

CARONDELET – JEFFERSON BARRACKS TRAIL

12-Mile Circular

Rated

About the Trail

The Carondelet – Jefferson Barracks Historical Trail is a 12-mile closed loop hike located in the Carondelet-Jefferson Barracks area of South St. Louis and South St. Louis County.

The trail was designed to provide an enriching experience for individuals, families, and groups who want to familiarize and/or learn more about this beautiful and historical area which was established during the last century. Historic landmarks, buildings and parks have been selected as points of interest and are discussed at length in the trail packet. Numbers of the map correspond to the points of interest in the text.

Since most of the route can be traveled by automobile, it is possible for handicapped persons to visit the points of interest and enjoy the trail.

The trail begins and ends in Carondelet Park at Hilliker Bridge Picnic Shelter, Grand and Holly Hills Drive. Parking, restrooms, and water are available at the comfort station from mid April through mid October.

Leaving Carondelet Park, this trail runs east on Holly Hills to Michigan, north on Dover, then south on Minnesota and Michigan to Steins, then east to Broadway and south to Jefferson Barracks. After a circuit of historic buildings in Jefferson Barracks, return via Broadway to Hoffmeister, Lemay Ferry, Alabama, Ivory, Virginia, and Vermont to Holly Hills.

Bring your camera, as many interesting historic buildings may be seen along the trail. There are also two (2) scenic overlooks of the Mississippi River along the Jefferson Barracks portion of the trail.

The Carondelet-Jefferson Barracks Trail was developed by Boy Scout Troop 66, Grant District, sponsored by the Bayless Patron and Parents' Association.

Historical Background of the Area

The Village of Carondelet

Carondelet was founded in 1767 by Clement DeLore de Treget. He came from France with his wife and family to Ste. Genevieve. From there he came up the Mississippi and settled at a spot, which is now the foot of Elwood Street. He named it Louisbourg. At this time the territory west of the Mississippi belonged to Spain. Seven (7) years later, he changed the name to Carondelet in honor of the Spanish Governor General Baron de Carondelet, who was located in New Orleans. For 104 years, Carondelet was a separate city. In 1870 it was annexed to the City of St. Louis. The present day boundaries of Carondelet are the Mississippi River on the east, Morganford Road on the west, Meramec Street on the north, and River Des Peres on the south.

Carondelet is a community with a unique character. It is a mixture of residential, commercial, and industrial districts; a blend of the old and the new. The oldest community in St. Louis, Carondelet maintains that character today. Many of the buildings, still standing today, were built in the 1800's and reflect the various architectural styles of the times.

Jefferson Barracks

The history of Jefferson Barracks is the military history of the opening of the great West of the United States.

By 1826, Fort Bellefontaine in North St. Louis was considered both unsatisfactory and unhealthy as an army post and a new site was sought in the St. Louis area. The town of Carondelet, anxious to improve their city and attract a ready-made produce market, offered their Common Fields, which consisted of 1,702.7 acres, to the authorities for the new site of the military post. The deed was signed on July 8, 1826 for the consideration of five dollars (\$5.00). Jefferson Barracks was the western outpost of the Army and from it troops and supplies were shipped throughout the southern and western United States. Famous men, such as Robert E. Lee, Ulysses Grant and Jefferson Davis, served at the Barracks. The great Indian Chief, Black Hawk, was held a prisoner here. In 1946, the Army declared the old post surplus and demobilized it. In 1950, St. Louis County took over a large portion of the area and made it into a park.

Points of Interest

1. Des Peres School, 6303 Michigan Avenue – (Carondelet Historic Center) built in 1873. It was here that Susan Blow started the first public kindergarten in the United States.
2. Carondelet Markham Presbyterian Church, 6116 Michigan Avenue – Organized in 1850 as the first Protestant Church in Carondelet.
3. Steamboat Gothic Style House, 5801 Minnesota Avenue – Built in 1857, It is one of the last examples of this type of architecture left in St. Louis.
4. Quinn Chapel, Bowen and Minnesota Avenue – Originally built as the north public market in 1869. Purchased from the City of St. Louis in 1880 for six hundred (\$600). On the back side of the building is a historical marker above the cornerstone. In 1970 this building was declared a National Landmark.
5. Saints Mary & Joseph Catholic Church, 6304 Minnesota Avenue – This church was originally named Our Lady of Mt. Carmel and was founded in 1821. Services were held in English and French. This is the third structure on this site. The original structure, a log church was made from logs salvaged from the original Old Cathedral in St. Louis. The logs were floated downstream on the Mississippi River to build the church on this site.
6. Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet Convent, 6400 Minnesota Avenue – The Sisters first came to Carondelet in 1836 using a log cabin on these grounds.

