

Janesville Segment (Atlas Map 74)

SNAPSHOT

11 **10.3 miles:** Riverside Park South Pavilion to West Rotamer Ct.



At the Riverside Park South Pavilion, JTS Downtown Transfer Center and the many other parks along the segment's route.



At the Riverside Park South Pavilion, downtown's Town Square and many other parks along the segment's route.



From the Rock River.



Hikers will not have any interaction with hunting on this segment.



Dogs must be leashed (8-ft max) and under control at all times. **Dogs not permitted in Janesville Parks May 15 to Sept. 15s.**



Portions overlap multiuse 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

1 Riverside Park South Pavilion Trail Access (42.70637, -89.03616): From I-39/90 at Janesville, take Exit 171B and follow USH-14 west for 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 0.4 mi. **Parking:** Roadside.

2 W. Rotamer Ct. Trail Access (42.73297, -88.98951): From I-39/90 take Exit 171A and follow STH-26 (Milton Ave.) north for 0.3 mi. At Kettering St. turn left and go west 0.1 mi. At Whitney St. turn right and go northeast 0.2 mi. At W. Rotamer Ct. turn right and go southeast 400 ft. **Parking:** Roadside.

Additional Parking: (i) Ashland Ave. at N. Washington St. A 0.2-mi spur trail leads to the IAT. (ii) N. Franklin St. (2-hour parking) just north of Mineral Point Ave. (iii) W. Milwaukee St. at the Rock River. (iv) S. River St. (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 trail from the cul-de-sac leads to the IAT. (xi) Deerfield Dr. between Home Depot and theaters. A short spur trail leads to the IAT.



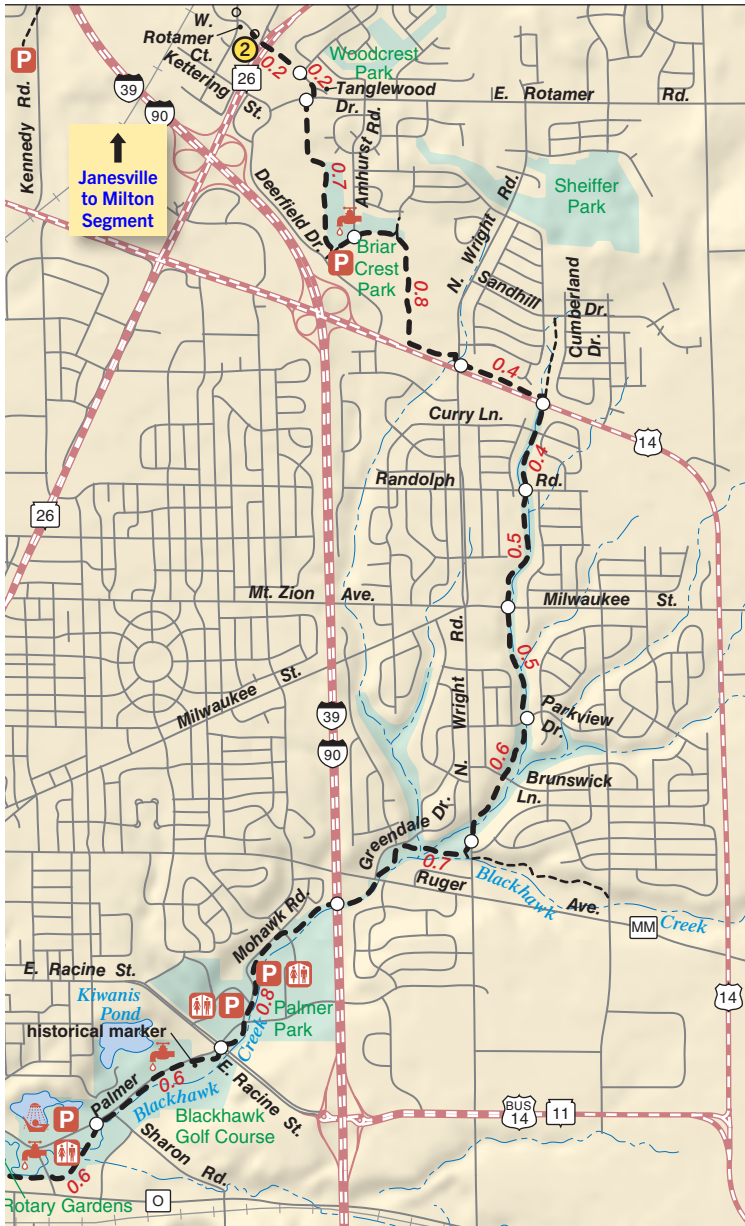
THE HIKE

This segment is entirely on outwash, one of the larger ones in Wisconsin, with sand and gravel over 300 feet thick in places. Much of the outwash probably came from the tunnel channel to the north.

