Ferry Street Walking Route
Humboldt Parkway—Bailey Avenue | 3 miles | 6,000 steps

Start Here

Developed By www.CreatingHealthyCommunities.org
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Starting Location - Corner of Humboldt Pkwy. & E. Ferry St.
- Original Humboldt Parkway was designed by Frederick Law Olmsted and Calvert Vaux as part of their 1870 master plan for Buffalo’s Park and Parkway System.
- Humboldt connected Delaware Park to The Parade (renamed MLK Park) using a tree-lined pathway containing an inner green space and paths for foot traffic and vehicles similar to Lincoln, Chapin, and Bidwell Parkways on the West Side of Buffalo.
- Humboldt Parkway was destroyed in the 1960s with the construction of The Kensington Expressway (Route 33) and entire neighborhoods bisected.

Stop 1 - 581-591 E. Ferry St.
Common Housing Stock Examples
- 2 1/2 story Buffalo doubles
- Vernacular style homes
- Gabled roofs, upper and/or lower front porches (most often wrought iron), bay windows.
- Minimal architectural detailing common among vernacular housing seen in neighborhoods throughout WNY, particularly in areas with historically working class populations.

Stop 2 - Designated Route: Richard Allen Way (Near Corner of E. Ferry St. & Fillmore Ave.)
- Richard Allen (1760-1831)
- Born into slavery in Philadelphia, Allen was able to purchase his freedom by his early 20s.
- Became a Methodist in his teens and in 1799 he became the first African-American ordained minister of the Methodist Episcopal Church.
- 1816—Allen founded the first national Black church in the country, The African Methodist Episcopal Church (AME).
- Today, AME reports over 2 million members in North America, the Caribbean, sub-Saharan Africa, and the UK.

Stop 3 - Secondary Services Company (757 E. Ferry St.)
- 80,000 sq. ft. facility home to Secondary Services & Supply Company.
- Leading regional supplier of metal finishing services including industrial painting and abrasive blasting.
- Original building (built c. early 1900s) was the first City of Buffalo Police Garage.
- In the 1930s, General Electric purchased the facility to serve as the National Lamp Works factory.
- Sold to Compressed Air Components in 1967 and then purchased by the current owner in 1995.
- Secondary Services continues to improve & expand on site with a 5,000 sq. ft. expansion in 2015.

Stop 4 - True Bethel Estates (871 E. Ferry St.)
- 3-story affordable senior rental housing complex built in 2014 on a former brownfield site.
- 50 senior apartment units
- Built in partnership between Belmont Housing Resources for WNY and True Community Development Corporation, a local non-profit focused on affordable housing.
- True Community Development Corp. is connected to True Bethel Baptist Church.

Stop 5 - True Bethel Baptist Church (907 E. Ferry St.)
- The church began in 1961, started by Mr. & Mrs. Elijah Tillman and 8 members.
- Since then, membership has grown to over 3,000 congregants.
- TBBC has two other locations, 472 Swan Street, Downtown, and 1112 S. Avenue in Niagara Falls.
- The congregation is led by Pastor Darius Pridgen (since 1993).
- Pridgen represents the Elicott District on Buffalo’s City Council as well as serving as Council President.

Stop 6 - Corner of E. Ferry & Grider Streets - Grider Street Name
- Grider which runs from E. Ferry St. to Leroy Ave. is a major artery of the Delavan Grider neighborhood with the largest point of interest being ECMC.
- Named after one of the original land owners of the 19th c.
- Daniel Grider, born c. 1787 in Pennsylvania, came to Buffalo in 1820s and bought a 48-acre farm.
- Grider was a respected community member and served as a representative for the 1837 Canal Convention regarding Erie Canal upgrades.

Stop 7 - Grant’s Variety Shoppe (1055 E. Ferry St.)
- Business of Betty Jean Grant.
- Grant studied Elementary Education (BS) at Medaille and Special Education (MA) at Buffalo State.
- Grant opened the shop in 1980 with her husband George at the age of 32.
- In addition to owning her own business Grant served as a member of the Buffalo Common Council, BPS School Board, as an Erie County Legislator, and as Chair of the Erie County Legislature.
- Most recently, Grant has formed a nonprofit civic group called “We Are Women Warriors.”
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**Stop 9** - 1183 E. Ferry St.  
- Example of a Buffalo double style residence with beautiful Craftman/Arts & Crafts features.
- **Features Include:**
  - The chunky stone foundation in the front
  - Thick square columns framing the low front porch
  - Wide, unenclosed, and overhanging eaves

**Stop 10** - Bison Laboratories, Inc.  
(Corner of Leslie & E. Ferry Streets)  
- 24,000 sq. ft. facility
- Manufacturing company and one of the largest suppliers of chemicals for swimming pools, water treatment and ice melt in WNY.
- Family owned and operated since 1946 - President Bob Morber.