7. Carondelet Library, 6800 Michigan Avenue – Classic Greek structure built in 1908 with funds from the Andrew Carnegie Foundation.
8. Bowen House, 6727 Michigan Avenue – Built by John S. Bowen about 1855. From 1859 to 1861 he was a Captain in the Missouri Militia. He fought at Shiloh and Vicksburg, rising to the rank of Major General.
9. Carondelet United Church of Christ – 7243 Michigan Avenue – This church was established as the Carondelet German Evangelical Church and became the United Church of Christ through church mergers. Plans were made for a church building on January 9, 1871; and contracts were let at an estimated cost of \$4,500.00.
10. St. Boniface Catholic Church, 7604 Michigan Avenue – This Church was started to serve low German speaking immigrant settlers arriving in Carondelet. The cornerstone was laid on May 6, 1860. Carondelet contractors, Rogers and Gamache were engaged for the project. The cost of the structure was \$16,000.00.
11. Stone Row Houses, 200 through 207 ½ Steins Street – German immigrants of the 1840's and 1850's built stone houses in the Stein-town section of Carondelet. These stone houses are 1-½ stories in height with dormer windows and gable roofs. The walls are constructed of irregularly shaped and sized pieces of limestone and are built close to the street, which was the typical style of the middle 1800's. This building is designated as a National Landmark.
12. Hoffmeister Mortuary, 7814 S. Broadway – This mortuary is the oldest continuing business in Carondelet. It began in 1848 and is still operated by a fourth generation member of the Hoffmeister family.
13. Defense Mapping Agency, Aerospace Center, 8900 S. Broadway at Kayser – This agency is responsible for the production of aeronautical navigation products which support the nation's military forces. Produced here are maps that are used by aviation pilots and our manned space missions. In fact, it is from this agency that maps of the outer planets and of the moon are produced.
14. Metropolitan St. Louis Sewer District Plant, 9200 S. Broadway – Sewerage from approximately ½ of the St. Louis Area is channeled into large sewers underlying the River Des Peres. From these huge sewers, the sewerage is pumped into large settling basins where solids settle to the bottom to be removed and burned in large furnaces. The remaining liquid is then treated with chemicals to remove more impurities before being returned to the Mississippi River.

Tour Information: Arrangements for conducted group tours of this Plant may be arranged by calling the St. Louis Metropolitan Sewer District at (314) 638-7470.
15. St. Mary on the Mount Hospital, 9101 S. Broadway – The hospital was founded by the Sisters of Saint Mary in 1901 (as Mount St. Rose Throat and Chest Hospital) to provide specialized care for people suffering from tuberculosis.

16. Hancock School, 9415 Gentry Avenue – General Winfield Scott Hancock, a West Point Military Academy graduate, was stationed at Jefferson Barracks Military Post. While there, he married into a prominent St. Louis family. He ran for President of the United States against James Garfield and, without campaigning, lost the election by only 7,000 votes.
17. Odd Fellows Cemetery, 9950 S. Broadway – This cemetery was instituted June 7, 1880 by a group of businessmen for the Carondelet area. It is believed that they were members of the Carondelet Lodge No. 114 I.O.O.F. It is the burial place of many Odd Fellows, Masons, Woodmen of the World, Modern Woodmen, Veterans of the Civil War, World War I and World War II, and the first Mayor of Carondelet (Walsh) and the seventh (7th) Mayor of Carondelet (Chartrand). The oldest stone dated back to 1880, and many others are in the late 1800's.
18. Jefferson Barracks County Park Visitor's Center – The building was erected in 1870 and was originally used as a storage area and stables.

Tour Information: Arrangements for conducted group tours of the restored building in Jefferson Barracks County Park may be arranged by calling the St. Louis County Parks and Recreation Department at 889-2458. To write for this information, address Director of Parks and Recreation, St. Louis County Parks Department, County Government Center, 7900 Forsyth Blvd., St. Louis, MO 63105.
19. Laborer's House – This building was built in 1851 for the use of civilian workmen at the Ordinance Depot. The building was restored from original plans and specifications in the National Archives. Extensive archaeological excavations undertaken in 1958 and 1959 were invaluable in providing clues for the fittings of the house which now appears as it did in the 1850's.
20. Old Stable – This building was built in 1851 to house four (4) horses and two (2) spring wagons. These were used to haul the munitions produced at the St. Louis Arsenal to the various magazines here in the Ordinance Park.
21. Camp Callender, Gark and Bagby Roads – for campground reservations see information for leaders.
22. The Ordinance Room – This building was built in 1870 and was used for the storage of rifles, cannons and gunpowder. Today it is used as a museum with rotating exhibits of historical interest. A small donation fee is sometimes charged. (This is the only museum in Jefferson Barracks County Park where a fee is charged. The Powder Magazine Museum is free). Information on exhibits and fees may be obtained. See Item 18.
23. Powder Magazine: This massive stone building was built in 1857 and was used for storage of the rifles, cannons, gun powder, and prepared ammunition for the troops stationed at the Barracks, in the Mississippi Valley and in the West. Today this building is used as a museum depicting in exciting fashion the 140-year history of the Barracks. A handsome

