

RIVER RAISIN HERITAGE TRAIL SYSTEM



RECREATION & FITNESS | 1.4 MILES

This section of the trail is the preeminent venue for local fitness enthusiasts. It is not unusual to find young mothers with strollers, pet owners, couples, friends, joggers, and bikers sharing the trail year-round. The local YMCA is the eastern anchor providing a point of departure to cultural and recreational amenities located on the west side of the city. At the mid-point, Veterans Park salutes our military men and women who have served from WWI through the present. Veterans Park also offers the opportunity to fish along the River Raisin, enjoy a leisurely lunch outside, or take a few moments to relax during a workout on the trail. Proceeding west from Veterans Park, the trail provides scenic views of the river and terminates in Monroe's premier recreational facility, Munson Park. The park offers skateboarding, soccer and ball fields, walking and nature trails, a sledding hill and much more. On-street bike lanes continue to the 18th century Navarre-Anderson Trading Post.

This section of the trail is constructed of asphalt and averages 6 feet in width. The path goes under Telegraph Road and crosses to the north side of North Custer (W. Elm Avenue) as it nears Munson Park. A 5-foot-wide shoulder bike path now connects Munson Park to the Navarre-Anderson Trading Post.

HISTORY & CULTURE | 1.7 MILES

This section of the trail runs through an area containing some of Monroe's oldest and most elegant homes. From early territorial governors to industrial leaders, Elm Avenue and its adjoining neighborhoods reflect architectural styles and periods ranging from the early 19th century through today. The Custer Equestrian Monument and St. Mary Catholic Church are two of the community's most notable landmarks. Visitors can also find shops, restaurants and cultural attractions, such as a Custer Exhibit at the Monroe County Historical Museum and the War of 1812 Memorial Place. Downtown is easily accessible from Elm Avenue via Monroe and Macomb Streets.

City sidewalks make up a majority of this section of the trail and range in width from 4 - 6 feet. The Riverwalk, a 10-foot wide pathway running along the river, is accessible from St. Mary's Park (near the Custer monument) and at the Macomb Street Bridge.

BATTLEFIELD & WETLANDS | 4.4 MILES

This section of the trail, which is largely contained within Sterling State Park, is adjacent to the Ford Marsh unit of the Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge, and is near to the River Raisin National Battlefield Park, site of a significant battle in the War of 1812. The trail provides visitors with an outstanding opportunity to step back in time and experience the marshes and wetlands that the early French settlers first explored, hunted, and called home. Views of Lake Erie and of the natural habitats of indigenous wildlife and waterfowl are accessible from the main path and side trails. Bicyclists can experience nature on an extended ride and bird watchers can add unique species to their sighting list.

This section of the trail is an 8-10-foot wide asphalt path with several side trails and viewing decks. The trail can be accessed from Sterling State Park, the River Raisin National Battlefield Park, or the City of Monroe's Multi-Sports Complex (on N. Dixie Highway west of the battlefield).

From the parking area at the start of the Sterling State Park Loop, shortest route to the Wetlands Trail Head is 1.5 miles.