

## Monroe County Quality of Life Initiatives and Projects Underway & Planned

### Heritage Trail

The \$7.5 million River Raisin Heritage Trail Rehabilitation project includes the rehabilitation of the existing 4.2 mile trail, with restoration of the trail surface, repair of existing bridges, drainage structures, and the addition of trail and site amenities including shelters, benches, wayfinding signage, and educational signage interpreting cultural and natural themes related to the River Raisin National Battlefield Park & Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge. Shoreline stabilization work will also take place as part of the project.

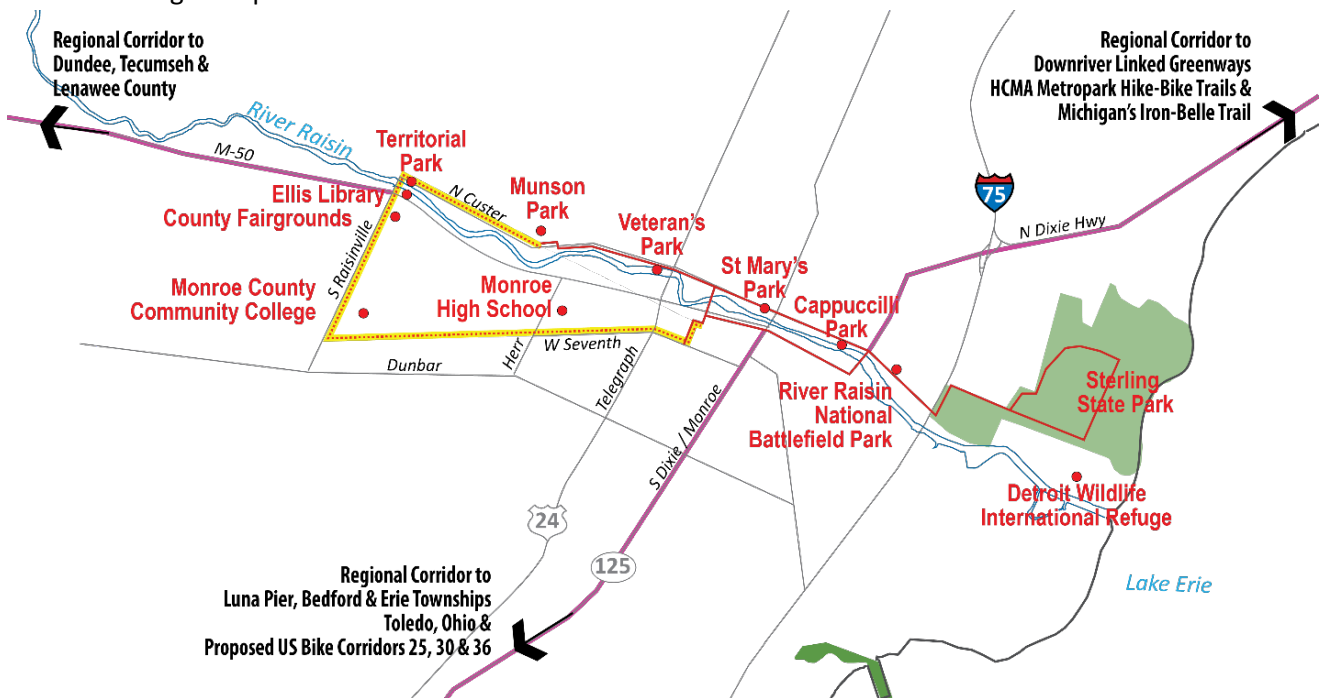
Trail includes a 2.7-mile loop around Hunt Club Marsh and a 1.1-mile trail connection to Elm Avenue along Union Camp Marsh which is adjacent to the Detroit River International Refuge and connects to the River Raisin National Battlefield and the City of Monroe.



This Trail is Monroe County's only regional trail documented by SEMCOG's Mobility Plan for the SE Michigan region (2020). The trail not only presents an extraordinary opportunity to see natural areas, but is remarkably unique because it links federal, state, and local assets for citizens and visitors to access (See Exhibit 2: Regional Connectivity).

### Funding Partners:

- County of Monroe
- Federal Environmental Protection Agency
- Federal Earmark (MDOT)
- Michigan Department of Natural Resources



