to trail hours and restrictions. Respect the rights of property owners along the trail.

Always Wear an Approved Helmet
Always have your helmet fitted and adjusted properly. Helmets should fit snugly so they do not move around while riding.

Wear Appropriate Clothing
Wear light, bright, and/or reflective clothing at all times of the day and night to improve your visibility. Dress in layers and bring gear for unforeseen changes in weather.

Watch for Cars
Always assume that motorists do not see you. Keep an eye out for cars pulling into traffic from parking spaces, driveways, and intersecting streets. Make eye contact to assess your safety before proceeding in front of a vehicle. Watch out for car doors opening into the travel lane.

Safety Accessories
Water bottles, tire repair kits, mirrors, locks, and first aid kits help make each trip safer and the bicyclist more self-sufficient.

Where to Ride

On the Road:
Bicycles are permitted on all Michigan highways and roads, EXCEPT limited access freeways or unless otherwise posted. Bicycles are allowed on all road systems including those in state forests, state parks, national forests, and national parks.

State Park Trails and Recreation Areas:
Bikes are currently allowed on all paved and non-paved roads in Michigan state parks. Bikes may also be ridden on designated bike paths. Mountain bikes are allowed only on trails designated for bicycle use. For general Michigan Department of Natural Resources Parks and Recreation questions, email DNR-ParksAndRecreation@michigan.gov or call (517) 284-7275 (517)-284-PARK.

State Forest Trails:
Bicycles are allowed on most State Forest Trails. For general Michigan Department of Natural Resources Parks and Recreation questions, email DNR-ParksAndRecreation@michigan.gov or call (517) 284-7275 (517)-284-PARK.

State Game Areas:
Bicycles are allowed on designated trails and areas in state game areas. For general Michigan Department of Natural Resources Parks and Recreation questions, email DNR-ParksAndRecreation@michigan.gov or call (517) 284-7275 (517)-284-PARK.

Local Trail Systems:
Many local communities have developed their own trail systems. Rules and regulations vary by each community and trail. Contact the appropriate jurisdiction for more information.

Wilderness Areas:
Bicycles are considered to be mechanical devices and are therefore prohibited in national wilderness areas.

National Forest Trails:
Bicycles are allowed on National Forest trails except where posted. Some trails may be open to foot traffic only. For more information go to www.fs.fed.us.

North Country Scenic Trail (North Country Trail):
The entire North Country Trail is open to hiking, however, only portions are open to mountain biking. Contact North Country Trail Association at (616) 897-5987 or (866) 445-3628, or visit www.northcountrytrail.org.

Huron-Clinton Metroparks:
Cyclists are allowed on paved hike-bike trails within the parks. There are no designated dirt mountain bike trails located in the Metroparks within the University Region. For further information contact (800) 477-2757 or www.metroparks.com.

