

MAKE YOUR OWN TRACKS



OHIO'S APPALACHIAN PLAYGROUND

Ross-Chillicothe Convention and Visitors Bureau

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Hopewell Culture



ARC OF
APPALACHIA
PRESERVE SYSTEM



WHERE WILL YOU EXPLORE?



TRAIL GUIDE

OHIO'S APPALACHIAN PLAYGROUND

Table of Contents

ROSS COUNTY MAP 2-3

OUTDOOR DESTINATIONS 4-9

TRAIL DISTANCE INFO 10-11

SAFETY TIPS 12-13



OHIO'S APPALACHIAN PLAYGROUND

Nestled in the foothills of the Appalachian Region, Ross County offers a beautiful destination to explore the great outdoors. Enthusiasts from all over can experience the exceptional hiking and biking trails, waterways for canoeing and kayaking, and the preserves and parks for bird watching. With five State Parks, a National Park, and many County and City parks in Ross County, there's plenty of family-fun outdoor recreation waiting. Every season allows for fun to be found in the great outdoors from the spring flowers, to the summer adventures, or the beauty in the fall, along with the winter hikes and activities.

The five State Parks offer a wide variety of trails for all skill levels for hiking and biking along with plenty of amenities for family fun. Many of these Parks offer such activities as disc golf, boating, swimming, fishing, and even miniature golf. The Hopewell Culture National Historical Park showcases the magnificent, ancient earthworks that were created over 2,000 years ago. Whereas, the County Parks offer acres upon acres of fens, prairies, and rugged scenic countryside. The City Parks will give families the opportunity to relax and enjoy wildlife, playground equipment, and gentle paths to follow for a casual stroll.

If you're looking to explore Ross County along its waterways, take a canoe or kayak trip along Paint Creek or Salt Creek to view the countryside. Enjoy a short relaxing float or a full day trip to see the flora and fauna along the creek banks. Water levels vary throughout the year so there's always a perfect time for beginners or skilled enthusiasts to experience Ross County from the water.

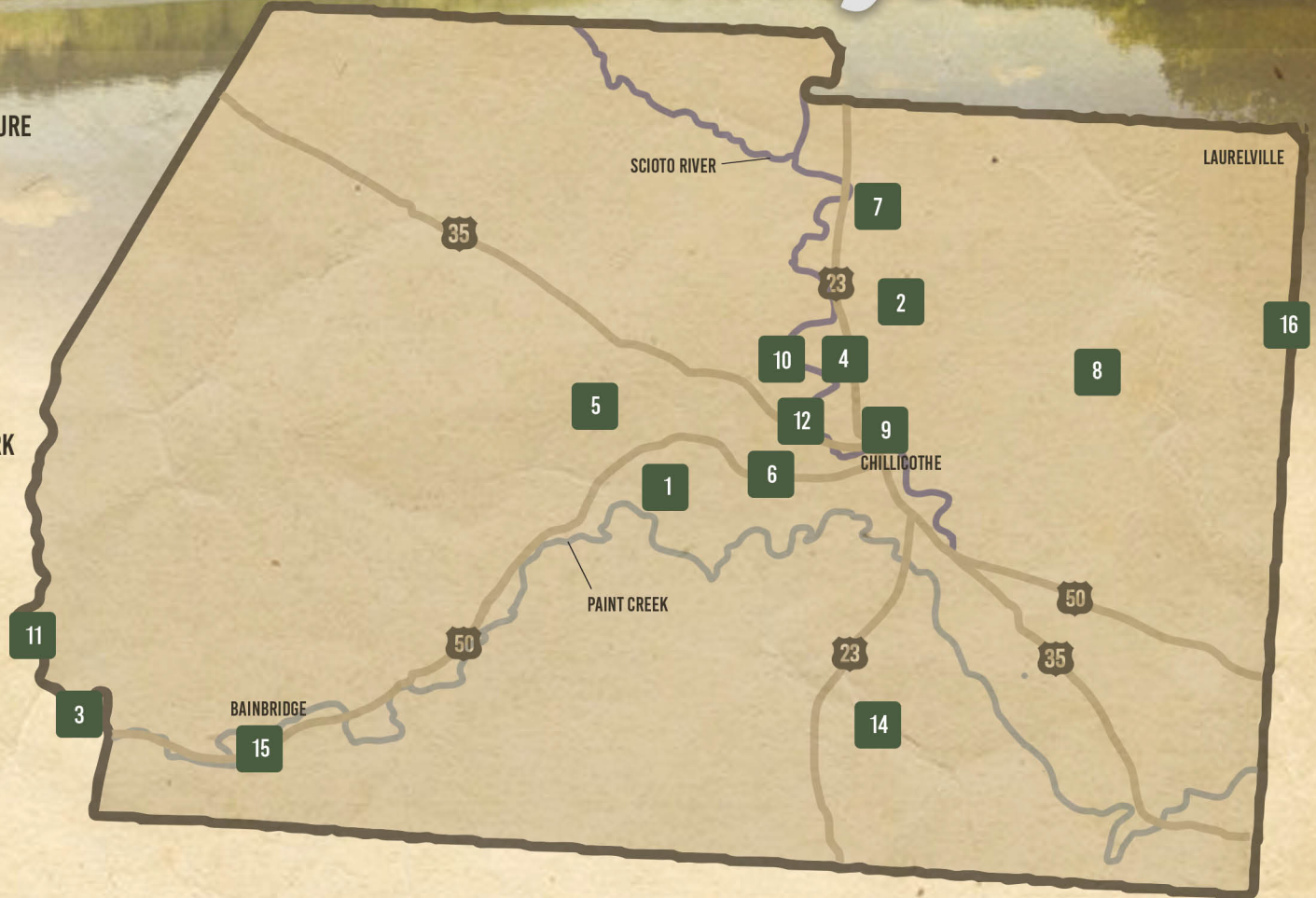
The Ross County Trail Guide is designed to help you plan your next outdoor adventure. Through the pages you'll discover more in-depth information about Ross County's parks and the abundant amount of outdoor recreation that awaits your visit.



