



THE ST. JOSEPH RIVER + POINTS ALONG THE WAY

Ready to explore along the St. Joseph River?

Whether that means by paddle, pedal or foot, there is so much to see in and along the river. Use this map as a guide for checking out the many places to see and things to do.

See the other side for more information about the river and points along the way.

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- 2 St. Patrick's County Park
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MAP KEY

- St. Joseph River
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- East Race Waterway
- Fishing
- Bridges



THE ST. JOSEPH RIVER

+ POINTS ALONG THE WAY

If **The Bend** has one defining physical feature, it's the **St. Joseph River**. Indigenous peoples used the river to provide for their families and travel. European explorers later navigated the river, eventually establishing a local fur trade that led to permanent settlements like South Bend. Industrialists harnessed the river's power to build up our cities and towns.

The river remains an important part of our area's fabric to this day. We invite you to experience the river from the water or the banks. However you choose to explore, these are some of the places to see and things to do along the St. Joe.



Paved Trails

The **Indiana-Michigan River Valley Trail** covers 17 miles, connecting downtown Niles to downtown Mishawaka while running through **South Bend**. The entire trail system is paved. It can be utilized in smaller sections for walkers and runners or bigger stretches for bikers. There are dozens of points of interest along the way.

Refer to the map and legend to see the extent of the trail's path network.



Other Parks Along the River

It's probably no surprise that there are several parks in **The Bend** that utilize the river as a centerpiece.

Along with some of the notable parks mentioned on the map, here are some others along the river:

- Niles:** Riverfront Park (B2)
- South Bend:** Pinhook Park (K1) | Keller Park (L2) | Leeper Park (M2) | Gov. Joe Kernan Park (O3) | Seitz Park (N3)
- Mishawaka:** Kate's Garden (O6) | Lincoln Park (O6) | Merrifield Park (O8) | Margaret Prickett Marina Park (O8) | Shiojiri Niwa (O8)

Boating + Kayaking

Walking or biking along the river is one thing. Getting in it is another. Boating, canoeing, kayaking and rafting are popular ways to explore the river. Below are options for seasonal kayak and canoe rental. Refer to the fishing section below for boat and kayak launches.

- ★ **East Race Waterway** (N3)
- Season for this Class II rapids course runs from June to September. Must be 54" tall. Children under age 16 that meet the height must be accompanied by an adult.



- Ferrettie/Baugo Creek County Park** (P8)
- Available from May to September. Paddle Baugo Creek and out to Baugo Bay. Renters must be at least 18 years old. Both canoes and kayaks available at this site.

- St. Patrick's County Park** (G2)
- Group canoe rentals available May to September. Choose between trips ranging from 4 to 10 miles. Three person max per canoe.

Fishing

Grab your rod and reel — the **St. Joseph River** is considered one of the best fisheries in the Midwest. Coho salmon, steelhead, smallmouth bass and walleye are among the popular species in the river. Bank fishing is popular and there are signs along the river that note the best spots to do so. Fishing is **not** permitted off bridges. Fish ladders are located in South Bend and Mishawaka near the dams.

Along with the public boat dock at Gov. Joe Kernan Park (O3), there are several boat launches along the river:

- South Bend:** Keller Park (L2) | Pinhook Park (K1) | Riverside Park (J1) | St. Patrick's County Park (G2) | Veterans Memorial Park (P4)
- Mishawaka:** Beutter Park (O7) | Central Park (O7) | Crawford Park (O8) | Kamm Island (O6) | Margaret Prickett Marina Park (N8)

Bridges

Several bridges cross the river in South Bend and Mishawaka. Here are five of the most historic and eye catching:

- Darden Bridge:** Built in 1884 and originally downtown, this pedestrian bridge is part of the trail system along the river. (I1)
- Leeper Bridge:** One of the most beautiful bridges in South Bend, it crosses the river just north of downtown. (M3)
- Jefferson Boulevard Bridge:** Cross the river in downtown South Bend. Built in 1905, it's oldest bridge in the city still in use. (N3)
- Twyckenham Drive Bridge:** Notable for its height, this bridge was built in 1929 and is one of South Bend's most striking. (P4)
- Logan Street Bridge:** Located in Mishawaka, this concrete arch bridge was built in 1913. (P6)



- 1 **Downtown Niles, MI** (B2)
- Parks and places to eat make up **downtown Niles**, which continues to grow in popularity. **Iron Shoe Distillery** (burger photo) and **Front Street Pizza Pub** are among the most popular places to visit when exploring this area.