overlook before the magazine provides a magnificent view of the Mississippi River and combines to make this site the outstanding feature of the Historical Park.

Tour Information: See Item 18.

24. Fence: Originally this fence, designed by Major John A. Kress, from surplus Civil War Cannons, rifle barrels, and bayonets, was 723 feet long. It framed the home of the Commandant of Ordnance. Scenic overlook.
25. Historic Marker: This post marks the boundary of the Ordnance Department, 1867.
26. Parade Grounds: The first stone buildings (1827-1828) in the Barracks were built in a quadrangle located in the center of the present parade grounds. The buildings were demolished in 1898 and the stones used for the foundation of the buildings you now see (1898-1904). The buildings are still in use today by the Missouri Air National Guard and Army National Guard.
27. Archery Range: Sponsored by the South County Archery Association. This area has two (2) archery ranges of 14 targets and one practice target. It is open to the public. **NOTE: Hikers should not enter this area.**
28. Grant Shelter: This area is named in honor of Ulysses S. Grant, the 13th President of the United States. He graduated from West Point Military Academy in 1843 and served under Generals Taylor and Scott in the Mexican War. In 1861, then Brigadier General, he took Forts Henry and Donelson; fought at Shiloh and took Vicksburg. After his victory at Chattanooga, Lincoln placed him in command of the Union Armies. He accepted Lee's surrender at Appomattox, April 1865.
29. Military Road: This is the original road leading from Village of Carondelet to the Jefferson Barracks Military Post.
30. St. Andrew's Catholic Church, 309 Hoffmeister Avenue – This church was founded in 1905. It is a fine example of the Italian Basilica Church.
31. Gethsemane Lutheran Church: 765 Lemay Ferry Road – This church was first established in 1905.
32. Cusanelli's, 705 Lemay Ferry Road – This famous location for fine food for over 200 years, was opened soon after Lemay Ferry Road was built in 1749. The first innkeeper was probably one of the sons of Clement Delor De Traget, the founder of Carondelet.
33. Monsanto Chemical Plant, 8201 Idaho – This plant can be viewed to the hiker's left. This plant was started in 1876 for the production of calcium phosphates used as soap builders, water softeners, polishing agents for toothpaste, and leavening agents for bakery products.

34. Doerings Bakery, 7726 Virginia – This is the oldest bakery in St. Louis operating without interruption since its founding. It began business in 1875. The Building has a historical marker.
35. Water Trough, Virginia at Shirmer Street – This is the last remaining trough in St. Louis and is said to have been installed by the owner of a nearby feed and grain store. Here, farmers on their way to markets in Carondelet and St. Louis, could stop, water and rest their horses.
36. Trinity Temple, Pentecostal Holiness Church, 7427 Virginia Avenue. 1897.
37. Lyon School, 7414 Vermont Avenue – This school was built in 1909 and named after Nathaniel Lyon, a Civil War hero, born on Revolutionary stock at Ashford, Connecticut in 1817. He graduated from West Point Military Academy in 1841, and served in the Seminole Indian, Mexican, and Civil Wars.
38. St. Trinity Lutheran Church, 7404 Vermont Avenue – This church was organized by German Lutherans in 1859.
39. Carondelet Y.M.C.A., 600 Loughborough at Vermont – This Y.M.C.A. was founded in 1919 and was once located across the street from the Carondelet Library on Michigan Avenue. In 1951, for one week, this community celebrated here and elsewhere, the 100th anniversary of the founding of Carondelet.
40. Blow School, 516 Loughborough Avenue at Vermont – The cornerstone for the first Blow School was laid July 4, 1866. He was an anti-slavery Whig and active in the “Free Soil” movement. During the Civil War, he helped raise troops for the Union and soon became a Republican and a supporter of Abraham Lincoln, who appointed him Minister to Venezuela. In 1869, President Grant appointed him Minister to Brazil. He was also elected to the House of Representatives and served in both the 37th and the 38th Congress. He died on November 11, 1875.

Information For Leaders

Leaders should have trail brochures.

