

Chapter 5. Transportation

Transportation facilities are an important feature within a community. Sidewalks, trails, and transit are also important to the transportation network and need to be considered a real part of community services. This section provides an overview of the transportation network in Georgetown Township.

Roads

Vehicular circulation is constrained by the Grand River and the railroad tracks. Access to the I-196 highway is provided at Chicago Drive, 44th Street, and at the east end of Baldwin Street. Access to the M-6 highway is provided from 8th Avenue to the south of the Township. Many residents travel to jobs in the Grand Rapids area via the I-196 196 Expressway or to Zeeland and the lakeshore communities via Fillmore Street and 48th Avenue.

Baldwin Street, Cottonwood Drive, Bauer Road, Fillmore Street, and Chicago Drive are main thoroughfares that move traffic from residential areas to the Jenison commercial center and to the highway interchanges. Port Sheldon Street/44th Street also provides east/west access. The 20th Avenue/18th Avenue Connector carries traffic to access Chicago Drive and 44th Street/Port Sheldon Street. These are significant corridors that provide connection to important destinations and are major transportation routes within the community.

Trails

Non-motorized transportation is a critical element of an integrated transportation system. A connected network of sidewalks, trails, and other related facilities helps promote physical activity and healthy lifestyles, relieve traffic congestion, reduce air pollution and fuel consumption, and improve the quality of life. There are approximately 3.6 miles of Township-owned trails and 8 miles of county-owned trails, most a part of the Idema Explorer's Trail. There are also miles of paved trails within township parks, like the loop trails in Maplewood and 8th Avenue Parks.

MAPLEWOOD LAKE TRAIL

The Maplewood Trail is 0.3 mile trail that connects the loop trail at Maplewood Park to Baldwin Street Trail from Rush Creek Park to Port Sheldon Street. This trail travels through drain property, crosses Rush Creek, and connects Rush Creek Park south to Port Sheldon Street. The trail also branches out to connect to an existing neighborhood to the east.

44TH STREET TRAIL

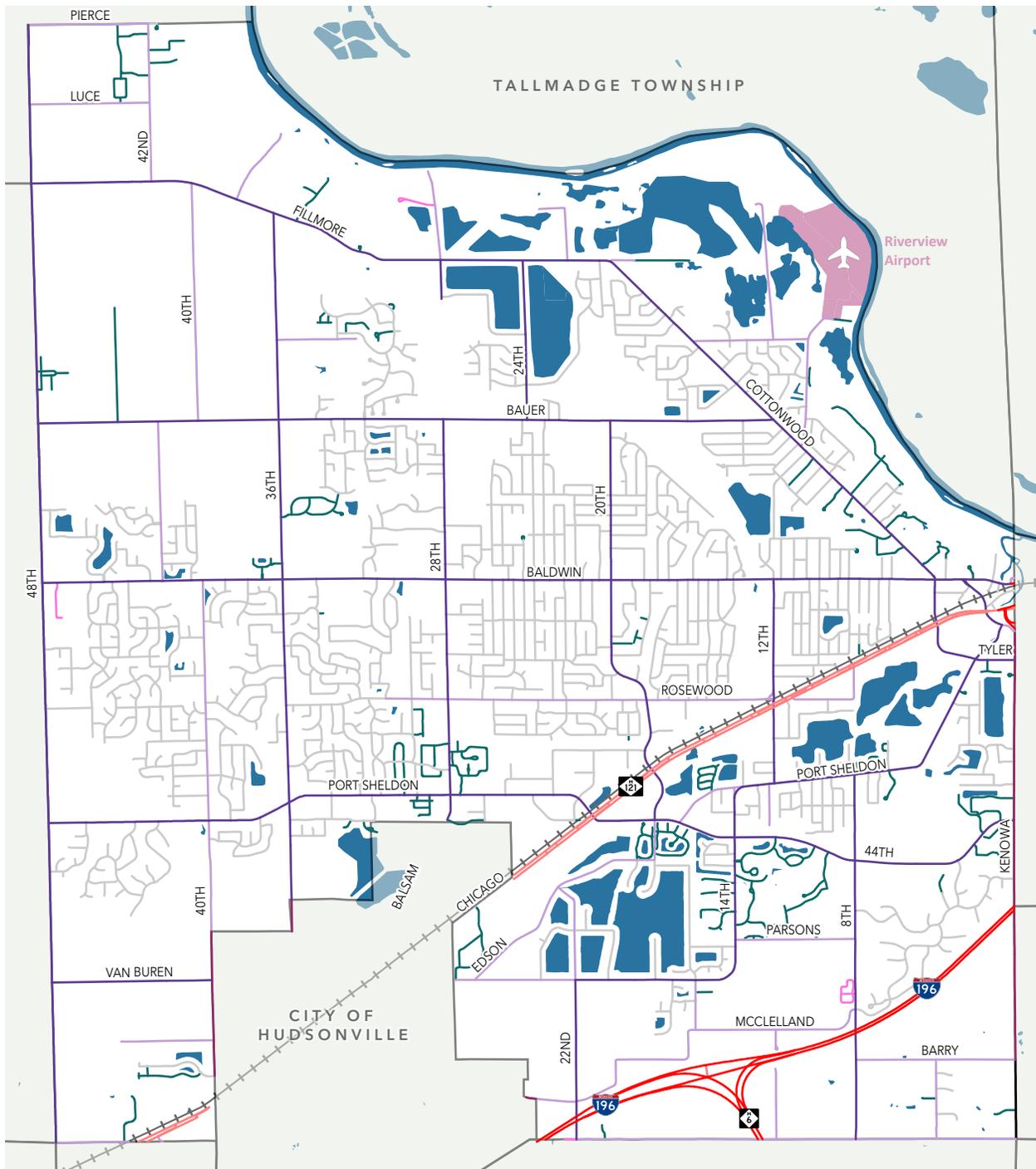
Approximately 2.8 miles of trail alongside 44th Street from Chicago Drive to the east township boundary. The trail connects to the Kent Trail system via Kenowa Avenue in Kent County, which connects to many other regional trails.

