








Janesville Segment (Atlas Map74f)

SNAPSHOT

10.4 miles: Riverside Park South Pavilion to West Rotamer Ct.

1 This segment uses the City of Janesville's extensive paved trail system that links parks to create an urban greenbelt.

-  At the Riverside Park South Pavilion and the many other parks (seasonal) along the segment's route.
-  From the Rock River.
-  Hikers will not have any interaction with hunting on this segment.
-  By law, dogs not permitted in Janesville Parks May 15 to Sept. 15; must be leashed at other times.
-  Portions overlap with multi-use recreational paths, sidewalks and roads.
-  Side trails in city parks.
-  Portions of this segment may be suitable for those using wheelchairs or similar devices.

TRAIL ACCESS AND PARKING

Riverside Park South Pavilion: From I-39/90 at Janesville, take Exit 171B onto USH-14 and go west 4.3 mi. At N. Washington St. (CTH-E) turn left and go south 2.5 mi. At Parkside Dr. turn left and go northeast for 0.4 mi to the pavilion. Roadside parking.

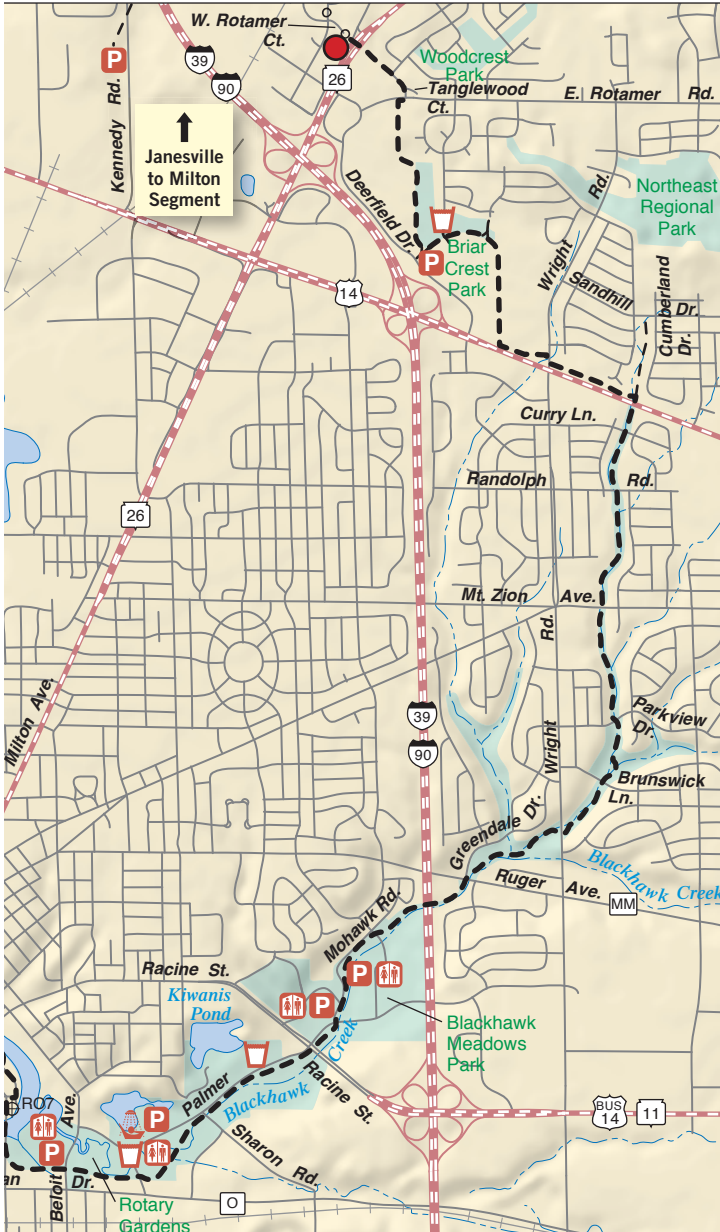
W. Rotamer Ct.: From I-39/I-90 take Exit 171A and go north on STH-26 (Milton Ave.). At Kettering Rd. turn left and go 0.1 mi. Turn right and go northeast on Whitney St. for 0.2 mi. Turn right at W. Rotamer Ct. Roadside parking.

Additional Parking: (i) Ashland Ave. at N. Washington St. parking area. A 0.2-mi spur leads to the Trail. (ii) N. River Rd. parking area (2 hour parking) just north of Mineral Point Ave. (iii) W. Milwaukee St. at the Rock River. (iv) S. River St. parking areas. (v) Dawson Ball Field. (vi) Rotary Botanical Gardens. (vii) Palmer Park. (viii) Blackhawk Meadows Park. (ix) N. Wright Rd. roadside parking. (x) Amhurst Rd. roadside parking. A short spur from the cul-de-sac leads to the Trail. (xi) Deerfield Dr. parking area between Home Depot and theaters. A short spur leads to the Trail.