The segment highlights the City of Janesville, an Ice Age Trail Community. The route caters to various interests, from history to nature to recreation to entertainment. It takes advantage of the City of Janesville's extensive paved trail system linking parks to create an urban greenbelt. For portions of the Spring Brook Bike Trail, you may forget you are

in a city as you travel through woods and restored prairies. The revitalized Town Square area, along the river between East Milwaukee Street and West Court Street, draws visitors and locals alike to the waterfront. Notice large murals, like the "The Adventurer," which is painted on the side of the Harris Ace Hardware building. The Janesville Public Art Trail includes more than 20 downtown murals. For more information, contact Janesville Area Convention and Visitors Bureau (see Area Services). Extend your hike with a stroll through the Rotary Botanical Gardens.

From the Trail access at Riverside Park's South Pavilion, exit the park and follow Ice Age Way for two blocks. Then continue south along the Rock River on the Kiwanis Bike Trail.



Continue along a dirt trail built in the early 1990s by the Wisconsin Conservation Corps and pass the ruins of the Croak Brewery (1904–1920), one of Janesville’s many pre-prohibition breweries. Cross Centerway Street and enter the City of Janesville’s downtown area. Continue on South River Street or along the river on a mix of sidewalk and bike trails. The Town Square area along the river can become very icy in winter.

At the end of South River Street, head west for a short distance on Rockport Road sidewalks and then turn south on the City of Janesville’s Spring Brook Bike Trail. Cross the Rock River on a pedestrian bridge – the site of an old railroad bridge – where you can enjoy a view of the river away from traffic. During spring, pelicans and eagles frequent the area. Continue along Spring Brook Trail, which you’ll follow almost to the segment’s terminus.

Continue on the bike trail, passing south of Jeffris Park’s Dawson Ball Park. Note a historical marker commemorating the site of the winter – and eventually year-round – grounds of the Burr Robins Circus, once the world’s third largest circus. Follow Blackhawk Creek, an intermittent stream once a large glacial meltwater river.

Continuing on the bike trail, bend north to Palmer Drive, which you’ll parallel on the south side heading east. (For a side trip: walk west down Palmer Drive and explore the Rotary Botanical Gardens and Lions Beach. Details in the Points of Interest section).

Still on the bike trail, continue northeast along Palmer Drive, passing the Blackhawk Golf Course. You’ll also pass the historical marker of the Black Hawk War/Black Hawk’s Grove. It notes where men, women, and children of the Sauk, Fox, and Kickapoo Nations camped during the Black Hawk War.

Pass under I-39/90 and follow the bike trail to the left. Cross North Wright Road. (For a side trip to a restored prairie: Before crossing North Wright Road, you’ll meet a paved spur trail heading south near a kiosk. Take the spur trail east 0.6 miles.)

Continue on the bike trail. Bend north, eventually crossing under USH-14. From here, turn left and northwest, paralleling USH-14. Again cross North Wright Road and continue north. Skirt Briar Crest Park and briefly head west before continuing north again.

Cross East Rotamer Road at Tanglewood Drive. Continue north and west on Tanglewood Drive a short distance, then pick up a multiuse path and cross the STH-26 pedestrian bridge to the end of the segment at West Rotamer Court.

POINTS OF INTEREST

Lincoln-Tallman House: From the intersection of the Trail and N. River St., go north (right), N. River St. becomes Ravine St., turn right onto N. Jackson St. (440 N. Jackson St., Janesville, 608-756-4509, rchs.us/sites/lincoln-tallman-house).

The Lincoln-Tallman House is Rock County’s most iconic historical structure. This six-floor mansion, constructed between 1855 and 1857, 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 70 percent of the furniture is original, making it one of the complete historic houses in the Midwest. In October of 1859, Abraham Lincoln stayed in the home 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 Dr. (1455 Palmer Dr., Janesville, 608-752-3885, rotarybotanicalgardens.org).

The 20-acre Rotary Botanical Gardens, dedicated to international peace and friendship, showcases 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

Tc Janesville: Restaurant, grocery store, convenience store, general shopping, lodging, library, medical service. On Trail. 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 Recreation Department (608-755-3030, janesvillewi.gov). Access to services: (i) From the Trail at N. Washington St. (CTH-E) go east to Golf Course Rd. to access restaurants. (ii) From the Trail through the downtown area along the river find nearby restaurants, convenience store, lodging, library and medical service. (iii) From the Trail at Mt. Zion Ave. go west 0.3 mi for restaurants and convenience store. (iv) Near Briar Crest Park find access to restaurants, groceries, convenience store, general shopping, lodging and medical services in the vicinity of Deerfield Dr. and Humes Rd. (USH-14) and Milton Ave. (STH-26).



ERIC HANEY

Janesville Segment: A colorful mural along the route through town.