BALDWIN BICYCLE TRAIL

The Baldwin Bicycle Trail is an access point near the Clean Water Treatment Plant. Parking is available on site. The trail connects to Millennium Park and to the Kent Trails system.

IDEMA EXPLORERS TRAIL

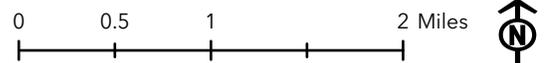
The Idema Explorers Trail is being constructed in phases along the south side of the Grand River. Once completed, the trail will be 36.5 miles long and connect eight county and state parks in Ottawa County. It will also connect Millennium Park to Grand Haven, the Grand Valley State University



Legend

- | | | |
|-------------------------|-----------------|----------------------|
| Freeway | County Tertiary | Public Non Certified |
| State Trunkline Highway | Municipal Major | Railroad |
| County Primary | Municipal Minor | |
| County Local | Private | |

Map: Transportation



campuses, and other trails in Michigan, including a direct route to downtown Grand Rapids. Approximately 8 miles of the trail is completed within the Township.

GRAND RIVER HERITAGE WATER TRAIL

The Grand River Heritage Water Trail is a 41-mile water trail that encompasses nine distinct routes along the Grand River in Ottawa County. Paddlers can access the water trail at eight individual access points. The trail provides basic information on places to access the river, educational explanations of natural features to be observed, descriptions of county parks and open spaces where stops can be made, and interesting historical points of interest to help explain the colorful and rich local history tied to the Grand River.

36TH AVENUE CONNECTOR

An off-road trail is planned to be built that would connect Allendale Township to the City of Hudsonville along 36th Avenue within Georgetown Township, following the Grand Valley Metropolitan Council Active Transportation Plan.

Transit

Georgetown Township does not have its own transit provider, however, residents can take advantage of services and programs offered to Ottawa County residents. Administered through Lakeshore Ride Link, Georgetown Seniors Transport offers door-to-door service for Township residents, seniors, and people with disabilities for medical appointments, social service appointments, and work. They run Monday through Friday, 8:00 am to 4:00 pm.