visitchillicotheohio.com for more of what's happening!

Ross County, Ohio

1. BUZZARDS ROOST THE EARL H. BARNHART NATURE PRESERVE
2. GREAT SEAL STATE PARK
3. HIGHLAND NATURE SANCTUARY
4. HOPETON EARTHWORKS
5. HOPEWELL MOUND GROUP
6. JUNCTION EARTHWORKS ARCHAEOLOGICAL PARK AND NATURE PRESERVE
7. KINNIKINNICK FEN NATURE PRESERVE
8. METAHQUA NATURE PRESERVE
9. MILLENNIUM GROVE
10. MOUND CITY GROUP
11. PAINT CREEK STATE PARK AND LAKE
12. PAINT CREEK RECREATIONAL TRAIL
13. PIKE LAKE STATE PARK AND FOREST
14. SCIOTO TRAIL STATE PARK AND FOREST
15. SEIP EARTHWORKS
16. TAR HOLLOW STATE PARK AND FOREST



13

Ross County History

Ross County was formed on August 20, 1798 by proclamation of Arthur St. Clair, Governor of the Northwest Territory. It included a large part of what is now the State of Ohio. The establishment of Franklin County and the later organization of other counties reduced Ross County's huge size in 1803. Ross County was named for James Ross of Allegheny County, Pennsylvania, a close friend of Governor St. Clair, although many thought it should be named after Nathaniel Massie who surveyed the area. In 1800, the capital of the Northwest Territory was moved to Chillicothe, the present county seat. Chillicothe also served as the first capital of the State of Ohio from 1803 until 1816, except for an interval from late 1809 to 1812 when the state legislature met in Zanesville. In 1817, the state capital moved 40 miles north of Chillicothe to Columbus, the state's present capital city, because it was more centrally located.

Outdoor Destinations

There is so much to discover in Ross County. We are fortunate to have some of the best hiking and recreational trails in Southern Ohio.

