



When bicycling, rollerblading, walking or jogging the trail, you will cross five bridges over creeks or drains. If you travel the entire trail, you will also cross eight county or state roadways with the two major roads being M-83/Gera Road and Portsmouth Road. Caution should be used especially at these two locations. You will encounter views of well-maintained farmland, wood lots and some water courses. There are 10 benches located along the trail for you to rest and/or take the opportunity to enjoy the surrounding view.

The Harger Line Railway was established in the late 1800s. The tracks went east from the city of Saginaw into the Thumb area of Michigan. In 2006, the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) purchased rail right-of-way, using federal transportation enhancement funding, from M-15 in the community of Richville west to the I-75 freeway. The acquisition was made to preserve this transportation corridor and make it available for public use under the provisions of Act 295 of 1975. In 2008, MDOT constructed the Rail-Trail from M-15 Richville in Denmark Township, Tuscola County, west 10.1 miles to Towerline Road in Buena Vista Township, Saginaw County, just 0.5 miles east of I-75.

History

Trail Etiquette

- Stay to the right except to pass.
- Stay on the trail; do not trespass on adjacent private property.
- Keep your pet on a 6' leash and pick up after them.
- Stop at all road crossings.
- Avoid disturbing the wildlife and plant life along the trail.
- Keep the trail clean of debris.
- Keep your speed appropriate for trail conditions and traffic density.
- Alert slower users with an audible message when passing; such as, "passing on your left".



Designed for various recreational uses, the Harger Line Rail-Trail provides:

- Quiet places for hiking, bicycling, jogging, walking, roller blading, and view scape enjoyment.
- Handicap accessible transportation for all ages.
- A linear, park like setting open to the public.
- A unique way of experiencing the agricultural landscape, without using fossil fuel or endangering the environment.
- Economic benefits as a tourist destination.
- Preservation of a transportation corridor.
- Opportunity to observe wildlife.
- A sense of history, with former railroad features, and the growing of agricultural products.

Comments or Questions:

The Harger Line Rail-Trail is a partnership project between Michigan's Department of Transportation and the Department of Natural Resources. If you have any comments or questions please contact one of the following agencies:

**Michigan Department of Natural Resources
Forest, Mineral & Fire Management
Recreation and Trails Section**

530 W. Allegan Street
P.O. Box 30452
Lansing, MI 48909-7952

517-373-1275

DNR-RTS@michigan.gov

or

**Michigan Department of Transportation
Bay Region Office**
55 E. Morley Drive
Saginaw, MI 48601

989-754-7443



Prepared by: MDOT Graphics
Regions Bay/Harger Line Rail-Trail (3/09 C)
2000 copies printed @ \$0.61 each for a total cost of \$1,221.07

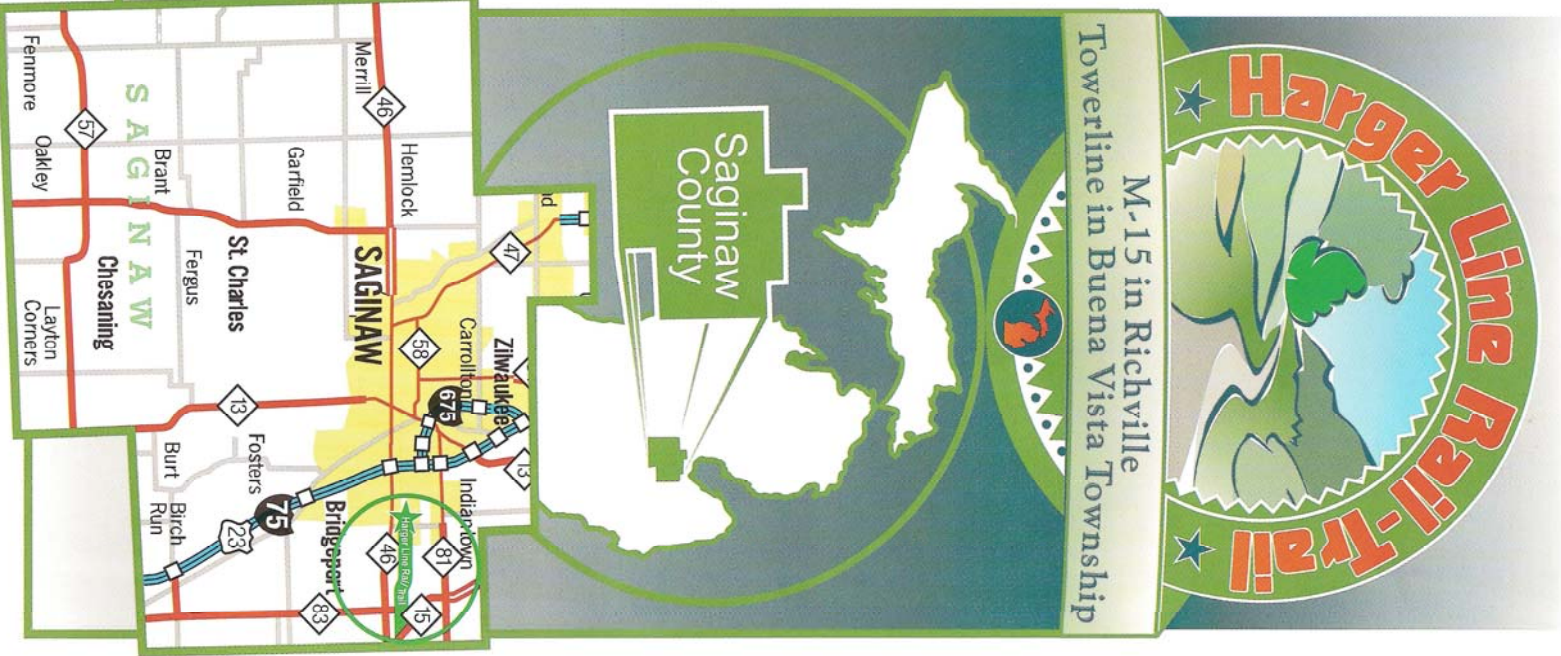
Parking

There are two parking facilities which permit access to the Harger Line Rail-Trail:

- **M-15 Trail Head** – located on the eastern end of the trail just off M-15 at the north edge of Richville. The parking area accommodates up to 15 vehicles.
- **George Kueffner Park** – This park is located approximately 0.5 miles north of the trail at the northwest corner of Towerline and Janes roads. The park is owned and operated by Buena Vista Township and provides a parking area and restrooms. As a community park, its gates are only open during the daylight hours and only during warmer weather.

- Parking off the shoulder along crossroads is not prohibited, unless signed by the road agency*. However, there are farm field entrances near the trail along many of these roads. Please do not park in or across a farm field entrance as the entrance may be the only access point for farmers to plant, cultivate and harvest their crops. Please be aware that farmers have the right to have your vehicle towed if parking in or blocking field access.

* All crossroads, except M-83/Gera Road and M-15, are under the control of the Saginaw County Road Commission.



Enjoy the recreation and transportation opportunities of this public trail, but be careful not to trespass onto adjoining properties. Thank you.



- Major Roads
- Minor Roads
- Trail Route
- Rivers and Creeks