**Stop 11** - Harmac Medical Products (2201 Bailey Ave. - View From Across the Street)  
- Global manufacturer of single use medical devices founded in 1981 that employs around 400 employees in Buffalo.
- In 2008, the company spearheaded The Bailey Green Initiative.
- In partnership with community members and organizations like Habitat for Humanity and Groundwork Market Garden, and UB School of Architecture & Planning, Harmac is working to invigorate the Bailey Avenue Corridor.
- At this stop you can see one of the earliest projects, planting trees and designating areas for open green space on land owned by Harmac.

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**Stop 12** - Corner of E. Ferry St. & Bailey Ave.  
- Bailey Avenue stretches 10 miles from South Park Avenue in South Buffalo to Ridge Lea Road in Amherst.
- Named after William Tracy Bailey who was born in Connecticut in 1804 and came to Buffalo around 1830.
- Sometime after getting settled in the City of Buffalo, The Bailey family moved to the outskirts of town and established the Bailey farm.
- Bailey made improvements to a road around his property (which allowed him to move lumber from his property) and as a result it was named after him.

**Stop 13** - Dollar City Whole Sale Building (1210 E. Ferry St.)  
- Built c. 1930
- Note the ornamentation and clean/sharp brickwork on the front façade of the building.
- The chevron brickwork and diamond shapes at the top of the building in particular stand out and set the building apart from other industrial buildings in this area.

**Stop 14** - Route Designation:  
Darius G. Pridgen Boulevard Sign  
- Serves as the Senior Pastor at True Bethel Baptist Church and the Council President of Buffalo's Common Council.
- Grew up in the Jefferson Avenue-E. Ferry Street neighborhood.
- Pridgen found his calling early in life, leading his Bible study class at St. Luke’s American Methodist Episcopal Church at nine, and giving his first sermon at thirteen.
- Graduated from Bennett High School at 16 by taking summer courses at Canisius High School.
- Served in the Air Force in Texas and after went to Buffalo State (BA) and Medaille (MA).

**Stop 15** - Otis Chimney (Corner of Grider & E. Ferry Streets)  
- The distant chimney stack marks the location of the former Otis Elevator Plant on Northland Avenue – facility completed in 1907.
- Sold in 1951 to the Curtiss-Wright Corp. for manufacturing aerospace and aircraft components.
- Curtiss-Wright ceased operations on site in the early 1990s.
- Today the complex is part of The Northland Avenue Belt Line Corridor funded by The Buffalo Billion, featuring the Northland Workforce Training Center, an anchor to the developing business park.
Stop 16 - True Bethel Townhouses (858 E. Ferry St.)
- Four residential 2-story buildings completed in 2013 on a brownfield site.
- Consists of 30 affordable townhomes with a mix of 2,3, and 4-bedroom homes.
- Similar to the True Bethel Estates across the street these townhomes were built by Belmont Housing Resources for WNY and True Community Development Corporation, a local non-profit focused on affordable housing affiliated with True Bethel.

Stop 17 - Hale Expo Services (828 E. Ferry St.)
- Local company that specializes in the design and outfitting for trade shows and large-scale special events.
- In 1901, George D. Hale, a local florist, was asked to help decorate the venues at the Pan-American Exposition.
- Hale’s work went beyond just floral arrangements with elaborate displays and decorations.
- Following the Pan-Am, Hale’s talents were extremely sought after and the business grew.
- Today, their services continue to be used nation-wide

Stop 18 - BufloVak (750 E. Ferry St.)
- Specializes in the design and manufacturing of equipment and systems related to food, chemical, pharmaceutical, and environmental operations.
- Dates back to the 1840s with the partnership of David Bell and William McNish.
- In the beginning, the company was a leading producer of products like vacuum dryers, pumps, condensers and more.
- BufloVak is now part of Hebeler, Group of Companies and handles everything from product research and testing to design and manufacturing.
- Hebeler Process Solutions Headquarters is located in Tonawanda.

Stop 19 - Route Designation:
Pastor William A. Bunton Way Sign (Corner of Fillmore Ave. & E. Ferry St.)
- Pastor William A. Bunton (1935-2018)
- Served as a Baptist Minister for 55 years in Missouri, Kansas, and Arkansas before coming to Buffalo’s Antioch Baptist Church, in 1976.
- It was under Bunton’s leadership that the church moved to its current location at 1327 Fillmore Avenue.
- At the new church, a number of programs and workshops for the community were established: food pantry, bus and van service for church members, Substance Abuse Anonymous, & Vacation Bible School.
- Bunton was involved in the Civil Rights Movement of the 1960s, taking part in the 1963 March on Washington lead by Martin Luther King Jr.