Buzzards Roost - The Earl H. Barnhart Nature Preserve

514 Redbird Lane, Chillicothe, OH
1,200 Acres 5 mi of total trails

This preserve encompasses nearly 1200 acres of the most scenic and rugged terrain within Ross County and features five miles of hiking trails offering a diverse experience. The popular South Point Lookout Trail is a 2 mile loop that meanders along the cliff tops and provides spectacular views of the Paint Creek Gorge. Shorter trails that branch off the Lookout trail at the restroom/picnic shelter house/pond area provide options to the hiker. rosscountyparkdistrict.com



Great Seal State Park

4908 Marietta Road Chillicothe, Ohio 45601
740-887-4818 / 1,862 Acres 33 mi of hiking, 17 mi of bridle/biking trails

30 total miles of trails, are available to hikers. The terrain varies from steep to gently rolling. It is advised that horses and hikers be well conditioned for these trails. Mountain bikes and horses are permitted on 17 miles of multiple-use trails. The trails cross mostly wooded, hilly terrain with some steep inclines and ravines. These trails are best suited to advanced cyclists. parks.ohiodnr.gov



The Highlands Nature Sanctuary

7660 Cave Road, Bainbridge, Ohio 45612
937-365-1935 / 2,900 Acres 18.75 mi of total trails

OPEN SEASONALLY FROM APRIL - OCTOBER FROM 9 - 5. The Highlands Nature Sanctuary is the Arc of Appalachia's oldest and largest preserve. The heart of the 2,500-acre preserve is the breathtakingly beautiful Rocky Fork Gorge, a 100-foot high steep-walled canyon renowned for its stunning rock formations, ancient white cedars, spectacular wildflower displays, grottos, springs, and stone arches. Visitors to the Sanctuary can enjoy staying in a number of historic cabins and older homes that have been fully renovated into modern nature retreats, ranging from secluded 2-person suites perched on the bluff of the gorge that offer dizzying views, to five-bedroom historic lodges that handsomely accommodate small groups and educational gatherings. arcofappalachia.org



Hopeton Earthworks

1138-1286 Hopetown Road, Chillicothe, Ohio 45601
740-774-1126 / 225 Acres 1 mi total trails

Two thousand years ago, American Indians of the Hopewell culture gathered in the Scioto River and Paint Creek valleys to build enormous geometric earthworks. For the next half millennia, the Hopewell culture flourished in the area creating spectacular earthen architecture and finely crafted objects. The Hopeton Earthworks complex includes a 20-acre circle, a 20-acre square, at least two small circles and parallel walls. nps.gov



Hopewell Mound Group

16062 OH-104, Chillicothe, Ohio 45601
740-774-1126 / 300 Acres 2.5 mi total trails

Visible remnants of Hopewell culture are concentrated in the Scioto River valley near the present-day city of Chillicothe, Ohio. The most striking Hopewell sites contain earthworks in the form of circles, squares, and other geometric shapes. Many of these sites were built to a monumental scale, with earthen walls up to 12 feet high outlining geometric figures more than 1,000 feet across. Conical and loaf-shaped earthen mounds up to 30 feet high are often found in association with the geometric earthworks. nps.gov



Junction Earthworks Preserve

1143 Township Highway 377, Chillicothe, Ohio 45601
937-365-1935 / 193 Acres 3.5 mi of total trails

The new Archaeological Park and Nature Preserve, Junction Earthworks, is open to the public 365 days of the year from 9 am to sunset at no charge. The park features two 2000 year old American Indian earthwork complexes, four nature trails providing over five miles of hiking, and a 70 acre native prairie providing spectacular autumn summer wildflowers and rare grassland birds. arcofappalachia.org



Kinnikinnick Fen Nature Preserve

550 Crouse Chapel Road, Chillicothe, OH
154 Acres 1.9 mi total trails

Kinnikinnick Fen is a 154 acre wetland complex situated along Kinnikinnick Creek featuring over a mile of walking paths that include three observation decks. Classified as a fen due to its mineral rich and alkaline spring fed water, Kinnikinnick Fen offers habitat for the Ohio Threatened spotted turtle and non-venomous Kirtland's snake. Additionally, several threatened plant species can be found here due to the fen's unusual water chemistry. Jewelweed, also known as Touch-me-not, grows in abundance along with the bright orange and yellow parasitic Love Vine, also known as Dodder or Devil's Gut. This leafless plant grows on other plants within the fen, and takes its sustaining nutrients from them. Plans are underway to extend the walking paths into the wetland areas via boardwalks. rosscountyparkdistrict.com



