

MILWAUKEE HISTORY TRAIL

The Milwaukee History Trail begins and ends at the Mitchell Park Domes. It crosses two viaducts, goes through Marquette University Campus, the Milwaukee Civic Center, four Milwaukee Parks and downtown Milwaukee. The trail provides insight into much of the history of the city.

The entire ten mile hike is on sidewalk, so be sure that the hikers have comfortable sturdy footwear. There are several public buildings along the way with restrooms as well as buildings with snack bars that are open to the public.

Juneau Park has restrooms and benches. It is an ideal spot for those who bring a snack to take a break.

It is recommended that Scout troops or Venture crews travel under competent adult (over 21) leadership on a ratio of approximately one leader to ten Scouts or Explorers.

Should you wish to do any touring of buildings along the hike, we would suggest the following possibilities.

- ◆ The streets of Old Milwaukee: Milwaukee Museum requires no reservation other than checking open hours - 800 W. Wells St., Milwaukee (414) 278-2702
- ◆ The fire station appreciates a reservation, 711 W. Wells St., Milwaukee (414) 266-8970
- ◆ The Court House is a worthy stop, particularly for citizenship - 901 N. 9th St., Milwaukee
- ◆ For the Milwaukee City Hall, call the mayor's office - 901 N. 9th St., Milwaukee
- ◆ For the Safety Building, call the office of the chief of police - 821 W. State St., Milwaukee (414) 933-4444
- ◆ If you wish to tour any of the Marquette University buildings, call the director of public relations for some suggestions - 735 N. 17th St., Milwaukee (414) 288-7250

Even though the hike is in the city, there are many open areas that do have distant views which a hiker with binoculars would find interesting.

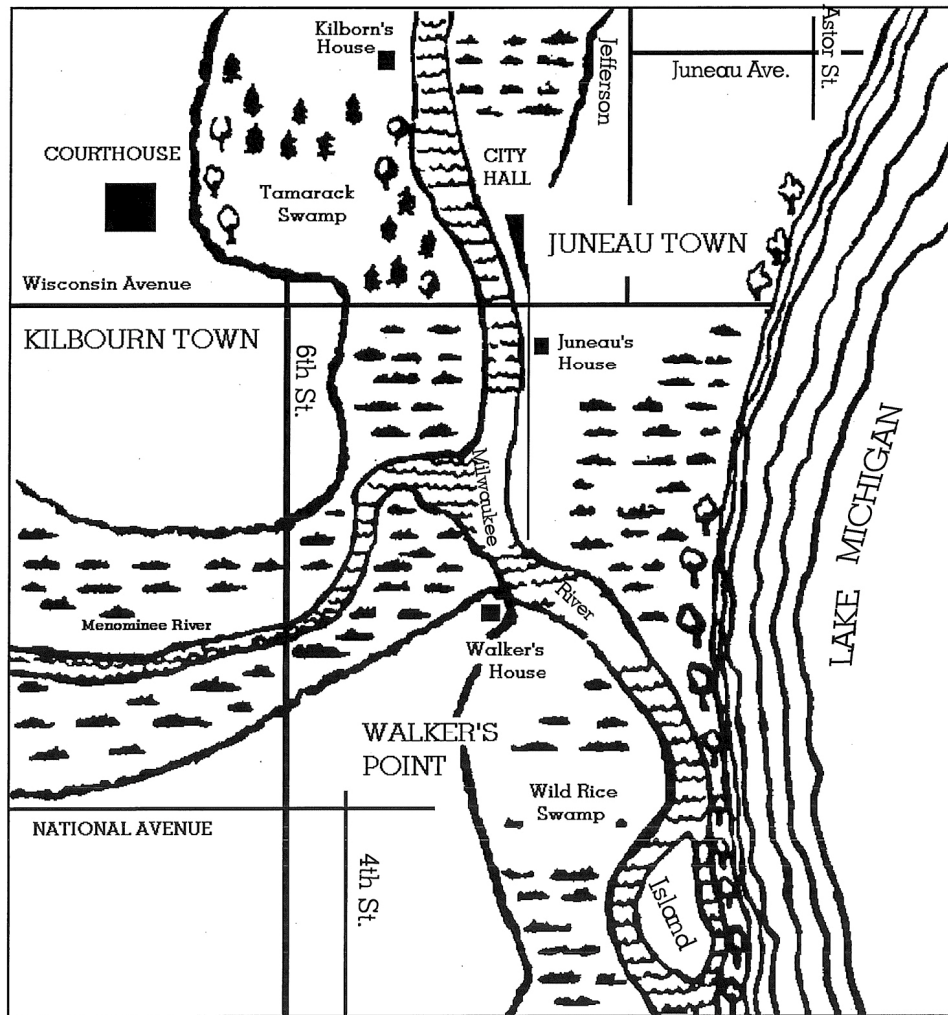
Should your group wish to camp in conjunction with the hike, we would suggest the following possibilities:

- ◆ Indian Mound Scout Reservation is about 35 miles from the trail. Cabin or tent sites are available. Reservations are required. Please contact the camping department at (414) 443-2843
- ◆ Milwaukee County Parks Commission - 907 N. 9th St., Milwaukee - 414-278-4371. Cabins only, very limited number.

