

Saugatuck-South Haven Blue Star Trail



*Connecting Communities
Along the Lakeshore*

Saugatuck-South Haven Blue Star Trail - Connections

Imagine Connecting People to:

- ~The Van Buren and Kal-Haven Trails
- ~Community parks and beaches
- ~Historical and cultural attractions
- ~Businesses offering shopping, eating and lodging
- ~A trail network of over 100 miles of West Michigan trails
- ~The Michigan Airline Trail (going from Lake Michigan to Lake Huron)
- ~The US Bicycle Route 35



Saugatuck-South Haven Blue Star Trail - Connections

Making the 23-mile trail a reality

Saugatuck Twp-3.7 miles

City of Saugatuck-.6 miles

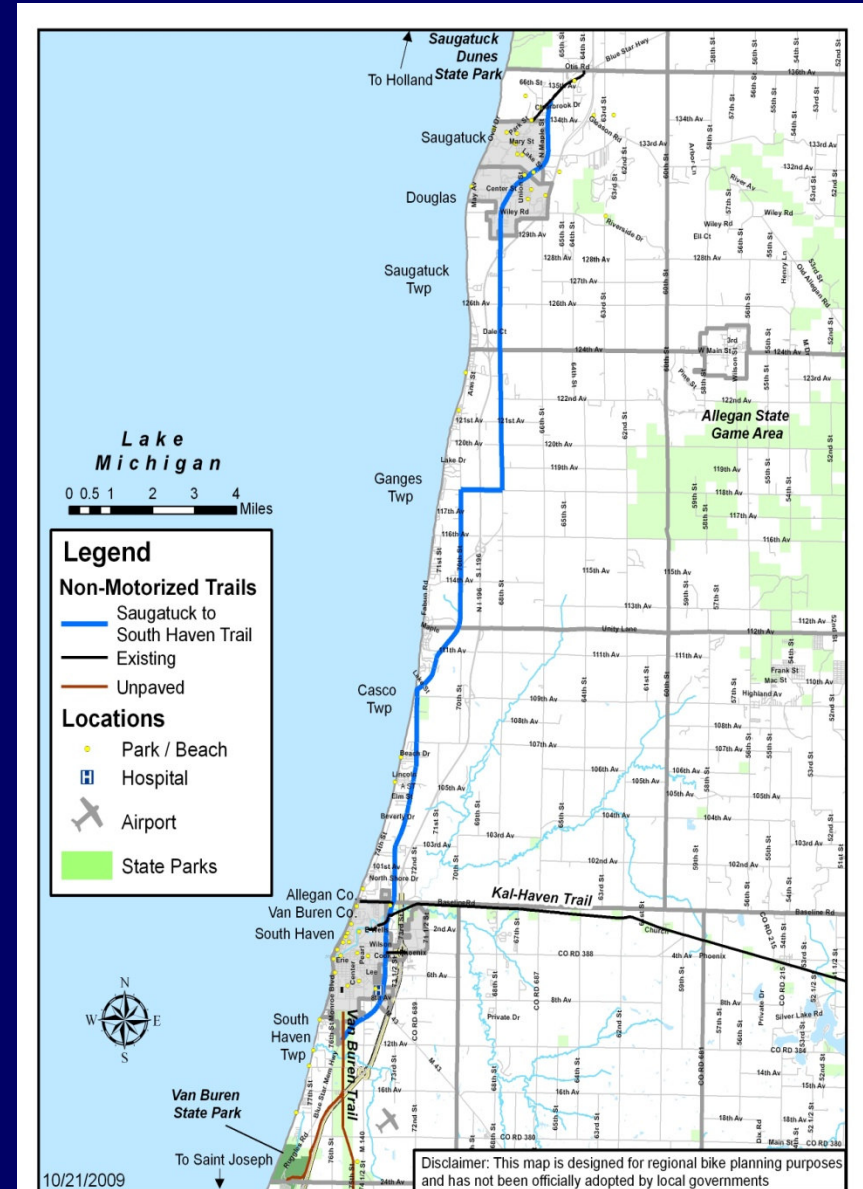
City of the Village of Douglas-1.6 miles