Metahqua Nature Preserve

3663 Walnut Creek Rd, Chillicothe, OH 45601
234 Acres 2.4 mi total trails

This 234 acre nature preserve was named Metahqua, the Shawnee word for tree, by the land's donor Becky Kitchen. This historically agricultural property now consists of forest and tall-grass flood plain. Today visitors can walk the 1.0 mile of field and wetland paths near the parking area. A wetland along Little Walnut Creek has been constructed, including tree plantings of sycamore, elm, and birch, to facilitate the land returning to its pre-agricultural state. The preserve's woodland lies on the northwest side of Walnut Creek Road. Running along the woodland's steeply cut ravines and gullies, a mix of upland hardwood, fragrant pines, and of course, paw paws. "Becky's Pond" is circled by the northern end of the trail and includes a picturesque sitting area. rosscountyparkdistrict.com



Millennium Grove

129 N. Plaza Blvd, Chillicothe, Ohio
millenniumgrove.org

The Millennium Grove is a stand of over 100 trees with historical ancestry located in Chillicothe, Ohio. Every tree is a direct descendant of a tree that is, in some way, related to an event, place or person. Learn about the History of Ohio's Millennium Grove.



Paint Creek Lake State Park

280 Taylor Road, Bainbridge, Ohio
937-393-4284 / 5,652 Acres 14 mi of hiking trails, 25 mi bridle trails, 12 mi biking trails

Located amid the breathtaking scenery of the Paint Creek Valley in southwest Ohio, the 5,652-acre Paint Creek State Park features a 1,148-acre lake with fine fishing, boating and swimming opportunities. A modern campground and meandering trails invite outdoor enthusiasts to explore and enjoy the rolling hills and streams of this scenic area. parks.ohiodnr.gov



Paint Creek Recreational Trail

Entrance in Chillicothe, Ohio

The Paint Creek Recreational Trail is the flagship pathway of a planned trail network in the Ohio counties of Fayette, Ross and Highland. Nearly 35 miles of paved trail are currently open linking the communities of Washington Court House, Frankfort and Chillicothe.

Part of the 33 mile Paint Creek Recreational Trail the 5 mile out and back floodwall section of the Paint Creek Recreational Trail along the banks of the Scioto River and the City of Chillicothe, overlook the beauty of the area with the Great Seal of Ohio in the background. One can easily bike or walk through historic downtown Chillicothe and Yoctangee Park by taking this popular path.

Because most of the trail passes through rural Ohio countryside dominated by seemingly endless farmland. The path occasionally winds through a more wooded corridor adjacent to local waterways, such as Paint Creek and the Scioto River.

The Paint Creek Recreational Trail also passes through the downtown areas of the three towns along the way, offering ample opportunities for rest and replenishment. Just before Chillicothe, trail users will want to stop in at Hopewell Culture National Historical Park. The Hopewell Mound Group, a portion of the park visible from the trail along Sulphur Lick Road, features earthworks and burial mounds built by local indigenous peoples nearly 2,000 years ago.

Just west of Chillicothe, parking can be found at the Hopewell Mound Group portion of Hopewell Culture National Historical Park near the intersection of Sulphur Lick Road and Maple Grove Road. In Chillicothe, park at the northern end of Tiffin Avenue; a trail head on SR 104 south of US 35; or a lot on Poplar Street near the Scioto River





Pike Lake State Park and Forest

1847 Pike Lake Road, Bainbridge, Ohio
 740-493-2212 / **13,531 Acres 43 mi hiking trails, 33 mi bridle trails, 20 mi ATV trails**

Pike Lake region is located in an unglaciated portion of the Appalachian plateau. As the Appalachian Mountains were uplifted, this plateau was created west of the new mountain range. The plateau marks the boundary between the hilly eastern section of Ohio and the flatter western portions. Just thirty miles west of Pike Lake, the terrain changes dramatically from forested hills to rolling farmland. parks.ohiodnr.gov



