



Woodland-Toboggan Hill Loops (1 - 1.5 km loops), Story Trail and Collar Hill Cemetery

Main entrances with trail head signs at corner of Julia and Drummond Streets, and on HF McLean Drive. Side entrances from Collar Hill and HF McLean, and through cemetery. Easy stone dust paths, some slopes, some low steps. Through varied woodland around toboggan hill – optional steep climb to top for a great view. The **Story Trail** begins close to the Julia Street entrance, with new stories regularly throughout the year. Contact the Library for details. <https://merrickvillelibrary.ca>



Merrickville-Limerick Forest Trail (5 - 15 km return)

The trail head is about 2.5 km from the Blockhouse, east along Scotch Line at end of paved road. Path is natural, along unimproved road allowance. Look for lilacs and sugar maples, stone foundations, and stone fences with cedars on top, that witness farms abandoned years ago. Walking is easy, for about 2 km to the entrance to Limerick Forest. A second large interpretive sign shows the many loops to explore in the Forest, and the route to the boardwalk overlooking Hanlan's Marsh. Excellent trail for cross-country skiing, though shared by snowmobiles and ATVs. Annotated guide available.



Depot-to-Dam Trail (1.5 km return)

Start at the Depot, cross over the lock, walk along the north side of the canal to the tip of the old dam. Smooth natural path. Brochure.

Merrickville Ruins (0.5 km loop)

Enter from St. Lawrence Street, between canal and river, wander around the old mill and factory site. Interpretive plaque at entrance. Brochure.

Historic Properties Walks (1- 5km loops) www.experienceourmerrickville.ca

Choose your own routes and meander along paved village streets, looking at historic houses and buildings. Brochure, booklet and guided walks available.

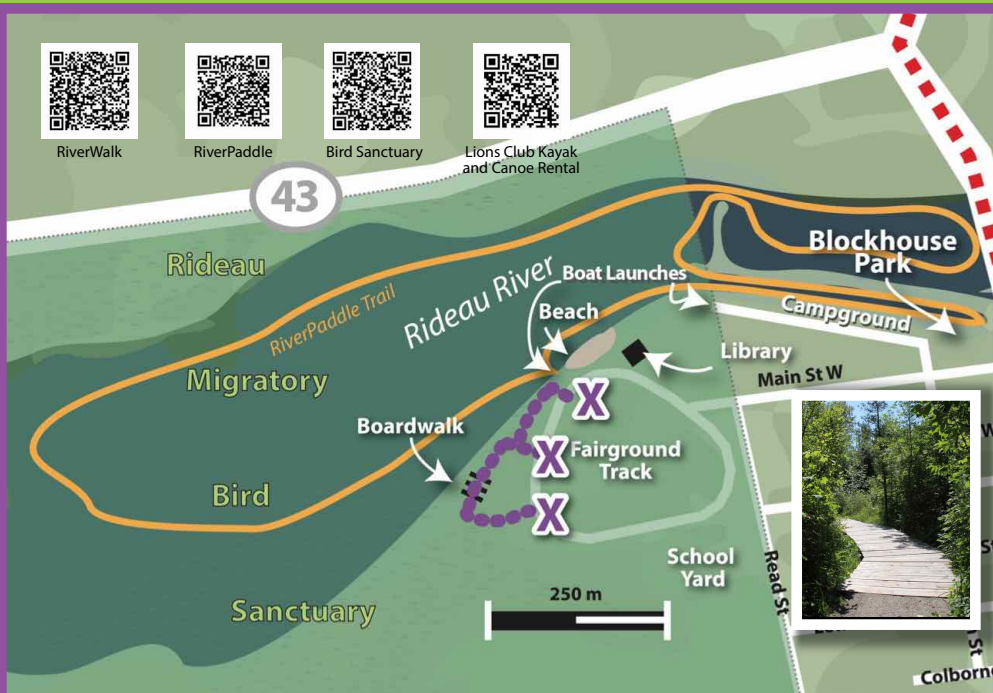


Nicholson's Locks and the McGuigan Pioneer Cemetery

Go 3 km east of Merrickville, briefly along hwy 43 then left along County Rd 23/Burritts Rapids Rd. There is a signed gate on south side of road for the cemetery, with a 100 metre track to the hilltop gravestones and interpretative centre with lots of old photos and information. Nicholson's Locks are 500 metres further east along the road. Walk around and between Upper and Lower Nicholson's locks and enjoy the dams, the rapids, the wildlife and the osprey. Two oases in our busy world. Brochures available.

