

QUICK GUIDE

to Jackson's

HIKING TRAILS

experience
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WATERLOO RECREATIONAL AREA

Get ready for a day packed full of hiking and outdoor fun at the Waterloo Recreation Area. With more than 20,000 acres, it is the largest park in the Lower Peninsula. Embrace the beauty of Michigan's outdoors as you hike your way through the park's wide variety of trails.

LENGTH: 47 miles

TRAIL LOCATION: 11700 Seymour Road,
Grass Lake, MI 49240

PARKING: There is a parking lot at the trailhead. Parking here requires a **MDNR Recreational Passport**.

The Waterloo Recreational Area spans several counties, access one of the trailheads inside the Portage Lake County Park.



NOTABLE NEARBY

- **Grand River Brewery** creates some of the best craft beers, wines, and distilled spirits in the area. The industrial-styled restaurant with patio is the perfect spot to stop for a drink or bite to eat after a day of hiking. [You've got to try their Monkey Mouth IPA – 2015's North American IPA of the Year!](#)
- Enjoy a show in a truly unique atmosphere at the **Michigan Theatre**. The restored theatre was originally built in 1930 using a Spanish Renaissance style with an ornate polychrome terra-cotta façade, carved walnut furniture, plush carpeting, heavy damask draperies, and stained-glass light fixtures.



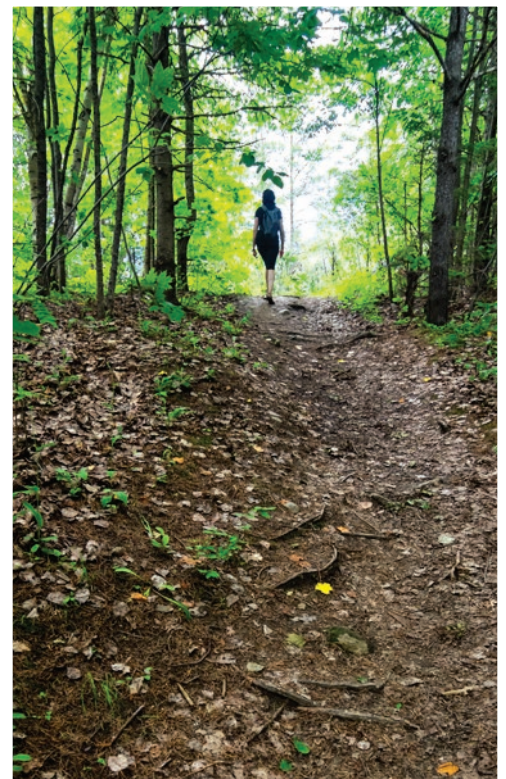
MACCREADY RESERVE

MacCready Reserve is just miles from the city, but feels like you are a world away. The trail winds around the 408-acre forested park, overlooking ponds and marshes. With plenty of challenging hills, this shaded trail is perfect for an adventure - even on a hot summer day.

LENGTH: 6.5 miles

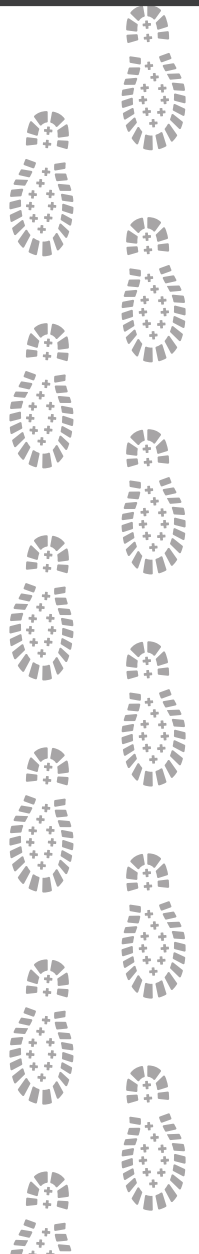
TRAIL LOCATION: 9241-9499 Skiff Lake Rd,
Clarklake, MI 49234

PARKING: Free parking is available at
the trailhead.



NOTABLE NEARBY

- Jackson offers a unique opportunity for tourists to hear the stories of Jackson's most notorious criminals, riots, and prison escapes. Experience life behind bars for yourself with **The Original Jackson Historic Prison Tours**.
- Award-winning IPAs, single barrel brew houses, bacon flavored pours, and one-of-a-kind craft beer fests make Jackson the Ultimate Craft Beer Destination! Once you are done hiking, indulge yourself in the craft beer scene at one of **our great breweries**.



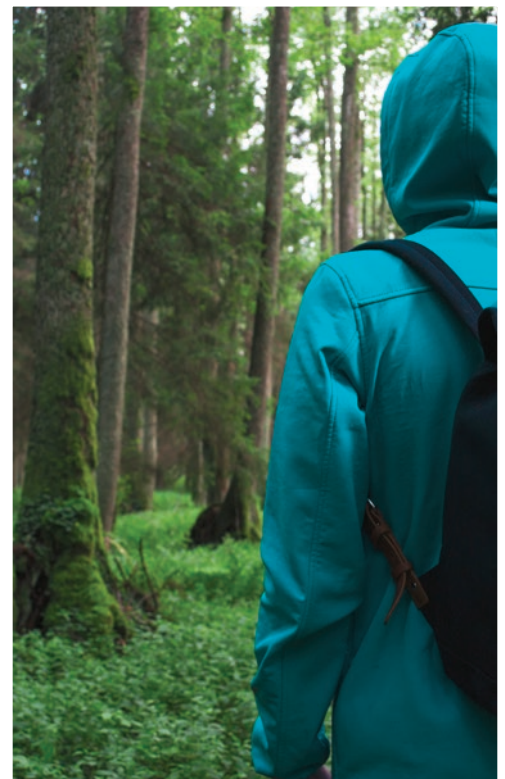
ELLA SHARP

Whether you're looking for an easy short hiking trail or a long hiking trail, you'll find what you're looking for at the Ella Sharp Park trails. Enjoy a short hike by combining a few loops or conquer the entire 11.3-mile trail. Hikers can rely on the orange paint to guide their way around the beautiful trees and wetlands. The trails at Ella Sharp Park are largely flat but do offer some hills that add the perfect variety.

