



SNOWMOBILING

Trail Guide

SOUTHWESTERN MICHIGAN TOURIST COUNCIL
2300 Pipestone Road | Benton Harbor, MI 49022 | (269) 925-6301



Getting Ready to Hit the Trails!

YOU MUST REGISTER YOUR SNOWMOBILE WITH THE MICHIGAN SECRETARY OF STATE

All snowmobiles must be registered unless used on private property. A three-year registration is issued for \$30. The snowmobile registration number is printed on the three-year snowmobile decal. Snowmobile decals must be displayed on "each side of the forward half of the cowl above the footwell of the snowmobile."

PURCHASE YOUR SNOWMOBILE TRAIL PERMIT

In addition to registering a snowmobile with the Secretary of State, a person (resident and nonresident) that operates a snowmobile in Michigan is required to purchase a snowmobile trail permit. The trail permit enables snowmobilers to ride state-designated trails and thousands more miles of public roads and on public lands (where authorized). It is valid for one year, which begins Oct. 1 and ends Sept. 30 of the following year. State-designated trails are open Dec. 1-March 31 and grooming occurs when there is enough snow on the ground.

WHERE TO PURCHASE YOUR TRAIL PERMIT

Online through DNR E-License at www.mdnr-elicence.com (your sticker will be mailed to you within 7-10 days).

- In person at a number of DNR customer service centers.
- In person at a number DNR hunting and fishing license vendors.

Michigan's snowmobile program is 100% funded by trail permit and registration dollars - dollars that are directly reinvested into the program for the benefit of snowmobilers. The funds pay for grooming, signage, maintenance, bridge and culvert construction, purchase of new equipment, liability insurance; maintenance of trailhead amenities (signage, bathrooms, plowing of parking lots) and other snowmobile-related expenditures.

SNOWMOBILING ON FROZEN WATER BODIES

You may operate a snowmobile on frozen surface of public waters with the exception of riding when you are:

- *Within 100 feet of a person who is not also on a snowmobile, including a skater.*
- *Within 100 feet of a fishing shanty or shelter except at the minimum speed required to maintain forward movement of the snowmobile.*
- *In an area that has been cleared for ice skating, unless the area is necessary for gaining access to the public water.*

SNOWMOBILING ON THE UNPLOWED SHOULDERS OF STATE HIGHWAYS (EXCEPT A LIMITED-ACCESS HIGHWAY)

A snowmobile may operate on the unplowed shoulder of a state highway under the following conditions. The snowmobile must:

- *Operate at the extreme right of the open portion of the unplowed right-of-way (or shoulder) and with the flow of traffic.*
- *Travel in single file and not side-by-side, except when overtaking or passing another snowmobile.*
- *Come to a complete stop before entering onto the roadway or shoulder to cross a bridge or culvert. The snowmobile operator yields the right-of-way to any approaching motor vehicle.*
- *Cross a public highway at right angles only and bring snowmobiles to a complete stop and yield the right-of-way to all oncoming traffic.*

SNOWMOBILING ON COUNTY OR LOCAL ROADWAYS

Snowmobiles may be operated on some roads in county or local road systems. Please check with the local jurisdiction for details.

Snowmobiling is a social sport. The Michigan Snowmobiling Association maintains a list of clubs found throughout the state.

IMPORTANT SAFETY TIPS

- **Ride on the right side of the trail.**
- **Ride at a safe speed.**
- **Ride sober.**
- **Anticipate and yield to groomers.**
- **Ride safe, so you make it home to your family and friends.**
- **Keep your machine in top mechanical condition, and keep headlights and tail lights clear of snow and ice and on at all times.**
- **Wear insulated boots and protective clothing, including a helmet, gloves and eye protection.**
- **Check the weather conditions before you depart, and never ride alone.**
- **When possible, avoid crossing frozen bodies of water; if you do cross such waters, never operate in a single file line.**
- **Remain alert to avoid fences, low-strung wires and branches and to spot depressions in the snow.**
- **When approaching an intersection, come to a complete stop, raise off the seat and look both ways for traffic.**

