

The Shiawassee River Valley is a country scenic setting—the River is a Class I stream (beginners) and rises to intermediate during higher flows. There is excellent small mouth bass fishing, sporty riffles in many locations, great birding, and mature forests that line 80% of the water trail's banks.

The guide lays out the most common sections for outings, with an average of 2-to-3 hour trips.

The map on the reverse side shows 15 access points. This guide presents 9 sections of the most common launch-to-landing day trips. Intermediate access sites are referenced in the applicable sections. Car ferrying routes are also convenient to bicyclists with a caution for the M-52 connection between Owosso and Henderson and M-71/M-21 connection between Corunna and Owosso.

Byron Ball Fields to Walnut Hills Campground

Car Ferrying Route: Maple St E; Saginaw St N; Lehring Rd W; Reed Rd S; Lehring Rd. W.

[River Gradient: 1.7'/mile]

The starting launch is on Maple St (Bath Rd) near the bridge and north of the High School ball field-50 yards off Maple St. The End landing is Walnut Hills, a private campground at the Lehring Rd. Bridge. Car parking fee there is \$1 per vehicle. Services are at each end.

Walnut Hills to Geeck Rd County Park

Car Ferrying Route: Lehring Rd E; Reed Rd N; Cole Rd W; Geeck Rd N; Byam Rd N; Exchange Rd E.

[River Gradient: 2.3'/mile]

Geeck Rd Park is at the corner of Exchange Rd and Geeck Rd. Services at Geeck Rd are a few miles west in the Village of Bancroft.

Geeck Rd Park to Shiatown County Park

Car Ferrying Route: Exchange Rd E; Geeck Rd N; Newburg Rd W; Newberry Rd N;

[River Gradient is 2.5'/mile]

The Shiatown landing is on the east side with a sharp turn to the right of the gravel island. Park facilities at each end-e.g., pavilions, benches, pit toilets.

Shiatown County Park to Vernon to Lytle Rd County Park

Car Ferrying Route Shiatown to Lyle: Bennington Rd W; Bancroft Rd N; Hibbard Rd E; Kerby Rd N; Lytle Rd E to Park.

[River Gradient: 4.6'/mile]

Ferrying Route between Shiatown and the intermediate access at Vernon is Bennington Rd E to just before RR tracks. Park facilities are at Shiatown and Lytle. Vernon access includes kayak lockers to permit ½ mile walk to village center with services.

Lytle Rd County Park to Corunna's McCurdy City Park

Car Ferrying Route: Lytle Rd E; M-71 E; Shiawassee St. N; Corunna Ave E; Norton St N.

[River Gradient is 2'/mile].

Ferrying Route to intermediate landing at Corunna's Brady St follows prior directions with a continuation on Shiawassee St N to Mack St E; Brady St N.

McCurdy Park will include a barrier free ramp and landing facility. McCurdy Park is a vast open space with abundant cultural and recreational facilities. Corunna city center is close-by to both access points with a generous slate of services.

McCurdy Park to Owosso's Chippewa Landing with Three Intermediate Access Points

Car Ferrying Route: N Park Exit Drive S to M-71 (Corunna Ave) W; M-71 W; M-52 N; Chippewa Trail W and N just past the wastewater treatment plant.

[River Gradient: 3.4'/mile]

Owosso is emerging as a water trail town with two access points (one to be completed in September, 2021). The first access point from Corunna is Oakwood Avenue/Voight Landing to the right, past the restored iron bridge at a City Park and loop trail.

The second access is downtown at Castle Park after the first low head dam (passable at spillway) with an east shoreline landing improvised until Sept, 2021's new facility. Kayak lockers will be installed for extended downtown stays. Owosso is a full service urban center.

CAUTION: There are three low-head dams with passable spillways before arriving at Chippewa Lane landing. Wary paddlers may take out and put in (portage) at all three dams. ****Continued in next column****

Chippewa Landing has a developed step launch. Services are available at a full-line grocery store south up the hill and Harmon Patridge City Park is ¼ mile north. Other than parking there are no support services at the immediate landing area.