All Boy Scout groups are reminded that an official local tour permit is required.

An attractive patch (3"x 5") is available to those who hike the Milwaukee History Trail. The cost of this patch is \$2.00. Advanced reservations for the trail are not necessary. Payment for the Milwaukee History Trail patch should not be made until the hike leader knows how many patches are desired, preferably after the hike has been taken.

Address all correspondence to: Three Harbors, BSA
Council Services
330 S. 84th St.
Milwaukee, WI 53214



THREE ORIGINAL SETTLEMENTS

THE MILWAUKEE HISTORY TRAIL PATH

1. Start at the Mitchell Park Domes at S. 27th St., and W. Pierce St. The Domes are the only structure of their kind in the world. There are 3 domes that contain a variety of collections that include tropical, arid, and seasonal plants. Hike north on the 27th St., viaduct. Under the viaduct, on the south end are the Milwaukee Road switch yards. You also cross the Menomonee River which, at this point, becomes a shipping channel. To the west you can view Miller Park, home of the Milwaukee Brewers. The retractable roof protects 43,000 people from the elements.
2. Continue to W. Wisconsin Ave., and turn right or east. Hike east on W. Wisconsin Ave. On the north side of W. Wisconsin Ave., between 24th and 25th Streets is the Milwaukee County Downtown Medical Health Services Building. It is presently not in use and no decision has been made as to possible future use. The house at 2000 W. Wisconsin Ave., was the Frederick Pabst Mansion, built in 1890-92. It was also the home of the Archbishop of the Milwaukee Catholic Archdiocese and has been designated as a historic landmark by the Milwaukee Landmarks Commission. It is now called the Pabst Mansion and is open to the public for tours.
3. Hereafter, all buildings designated as historic landmarks by the Milwaukee Landmarks Commission will be identified by the letters "ML." Items marked "HABS" have been or are being recorded for Historic American Buildings Survey archives in the Library of Congress, Washington, D.C. Items marked "NR" have been entered in or are being considered for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places.
4. Between N. 18th and N. 17th Streets, on the north side of the street, is where the Milwaukee Children's Hospital had been located. This hospital was moved to the Milwaukee County Medical Complex.
5. The Marquette University campus begins on N. 16th St. The Engineering building is on the corner. Note that the two columns above the main entrance to the building are of different shapes. McCormick Hall (a dormitory for male students) is on the north side of Wisconsin Ave., at 16th St. Turn right on the 15th Street mall. Continue south on the 15th Street mall until the Joan of Arc Chapel. This old structure was moved to Marquette University from France as a gift to the University from Mr. and Mrs. Marc Rojzman, former Chairman of the Board of the J.I. Case Company. It was reconstructed with the stones in the exact location they were in when the chapel was originally constructed in France.
6. At the Chapel, turn east and go to the Brooks Memorial Union. It has washroom facilities and a snack bar downstairs. Return to and cross W. Wisconsin Ave. Then proceed east to N. 13th St. Before turning north on N. 13th St., notice the Church of the Gesu at 1143 W. Wisconsin Ave. This church was built in 1892-93. (ML)

