



Ferguson Has a History Museum

Ferguson has a Historical Society and a History Museum. We encourage any people reading this article to join in the conversation and become a member.

We are now in the beginning of Summer in Ferguson – just the time to get outdoors and take a quiet walk, hike or – a bike ride. You certainly do not have to go as far as the Chain-or-Rocks Bridge to ride the Riverfront Trail to downtown St. Louis or as far as St. Charles to ride the Ted and Pat Jones Katy Trail across Missouri or any of the many other great bike trails in the St. Louis Metro. As residents of Ferguson, we have our very own Ted and Pat Jones Trail right here in Ferguson.



The Ted Jones Trail is a 2.2-mile trail between Ferguson and the University of Missouri, St. Louis (UMSL) – you can start at either end. While the trail parallels Florissant Road, it takes you on a tree-lined journey – peaceful and quiet. The trail is monitored by local police and with limited access points is quite secure during daylight hours (Trail hours are 7:00 AM thru 1/2-hour after sunset).

The trail has three major access points. The Ferguson access begins at the intersection of Short and Redmond Ave (the street East

of the Post Office) shown at the left. There is limited street parking here, however it is seldom busy. This is a great point to start



as it is the actual beginning – and you get to walk or ride over a bridge over Paul Avenue. Not a big thrill – but a good place to stop and look over the area. When you bike or hike – you are supposed to relax and enjoy the trip.

The second starting point is somewhat mid-way. It is on Woodstock between Florissant Road and Bermuda. Here you have an actual parking lot.



This is a 2.2-mile “Rails to Trails” paved trail which starts at 594 feet above sea-level in Ferguson and rises (very slightly) to 623 feet near UMSL. In other words, you have to work a little from Ferguson to UMSL but can coast on the return trip – a great plus.

Along the way you will not only experience the woods, but some unique experiences. About mid-way you will see a 392-foot-long tunnel taking you under Interstate 70. The tunnel has been decorated by a number of graffiti

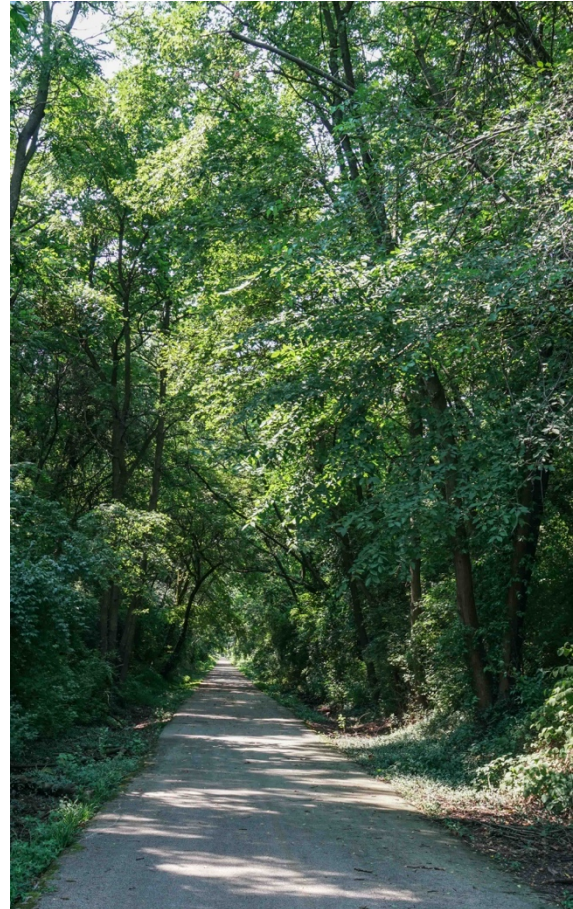


artists. The Top image is looking East, the second is looking from UMSL – West. The paintings extend into and along the tunnel. After you pass under the tunnel, you are on your way to UMSL. Near the end of the trail, you will pass over a bridge and then it is downhill (really downhill) to UMSL. Great for going, but a tough hill coming back. At the bottom of the hill, you can access the UMSL campus – take the trail on your left – up a very steep hill to campus level. While this is the end of the Ted Jones Trail you can access the St. Vincent Trail on the west side of the campus. This 5.5-mile trail will take you from the North UMSL (main) campus of UMSL through the South campus on the way to St. Vincent County Park.

A Large part of the enjoyment of the trail is the actual trail itself. It is a ride through the trees – a way to get away from the noise of the city.

At note about Ted and Pat Jones. Ted is actually Edward T. Jones (1925-1990), son of the founder of Edward Jones Investments. This husband-wife duo are generous doners to Missouri. Pat Jones (1925-2018) donated her farm to become the Prairie Fork Conservation Area. The couple donated 2.2 million dollars to start the Katy Trail. They are also responsible for the creation of the Confluence Point State Park in North St. Louis County. Their concern was that people from around the world would be able to come to Missouri and see the wonders of nature.

Why not grab your hiking shoes or favorite bicycle and enjoy a part of Ferguson that is free to use and enjoy.



Membership in the Ferguson Historical Society is open to anyone – membership levels range from \$20.00 to \$50.00 a year. If you are interested in joining or have any suggestions, questions, or items to donate to the Ferguson Historical Society, please contact Jerry Benner at fjbenner@mindspring.com. You are also welcome to visit the History Museum at 1064 Smith (behind the Community Center) by e-mailing the above address. Note: we will need to schedule a date for you, so ask well in advance

“The Ferguson Historical Society is dedicated to preserving and promoting the history of Ferguson Missouri. Membership is open to all sharing our interest.”