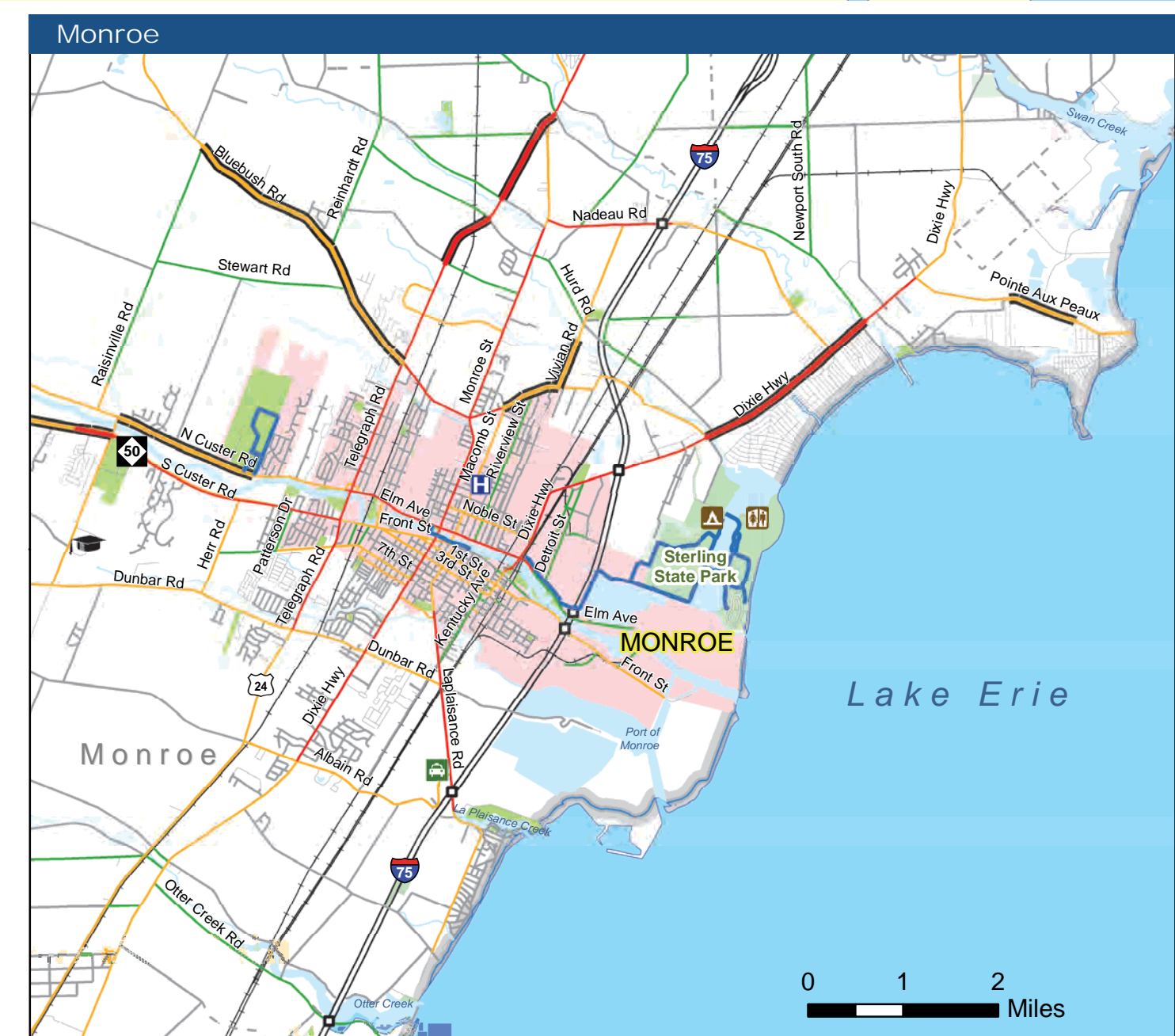
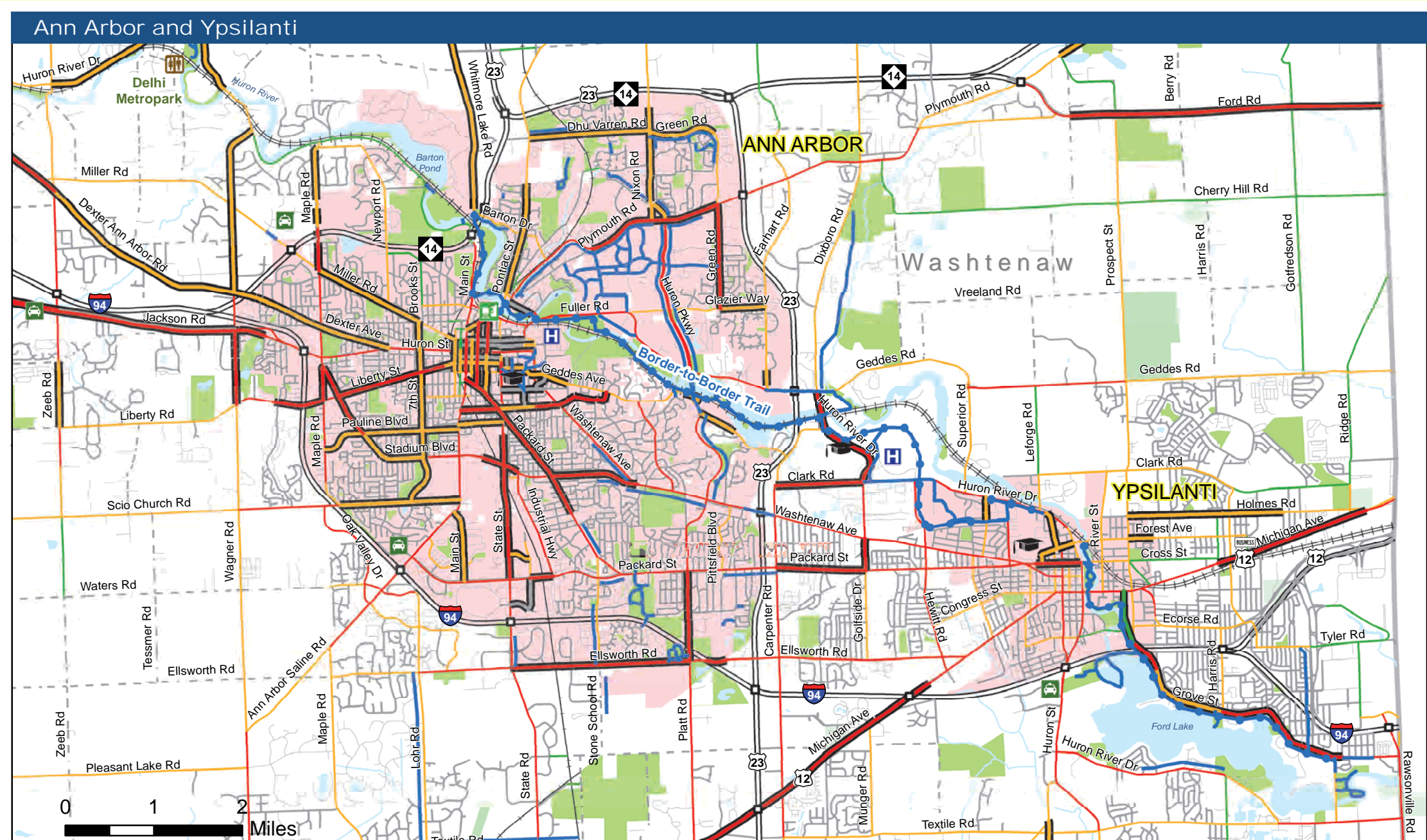
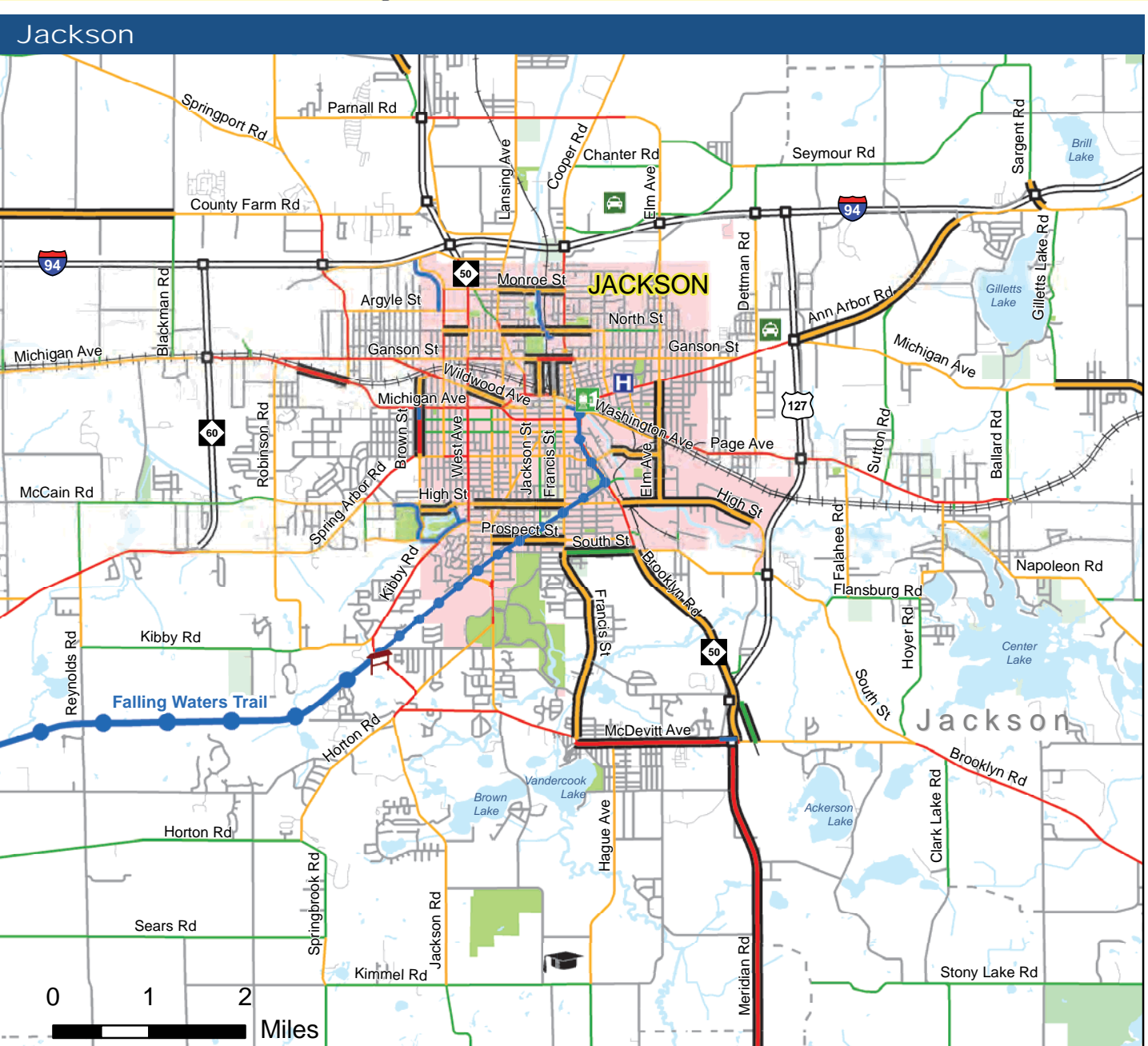
