



MONROE COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
Established in 1938
126 South Monroe Street • Monroe, Michigan 48161



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PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**THE MONROE COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY CELEBRATES THE
RIVER RAISIN HERITAGE TRAIL AS THE NEW MICHIGAN GATEWAY
TO HISTORY AND NATURE**

The River Raisin National Battlefield Park, a unit of the National Park System, is now connected by a beautiful greenways trail through a coastal wetland environment to Sterling State Park, a unit of the Michigan State Park system

MONROE, MI - The River Raisin Heritage Trail is the centerpiece of a number of transformational and interconnected projects to reclaim, restore, refine and repurpose the finest assets of Monroe County. The community of Monroe is extremely blessed to have the natural, recreational, cultural and historical assets, in immediate proximity to I-75, and now connected by the beautiful River Raisin Heritage Trail.

William H. Braunlich, President of the Monroe County Historical Society Board of Directors, offered his perspective:

“The Monroe County Historical Society Board of Directors is extremely proud of its leadership role in the creation and funding of the River Raisin Heritage Trail. Specifically, the Society was an important and powerful advocate in a series of real estate transactions which culminated in the acquisition of over 270 acres of coastal wetland property by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources. This parcel now provides the physical connection between Sterling State Park, River Raisin National Battlefield Park, the Ford Marsh of the Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge, the City of Monroe and beyond. The Society

also was a major donor and provided important financial assistance to the Community Foundation of Monroe County so that the “match requirements” of the Kellogg Foundation would be timely met.

Without question, the River Raisin Heritage Trail is a testament to extraordinary cooperation and collaboration between federal, state and local elected leadership, in tandem with the private and non-profit sectors. The River Raisin Heritage Trail is a shining example of the power of partnership and has produced a beautiful public space which will benefit the community in perpetuity.

I hasten to add that Sterling State Park, with over 600,000 visitors last year, was previously a beautiful oasis on our sandy Lake Erie shoreline. No longer! The trail provides the physical and programmatic connections the community and State Park always dreamed of. The River Raisin Heritage Trail will take Sterling visitors, campers, bikers and hikers directly to the River Raisin National Battlefield Park, and beyond to the wonderful history, architecture and amenities of downtown Monroe. Conversely, the River Raisin Heritage Trail will take the citizens of Monroe, by foot or by bike, to both our War of 1812 history, our natural history and Sterling State Park on beautiful Lake Erie.”

The Monroe County Historical Society is a non-profit 501(c)(3) charitable organization established in 1938 and governed by a fifteen person Board of Directors. The Society’s mission is to collect, preserve, share and celebrate Monroe County history through innovative exhibits, programs, publications, and support of the Monroe County Historical Museum and River Raisin Battlefield Museum. The Society has been at the forefront of the River Raisin National Battlefield Park Project and has funded numerous battlefield initiatives dedicated to acquisition of the Battlefield, archeological research, environmental remediation of the site and educational programming. The Society’s objective is to foster an awareness of the national significance of the River Raisin Battlefield site and a deeper appreciation of the important historical role that Frenchtown (now Monroe) played in the history of North America.

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