THE HIKE

From its starting point at Riverside Park's South Pavilion, the Janesville Segment exits the park and follows Ice Age Way for two blocks and then continues south along the Rock River on the Kiwanis Bike Trail. The segment passes by a portion of the Rock River opposite Traxler Park, where in summer the Rock Aqua Jays water ski team performs free world-class shows on the river every Sunday and Wednesday evening. A bench allows viewing the shows across the river.



This section of Trail can flood in spring or after periods of heavy rain.

The segment intersects with North River Street and briefly follows it south underneath a railroad bridge (R08) and across Centerway Street. The segment then continues south and southeast on the Kiwanis Trail along the Rock River and River Street on a mix of sidewalks and bike trail.

At the end of River Street the segment heads west for a short distance on Rockport Road sidewalks, turns south on the City of Janesville's Spring Brook Bike Trail, passes by the City of Janesville's trail hub (R07) and then crosses the Rock River on an old railroad bridge. This bridge has a section where you can enjoy the river passing by without being in the flow of traffic.

After heading a short distance south from the railroad bridge the segment bends east and follows an intermittent stream that was once a large glacial melt-water river. For portions of the Spring Brook Trail hikers may forget they are in a city as they walk through sections of forest and restored prairies. The segment passes a historical marker near Dawson Field that commemorates the site of the winter and eventual year-round grounds of the Burr Robins Circus. In the 1870s, the circus was the third largest in the world and had a significant economic impact on Janesville.

The segment then bends north to intersect with Palmer Drive. Just a bit west down Palmer Drive hikers can explore the Rotary Botanical Gardens and Lions Beach (details below in Points of Interest section).

The segment continues northeast along Palmer Drive and passes by the Blackhawk Golf Course; the Black Hawk War Grove historical marker that indicates where men, women and children of the Sac, Fox and Kickapoo Nations camped during the Black Hawk War; Palmer Park; and Black Hawk Meadows Park.

The segment heads north and eventually crosses under USH-14. From here the Trail turns northwest along USH-14, north along the backside of a big-box retail shopping area, west to skirt Briar Crest Park and north again, passing behind a Walmart and Sam's Club on the way to the south side of East Rotamer Road. Cross East Rotamer Road at Tanglewood Drive and continue north and west on Tanglewood Drive 0.1 miles, picking up the multi-use path and crossing the STH-26 pedestrian bridge to the end of the segment at West Rotamer Court.

POINTS OF INTEREST

Lincoln-Tallman House: Just west of waypoint **ROB** at 426 N. Jackson St. (608-756-4509, rchs.us/lincoln-tallman-house).

The Lincoln-Tallman House is Rock County's most iconic historical structure. Constructed between 1855 and 1857, this six-floor mansion is an excellent example of Italianate-style architecture. From the basement to the cupola, each floor offers visitors a unique glimpse of daily life in 19th century Rock County. Over seventy percent of the furniture is original, making it one of the most complete historic houses in the Midwest. In October of 1859, Abraham Lincoln stayed at the house after a series of speeches in Beloit, forever cementing the reputation of the Lincoln-Tallman House as "where Lincoln slept."

Rotary Botanical Gardens and Lions Beach: Just west of the Trail's western intersection with Palmer Drive (608-752-3885, rotarybotanicalgardens.org).

The 20-acre Rotary Botanical Gardens, dedicated to international peace and friendship, showcase 18 different thematic gardens, many with an international theme, along with award-winning roses, unusual plant combinations, special collections of annuals and more. There is an admission fee. Just west of the Gardens is Lions Pond and Beach, with its large swimming area and changing rooms.

AREA SERVICES

Janesville: Restaurant, grocery store, convenience store, general shopping, lodging, library, medical care. Area info available from the Janesville Area Convention and Visitors Bureau (seasonal visitor center located on the Trail in Palmer Park; 800-487-2757, janesvillecvb.com), City of Janesville Parks Department (608-755-3025) and City of Janesville Leisure Services (608-755-3030, www.ci.janesville.wi.us/index.aspx?page=100). Recommended services: (i) From the Trail at Washington St. (CTH-E) go east to Bogg Trotters (2006 N. CTH-E, 608-757-1444) for meals. (ii) From the Trail through the downtown area along the river find meals, convenience store, library and medical care. (iii) From the Trail at Mt. Zion Ave. go west 0.25 mi for meals and convenience store. (iv) From the segment endpoint find meals, groceries, convenience store, general shopping and lodging in the Deerfield Drive/USH-14 area.