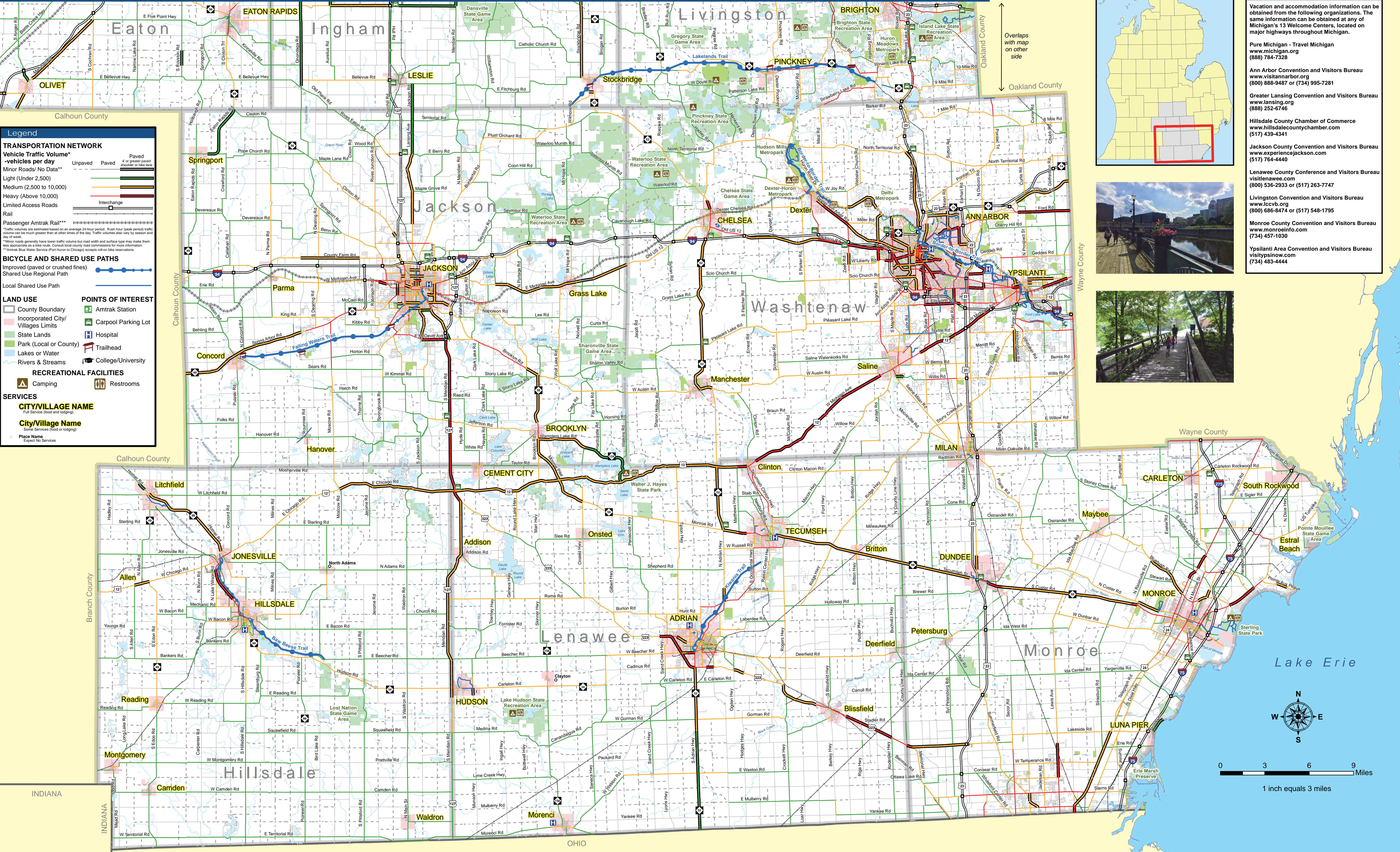
Lansing River Trails:
A 20 mile urban trailway that follows the banks of the Grand and Red Cedar rivers. The trail connects in the southern section to Delhi Township trail system.