- 3 **University of Notre Dame** (L3)
- Known the world over, the **University of Notre Dame** is worth a stop. Campus includes several iconic landmarks, like the **Grotto of Our Lady of Lourdes** and the **Basilica of the Sacred Heart**. Photo ops await in front of the "Word of Life" mural, better known as **Touchdown Jesus**, and the **Golden Dome**.

- 5 **Downtown South Bend** (N3)
- Downtown South Bend** is a hub of activity with dozens of bars, restaurants and attractions. Visitors might want to hang around after dark as the **South Bend River Lights** splash across the river, making for a colorful display.



- 7 **Market District** (O4)
- Following the trail this direction means the opportunity to explore the historic **South Bend Farmers Market**. Also nearby: **Ironhand Wine Bar**, **Bamber's Superette** and **Oh Mamma's on the Avenue**, a delightful locally owned cheese shop.



- 9 **Downtown Mishawaka** (O7)
- Adjacent to the **Riverwalk**, **downtown Mishawaka** offers a variety of things to do within walking distance. Restaurants like **Jesús Latin Grill** (pork chop photo) and **Chicory Café** are popular spots. **Indiana Rug Co. Studio and Gift Shop** is one of the area's most unique stores.

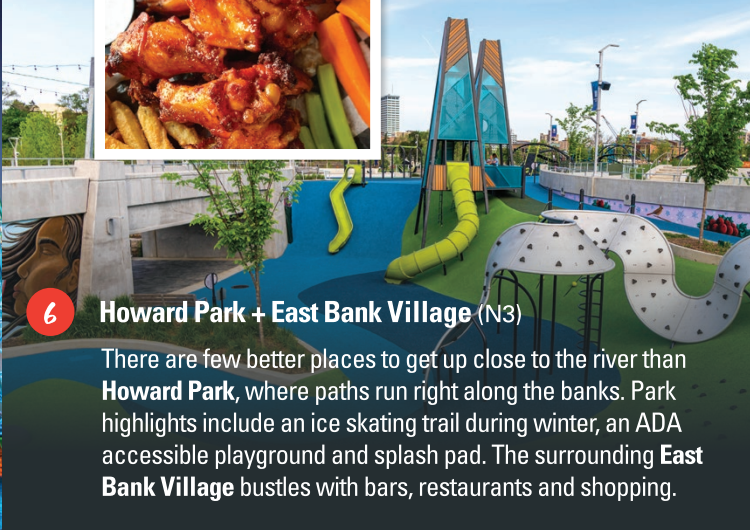


- 2 **St. Patrick's County Park** (G2)
- Situated right along the St. Joseph River, **St. Patrick's County Park** is one of our most beloved outdoor spaces. It offers miles of trail for hiking and activities all year round, like canoeing and cross country skiing. It's featured on the Indiana Birding Trail.

- 4 **Eddy Street Commons** (M3)
- Eddy Street Commons** is home to several restaurants and shops just south of the Notre Dame campus. Local favorites include **O'Rourke's Public House** (chicken wings photo) and **BRU Burger Bar**. If you need something for the road, **Trader Joe's** is at the south end of the street.



- 6 **Howard Park + East Bank Village** (N3)
- There are few better places to get up close to the river than **Howard Park**, where paths run right along the banks. Park highlights include an ice skating trail during winter, an ADA accessible playground and splash pad. The surrounding **East Bank Village** bustles with bars, restaurants and shopping.



- 8 **Potawatomi Zoo, Conservatory + Park** (O5)
- Potawatomi Zoo** is a favorite destination for families and one of Indiana's most popular zoos. Nearby **Potawatomi Park** includes a massive playground for kids and a splash pad. **Potawatomi Conservatories** is a tranquil getaway with paths through lush plant life.



- 10 **Mishawaka Riverwalk** (O7)
- These paths loop around both sides of the river while connecting multiple Mishawaka parks: **Battell**, **Beutter**, **Central Park** (photo above), **Ironworks Plaza** (home of the Mishawaka Farmers Market) and **Kamm Island**. The **Riverwalk** is popular with bikers, runners and walkers alike.



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