

RIVER'S EDGE TRAIL

URBAN TRAILS



3.5 mile Urban Loop

Explore the banks of the Missouri River at the heart of Great Falls. Enjoy the city skyline from West Bank Park, watch the birds at Sacajawea Island and view some great sculptures, artwork and interpretive panels along the way. There are plenty of benches, tables and shelters too, so give it a try.

WELCOME

The River's Edge Trail is a cooperative project of the City of Great Falls, Cascade County, Montana State Parks, Montana Department of Transportation, NorthWestern Energy and a volunteer citizens group, Recreational Trails, Inc. Planning, design and construction of the trail began in 1989 and continues today. River's Edge Trail is free and open to the public during daylight hours 365 days a year. Enjoy!

The trails that run through Giant Springs State Park, including NorthWestern Energy lands, are managed by Giant Springs State Park, (406) 727-1212. Most of the urban trails and some of the South shore single track trails are managed by the City of Great Falls Park & Recreation Department, (406) 771-1265.



DIRECTIONS

To reach the Ryan and Sulphur Spring Trailheads on the North Shore Trail, drive 5 miles, turn right on Morony Dam Road and follow the signs.

US 87 / MT 225
To Fort Benton, Havre



Black Eagle Memorial Island

2.1 mile Giant Springs Loop

Fantastic views of Black Eagle Falls, Steamboat Island, Giant Springs and the Roe River await. Check out the State Fish Hatchery and exhibits at Region 4 Headquarters. Enjoy the cliffs, spring-fed fishing pond and native terrain and vegetation. Cap off your visit to the Lewis & Clark Interpretive Center with this short, sweet loop.



GROUP RIDES, HIKES, RUNS

Great Falls Bicycle Club organizes rides year around for cyclists of all abilities, from twice weekly training rides to Wednesday no rider left behind mountain bike rides. For details email johnjuras@gmail.com or visit them online at www.greatfallsbicycleclub.org.

GrrAnimals Running Club runs Tuesday/Thursday mornings regardless of weather and organizes weekend activities. Information is available at trailtiger@yahoo.com.

Blister Sisters and Mistis generally runs Monday and Thursday evenings and Saturday mornings. Details: Contact Wendy Lee at 406-868-1854 or wlee@racemt.com.

The Montana Wilderness Association organizes Winter and Summer Wilderness Walks. Information is available at www.wildmontana.org.

Recreational Trails, Inc. maintains a list of organized walks, runs, races and events on River's Edge Trail throughout the year at www.thetrail.org.



Bay Drive Trail

LEGEND

- Streets/Roads
 - Paved Trails
 - Bike Routes
 - Gravel Trails
 - Dirt Trails
 - Rest Room
 - Trail Information
- 1/3 mile

TRAIL MANNERS

Share Our Trails - We all enjoy the River's Edge Trail and adjacent park areas in different ways. Pay attention, expect and respect others and be courteous.

Pass Safely - Bicyclists should control speed, yield to all, and stay to right except when passing. Ring bell or call out before passing.

Manage Your Dog - Dogs running at large stress or harm wildlife and create a public nuisance or hazard. City and State Park regulations require dogs be kept on leashes at all times in public parks and on the River's Edge Trail.

Pick Up Poop - Dog poop stinks and presents health hazards. Always pack several pick-up bags and remove your dog's poop. Mutt mitts are provided at many major trailheads to assist you.

Trash Your Trash - Please remove all trash - yours and others. Even biodegradable materials such as orange peels, apple cores and food scraps, take years to deteriorate, and attract scavengers that harm other wildlife. Use trash receptacles or pack your garbage out.

Stick to the Trail - Stay on established trails to avoid disturbing the native vegetation and wildlife that share our river corridor. Shortcutting trails causes erosion. Areas off-trail have steep drop-offs and can be dangerous. Please hike and bicycle only on designated trails.

Leave What You Find - Picking flowers or collecting rocks along the trail may not seem like a big deal, but it means others won't have a chance to enjoy them. Wildlife depends on native plants for food and removing plants affects nature's balance.

Leave No Trace - The River's Edge Trail provides a haven for wild plants and animals and a welcome break from our work-a-day lives. By recreating wisely you can minimize your impact on fellow visitors, wildlife and habitat. The partner agencies managing the River's Edge Trail are dedicated to reducing the recreation impacts to the river corridor and conflicts between users, wildlife and pets. Please be a responsible trail user and follow the Leave No Trace program and Trail Manners listed on this map. For additional information on Leave No Trace visit their website: www.lnt.org.