7. At the corner of N. 13th St., and W. Wells St., (one block north) there is a marker mounted on a lawn (southwest corner) marking the spot where Abraham Lincoln spoke during Fair week. The State Fair grounds used to be located here. Proceed east on W. Wells St., to N. 9th St. Here, turn left into MacArthur Square. Go north on the mall sidewalk past the Memorial Clock Tower. If you happen to pass the clock on the hour, you would be interested in watching the movement of the parts of the clock. Note the marker on the General MacArthur Statue.
8. Continue East across MacArthur Square to the circular ramp leading down to N. 7th St. Cross N. 7th St., walk east, pass the University of Wisconsin Downtown Campus. Continue east on the north side of Kilbourn Ave. On the south side from 6th to 4th Street is the Midwest Express Center. The Midwest Express Center is used for trade shows and conventions. On the north side is the Auditorium-Arena. The Auditorium was built in 1909 and was remodeled into the Milwaukee Theatre in 2002-2003. Broadway style shows are performed here. The Arena construction was completed in 1950 and is now the U.S. Cellular Arena which is used for a variety of shows and sporting events.
9. At 4th St., turn left (north) to W. State St. On the east side of the U.S. Cellular Arena on 4th St., is the Wisconsin Walk of Fame, a permanent public place of honor recognizing the state's most acclaimed and accomplished sports figures. As you walk on the west side of 4th St. to State St., notice the roof line on the Journal Building. It depicts the history of printing. At the corner before you cross the street, you will notice a marker commemorating the invention of the typewriter. The Milwaukee Journal/Sentinel offices are in this building. Walk east on Wells St. On the northeast corner of 4th and Wells is the Bradley Center, home of the Bucks and major concerts.
10. Turn right (south) at 3rd St., and walk one block. Across the street is the old Second Ward Bank, built in 1911-13. (ML, HABS, NR) It is now the Milwaukee County Historical Society Center. Take a few minutes to view the interesting exhibits on display inside the building. By going east from 3rd St., towards the Milwaukee River, you will notice the marker on the Pere Marquette Park lawn. Be sure to read it. Walk north thru the park named after Father Marquette, who actually landed and camped in this area in 1674. (ML)
11. At State St., go (east) crossing the bridge over the Milwaukee River. As you cross the Milwaukee River, you are leaving the original community of Kilbourntown and entering Juneau town, which with Walker's Point, were the original three settlements that formed the City of Milwaukee in 1846. You will notice that the bridges that cross the river are at angles because of the fighting between Kilbourntown and Juneau town settlers over who should pay to build the bridges. Streets were laid out purposely not to meet. In fact the leaders in Kilbourntown did not think bridges were needed. Byron Kilbourn, the founder of Kilbourntown, did not encourage settlers to locate across the river in Juneau Town.

12. Continue walking past the Performing Arts Center (PAC) to N. Water St., turn right (south), you will be going past the entrance to the PAC. Looking across the street, you will see Red Arrow Park and at Kilbourn Ave., looking southwest, you will see the Theatre District, consisting of the Pabst, Stiemke, Stackner and Quadracci Theatres.
13. Cross the street to the southeast corner of the intersection. Continue south along the City Hall to E. Wells St. At the corner, look west and you will see the Pabst Theatre which was built in 1895. (MR, HABS, NR) The City Hall was built in 1893-95 and has a ten ton bell in its tower that is rung only on the 4th of July. (MT, HABS, NR) Turn north on the east side of Market St. Note the Ten Commandments Plaque on the lawn near the City Hall Annex. At E. Kilbourn, turn east (right). The Milwaukee Landmarks Commission placed a plaque on Old St. Mary's Catholic Church, which was built in 1846-47. (ML, HABS, NR)
14. On the northwest corner of E. Kilbourn Ave., and N. Milwaukee St., is MSOE, or Milwaukee School of Engineering. This was also the original site of the Milwaukee Public Museum. The buildings were built in 1890-91 as the German English Academy.

Continue east on E. Kilbourn Ave., until N. Jefferson St. Turn south on N. Jefferson, going through a park called Cathedral Square. Go through the square in a southeasterly direction to N. Jackson St. The square has several interesting markers. These markers are placed in this park where the first jail and courthouse were located. Visit the statue erected to honor emigrant mothers. Originally this block was known as Courthouse Square with the land donated by Mayor Solomon Juneau and Morgan Martin. Solomon Juneau was a trader who founded Juneau Town and along with Byron Kilbourn and George H. Walker had Milwaukee incorporated as a city in 1846. St. John's Roman Catholic Cathedral, 812 N. Jackson St., was built in 1847-53. (ML, HABS)

15. Go north on Jackson to return to E. Kilbourn Ave., and then turn east. Hike east on E. Kilbourn Ave., to N. Prospect Ave. At 813 E. Kilbourn Ave., and 1119 N. Marshall St., is the Robert Patrick Fitzgerald House, now the College Women's Club, built in 1887. (ML)
16. At N. Prospect Ave., turn north (left). Continue on N. Prospect until E. Juneau Ave. On the northwest corner of Juneau and Prospect, you will see the Jason Downer House built in 1874. (ML) At Juneau, turn east (right), but do not cross Juneau Ave.
17. After you go just a short distance east on the south side of Juneau Ave., you will come to the park sidewalk. Turn south on this sidewalk. You will be hiking within Juneau Park on the park sidewalk. Continue to the replica of the Solomon Juneau cabin. Proceed south along the walk and you may observe the statue of Leif Erickson. Erickson was a Viking explorer. There is a comfort station in the park and the park is a nice place for a bag lunch. The area below the bluff in Juneau Park was filled in over the years and as such was not part of the area as first viewed by Solomon Juneau.

