



Bridge over Paint Creek in Rochester.

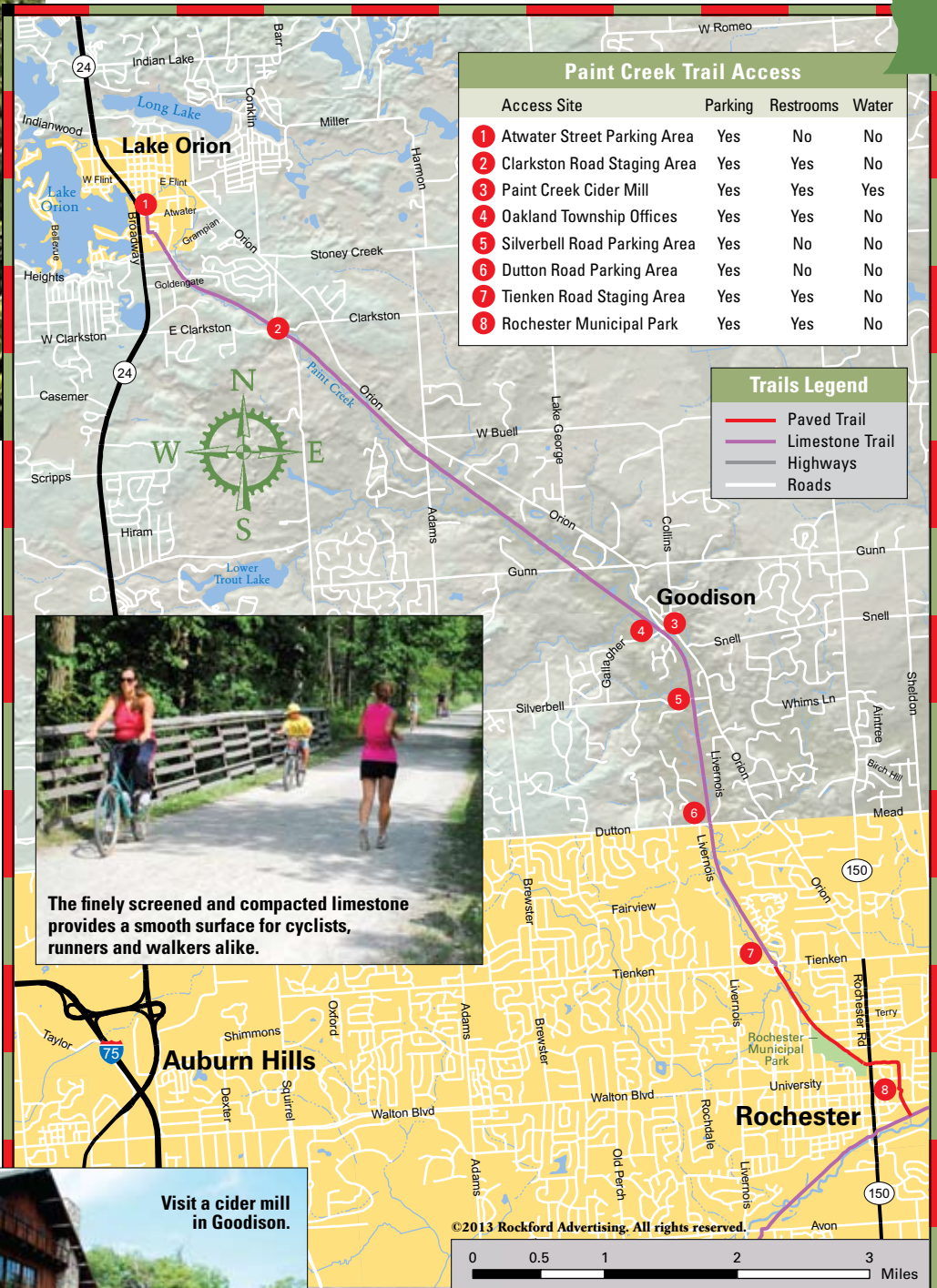
Paint Creek Trail

Carved out along Paint Creek from Rochester to Lake Orion, the Paint Creek Trail is a real gem of a trail, offering local residents and visitors a respite from the busy freeways and urban life. The 8.9-mile trail makes a nice day outing, traversing over 12 restored railroad bridges and winding along the soothing scenery surrounding Paint Creek, Southeast Michigan's only designated trout stream.

The state purchased the property from the Penn Central Railroad in 1983 and developed it into Michigan's very first rail trail. Today, the trail is operated and maintained by the Paint Creek Trail Commission. The trail was resurfaced again in 2004 with crushed limestone to maintain the natural setting.

The eight-foot wide trail provides plentiful shaded areas, cool even in those 90+ degree days in summer. A very popular trail, it attracts upwards of 100,000 users annually, mainly cyclists, runners and hikers, along with a few horseback riders. Horses are allowed on the northern three-fourths of the trail, but not in Rochester or Rochester Hills.

There are a couple of cider mills you can visit near the trail in Goodison that make a nice place to stop and relax during fall color tours. On the northern section of trail you can pause and enjoy the scenery at the observation decks over a pond in Orion Township. You'll find several stores and restaurants within close proximity to the trail in Lake Orion and downtown Rochester.



The finely screened and compacted limestone provides a smooth surface for cyclists, runners and walkers alike.



Visit a cider mill in Goodison.



Trail travels along Paint Creek in downtown Rochester.

Paint Creek Trail