Scioto Trail State Park and Forest

144 Lake Road, Chillicothe, Ohio
 740-887-4818 / **9,000 Acres 25 mi hiking trails, 26 mi bridle trails**

Nestled within the beautiful 9,000-acre Scioto Trail State Forest in Ross County, Scioto Trail State Park's 218-acres are a wooded refuge just south of Chillicothe. The ridge tops and winding forest roads offer breathtaking vistas of southern Ohio's Scioto River Valley. The beauty and remoteness of Scioto Trail offers the best of escapes to park visitors. Camping, fishing and paddling are just a few of the adventures awaiting outdoor enthusiasts. parks.ohiodnr.gov



Seip Earthworks

Bainbridge, Ohio
120 Acres 1.6 total mi of trails

A reconstructed mound and a portion of reconstructed wall are visible, and a portion of original wall is visible near Dill Road. Parking is only accessible at the front of the site, off of U.S.... Route 50. There are no longer any restroom facilities at this site. The covered picnic shelter is closed until further notice due to rehabilitation efforts. Please stay out of the shelter house for your safety. Interpretive signs are placed throughout the earthwork site, along the trails. The site is open every day during daylight hours. See map below for layout of trail and parking lot access. nps.gov



Tar Hollow State Park and Forest

16396 Tar Hollow Road, Laurellville, Ohio
 740-887-4818 / **16,354 Acres 22 mi hiking trails, 33 mi bridle**

Surrounded by the rugged foothills of the Appalachian Plateau, Tar Hollow State Park and surrounding state forest are characteristic of the wilderness that blanketed Ohio in the days of early settlers. It is a stronghold for many exciting species of wildlife. Numerous reptiles and amphibians, colorful game birds, songbirds and secretive mammals can be found here. The timber rattlesnake, dwindling in Ohio due to deforestation, holds on in Tar Hollow's forest. The five-lined skink, distinguished by its brilliant blue tail, is found in the area along with the elusive fence lizard. Painted turtles can be seen along the shores of Pine Lake while the lumbering box turtle inhabits the dry land. Salamanders such as the red-backed, dusky, long-tailed and northern two-lined thrive on the cool, moist forest floor. In spring, the wooded hollows echo with the gobbling of wild turkey and the drumming of the ruffed grouse. Rare sightings of bobcat have been reported in this unique, wild region. parks.ohiodnr.gov



Yoctangee Park **Not a trail, but worth the visit**

Historic Downtown Chillicothe, Ohio

Yoctangee Park is 48 acres located downtown adjacent to the Historic First Capital District. This is a community park for both active and passive enjoyment. Amenities include: softball and baseball fields, tennis courts, basketball courts, shelter houses, restroom facilities, picnic areas, and one of the best handicap accessible playgrounds in Southern Ohio.

Yoctangee Park is also home to a 18 hole Disc Golf Course. stop by this beautiful park on your next visit to Chillicothe. visitchillicotheohio.com



Buzzards Roost - The Earl H. Barnhart Nature Preserve

5 Mi of Trails

Hoggard Trail	2.25 Mi
South Point Lookout Trail	2.0 Mi
Chilo Trail	0.4 Mi
Blueberry Trail	0.2 Mi
Pond Trail	0.15 Mi

Great Seal State Park

 **1,862 Acres**  **30 Miles**  **17 Miles**

Annie's Trail	0.7 Mi
Sugarloaf Mountain Trail	0.8 Mi
Bald Hill	1 Mi
Sand Hill	0.4 Mi
Grouse Rock	1.2 Mi
Rocky Knob	1.4 Mi
Mt. Ives Trail	1.6 Mi
Rock Garden	0.5 Mi
Lick Run	3.1 Mi
Bunker Hill	2.8 Mi
Shawnee Ridge	6.3 Mi