Falling Waters Trail:
A 10.5 mile paved trail within the old Michigan Central Railroad corridor connects the City of Jackson and Concord. The trail crosses Lime Lake on an old causeway.

Lakelands Trail:
In southern Livingston County, the Lakelands Trail is a linear State Park approximately 13 miles long with both gravel and paved surfaces. See the map insert on the other side.

Fred Meijer Clinton-Ionia-Shiawassee Trail (CIS):
A 41.3 mile long improved, nonmotorized, non-equestrian trail located in mid-Michigan. See the map insert on the other side. Visit www.cistrail.org for more information.

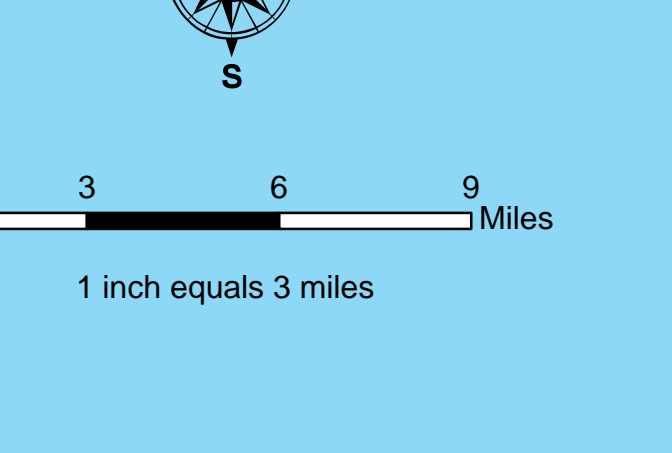
Hillsdale, Jackson, Lenawee, Monroe, and Washtenaw Counties



Tourist Resources

Vacation and accommodation information can be obtained from the following organizations. The same information can be obtained at any of Michigan's 13 Welcome Centers, located on major highways throughout Michigan.

- Pure Michigan - Travel Michigan
www.michigan.org
(888) 784-7328
- Ann Arbor Convention and Visitors Bureau
www.visitannarbor.org
(800) 888-9487 or (734) 995-7281
- Greater Lansing Convention and Visitors Bureau
www.lansing.org
(888) 252-6746
- Hillsdale County Chamber of Commerce
www.hillsdalecounty.com
(517) 439-4341
- Jackson County Convention and Visitors Bureau
www.experiencejackson.com
(517) 764-4440
- Lenawee County Conference and Visitors Bureau
www.visitlenawee.com
(800) 536-2933 or (517) 263-7747
- Livingston Convention and Visitors Bureau
www.lcvb.org
(800) 686-8474 or (517) 548-1795
- Monroe County Convention and Visitors Bureau
www.monroinfo.com
(734) 457-1030
- Ypsilanti Area Convention and Visitors Bureau
visitypsilanti.com
(734) 453-4444



Map Information
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To order additional maps, please visit the Michigan Department of Transportation website at: www.michigan.gov/mdot-biking and select "Maps and Brochures."
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