Ganges Twp.-7 miles

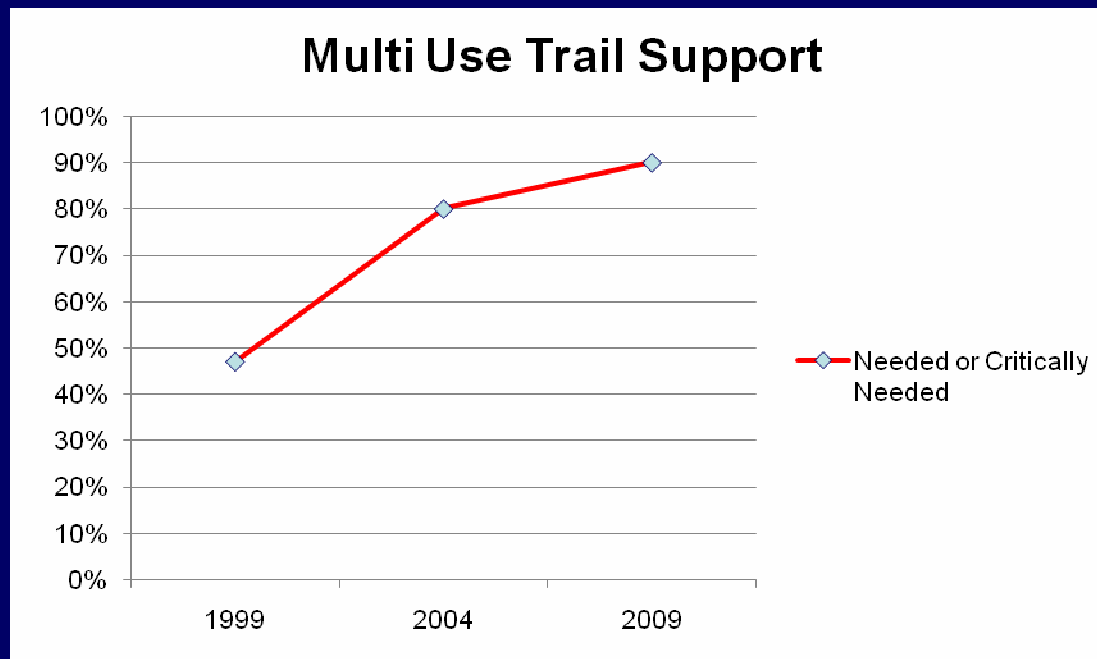
Casco Twp-6.4 miles

South Haven Charter Twp.-2.36 miles

City of South Haven-1 mile



Community Officials' Support for Multi-Use Trails is Growing in Allegan County



*Survey conducted by the Allegan County Parks Department, as part of their 5-year Parks and Recreation Planning effort. Distributed to all city, village, township and county officials. Those taking the survey were asked to rate multi-use trails as "critically needed", "needed" or "not needed."

What Do Van Buren County Residents Say About Multi-Use Trails?

Growing **Greener** in Southwest Michigan
Creating, Communicating and Implementing a Common Vision



- **Over 70% either strongly supported or moderately supported trails**
- **50% stated that much more/some more biking/hiking trails are needed**
- **Trail activities participated in or nearby their community**
 - Walk/hike-60%
 - Bicycle-41%
 - Run/Jog-20%
- **Barriers to outdoor physical activity**
 - 22%-I have no sidewalks or trails near my home
 - 11%-There are no public outdoor places near my home