18. Continue on the sidewalk, you will approach a statue of Solomon Juneau, Milwaukee's first Mayor in 1846. Walk around the statue and notice the features of Milwaukee's history. As you walk south and then east across the Lincoln Memorial Bridge, you will see the Milwaukee County War Memorial Center built in 1955-57. Note the mosaic panels on the front of the building. On panels one, two and three, are the dates of 1941 (MCMXLI) and 1945 (MCMXLV). These dates are superimposed on scenes from World War II. Panels four and five contain Roman numerals MCML and MCMLII for the years 1950 and 1952 and scenes from the Korean War.
19. Enter the building and go through the doorway on the east end of the room. As you walk out on the deck area, you will see engraved in the marble many names of men and women that were killed in action while serving in the armed forces of the USA. This marble base surrounds an eternal flame. Enter the building again, walk down the stairs to the lower level. Here you will find restrooms and a vending machine type snack bar. If you look to the west, you will see the 42 story US Bank Building. Construction of this 601 foot high building is the tallest in Wisconsin and was completed in 1973. Just to the south along the lake is the Milwaukee Art Museum that includes the Santiago Calatrava-designed Quadracci Pavilion and features more than 20,000 works of art.
20. Cross Lincoln Memorial Dr., follow path to E. Wisconsin Ave. On the top of the path at E. Wisconsin is a patch of concrete with an outline of the Chicago and Northwestern Railroad Depot. Also an information board nearby. Cross to the north side of E. Wisconsin Ave. From here west to Van Buren St., is the Northwestern Mutual Life Insurance Co. Under the older section of the building between Cass and Van Buren, E. Wisconsin Ave., and Mason St., was Lake Emily that provided a recreational spot for the early Juneau Town residents. Continue west on E. Wisconsin Ave., at 526 E. Wisconsin is the Northern Trust Bank built in 1906 (ML, HABS). It was built by Ferry & Clas as a French Renaissance styled office building.
21. As you proceed west, you will notice the direct slope of the area toward the Milwaukee River. West of a bluff that ran along Jefferson St., was a rice marsh that bordered the Milwaukee River. Walk north along the Pfister Hotel built in 1890-93. Civic-minded Charles Pfister gave permission for the Milwaukee Boy Scouts to erect a voting booth (a barracks type building) on his property north of his hotel near Mason St. This building was erected in 1915, cost \$25.00 and served as the first Boy Scout Headquarters in Milwaukee.
22. At E. Mason, turn left (west) walking on the south side of the street to the Milwaukee River. Mason St., among other enterprising business ventures was known as printer's row. At one time, both the Milwaukee Journal and Milwaukee Sentinel had plants on this street.

A little south of the southwest corner of N. Water and E. Mason Streets is the site of the first non-Indian boy born in Milwaukee. His name was Charles Milwaukee Sivyer, born May 4, 1836. His father worked for Solomon Juneau and was the town's first bricklayer. His name was William Sivyer. When you get to the river, turn left (south).

23. Proceed south along the elevated sidewalk to the little park near Wisconsin Avenue. This is a portion of sidewalk referred to as the River Walk.
24. The site west of N. Water St., to the river edge and north of Wisconsin Ave., was the area that contained Solomon Juneau's trading post, stockade, warehouse, log cabin and dwelling. It was created in 1825, the oldest such complex in the city. It functioned as a place of business, the site of the first Catholic Mass in 1837 and served as a school, hall of justice and a jail. Note the plaque mounted on the building facing the site.
25. Cross E. Wisconsin Ave., so that you are in front of the Marine Plaza Building. Look east across the street and you will see the Iron Block Building façade which was restored and the interior renovated. In 1861 it was Milwaukee's largest office building. It is unique in that it is made up of cast iron parts. They were cast in a Rochester, New York foundry and transported to Milwaukee by schooner. (ML, HABS, NR)
26. Proceed south on N. Water St., on the east side of the street about the center of the block, the first non-Indian girl was born on October 10, 1835. Her name was Milwaukee Smith. Her father was Uriel Smith, the first tailor in the new settlement. Continue walking south to E. Michigan St.
27. On the southeast corner is the Mitchell Building. On the N. Water St., side is a plaque noting that Solomon Juneau lived on this site. The Mitchell Building was built in 1876-78. (ML, HABS, NR) The building, just east of the Mitchell Building, is the Mackie Building. This was formerly called the Chamber of Commerce Building and housed the Milwaukee Grain Exchange. It was built in 1879-80. (ML, HABS, NR)
28. Go west now along E. Michigan to Zeidler Park at N. 3rd St. As you cross the Milwaukee River, observe the old Gimbels Store Building. You will observe that it is right on the rivers edge. This building was constructed on and still rests upon wood pilings driven into the former rice swamp. The water level covering these pilings must be maintained in the sub-basement of this building to prevent the rotting of these submerged pilings.
29. This little park between N. 3rd and N. 4th Street, south of W. Michigan has had many names such as Forth Ward Square, Pere Marquette Park and presently Zeidler Park. Read the marker on the northwest corner of the park. It honors former Mayor of Milwaukee, Carl Zeidler, who was Mayor in 1940.
30. If you will look Northeast from here, you will see the Grand Avenue Mall. Looking south under the expressway is the Post Office Building and west of that is the Amtrak Railroad Station.

