The town of Stevensville is considered the first permanent settlement in Montana. It was established on September 24, 1841 by Catholic missionary Father Pierre Jean DeSmet. Father DeSmet called the first settlement St. Mary’s and built the first chapel soon afterward. This encouraged interaction and spiritual conversion of the Salish, Iroquois and Nez Perce Natives previously residing in the Bitterroot Valley.

**ST. MARY’S MISSION**
The first church in Montana was the St. Mary’s Mission, which can be found on the corner of 4th Street and Charles Street. Father DeSmet called the first settlement St. Mary’s and built the first chapel soon afterward. This encouraged interaction and spiritual conversion of the Salish, Iroquois and Nez Perce Natives previously residing in the Bitterroot Valley.

**FORT OWEN STATE PARK**
Established in 1964, this National Wildlife Refuge was established through the efforts of the late Senator Lee Metcalf for his life-long commitment to conservation and for his active engagement in the project. It is located just north of Stevensville with 2,800 acres of land set apart for wildlife conservation. The property has many walking trails, some near the south of the property and some near the north of the property. This establishment was formerly known as the Bitterroot Cooperative Creamery that burnt down in 1911 but was rebuilt in 30 days. This effort was led by the manager John Howe who inspired the community to help rebuild the creamery and started the annual community celebration of the Stevensville Creamery Picnic.

**LEE METCALF NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE**
Established in 1964, this National Wildlife Refuge was established through the efforts of the late Senator Lee Metcalf for his life-long commitment to conservation and for his active engagement in the project. It is located just north of Stevensville with 2,800 acres of land set apart for wildlife conservation. The property has many walking trails, some near the south of the property and some near the north of the property. This establishment was formerly known as the Bitterroot Cooperative Creamery that burnt down in 1911 but was rebuilt in 30 days. This effort was led by the manager John Howe who inspired the community to help rebuild the creamery and started the annual community celebration of the Stevensville Creamery Picnic.
Take a walk around Stevensville

Bass Mansion Route
1.1 miles, 25 min

E. Stevensville Route
2.3 miles, 45 min

Stevensville Bike Path
1.9 miles, 40 min

St. Mary's Route
1.9 miles, 40 min

City Limits Route
3.1 miles, 60 min

The Whole Shebang
4.6 miles, 95 min

*Stevensville River Park
+/- 1.0 miles, 25 min

1.75 inches = 0.25 miles