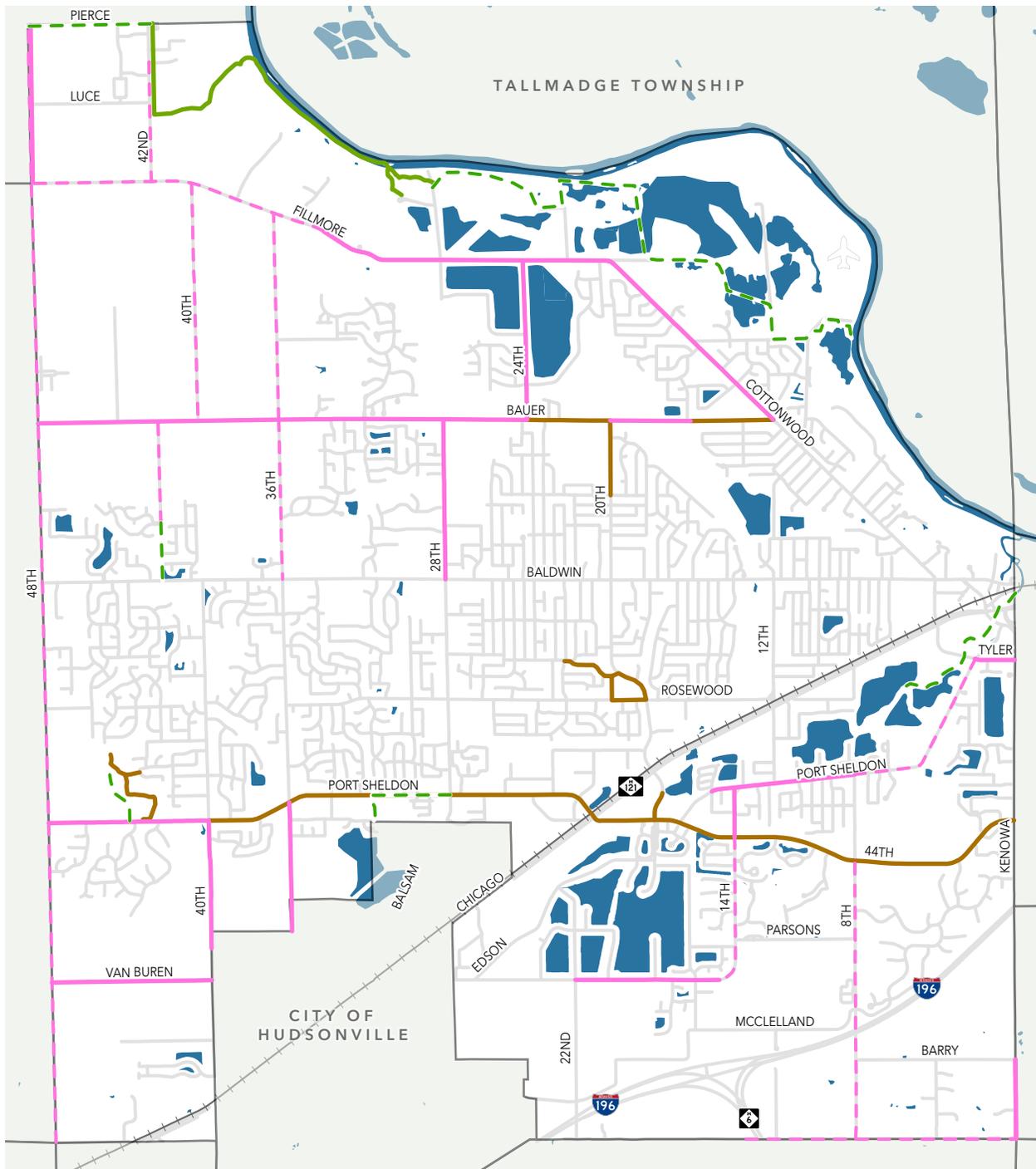
Wheels to Work, operated by Hope Network, provides a supplemental ride-to-work transit program connecting workers to jobs. The program operates in Ottawa County, along with several other West Michigan counties. Riders enroll through a participating employer, and the cost is shared as determined by the employer between the rider and the employee.

Rail

The CSX railroad runs through the Township along Chicago Drive. CSX Transportation (reporting mark CSXT), known as CSX, is a Class I freight railroad company operating in the Eastern United States. The route allows for passenger and freight cars.

Airport

The Riverview Airport is privately owned by Rivertown Airport, LLC. Located in the northwest corner of the Township near the Grand River, the address is 805 Taylor Street, and has one runway. The FAA Identifier is 08C, and there is no control tower. The Steamboat Campground is adjacent to the airport.



Legend

- Paved Shoulder
- Paved Trail
- Idema Explorers Trail
- - - Future Paved Shoulder
- - - Future Separated Pathway & Multi-Use Path

Map: Nonmotorized Transportation