31. Continue west on W. Michigan St., to the west side of N. 5th St. Cross W. Michigan St., walk north to W. Wisconsin Ave. As you turn left (west) you will find a marker on the Marc Plaza Hotel depicting the site of an Indian Village. If you turn and face east it is not difficult to realize that the Indian Village was located on the west bluff of the Milwaukee River rice marsh. The rice marsh was a major source of food for the Indian Village inhabitants. It has been filled in as a land fill site over the years; the same as that area of Juneau Town below the park bluffs.
32. At the intersection of N. 6th St., and W. Wisconsin Ave., turn right (north). Proceed north on block to W. Wells St. On the north side of W. Wells St., is the Wisconsin State Office Building. Turn left and go west on W. Wells St. At the corner of N. 7th St., and W. Wells you will find the headquarters of the Milwaukee Fire Department. The Milwaukee Museum is located between 8th and 9th Streets on the north side of W. Wells St.
33. In front of the Museum at 800 W. Wells St., is the Tower Clock. This old street clock was manufactured by Seth Thomas of Connecticut in 1905. Clocks such as this were located between the streets and the sidewalks of the city in many locations.
34. On the south side of W. Wells St., between N. 8th and N. 9th Street is the site of the old Museum of Natural History, built in 1895-1899. (ML, HABS, NR) This building is now the Central Library, Milwaukee Public Library System.
35. At N. 9th St., turn left (south). Walk past the Wisconsin Club, the former Alexander Mitchell Mansion built in 1870.
36. As you approach Wisconsin Ave., notice the four statues on the median strip between N. 8th and N. 10th Street. This strip was known as the Court of Honor. Beginning at the east end, the statues are in order:
 - (1). George Washington, a gift to the city in 1885.
 - (2). To Those Who Served in the War with Spain, 1898-1902
 - (3). Carnival Association, June 26, 1900. In honor of the annual carnival held in the park at this site.
 - (4). To Those Who Fought in the War for the Union, 1861-1864. (erected in 1898.)
37. Cross to the south side of Wisconsin Ave., at N. 10th St. Calvary Presbyterian Church is on the southeast corner. It was built in 1870. Continue east along W. Wisconsin Ave. You will pass St. James Episcopal Church, the oldest limestone church in the city, built in 1867-68.
38. Continue your hike west on Wisconsin Ave., at 27th St. At 2308 W. Wisconsin Ave., is the Ambassador Hotel built in 1927. It features many authentic Art Deco traits both inside and out.

39. On the south side of 24th St., stands the Eagles Club built in 1925. This was the site of many big band performances when it first opened. A number of musical groups still perform here. Look at the roofline where you will find items related to the Eagles Club in the carvings.
40. Turn south. Go to eastside of Mitchell Park. Walk to the knoll at the north edge of the bluff. Look for a boulder with a tablet marking the site of Jacque Vieau's cabin. He worked for the Northwest Fur Co. He built his cabin here in 1795 and it is the first house erected in Milwaukee. He chose this spot because it was the intersection of the Green Bay-Chicago Trail and another trail that led to Mukwonago. Solomon Juneau was his employee and son-in-law.
41. Hike west now, down the hill to the lagoon and pavilion. There are restrooms in the pavilion. Return to your cars, the hike has ended.

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Milwaukee History Trail Patch Order Form

A 3 x 5 patch is available at a cost of \$2.00 for each hiker. Fill out this portion and mail or submit when the hike is completed for the desired number of Milwaukee History Trail patches.

Organization: _____

Leader: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

No. of patches _____ @ \$2.00 each Date trail was hiked _____

No. of Youth hikers _____

No. of Adult hikers _____

Make your check payable to: Boy Scouts of America

Mail to: Milwaukee History Trail Patches
330 S. 84th St.
Milwaukee, WI 53214-1468