

Trail: Middle School

Distance: 2.2 miles

Walking Time: 60 – 90 minutes

Difficulty: **

Bike Friendly: Yes (except for woods)

Pet Friendly: No

Child Friendly: Yes

Parking: Garden Avenue

Path Type: Hybrid

What to Look For:

[Monarch Butterfly](#) [Chatham Middle School](#) [Chatham Community Garden](#)
[American Robin](#) [Wild Turkey](#) [Chipmunk](#) [Groundhog](#) [House Sparrow](#) [Killdeer](#)
[American Goldfinch](#) [Red-tailed Hawk](#) [American Robin](#) [Chipmunk](#) [Red Fox](#)
[Yellow-throated Vireo](#) [Eastern Gray Squirrel](#) [Ruby-throated Hummingbird](#)
[Eastern Phoebe](#)

Memorial trees next to tennis courts & on corner of Main St. & Lafayette Ave.

History:

1. Chatham Middle School

The area used to be occupied by Samuel Lum's seven greenhouses, which was then bought and modernized by Anthony Ruzicka who started marketing roses. Along with the greenhouses, the area included a large pond that Ruzicka maintained to water his plants, and was heavily used by teen-aged boys until it disappeared under the construction of the high school (now the Chatham Middle School). [4]

2. Chatham Community Garden

Officially opened on April 13th, 2010; it promotes community interactions among the residents of Chatham Township and the Borough of Chatham by providing a communal area for growing flowers and vegetables. The preservation and maintenance of the area is looked after by volunteers who are determined to keep improving Chatham.

3. Bruen House (96 King's Road)

Ichabod Bruen built this house during the 18th century. In the basement are 2 large walk-in fireplaces which were used to cook for Washington's troops. Also in the basement were underground tunnels which led to the fields and woods to provide escape from the British, even though there is no evidence that the Red Coats crossed the river in force. Look for the windows owing in part to the Victorian improvements. [1]

4. Chatham United Methodist Church (490 Main St.)

The fourth location of this church, which was founded in 1800, resides now at 490 Main St. ^[1]

5. Home of Charles Lum (492 Main St.)

Built circa 1860, this was the home of Charles Lum, who brought cattle by foot from the pastures in Sussex County to be butchered in Chatham. Later this property was the site of the largest greenhouses in the area and is now occupied by the Chatham Middle School. ^[1]