



Shiawassee River Water Trail (Lytle Road Park to Chesaning)

As you paddle north, which is downstream 33 miles from Lytle Road Park to Chesaning, you will experience some of the most scenic sections of the Shiawassee River. About halfway to Corunna, you must navigate around a causeway bridge, portaging on either side. The river becomes wider and slower afterwards, maintaining an average rate of flow enjoyed by group paddlers.

Starting at or passing through the largest town of Owosso, you will encounter a series of three weirs (coffer dams) that will require some skill to navigate. Have fun riding through the “chute” in the middle of each weir or portage along the edge.

Downstream of Harmon-Patridge Park, the river becomes heavily wooded and secluded. Wildlife sightings are common along this meandering section. Approaching the end of the water trail in Chesaning, exit at renowned Showboat Park. The full amenities and city advantages make it a fitting end to your exploration.

Beyond the end of the trail, there are many braided channels and much woody debris leading into the wetland complex of the Shiawassee State and National Wildlife Refuges, a Midwest hotspot for migrating waterfowl, but not suited as a paddling destination. For persons with disabilities, two handicapped accessible launches are available at the Linden Mill Pond and at McCurdy Park in Corunna.

James Miner Riverwalk

Following the edge of the Shiawassee River from Corunna’s McCurdy Park to Owosso’s Harmon-Patridge Park, the 5-mile James Miner Riverwalk offers another great way to experience the scenery and history of these neighboring river towns.

As you enter Owosso, the natural surface trail transitions to a boardwalk and then a paved surface. Historic highlights along the trail include the Steam Railroading Institute and a suspension bridge that leads you to Curwood Castle.

To continue your adventure north to Harmon-Patridge Park, from where the paved trail ends on Williams Street, travel straight north on Adams Street through a residential area to North Street and then west across M-52 where the paved trail resumes and weaves around a grocery store to Chippewa Trail. Follow Chippewa Trail north into the park.

