

Hugging the edge of the Kalamazoo River, the Marshall Riverwalk offers close-up views of two dams near Marshall Street.

## **Marshall Riverwalk**

Go for a leisurely stroll and take in picturesque views of Rice Creek and the Kalamazoo River from the paved paths, elevated boardwalks, bridges and viewing platforms on the Marshall Riverwalk. Hugging the edge of the river, over 1.6 miles of pedestrian walkways are weaved into 0.8 miles of waterfront with close-up views of two dams near Marshall Street. Walking is the best way to enjoy the Riverwalk, as bicycles are restricted on most of the elevated boardwalks. A National Historic Landmark District, spend a day in Marshall exploring its famous architecture, museums, shops, restaurants and brewery.

Your first challenge is finding the trailhead. On Homer Road, look for a sign that says "City of Marshall Compost Center." Turn onto that side street, then immediately turn right and then left to reach the trailhead. Look for a sign that says "The Dump." This is where your adventure begins.

As its name implies, about half of the trail was built on the overgrown remnants of a landfill, the other half in a mature woodland. This one-way trail was cleverly designed to take full advantage of the irregular terrain. It zigzags through ditches, over berms, and dense tunnels of underbrush with lots of tricky turns, jumps, and ramps made from found materials, such as rocks, logs, broken concrete and cinder blocks. The Dump will test your reflexes, endurance and technical skills. A full suspension bike will come in handy. Be advised, near the end of the trail, you'll cross a boardwalk over a briar patch with a steep jump at the end. Be cautious on your first ride, then come back, and conquer!