*2009 Community Needs Analysis – www.swmpc.org/growgreen.asp

Saugatuck-South Haven Blue Star Trail - Economic Benefits



Increase tax revenue

Increase real estate values

Retain and attract businesses

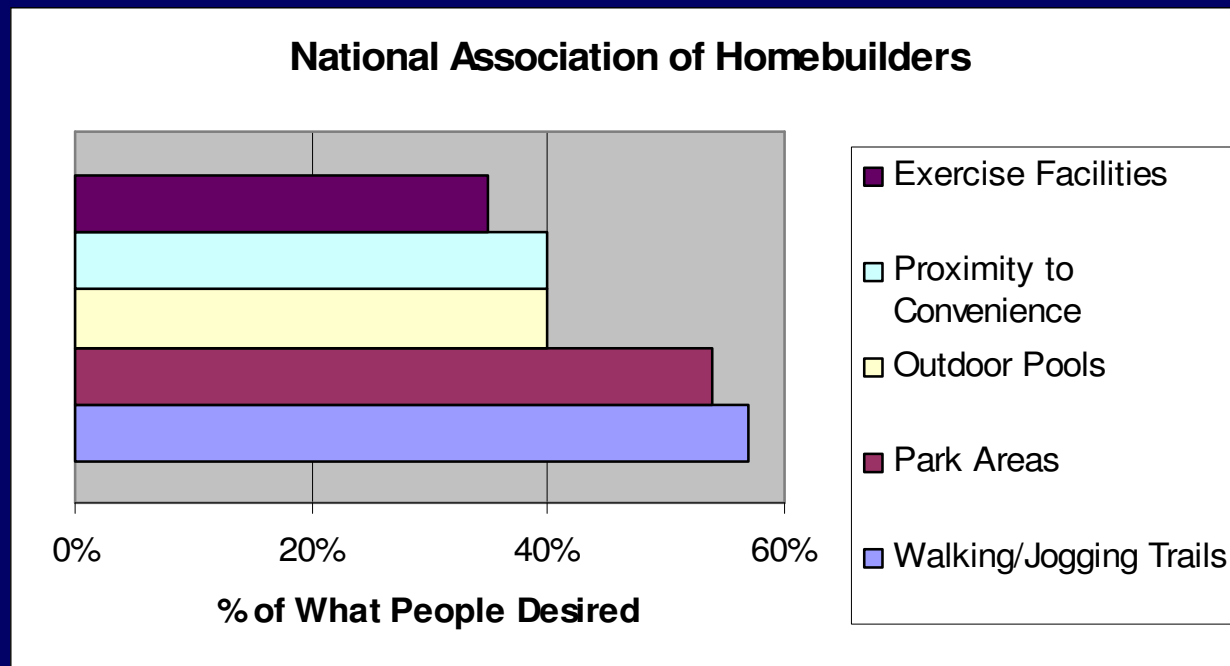
Retain and attract residents

Promote tourist spending



Saugatuck-South Haven Blue Star Trail - Benefits

Trails Attract Business, Residents and Tourists



“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

The National Association of Homebuilders surveyed 2,800 people nationwide and asked them what would they like to see in a new community. Here is what people said they want:

Saugatuck-South Haven Blue Star Trail - Economic Benefits

- **Property Values = Tax Revenue**
 - Homes along greenways sold for as much as 10% more (Indianapolis, 1999)
 - 86% to 95% of trail neighbors indicated the trail had either positive or no effect property value
 - 81% to 93 % indicated trail had no negative effect or made it easier to sell. (2001 Indiana Trails Study)
 - Realtors have indicated that homes on the Paint Creek Trail (**Michigan**) typically sell for about **10% more** than comparable homes “off the trail”.
- **Cost-Benefit**
 - Maintenance annual cost - **\$191,893**
 - Trail-related tax income - **\$303,750**



Saugatuck-South Haven Blue Star Trail - Economic Benefits

- Out of town trail users spend **\$949 to \$1,269** per trip on lodging, restaurant, groceries, equipment, vehicle expenses, etc.
- Average annual use of a typical Michigan trail was 92,000 uses. (MSU study)
- 61% of businesses surveyed said that the trail (Little Miami Trail-OH) had increased patronage and revenue in their business.