Burritts Rapids

About 4 km past Nicholson's, turn north across the canal into the village. Use the Swing bridge as your starting point for the **Tip-to-Tip Trail** or the **Walking Tour**. Trailhead sign for the Tip-to-Tip, and brochures for both.



Merrickville RiverWalk (0.5 - 1 km loop), and RiverPaddle (1 - 5 km)

Enter from edge of Fairgrounds just west of public boat launch. Amble through the woods along the riparian zone, then return through the fairgrounds. Displays and seasonal brochures with scavenger hunts are available at the Trails Society bulletin board outside the Public Library; borrow backpacks from inside the Library for nature activities for the whole family. The best views of the wildlife and flowers, and of the canal history are found from the water itself – launch your own kayak or canoe from the launch area beside the Merrickville Beach, or rent one from the Merrickville Lions Club Campground. Brochures available.



Quarry Line Loop (10 km loop)

Cross the canal from Blockhouse, along Mill St., then turn northeast along Broadway/Heritage Drive to the Quarry Line road allowance, about 1 km from the flashing light. Look for Rideau Trail orange triangular marker on path into woods on the left. Walk up through the woods along natural path, with seasonal muddy sections. A few quarried stones that never made it to the canal might be seen to the west of the trail. At Richardson Road turn left, and return along country roads to the village, or extend your walk along the Rideau Trail.

Three longer country walks: The Merrickville-Limerick Forest Trail is our premier long-distance walk, recommended in all seasons. The old settlers' road (the Scotch Line) bears witness to the old habitations and abandoned farms as you walk to Limerick Forest North, and then through maturing pine plantations mixed with old growth forest, to the boardwalk overlooking Hanlan's Marsh. Plan 2-4 hours for this walk, and most drive to the trailhead to save time: it is 2km from the Blockhouse. The Quarry Line Loop is less well known but is a good choice if you want to stretch your legs. Mostly along quiet country roads, with one section through the woods, the loop is about 10 km and takes 2-3 hours, but you can extend it in the middle by continuing on the Rideau Trail for an extra loop before returning. The main Rideau Trail (www.rideautrail.org) passes right through the village, crossing over the canal bridge and following the roads out to the edges of town. On the northwest shore some blue side trails and loops go through the Marlborough Forest to the Burritts Rapids area where you can cross to the southeast shore and return along the main route, so the serious walker can plan some long loops, leaving from, and returning to, Merrickville.

Drive to two medium walks close by, on the Rideau Canal: Nicholson's Locks and the McGuigan Pioneer Cemetery are about 3 km east from Merrickville. These two sites can be visited together in about 2 hours, or you can linger much longer or visit them separately. The cemetery has a fascinating self-service interpretation centre. Burritts Rapids is about 4 km past Nicholson's. The Tip-to-Tip Trail is about 4 km return (about 1-2 hours), following a natural path between the canal and the river, good all year round but particularly glorious in the fall. If you have another hour to spare, take the Walking Tour of this historic village, first settled before the canal was built, then a thriving commercial centre throughout the 19th century.

Village: Two short accessible nature walks on the edges of the Village: The Woodland Tobogan Hill Loops and the RiverWalk are on opposite sides of the village, but both transport you quickly away from streets into the peace and quiet of sylvan nature. Both have fully improved stone dust pathways and are accessible to those with limited mobility and to wheelchairs. They each take 20-60 minutes to walk, though you can linger more on the added features. Some of the Merrick family are buried in the Collar Hill Cemetery. The Story Trail is targeted at pre-schoolers, but the stories are fun for the whole family. For the RiverWalk, check the bulletin board and pamphlets outside the Library, or sign out loaner backpacks inside the Library, to help discover the intriguing natural features of this zone.

