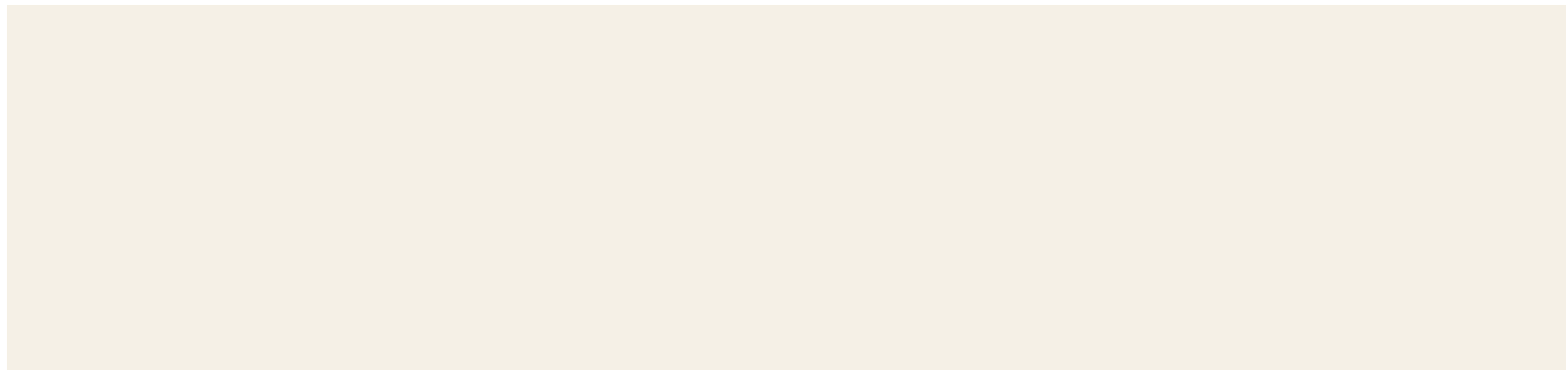
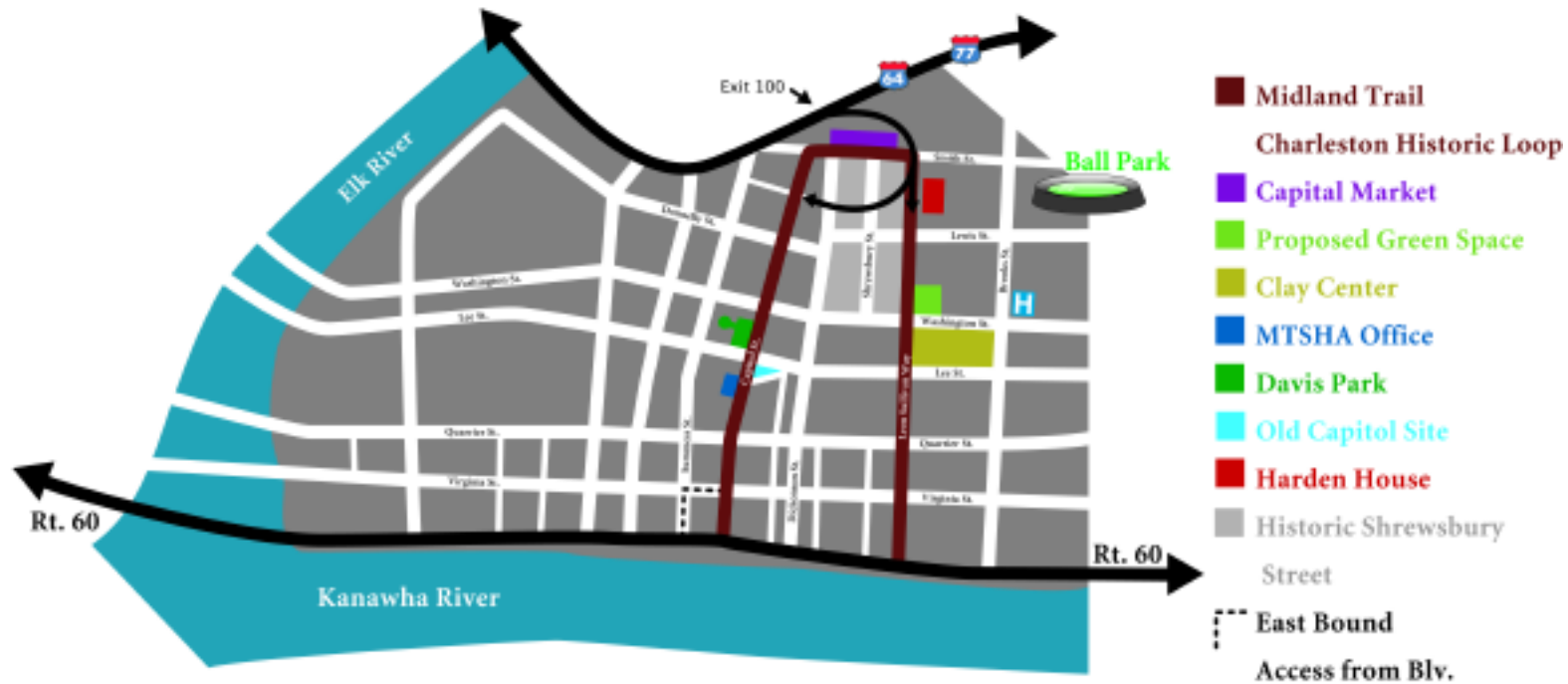