Berrien County Snowmobile Trails

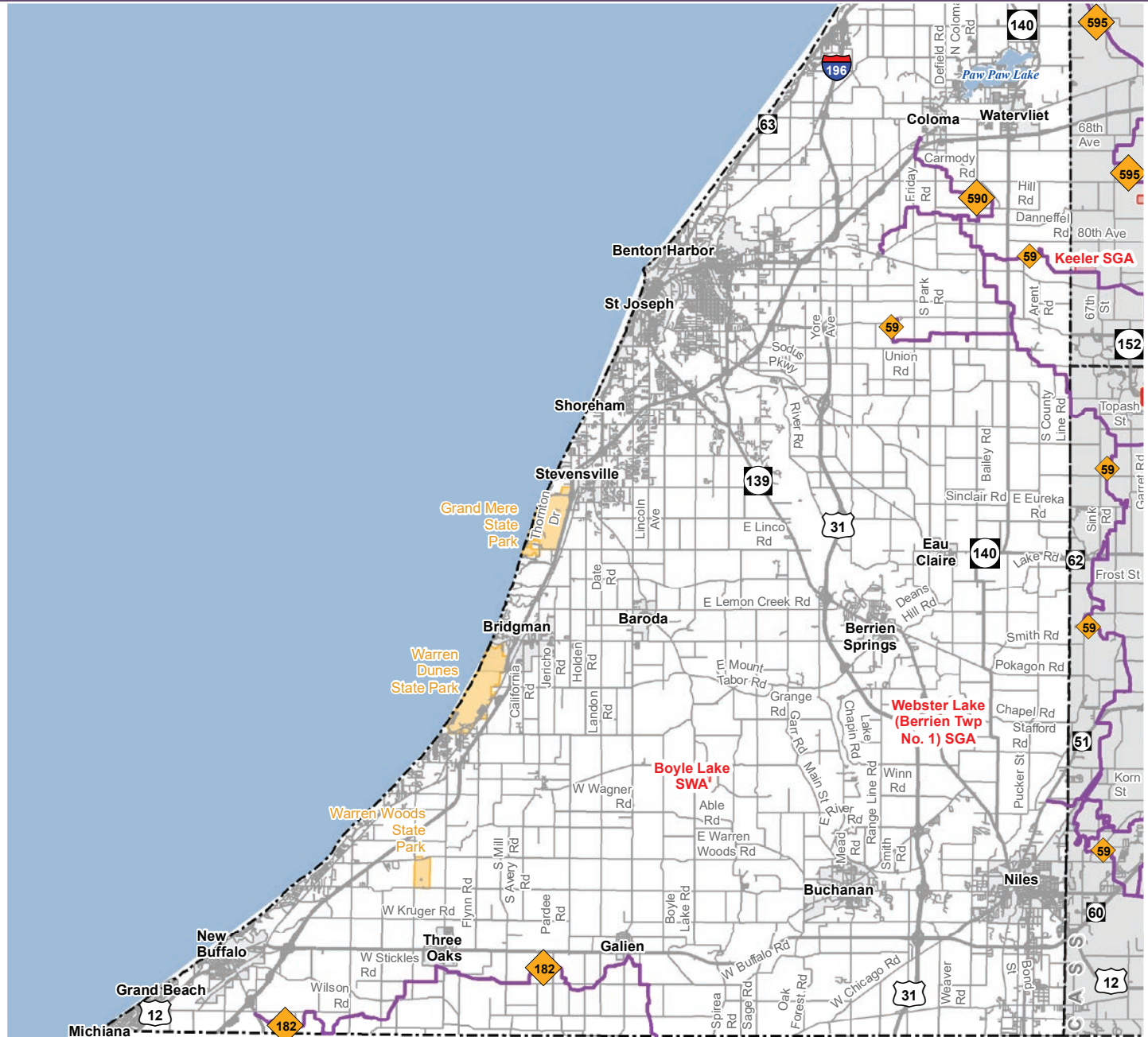


0 1 2 Miles

- Parking Lot
- Designated Snowmobile Trails
- Highway
- Paved Road
- Gravel or Dirt Road
- State Park Boundary
- State Game Area
- Lakes and Rivers
- City or Village
- County Boundary Outline



