Betsie Valley Trail Access

Access Site	Parking	Restrooms	Water
1 Mineral Springs Park	Yes	Yes	Yes
2 Elberta Staging Area	Yes	No	No
3 River Road Staging Area	Yes	Vault	No
4 Mollineaux Staging Area	Yes	No	No
5 Beulah Trailhead & Visitors Center	Yes	Yes	Yes
6 Max Bargerstock Ballfield	Yes	No	No

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Trailhead and visitors center at the railroad depot in downtown Beulah.

Paved trail near River Road Staging Area.

Trails Legend

- Paved Trail
- Grass and Gravel Trail
- Limestone Trail
- Highways
- Roads

Betsie Valley Trail

Betsie Valley Trail

Set aside a weekend for a ride or run on the thoroughly scenic Betsie Valley Trail. Winding its way along the banks of the Betsie River and crystal blue Crystal Lake, this 22-mile multi-use trail is one of Michigan's most enjoyable trail adventures.

The Betsie Valley Trail was built on the bed of the former Ann Arbor Railroad that once brought freight cars to Frankfort and Elberta to be ferried across Lake Michigan. It is operated and maintained by Benzie County's Trailway Management Council. The Friends of the Betsie Valley Trail and its more than 700 members from across the country work with the Council to help fund the trail's development and ongoing upkeep.

The 10-foot-wide trail is paved with asphalt from Frankfort to Mollineaux Road. From Mollineaux Road to Beulah the trail surface is finely screened and compacted crushed limestone. The trail bed on the 12-mile section from Beulah to Thompsonville is surfaced with road aggregate, but is quite smooth and suitable for most bikes with wider tires.

The most popular and well-traveled section of the trail is the nine miles from Frankfort to Beulah, a smooth and leisurely ride with stunning views of Betsie Lake,

Railroad Point Natural Area on Crystal Lake is one of the highlights of the Betsie Valley Trail.

Betsie River and Crystal Lake. Railroad Point Natural Area between Mollineaux Road and Beulah is a great place to relax, picnic, take in the views, or go for a swim in Crystal Lake.

From Beulah to Thompsonville the trail is more remote, passing through Pere Marquette State Forest and miles of lush woodlands. The fall colors and spring wildflowers can be quite stunning along this stretch. Just north of Thompsonville the trail crosses over the Betsie River on a 130-year-old railroad bridge. This section of trail is also open to snowmobiling during the winter season.

Mineral Springs Park in downtown Frankfort is a great place to begin your journey with ample parking and numerous shops and restaurants. One of the most popular access points is the Beulah Trailhead & Visitors Center in the replicated railroad depot in downtown Beulah. The quaint village of Beulah is also a great destination with several places to shop, eat, enjoy ice cream, or just relax at the village park near the public beach on Crystal Lake. Lodging and bike rentals are available in Frankfort, Elberta, Beulah and at Crystal Mountain Resort in Thompsonville.