LENGTH: The 11.3-mile course consists of 9 separate trails.

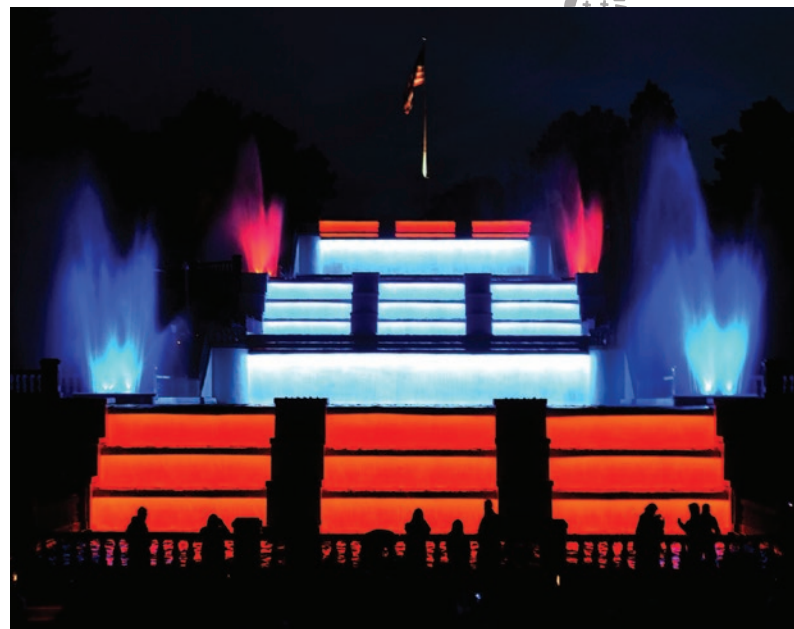
TRAIL LOCATION: Ella Sharp Park, 2800 4th St, Jackson, MI 49203.

PARKING: Several parking lots are conveniently located throughout the park by your desired trail, all of which have free parking.



NOTABLE NEARBY

- **The Ella Sharp Museum** features an 1860's log cabin, the Dibble one-room schoolhouse, country store, print shop, doctor's office, wood shop and the Merriman Sharp Farmhouse, as well as six art galleries!
- **The Cascades** is a spectacular 500-foot-tall, man-made waterfall with illuminated lights that are choreographed to music. Check out the events & firework shows [here!](#)
- Cool off at **Splash Pad Aquatic Park** at the Cascades. The new water park's zero-depth surface is great for children of all ages, and the above-ground fountains and water spray features are sure to make for a fun day.



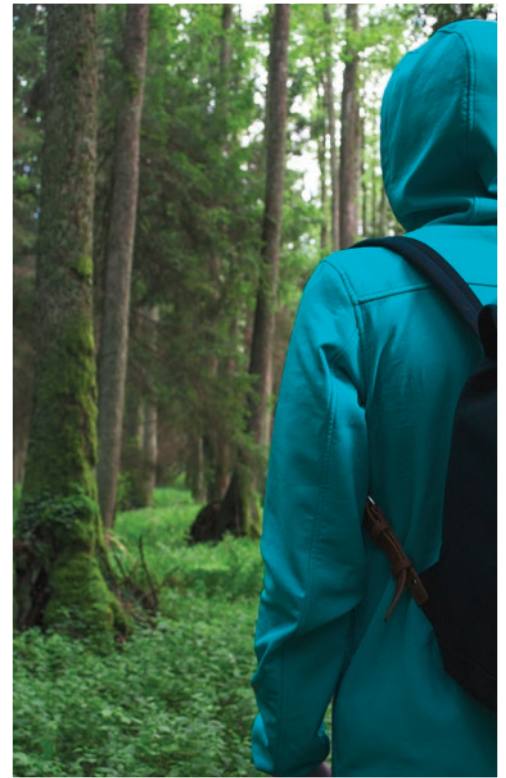
DAHLEM CENTER

The Dahlem Center, *Jackson's Nature Place*, provides some of the best trails in the area for enjoying a scenic hike. While here, you will see beautiful wildflowers, wet meadows, birds, reptiles, and mammals. The Dahlem Center features a special Nature for All Trail that allows people with limited mobility to enjoy the healing power of the outdoors.

LENGTH: 5 miles

TRAIL LOCATION: 7117 South Jackson Road,
Jackson, MI 49201

PARKING: Free parking is available at the trailhead.



NOTABLE NEARBY

- **Ye Old Carriage Shop** is a museum for every motorsports enthusiast. Be delighted by more than 60 antique and classic cars on display, including five one-and-only cars and 18 made in Jackson, hundreds of original gas and oil pieces, 160 model planes from the World Wars, a pedal car collection, and a Coca-Cola Soda Bar! Make your appointment to see this spectacular museum today!
- Stay outdoors to enjoy **Under the Oaks City Park**. This historical landmark is where anti-slavery men and women came together in 1854 to establish a new political party, the Republican Party.





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