Hikers should be in uniform, carry a canteen, and dress for the weather.

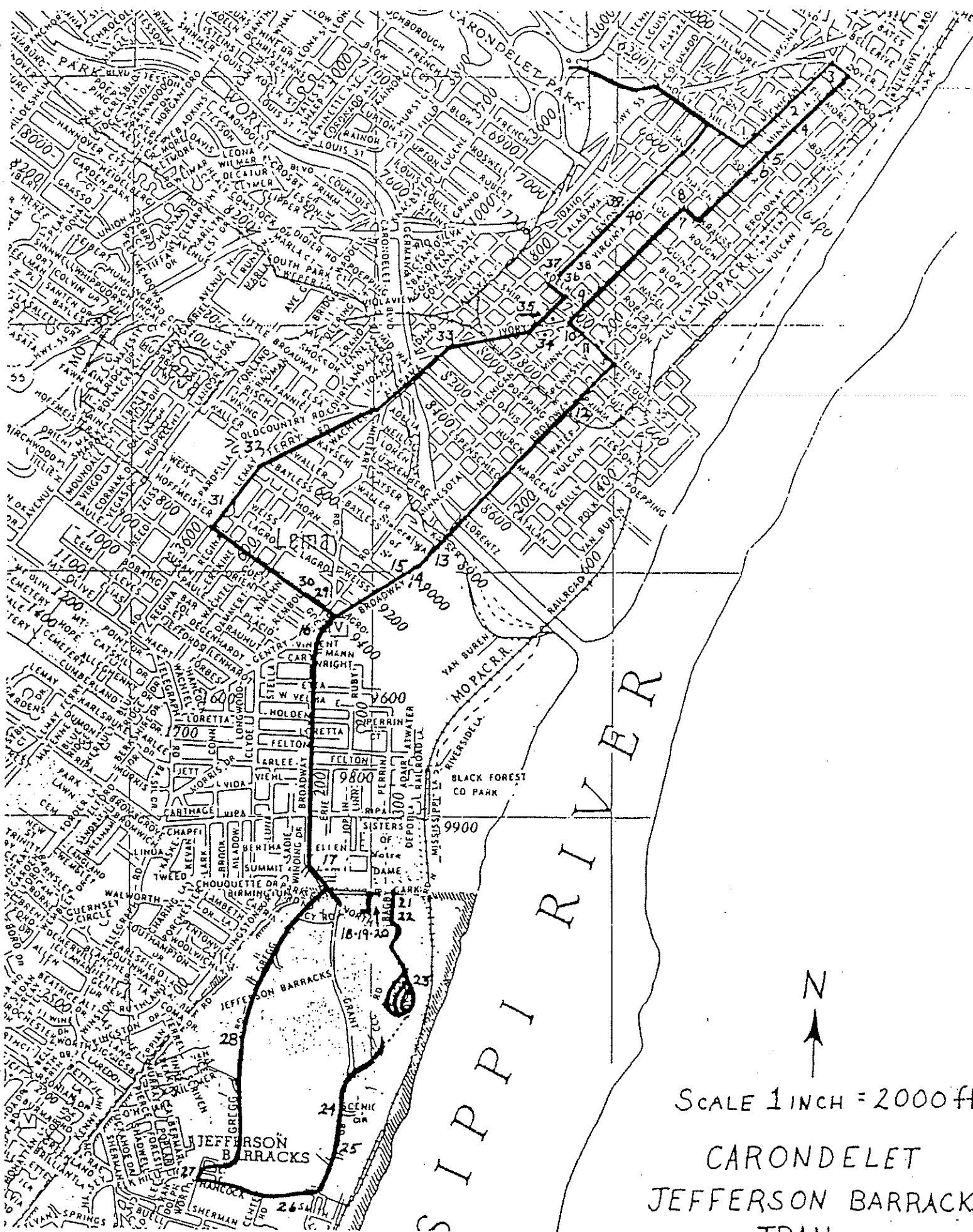
Lunches may be carried and eaten in parks along the way. Throw all trash into proper containers.

There will be operational water fountains and restrooms in parks along the trail. Do not ask for water or use of restrooms in business establishments along the trail.

Sidewalks should be used along all of the trail except portions in Jefferson Barracks. Where no sidewalks are available, Scouts are to walk on the left side of the road, single file.

Trail markers are a white-colored cannon, of Civil War Vintage, painted on utility poles near or at road intersections. Markers are located on the left side of the road whenever possible.

Camping is available in Jefferson Barracks County Park to youth groups by calling the St. Louis County Parks Department at 889-2458. The trail passes along the campground area.



SCALE 1 INCH = 2000 FT.

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