Historical Charleston Loop

5.21

Historical Charleston Loop

Downtown Charleston



Historical Charleston Loop

5.22

Historical Charleston Loop

Adventures abound on the Historic Charleston Loop of the Midland Trail. The fifteen-block Loop leads visitors from Kanawha Boulevard to Capitol Street, Smith Street, Leon Sullivan Way, and through the revitalized downtown to enjoy a blend of historic sites and exciting new tourist-oriented attractions. New shops in renovated storefronts, the new \$120 million Clay Center for the Arts and Sciences WV, a new riverfront park, Capitol Market, and the new \$23 million, Appalachian Power Baseball Park provide the anchors to assure a thriving downtown Village District.

Capitol Street was so named when the State Capitol building stood at the corner of Capitol and Lee Streets from 1885 until it was destroyed by fire in 1921. Capitol Street was the first street in America paved with bricks (1870). Over the summer of 2004 Mayor Danny Jones had the

bricks and plantings redone throughout downtown.

It was almost two decades in the making, but downtown Charleston has become a tourist destination. From one end to the other Capitol Street has a new look. Building facades have been redone and new tourist-friendly retail shops dot Capitol Street. Streets such as Summers and Smith, seedy areas just a few short years ago, have been revitalized; today Summers Street features a park and office district, while Smith Street is one of the best places in Charleston to shop for home furnishings and carpeting, plus Capitol Market's fresh vegetables, plants, and specialty items.

Midland Trail Scenic Highway recently moved their offices into a restored building on Capitol Street.

The lively Capitol Market stands at the north end of Capitol Street in the former Kanawha and Michigan Railway Depot. Renovated and updated in 1997, the market presents visitors with the last visible remnant of what was once an active rail yard.



Historical Charleston Loop

5.23

Historical Charleston Loop

Flowering plants of every color and seasonal fruits and vegetables fill the outside stalls of the Market every day of the year. Local growers offer tips on harvesting your own fruits and vegetables.

Inside the market are shops that offer a vast array of fresh seafood, meats, chicken, fine wine and beer, plus an upscale fine food restaurant, SoHo's, which offers weekend jazz.

In 2003, the "long awaited, must see" Clay Center for the Arts and Sciences WV opened on Leon Sullivan Way. The 240,000-square foot Center, one of the most ambitious cultural and educational projects in West Virginia history, combines a home for the Juliet Museum of Art, Charleston Symphony's performing arts center, Walker Theater, and Avampato Discovery Museum, an interactive science museum completed with the Electric Sky Theater planetarium and I-Max.

Play Ball! Opening Day at Charleston's new Appalachian Power Baseball Park was April 14, 2005. The 4200-plus seat stadium stands along Smith Street between Morris Street and the I-64/77 Brooks Street entrance ramp.



Historical Charleston Loop

5.24

Historical Charleston Loop

Historic Shrewsbury Street

Central Charleston is the city's historically African-American neighborhood. The Shrewsbury, Donnelly and Lewis Street area was home to several distinguished African-Americans, including internationally renowned Reverend Leon Sullivan whose Sullivan's Principles of Equal Opportunity became the blueprint for ending Apartheid.

Simpson Memorial Methodist Church (circa 1915) continues to be a focal point of the community, as they spearhead the restoration of Harden House for use by community groups and an African-American cultural museum. The home of first black state librarian in the United States, Sam Starks, is located at 413 Shrewsbury Street. Garnet High School, an African-American high school (1929-1950), was known for its quality programs and curriculum. The Mattie V. Lee Home, named in honor of WV's first black female physician, was important in the early 20th Century for promoting the "spiritual, intellectual, social, physical, and vocational development of young African-American women."

