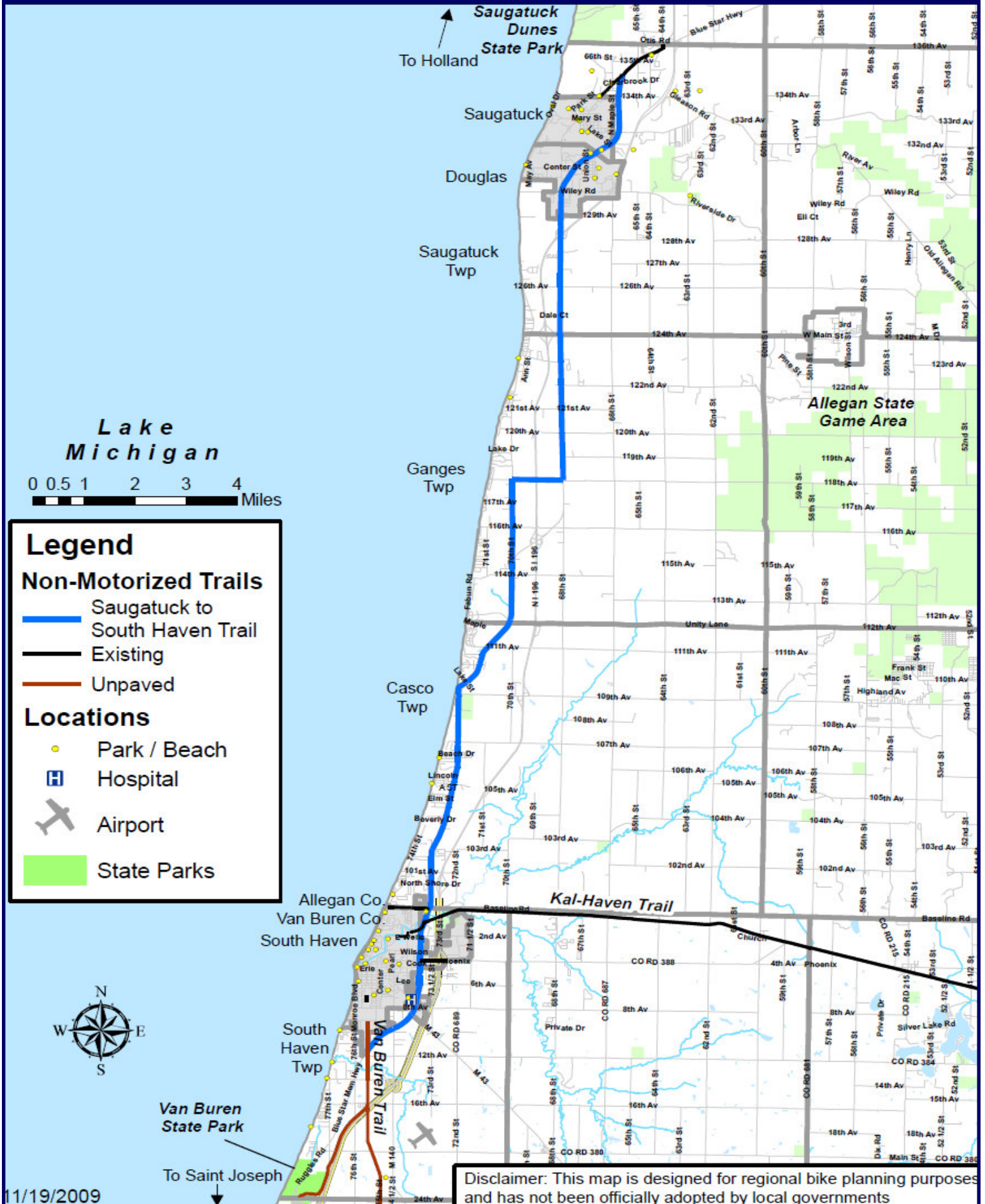


Saugatuck-South Haven Blue Star Trail



~Working to Fund and Develop Trail Connections Along the Lake Michigan Coast~

The Saugatuck-South Haven Blue Star Trail Project partners are working to create a 23 mile trail connecting Saugatuck, MI to South Haven, MI.

The completed trail would be used by commuters, bicycle enthusiasts, students, families and tourists.

The trail would connect people to:

- The Van Buren and Kal-Haven Trails
- A network of over 100 miles of West Michigan trails
- Several elementary, middle and high schools
- Several local parks and beaches
- Historical and cultural attractions
- Businesses offering shopping, eating and lodging



For more information: www.swmpc.org/bluestar.asp

Trails support economic development and improve overall health and quality of life!

Trails in your community will:

- Provide outdoor recreation.
- Encourage physical activity.
- Provide an alternative transportation route.
- Reduce air pollution.
- Increase real estate values.
- Help prevent obesity related chronic diseases.
- Create safer neighborhoods.
- Retain and attract businesses.
- Serve as an outdoor classroom.
- Help connect people, neighborhoods and communities.

This trail system will enhance the resources, health, economics, and quality of life within the region through improved access and connectivity for pedestrians and bicyclists to residential areas, schools, parks and businesses.

www.swmpc.org/bluestar.asp

Saugatuck-South Haven Blue Star Trail Anticipated Benefits

Local Economy and Businesses

Michigan studies show that trail users from out of town spend anywhere from **\$949 to \$1,269** on lodging, restaurant, groceries, vehicle expenses, equipment, etc. per trip. The average annual use of six Michigan trails was **92,000 uses**. This equates to a significant amount of spending from trail users.

Property Values = Property Taxes

Realtors have indicated that homes on the Paint Creek Trail (**Michigan**) typically sell for about **10% more** than comparable homes “off the trail”.

“Properties along the trail have taken off... I've gotten a list of 300 prospective buyers waiting for property along the river and trail, and they are willing to wait just for those properties”. *Suzan Beal, sales associate with Coldwell Banker Real Estate*



Saugatuck South Haven Blue Star Trail

Partners

- Saugatuck Township
- Ganges Township
- City of South Haven
- City of the Village of Douglas
- City of Saugatuck
- South Haven Charter Township
- Allegan County Parks
- Allegan County Road Commission
- Michigan Department of Transportation
- Southwest Michigan Planning Commission
- West Michigan Regional Planning Commission
- West Michigan Trails and Greenways
- Van Buren County Road Commission



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Lake Michigan Coast~

Saugatuck South Haven Blue Star Trail



Connecting Communities
Along the Lakeshore
One Trail at a Time

www.swmpc.org/bluestar.asp