**Indicates loop trail*

The Highlands Nature Sanctuary

18.75 Mi of Trails

Etawah Woods Trail	1 Mi*
Valley of the Ancients Trail	0.5 Mi*
The Barrier Ridge Trail	3.5 Mi*
Barrett's Rim Trail	2.5 Mi*
Kamelands	2 Mi*
Crow Point	1 Mi*
Maude's Cedar Narrows	1.5 Mi*
Cedar Run	2.5 Mi*
Roundtop Loop	1.75 Mi*
Prothonotary Trail	0.5 Mi*
Ravenwood Listening Trail	0.5 Mi
Ridgeview Farm's Restoration Trail	1.5 Mi*

Junction Earthworks Archaeological Park & Nature Preserve

3.5 Mi of Trails

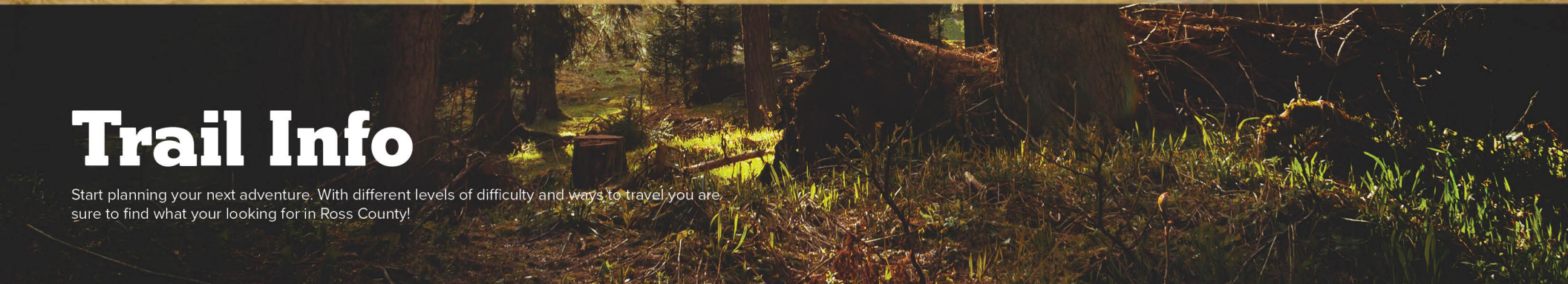
Earthworks Trail.....	0.5 Mi*
Star Book Trail	1.25 Mi
Tippecanoe Darter Trail	1.75 Mi

Kinnikinnick Fen Nature Preserve

Kinnikinnick Trail	1.9 Mi*
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Trail Info

Start planning your next adventure. With different levels of difficulty and ways to travel you are sure to find what your looking for in Ross County!





Metahqua Nature Preserve 2.4 Mi of Trails

Paw Paw Ridge Trail	1.4 Mi
Old Field Trails	0.6 Mi
Gobbler's Knob Trail	0.4 Mi

Millennium Grove

Millennium Grove Trail	1 Mi*
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Hopewell Mound Group 5.9 Mi of Trails

TOTAL TRAILS 5.9 MILES

Mound City Group Trail	1 Mi
Hopeton Earthworks Trail	1 Mi
Hopewell Mound City Group	2.3 Mi*
Seip Earthworks Trail	1.6 Mi

Paint Creek Lake State Park

5,652 Acres 14 Miles 25 Miles 12 Miles

Camp Trail	0.5 Mi
Harmony Trail	0.5 Mi
Little Pond Trail	1 Mi
North Loop Bridal Trail	10 Mi
North Loop Trail	6 Mi
South Loop Bridle Trail	10 Mi
South Loop Trail	6 Mi

Paint Creek Recreational Trail

Paint Creek Recreational Trail	33 Mi
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Pike Lake State Park and Forest

13,351 Acres 43 Miles 33 Miles 20 Miles

Lake Rim Trail	0.4 Mi
Mitchell Ridge Trail	1.2 Mi
Wildcat Hollow Nature Trail	1.2 Mi
Greenbrier Nature Trail	0.5 Mi
CCC Nature Trail	0.5 Mi

Scioto Trail State Park and Forest

9,000 Acres 25 Miles 26 Miles

DeBroad Vista Trail to Caldwell/ to the	
Fire Tower Trail	2.5 Mi
Church Hollow Trail	2 Mi
3-C Trail	1 Mi
Friendship Trail	0.4 Mi
Stewart Lake Trail	0.8 Mi

