

## Frequently Asked Questions and Other Trail Information

### **Trail hours, staff, and pass information:**

The trail is open from 8:00 a.m. until 10:00 p.m. Trail staff will be present at trailheads and throughout the trail to sell and check trail passes, to assist trail users, and to take suggestions, in written form, for trail improvements.

Trail passes can be purchased at the trailheads or at vendor locations. Passes cost \$3.00 for individuals and \$7.00 for families for daily passes and \$15.00 for individuals and \$35.00 for families for season passes.

Methods of payment include cash or checks made out to Van Buren County. We apologize, but at this time, we cannot accept credit or debit card payments.

### **Who maintains the trail? How often? What should I do if I notice a fallen tree?**

The trail is maintained throughout the summer by the Van Buren County Road Commission. Each week, crews travel parts of the trail to smooth the surface, clear brush, mow weeds, service restrooms, and clear trash bins. In addition, trail staff perform minor maintenance activities during their shifts. If you notice a fallen tree or other large trail obstruction, please inform trail staff or call the County Road Commission at 269.674.8011.

While it is important to ensure the usability of the trail and to keep it as barrier-free as possible, please remember that it is a trail, not a roadway, and it is intended to remain in a natural state. Some twigs, small pits, weeds, and such are a normal part of the outdoor experience.

### **What to do about a lost pass:**

If you purchased an annual pass and have misplaced or lost it, you will *not* receive another pass. When you purchased the pass, you should have added your name, address, phone number, and pass number to a Kal-Haven Trail Annual Pass List. Pass lists are regularly updated and distributed to trail staff, who can search the list for your name if you wish to use the trail after losing your pass. Upon finding your name, you will be granted access to the trail. This process can be time consuming, as there are hundreds of trail users who have purchased season passes. The best way to avoid this is not to lose your pass.

If you purchase a family pass, the names of each of your family members should be recorded on the list. We recognize that members of one family may have different last names, and reporting each pass user will minimize confusion if the pass is lost.

If you purchase and lose a daily pass, you may be asked to purchase another one.

### **My friends and I are thinking of completing a multi-day ride. Is overnight parking allowed at the trailheads?**

At this time, overnight trailhead parking is allowed with a parking pass.

### **Do you have information on overnight lodging that is near the trailhead?**

#### South Haven

For a listing of hotels and bed and breakfast establishments in the South Haven area, visit the website of the South Haven Visitors Bureau at:

<http://www.southhaven.org/accommodations.asp>

Locations nearest the trailhead are:

Carriage House at the Harbor  
 Hotel Nichols  
 Inn at the Park Bed & Breakfast  
 Last Resort Bed & Breakfast Inn  
 The Manor Guest House  
 North Beach Inn  
 Old Harbor Inn  
 Sand Castle Inn Bed & Breakfast  
 Sunset Inn  
 Yelton Manor Bed & Breakfast

About a mile from the trailhead, near I-196:

Comfort Suites  
 Ramada Lighthouse Inn & Conference Center  
 Holiday Inn Express  
 Hampton Inn

### Kalamazoo

For a listing of hotels and bed and breakfast establishments in the Kalamazoo area, visit the website of the Kalamazoo Visitors Bureau at:

<http://www.kazoofun.com/accommodations/accommodations.htm>

Some locations that are nearest to the trailhead are those that follow. However, Kalamazoo is a larger city than South Haven, and a vehicle may be necessary to travel to these locations:

Central City:

Radisson Plaza Hotel & Suites  
 Stuart Avenue Inn Bed & Breakfast  
 Hall House Bed & Breakfast  
 Henderson Castle  
 Kalamazoo House Bed & Breakfast

West:

Baymont Inn & Suites  
 Fairfield Inn & Suites-West  
 Hampton Inn & Suites-West  
 Hawthorn Suites Ltd.  
 Holiday Inn-West  
 Red Roof Inn-West  
 Super 8

### **Are there campgrounds near the trail?**

The Van Buren State Park is located in South Haven, a few miles from the trailhead. Information on the state park can be found at: [www.michigan.gov/dnr](http://www.michigan.gov/dnr). While visiting the State Park, it is also possible to use the Van Buren Trail. This is a 14 mile trail, also a former railway, that links South Haven to Hartford. Its surface is more loose and natural than the Kal-Haven, but it is fine for hikers, mountain bikers, and horse riders. Kal-Haven Trail passes are valid for the Van Buren Trail.

### **Are there group rates for riding the trail?**

At this time, area non-profit, service oriented, youth organizations (boy scouts, girl scouts, etc.) and school athletic teams can apply for and purchase a season pass (\$35.00)

that is good for one adult and up to 35 youth. Additional adults who wish to use the trail with the youth need to purchase their own passes. When using the trail, these groups should begin their walks/rides together, and remain as a group. An application for use of county facilities is necessary to receive this rate. Please contact Jeff Mitchell at 269.674.8011 for more information.

Other groups need to purchase individual daily or season passes for use of the trail.

**Are special events held on the trail?**

Each spring, the Friends of the Kal-Haven Trail host a Trailblazer, during which, participants bike the entire length of the trail. The event is usually held around the second weekend in May. The Friends are in the initial stages of planning for the 2006 ride. Watch for upcoming information.

In addition, many non-profit organizations hold fundraisers on the trail. Check with your local groups to see when and where their next fundraisers will be held.

If you have ideas for a trail-related event, please contact Jeff at the above phone number.