Saugatuck-South Haven Blue Star Trail - Health & Quality of Life



Reduce air pollution

Encourage physical activity

Create safer neighborhoods

Serve as an outdoor classroom

Provide alternative transportation options

Help prevent obesity related chronic diseases

Help connect people, neighborhoods, and communities

Saugatuck-South Haven Blue Star Trail - Health Benefits



- **Trails = Healthy Living**
- US Center for Disease Control Handbook, Promoting Physical Activity Among Adults, states that “...the most effective activity regimens may be those that are moderate in intensity, individualized, and incorporated into daily activity.”
- Rail-trails, spacious sidewalks, and greenways trails offer adults and children alike the opportunity to integrate moderate, individualized exercise with their daily trips to work, school, the library, or shopping.”
(National Bicycling and Walking Study)

Saugatuck-South Haven Blue Star Trail - Safe Neighborhoods

-Neighborhoods that provide trails, greenways, parks, sidewalks increase opportunities to be out and active, connect and interact in a shared environment.

-85.5% of trail users viewed the trail as safe.

-61% of trail neighbors felt trail was a better neighbor than expected.

-69% indicated the trail IMPROVED their neighborhood.

(2001 Indiana Trails Study)



Saugatuck-South Haven Blue Star Trail -Costs for Project

- Paved Shoulder Expenses
 - 4 foot extension of the existing roadway
 - \$15,000- \$20,000/per mile
 - Bike Lane
 - 5 foot extension of the existing roadway
 - \$15,000- \$20,000/per mile
 - Non-Motorized Path
 - 10 foot separated path from the roadway
 - \$150,000-\$300,00/per mile
- *These costs vary depending on the need for acquisition of land, price of asphalt, tree removal, engineering, etc.

Saugatuck-South Haven Blue Star Trail - Connecting the US

THE UNITED STATES

BICYCLE ROUTE SYSTEM

US Bicycle Route 35 would connect the Lake Michigan coastline from Indiana to Sault Ste. Marie with a connection to Chicago and Milwaukee.



Saugatuck-South Haven Blue Star Trail - State Initiatives



“Connecting Michigan”

“The state should provide incentives...to develop and maintain trailways and to avoid the interruption of trailways vital to recreation and tourism interests,” and that it should “encourage a statewide linked system of trails and recreation”

Goal 1: Stakeholder access to technical resources

Goal 2: Improve financial, maintenance, and marketing to sustain interconnected trailway system

Goal 3: Improve coordination and communication

Goal 4: Provide stakeholders with a trailway vision and plan to achieve vision



Saugatuck-South Haven Blue Star Trail

Local Plans That Identify Trails as a Community Priority

1. City of Saugatuck
2. City of South Haven
3. Ganges Township
4. South Haven Charter Township
5. Allegan County Road Commission
6. Allegan County Parks and Recreation
7. Van Buren County Road Commission
8. West Michigan Regional Planning Commission
9. Southwest Michigan Planning Commission



Saugatuck-South Haven Blue Star Trail - Partners

- 1. Allegan County Parks Department**
- 2. Allegan County Road Commission**
- 3. Van Buren County Road Commission**
- 4. City of South Haven**
- 5. City of the Village of Douglas**
- 6. City of Saugatuck**
- 7. Saugatuck Township**
- 8. Ganges Township**
- 9. South Haven Charter Township**
- 10. Southwest Michigan Planning Commission**
- 11. West Michigan Regional Planning Commission**
- 12. West Michigan Trails and Greenways**
- 13. Michigan Department of Transportation**



Saugatuck-South Haven Blue Star Trail – Making It A Reality

What can you do to help?

- Encourage your municipality to include the trail in your community Master and/or Recreation Plans
- Inform other community leaders about this effort
- Invite us to make a presentation to your community or group
- Be a part of the Friends of the Blue Star Trail effort at
- Follow progress at www.swmpc.org/bluestar.asp

Who Do I Contact for More Information?

Friends of the Saugatuck South Haven Blue Star Trail

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Saugatuck South Haven Blue Star Trail Task Force

Suzann Flowers

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