Tar Hollow State Park and Forest

16,354 Acres 27 Miles 33 Miles

Homestead Trail	2.5 Mi
Ross Hollow Hiking Trail	3.5 Mi*
Logan Backpack Trail	21 Mi

*Indicates loop trail

Know Your Limits

Ross County offers a wide range of hiking trails to accommodate different hiking skills and capabilities. You won't miss out on the spectacular views, wildlife sightings, and connection with nature by choosing an easier trail for your adventure. Don't overestimate your abilities. Take the time to ask yourself before you go:

- What is my experience level with hiking? Do I go hiking often or is this my first time hitting the trails?
- How much equipment, food, and water (weight) can I comfortably carry in a backpack? How long can I carry a backpack with all the essentials?
- Am I physically fit for the hike I would like to do? Have I practiced hiking up and down steep hills or am I more comfortable on flat, paved paths?
- Have I ever hiked in this type of environment before? Environmental conditions such as temperature and humidity take time to get used to, especially if you live in a different environment from the park you are visiting.
- Am I able to go to higher elevations? More effort is required to hike at higher elevations due to the reduced amount of oxygen available in the air. Remember that at 8,000 feet you are at risk of altitude illness, a potentially life-threatening condition. If you don't know, ask your healthcare provider.
- Am I hiking alone or do I plan to bring a friend? It is safer to hike with a companion, but if you prefer go solo, take extra measures to ensure that you are prepared since you will be traveling alone.

Plan Your Hike

Your safety is your responsibility while hiking in national parks. Planning is an important step in being prepared and ready for your adventure. If you are going to the backcountry, know how to be self sufficient in case you encounter an unexpected hazard or an emergency occurs. If you have never planned a trip or a hike to a national park, read the NPS Trip Planning Guide and then come back to this article to help you prepare for your hike.

- Pick the right trail for you and your group. Recognize your abilities and the abilities of your group. Pick a trail that everyone can successfully complete and enjoy safely. Check the park's website or ask a ranger for details on the difficulty level of trails. Rangers can also provide trail recommendations. If you have any medical conditions, consider discussing your plans with your healthcare provider.
- Leave a Trip Plan. Complete a trip plan that details where you will be walking or hiking, your contact information, when you plan to arrive and return, and who is coming with you. Leave this information with a trusted friend or family member that is not going on the trip with you. The details in this document can be very helpful to search and rescue teams in the case of an emergency.

- Have an Emergency Plan. Develop an emergency plan for what to do if you or your hiking companions becomes lost or injured. Consider learning CPR and basic wilderness first aid, especially if your planning to hike in the backcountry.
- Your cell phone is not a light source, not a map, not a survival kit and will not always have reception
- Don't rely on your cellphone while recreating in a national park.
- Have a way to communicate. Do not rely on your cell phone because there may not be cellular coverage and reception in your park. Consider having a personal locator beacon, should you need to call for help. If you are using your cell phone, keep the battery fully charged. Searching for a cell signal can quickly drain your phone battery, so consider turning off your phone or switching to airplane mode until you need it.
- Be weather-ready. Check the weather before you head out on your hike. If conditions in the park are not ideal, don't take the chance! Be prepared to seek shelter if you encounter severe weather, know what to do in case of lightning or flash flooding. Have your rain equipment packed and ready.
- Have a Plan B ready, just in case! If weather or other conditions are not ideal for hiking, have a Plan B ready. There are plenty of other ways to explore the park. Check out the park website to see what other activities are available for you, your family and friends!
- Check for park alerts. Find out about trail closures, wild land fire risks, or other hazards that are in the area.
- Acclimate to the new altitude. If you plan to hike in higher altitudes than you are used to, take extra time to get used to the new heights. Make sure to get good sleep, drink lots of water, and do not overexert yourself.