Chippewa Trail to Henderson Rd County Park

Car Ferrying Route: Chippewa Trail N; Curwood Rd E; M-52 N; Henderson Rd W
0.4 miles to east park entrance.

[River Gradient: 6-8'/mile!]

An intermediate landing dock on the right at the DeVries Nature Conservancy offers trails and nature study and a porta-john "up the hill." Henderson County Park is recently refurbished with a full slate of park services. Paddlers arrive at the park just under the Henderson Rd. bridge but must travel the length of the linear park 3,000' to the east side landing.

Henderson County Park to Parshallburg

Car Ferrying Route: Henderson Rd E; M-52 N; Sharon Rd E; Ditch Rd E.

[River Gradient is 1'/mile]

Ditch Rd doglegs south then east to the Ditch Rd. bridge. Launch is on the east side of the bridge at this Saginaw County pocket park.

CAUTION: There is a partially dismantled dam at Parshallburg before disembarking to the right. Wary paddlers may portage the dam on the right bank but most run the spillway—expect a bump on the keel. A paddlecraft inclined chute parallels a stairway up the steep river bank.

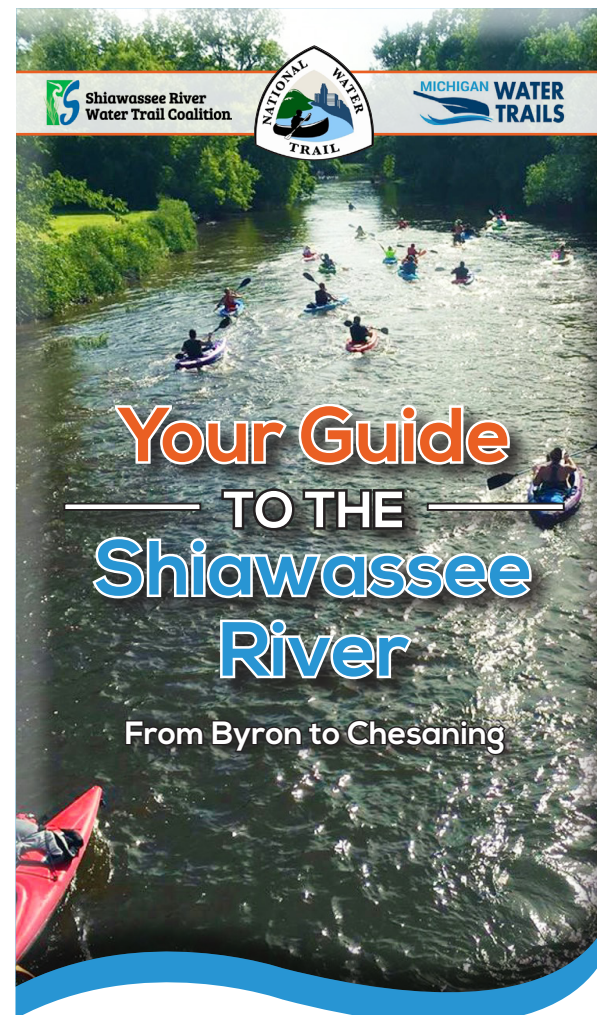
Commercial services are at the Village of Oakley or Chesaning.

Parshallburg to Chesaning's Showboat Park

Car Ferrying Route: Ditch Rd W; Niver Rd N; Sharon Rd N; Showboat Park Entrance Drive E.

[River Gradient is 1'/mile]

Showboat Park is also a campground. The park is fully developed with support facilities. Chesaning Village, an accommodating commercial center, is a short 0.4 miles north. A downtown landing is in the planning stages.



Your Guide TO THE Shiawassee River

From Byron to Chesaning



Support for this project also provided by:

Chesaning Township • Saginaw County Parks & Recreation
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