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Cass County Snowmobile Trails

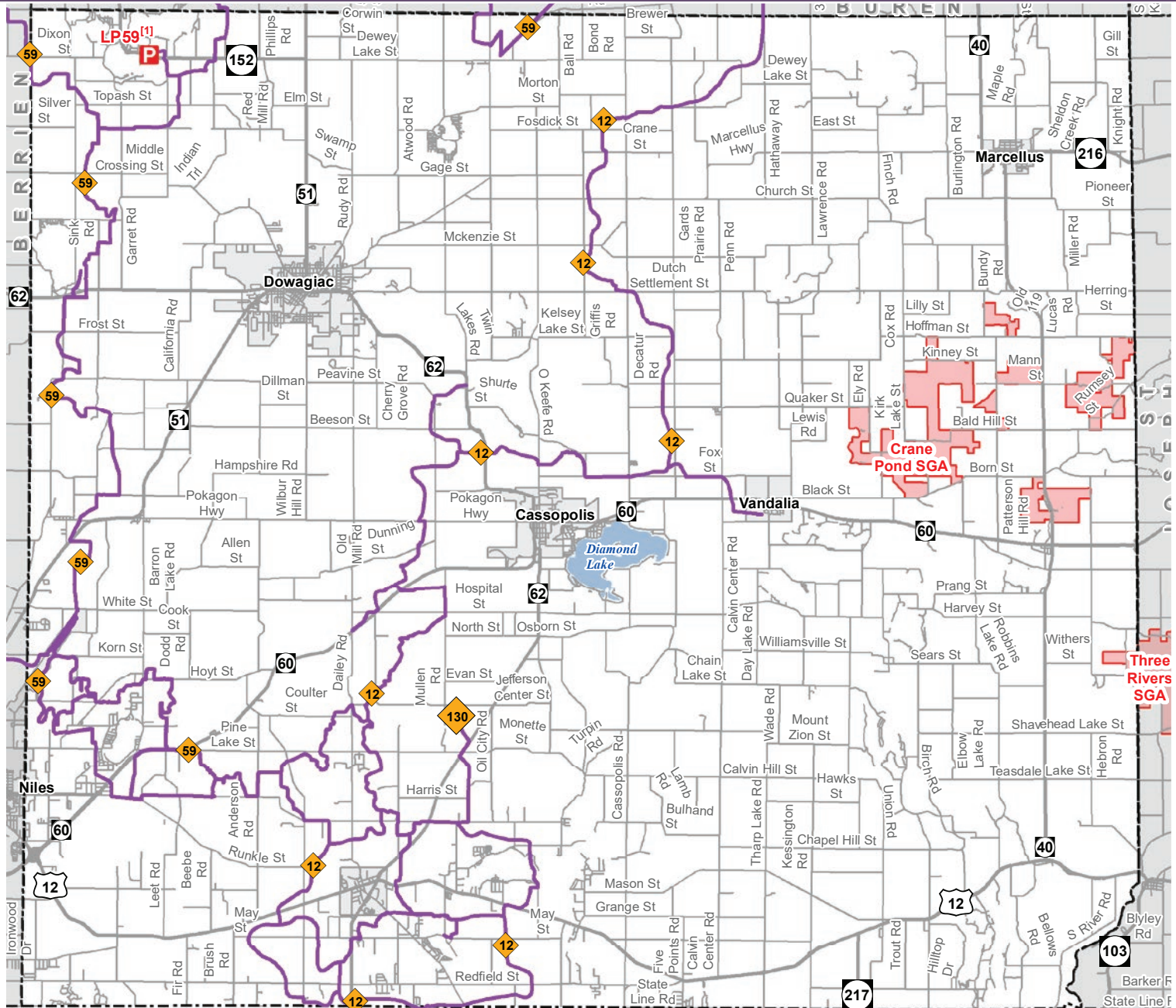


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Van Buren County Snowmobile Trails



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