## Monroe Loop Trail

### **Project Scope:**

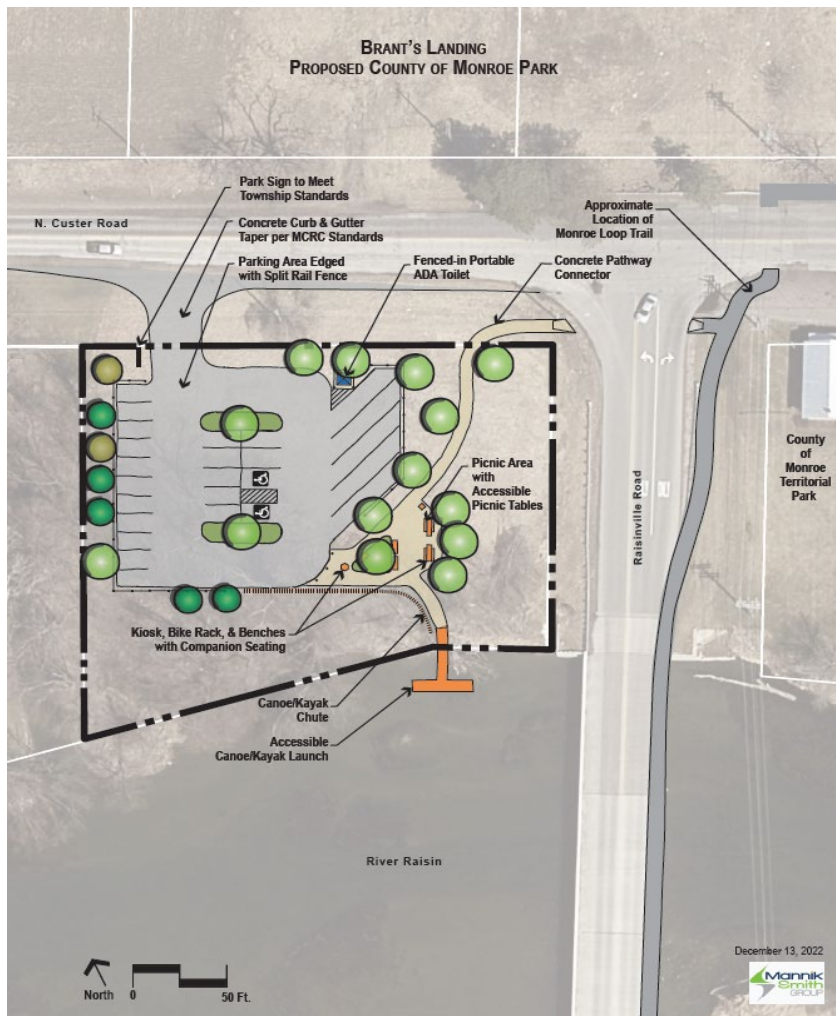
6.5-mile 10-foot wide asphalt shared use path  
Part of 18 mile larger trail  
\$6 million project  
Pedestrian bridges & bridge retrofit to accommodate both bicyclists & pedestrians  
Trail Crosses River Raisin  
Recreational, Educational, & Economic Development opportunities  
Provides Equitable Access to Recreation  
Aligns with SCORP & County Recreation Plan  
Development Grant Request-\$300,000 in 2022 was not approved

### **Funding Partners:**

MDOT/SEMCOG TAP Funds  
Ralph C. Wilson, Jr. Foundation  
County of Monroe  
City of Monroe  
Frenchtown Township  
Monroe Township

## Monroe Loop Trail Head & River Access

This \$540,000 project creates a trailhead access the Monroe Loop Trail. A private landowner created this opportunity for an access to point the Loop Trail and a canoe and kayak launch site on the River Raisin. This landowner donated a 1.32 acres parcel to the County a 1.32. The County's vision for a trailhead park would serve to provide a connection to the soon to be constructed Monroe County Loop Trail, and create a recreational canoeing and kayaking access point on public land at the banks of the River Raisin. Accessing Monroe County's abundant natural areas including the River Raisin adds tremendous value as quality of life amenities for residents and visitors alike.



A shared use pathway will connect the site to the trail and North Territorial Park (County Museum asset) via a fully upgraded intersection at the base of the Raisinville Road Bridge. This will help connect to visitor destinations throughout the Monroe area including: River Raisin National Battlefield, Sterling State Park, Monroe County Fairgrounds, and Downtown Monroe. Additional destinations include the main branch of the local library system, as well as the community college.

There will be a 24 spot parking lot for those who wish to park and to use either the bicycle and pedestrian trail or the kayak/canoe launch site. There will also be a bicycle rack located on the site. Additional amenities will be picnic tables, a bench seating and portable bathrooms.

Funding through a Spark grant was unsuccessful and the County will now self-fund this important community project to be constructed in 2024.

### **100 Bike MiCornerstone Bike Route**

The Monroe County Cornerstone 100 mile Bicycle Route has been designed & refined by the Monroe Cycling Club & Monroe County Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Panel. Its value will be to connect Monroe County's communities and other important regional and county destinations. The route is designed and intended to provide greater mobility and recreation options to County residents and visitors.

The Cornerstone Route is conceived as a 100-mile route to encourage sought-after century bicycle ride events. It is also planned to tie into the non-motorized networks of Toledo, Ohio, Lenawee County and the statewide Iron Belle Trail and the Downriver Linked Greenway system. It will also connect to the Monroe Area Loop Trail and the River Raisin Heritage Trail, Monroe County's only regional trail.

### **Monroe County Parks**

Monroe County operates five County parks that total approximately 221 acres of land. These parks include Heck, Nike, Vienna, Waterloo and West County Park. Waterloo and West County Park have access to the River Raisin. West County is a natural preserve area located in the western portion of Monroe County.

Nike, Waterloo and Vienna all received new power and automated entry gates in 2023. Also, the interior trails at Heck and Waterloo were repaved in 2023. These same parks also received new asphalt surfaces for the parking lots and drive areas. Nike received new asphalt paving to the entrance and main parking that had been gravel.

In 2024, additional capital will include asphalt paving at Vienna and West County Park along with more paving at Nike and replacement of playground equipment and other park amenity improvements including landscape.

In addition, the County operates four additional sites open for public use: Historic Loranger Square, in the City of Monroe; the River Raisin Access Site; St. Antoine's Historic Cemetery in the City of Monroe serving as a memorial; and Territorial Park, the site of the Navarre-Anderson Trading Post that consists of historically preserved structures and a canoe/kayak landing.