River's Edge Trail Website

www.thetrail.org

The City and Montana State Parks owns and manages the trails that have been built since 1990, in part by dozens of grants submitted by Recreational Trails Inc. (RTI) and matched by community donations. View the Year End Report on our website. See the exciting projects that are underway and coming soon along the River's Edge Trail, and how YOU can help make them happen.

BICYCLE RENTALS

Knicker Biker (406) 454-2912
Montana River Outfitters (406) 761-1677

PARKING

1. Warden Park Trailhead
2. Odd Fellows Park Trailhead
3. Garden Home Park Trailhead
4. Broadwater Bay
5. Bay Drive Trailhead
6. Riverside Railyard Skate Park
7. Gibson Park Trailhead
8. West Bank Park Trailhead
9. Dog Park Trailhead
10. Sacajawea Island Trailhead
11. Caboose Trailhead
12. Higgins Park Trailhead
13. Black Eagle Memorial Island
14. Steamboat Island Parking
15. Lewis & Clark Interpretive Center
16. Region 4 FWP Visitor Center
17. Lewis & Clark Overlook Trailhead
18. Rainbow Trailhead

ATTRACTIONS

1. Warden Gazebo and telescope
2. Visitor Center/Overlook Park
3. The History Museum
4. Broadwater Bay
5. Electric City Water Park
6. Civic Center/Convention Center
7. Children's Museum of Montana
8. Weissman Trail Bridge
9. Riverside Railyard Skate Park
10. Gibson Park, Pond & Paths
11. Elk's Riverside Park & Paths
12. Pacific Steel Trailside Dog Park
13. West Bank Park
14. Sacajawea Island
15. Historic 10th St. Bridge
16. City Park & Recreation Department
17. Higgins Park
18. Former ACM waterfall, stone walls
19. Black Eagle Dam/Black Eagle Falls
20. Black Eagle Memorial Island
21. Steamboat Island
22. Lewis & Clark Interpretive Center
23. Region 4 FWP HQ/Visitor Center
24. Giant Springs State Park/Hatchery
25. Colter Single Track Trail
26. Rainbow Boat Ramp
27. Rainbow Dam/Rainbow Falls
28. Crooked Falls Overlook
29. Crooked Falls



Warden Park Gazebo



Map Design by Lodestone Advertising



U.S. 87 / 89 MT 200/3



Scheduled for 2015 construction.

RIVER'S EDGE TRAIL

TRAILS ALONG THE RESERVOIRS
GREAT FALLS, MONTANA



Mayhem Trail

Morony Dam Road

Welcome to some of the best biking, running and hiking trails in Montana!

Explore the scenic, historic and challenging Missouri River canyon along the reservoirs.

DIRECTIONS

To reach the Lewis & Clark Overlook, follow River Drive N to Giant Springs Road and drive along the river to the Overlook. To reach the Rainbow Trailhead, follow 15th Street N to Rainbow Dam Road and drive 6 miles to the trailhead. To get to the Ryan and Sulphur Spring Trailheads follow 15th St. N and drive 5 miles north of Great Falls on US 87 to the Morony Dam Road turnoff and follow the signs.

LEGEND

- Streets/Roads
- Paved Trails
- Gravel Trails
- Dirt Trails
- Expert Dirt Trails
- Rest Room
- Trail Information

1/2 mile

THE LEWIS & CLARK HERITAGE GREENWAY

NorthWestern Energy owns and operates the five hydroelectric facilities on the Missouri River in the Great Falls area – Black Eagle, Rainbow, Cochrane, Ryan and Morony. In 1999 the Montana Power Company, former owner of the facilities, donated a 2,415 acre conservation easement along Rainbow, Cochrane, Ryan and Morony reservoirs to Montana State Parks. A second donation to Montana State Parks was a public trail easement through these lands to provide recreational opportunities. The Montana Power Company also partnered with The Conservation Fund to convey about 435 acres of lands at Sulphur Spring to Montana State Parks.

The Lewis & Clark Heritage Greenway, located on NorthWestern Energy property on the north shoreline of the Missouri River, permanently protects more than 12 miles of river frontage from commercial and residential development while providing recreational access and opportunities to residents and visitors. The greenway is cooperatively managed by NorthWestern Energy, Montana State Parks, the US Forest Service and other partners.



North Shore Trail

PARKING

1. Lewis & Clark Overlook Trailhead
2. Rainbow Trailhead
3. Upper Ryan Parking
4. Ryan Trailhead
5. Sulphur Spring Trailhead



While this great selection of single track trail east of town are managed by the agencies, they were designed and built by hard core bikers with a dream.