Hike Smart

- Ask a Ranger. Stop by the visitor center or ask a ranger about conditions in the park before you head out on your hike. There may be park closures or alerts that are in effect.
- Let the slowest hiker set the pace. Always stay together. Put the slowest hiker near the front to keep your group together. While it may take a bit longer to reach your ultimate destination, staying together helps reduce the chance of someone getting lost and if someone gets injured you are there to help.
- Keep Track of Your Time and Distance. Remember that your total hike time includes the time it took you to hike to your destination and back to your starting point. If any of your hike, in either direction, is uphill, plan for it to take at least double the time it took you to go downhill. Be aware of the time you set out and turn around so you don't get stuck outside in the dark. Set a turn around time if your trip is taking longer than planned and make sure you stick to it. Be prepared with the 10 essentials in case your adventure runs late.
- Yield to uphill hikers. Be courteous and cautious of others out on the trails. If you are downhill, carefully step to the side to let others pass.
- Take breaks often. Know your limits and pay attention to how you are feeling when on the trail. A good rule of thumb is that if you can talk while you are walking, you are traveling at the perfect speed.

Safety Tips

Be smart, be safe, know your limits



ORIGINS

Ancestors of today's American Indians created, in southern and central Ohio, the largest concentration of geometric and monumental earthen architecture in the world. The cultural traditions and achievements of these indigenous people are today called "Hopewell" the name given by archaeologists to this flowering of achievement in the Ohio valley between 2000 and 1600 years ago.

The builders of the earthworks lived in tiny, dispersed settlements; their way of life was based on hunting and foraging, but also domesticated many plant varieties. Over just a few generations, they gathered, organized, and worked together to plan and build monumental public works on an astonishing scale, with precise geometric shapes and astronomical alignments. Using precious materials brought from distant places, they created ceremonial artifacts of exquisite beauty and deposited them in the mounds. Their achievements made them a dominant cultural influence across much of North America.

THE HOPEWELL CEREMONIAL EARTHWORKS

Eight earthwork complexes in Ohio are being nominated to the prestigious UNESCO World Heritage List, as they give especially eloquent testimony to the brilliance of these ancient people. The enormous scale and complexity of the earthworks is evident in precise geometric enclosures (squares, circles, and octagons) as well as hilltops sculpted to enclose vast, level plazas. All are executed with precise forms, techniques, and dimensions, consistently deployed

across a geographic region extending for hundreds of miles. Many include alignments not only with the sun's annual cycle, but also with the far more complex risings and settings of the moon. The ceremonial importance of these places is also evident in the insignias of monumental timber structures at these sites, and in the elaborate ritual objects that were left with in them.

HOPEWELL IN CONTEXT

The influence of these Hopewell cultural traditions was evident across much of North America from about AD 1 to 400. Compared with the preceding and overlapping Adena traditions, the range of influence and the scale of the architecture became far greater. Though gradually reclaimed by forests after AD 400, the earthwork sites continued to be revered by American Indians. In the nineteenth century, these sites became the focus of the new discipline of American scientific archaeology, even as the Indian populations of Ohio were being forcibly removed, and their cultures repressed. Today, stories and values held by American Indian communities are helping us appreciate their ancestors' creations more deeply.



UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE

In 1972, inspired by the US's National Park system, the United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) established the World Heritage Program to recognize cultural and natural treasures around the world that have "outstanding universal value" for all of humanity. Over 190 countries participate, and more than 1,000 sites have been inscribed on the World Heritage List. These include 23 so far in the United States. We intend for our Hopewell Ceremonial Earthworks to join them soon.

OHIO AND WORLD HERITAGE

In 2008, three properties in Ohio were placed on the US Tentative List for future consideration: the Hopewell Ceremonial Earthworks (featured here), Serpent Mound and the sites of Dayton Aviation. World Heritage Ohio is the committee of owners, managers, interpreters, and other stakeholders currently preparing the Hopewell nomination for submission in the next few years. UNESCO World Heritage inscription brings worldwide recognition, deeper appreciation, and enhanced conservation plus increased tourism. The Hopewell Ceremonial Earthworks inscription will have a positive economic and cultural impact in many central and southern Ohio counties, not only where these sites are located but also along the scenic and historic routes connecting them.

For information and updates on the path to UNESCO World Heritage inscription, or to get involved as a friend of the process, visit: worldheritageohio.org.



World Heritage Ohio