Take the RiverPaddle by launching your own kayak or canoe from the public boat launch, or rent a kayak or canoe at the Lions Club Campground.

Centre: Three short walks around the locks and in the village: Much has changed over the years. There are no factories or mills left, and no cargo traffic on the canal, but you can still experience the past on the Depot-to-Dam trail and by visiting the Ruins of the industrial complex. Both can be walked within an hour, or you can spend several hours letting your imagination take you back 100 years and more. Similarly you can spend a whole day contemplating the many Historic Properties, or you can just see a few at a time, until a next visit. Guided walks available.

www.experienceourmerrickville.ca



Welcome to the recreational trails in and around the historic village of Merrickville... See overleaf for detailed maps. Add to your enjoyment by using the available informational pamphlets. Find them at merrickvilledistricttrailsociety.org under the "Local walks" heading, or at the QR code links provided.

"We make the path by walking" — Antonio Machado

Merrickville District Trails Society Presents

Merrickville-Wolford - "Jewel of the Rideau"
Enjoy a leisurely stroll through the quiet streets of our historic village and explore the architecture, heritage and natural beauty of century-old churches, homes and stores/shops throughout. Many of the heritage stone houses were built by Irish and Scottish stonemasons who built the Rideau Canal which cuts through the village. The Rideau Canal opened in 1832 and is designated a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Walking the trails in and around the village, you may see glimpses of Great Blue Herons, Osprey and Painted Turtles as well as rustic stone and cedar fences and other reminders of the early settlers who arrived here after the canal was built.

Rideau Migratory Bird Sanctuary
The sanctuary occupies 800 hectares extending 5.6 Km upstream, southwest of the village along both sides of the Rideau River, including all of the Fairgrounds and some adjacent lands. The RiverWalk Trail and the RiverPaddle Trail lie within the boundaries of the sanctuary and during fall migration one may see up to 1000 Canada Geese and 1000 ducks at any given time. The sanctuary is a feeding and resting area for many species of migrating waterfowl, including mostly dabbling ducks that feed near the surface, such as Mallard, American Black Duck, and the Blue-Winged Teal. Great Blue Herons can often be spotted fishing and standing majestically along the shoreline. The sanctuary was designated in 1957 by the Canadian Wildlife Service to provide safe refuge for migrating birds. Parks Canada and Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources protect the sanctuary. Federal regulations state that dogs must not run at large in the sanctuary. Please keep your dog on leash for the safety of nesting birds.



Cycle Merrickville Bicycle Routes
Three cycling loops radiate from near the centre of the village at the Blockhouse Park. Loop #1 is a leisurely tour through the streets of the village to view the many heritage buildings and homes of a century past. Loop #2 (18km) follows the Rideau River eastwards to the hamlet of Burritts Rapids highlighting several lock stations, pioneer cemeteries, churches and stone farmhouses along the way. Loop #3 (30 km) leads westwards to Kilmarnock and Eastons Corners highlighting old schools, churches, a swing bridge and many unique brick farmhouses made from local yellow and red brick manufactured at the historic Wickware Brickyard and Tannery. A Lions Club bicycle repair station is available on Main Street West across from the Blockhouse Park to make your own quick cycle repairs.



- Trail Safety and Etiquette**
- Please stay on existing trails and obey posted signs
 - Watch out for Poison Ivy at the trails edge
 - Wear appropriate clothing and footwear for weather conditions
 - Keep the trail clean and clean up after your pets
 - Do not disturb the wildlife
 - Use extra caution in woods during hunting season



For more information, trail maps and brochures:
www.merrickvilledistricttrailsociety.org

Some of the trails were developed and are maintained by other community groups: Merrickville and District Historical Society, the Rideau Trail Association, the Friends of the Rideau, the Friends of Limerick, and Parks Canada.

We gratefully acknowledge the ongoing support of the Village of Merrickville-Wolford, the United Counties of Leeds and Grenville (Limerick Forest), the Merrickville-Wolford Community Fund, the Merrickville Public Library, and Coba Studio and Print House.

We sincerely thank the many dedicated volunteers who kindly work with us to build, maintain and promote our local recreational trails!



MerrickvilleDistrictTrailsSociety.org
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