Morony Dam Road

RYAN ISLAND DAY USE AREA

The Ryan Island Day Use Area, managed by NorthWestern Energy, includes paved accessible paths, rest rooms, picnic tables, interpretive panels and fantastic views of Ryan Dam and "The Great Falls of the Missouri". The island is open daily from 8:00 AM until dark from Mother's Day through Labor Day. Parking and restroom facilities are available to accommodate visitors during the off season.



Box Elder Creek

www.thetrail.org

Experience an amazing 4 minute video of mountain bike riders raging along miles of South shore single track in the "Maps" section of our website.

Look through the Year End Report and see what our non-profit Recreational Trails, Inc. (RTI) group is doing for trails in the Great Falls area and how YOU can help!

River's Edge Trail Website



Ryan Dam Road

Ryan Reservoir 1.7 mi

Cochrane Reservoir 3.2mi

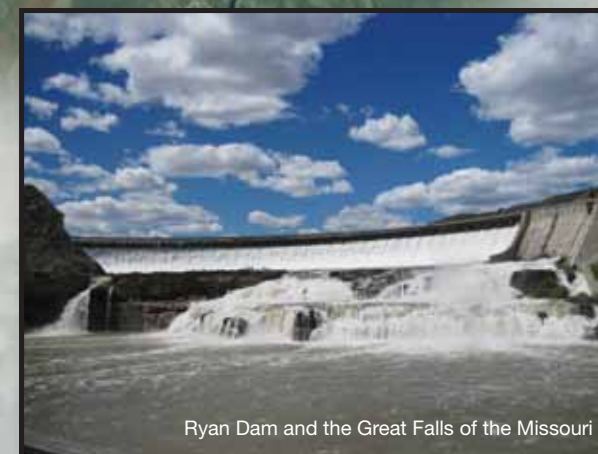
Morony Reservoir 4.0 mi

THE MAYHEM TRAILS

Welcome to Great Falls' premier expert trail riding experience. The Mayhem Trail offers an exciting variety of opportunities, especially for an expert trail user. Follow the river as you lose yourself along the mighty Missouri's beautiful corridor. You will find trails that will challenge your technical abilities and reward you with the secrets of flow. The Mayhem Trail twists and turns along the riverside bluffs to Cochrane Dam and connects with more single track trails leading to Ryan Dam, the Great Falls of the Missouri and scenic Box Elder Canyon. All trails are multi-use for mountain bikes, hikers and trail runners.

ATTRACTIONS

1. Colter Single Track Trail
2. Rainbow Dam/Rainbow Falls
3. Crooked Falls
4. Power Pole Single Track Trail
5. Whitmore Ravine
6. Mayhem Single Track Trail
7. Crooked Falls Managed Natural Area
8. Cochrane Dam
9. Ryan Dam/Great Falls of the Missouri
10. Ryan Island Day Use Area
11. Ryan Stone Building
12. Lost Fork Loop
13. Box Elder Creek
14. Dry Waterfall
15. Morony Dam/Boat Ramp
16. Sulphur Spring
17. Belt Creek confluence



Ryan Dam and the Great Falls of the Missouri



South Shore Trail



SULPHUR SPRING TRAIL

Walk this 1.8 mile pedestrian-only trail downstream to the spring and learn the story of these mineral waters that provided a cure for Sacagawea, the Indian woman on the Lewis and Clark Expedition of 1805.

Morony Dam Road



FISHING INFORMATION

Fishing from motorized or non-motorized boats is allowed upstream of Broadwater Bay, on Rainbow Reservoir and below Morony Dam. Information on fishing from motorized and non-motorized boats is available from Region 4 FWP, 4600 Giant Springs Road, and (406) 454-5840.

Fishing from the shore is allowed except where posted near the Dams.

Swimming and boating are NOT allowed between Rainbow Dam and Morony Dam.



View from North Shore Trail

HELP TRAIL MANAGERS

The trail between Rainbow Trailhead and Sulphur Spring Trailhead on the north shore and Lewis & Clark Overlook and Whitmore Ravine on the south shore are managed by Giant Springs State Park (406) 727-1212. The south shore trail between Whitmore Ravine and Cochrane Dam is managed by the City of Great Falls (406) 771-1265. The pedestrian-only Sulphur Spring Trail is managed by the USDA Forest Service (406) 727-8733.

To report emergencies dial 9-1-1. To report illegal use of motor vehicles, vandalism, trail hazards or use after dark, call 1-800-TIP-MONT or the Cascade County Sheriff Department at 406-454-6848.



www.thetrail.org

Delivering a Bright Future
NorthWestern Energy

Funding for this River's Edge Trail Map was provided by

Thank you.

donation to: River's Edge Trail, P.O. Box 553, Great Falls, MT 59403.

