



Ohio History Connection - Year 1910 - Serpent Mound (38)

The Buckeye Trail Story . . .

On November 2, 1958, Merrill Gilfillan wrote an article for the Columbus Dispatch proposing a Buckeye Trail from Cincinnati to Lake Erie. One of his hopes was that a Buckeye Trail would serve as an encouragement to young people to slow down and learn about the land they live in. Spurred on by the article, several people, including Merrill, met in Columbus in February, 1959 to discuss building such a trail. In June they formed a non-profit organization – The Buckeye Trail Association.

The first 20 miles of the BT were dedicated on September 19, 1959 in Hocking County and marked with 2 inch by 6 inch painted blue blazes. Founding members and early leaders were among the 34 people making that dedication hike, including the BTA's most famous Grandma, Emma Gatewood. From that beginning, the trail grew to become a 1,400+ mile loop trail around Ohio, the longest loop hiking trail in the country. It was completed near Deer Lick Cave in the Brecksville Reservation / Cuyahoga Valley National Recreation Area in 1980.

The BT hosts 900 miles of the 4,600 mile North Country National Scenic Trail

and 300 miles of the 6,800 mile American Discovery Trail along their routes through Ohio. In 1967, the BT was designated as Ohio's State Trail, and in 2000, it was designated as Ohio's Millennium Legacy Trail.

Today, the BTA is a large, strong body of volunteers who maintain and promote the BT. Though the entire route is marked, the BT continues to change and improve. The BTA looks for ways to move segments off of roads, and upgrade off-road segments to high quality hiking trail.

Volunteers build the BT as Buckeye Trail Crew Members, maintain the trail as Trail Adopters, protect it by creating a permanently preserved corridor and promote the trail by organizing public hikes and events around the state throughout the year. BTA volunteers and members are represented by a volunteer Board of Trustees that work closely with a small BTA staff. The amazing successes of the BTA in developing the BT for over 60 years are attributed to the hard work of generations of hundreds of volunteers who devote thousands of hours so that millions of hikers can enjoy the BT each year.



Matthew Patterson - Eden Park, Southern Terminus of the Buckeye Trail (43)



Ash Cave - Hocking Hills State Park (31)

BTA MISSION:

The Buckeye Trail Association is the leader in building, maintaining, protecting and promoting use of Ohio's longest scenic hiking trail for our citizens, communities and partners. We provide outdoor recreation, opportunities to volunteer, education, access to the varied resources of Ohio and local economic benefits.

BTA VISION:

The Buckeye Trail, Ohio's State Scenic Trail, is a sustainable hiking trail that provides a safe and unique experience throughout the state reflecting the diverse resources, people and stories of Ohio. The trail is a dedicated, recognized and protected route developed and maintained by the Buckeye Trail Association, an organization reflective of the diversity of the trail. The Buckeye Trail Association works in close partnership with communities, organizations and agencies around Ohio creating a legacy for present and future generations.



WNF- Athens Unit (26)

Facts about the BT

- 2x6 inch painted blue blazes mark the Buckeye Trail
- The Buckeye Trail is divided into 26 sections
- BTA's 7 Chapters help achieve the mission of the BTA locally by gathering and organizing local members, volunteers and partners.
- The BT traverses 47 of Ohio's counties, 18 State Parks, 6 State Forests, 11 Wildlife Areas, 4 State Nature Preserves, Cuyahoga Valley National Park, Wayne National Forest, many county metroparks, The Nature Conservancy's 20,000 acre Edge of Appalachia Preserve and many private lands.
- The BT is nearing 60% off road trail and incorporates many quiet, scenic Ohio backroads.

The Buckeye Trail Shop, found at buckeyetrail.org and in Yellow Springs, Ohio offers important resources for hiking the Buckeye Trail including Buckeye Trail Section Maps with detailed trail logs, BT Databook, Follow the Blue Blazes Guidebook and other Buckeye Trail gear.

Additionally, the official Buckeye Trail App is available from Guthook - Atlas Guides, and downloadable Avenza Maps and selected Hiker on the Go! Maps are also available.

Follow us on social media!

Links can be found on buckeyetrail.org



Central Ohio Chapter



Matthew Patterson - Wayne National Forest - Marietta Unit (24)

The Central Ohio Chapter area (Delaware, Fairfield, Franklin, Licking, Madison, Pickaway, and Union Counties) is unique in that it does not contain a portion of the BT but highlights portions of the BT for outdoor adventures and volunteer opportunities. The Chapter serves as a 'catch-all' as well as serving the BT's Central Ohio audience. The Chapter addresses unmet trail needs around the state, Central Ohio and statewide partner relationships, and works in cooperation with other BTA Chapters.

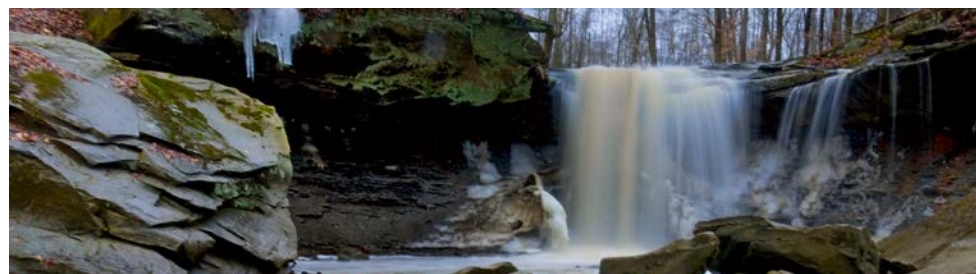
The Central Ohio Chapter is a very diverse group of day hikers, section hikers, Trail Adopters, backpackers and nature lovers. The trail can mean many things to many people and the Central Ohio Chapter is a melting pot of the BTA. While the BT does not run through Central Ohio many sections can be reached within an hour or so. However, the best part of being part of the Central Ohio Chapter is the people you meet both in our Chapter and from other Chapters at BTA events, maintaining the BT, hiking, and events like Buckeye TrailFest.



Buckeye Trail Hiking Destinations

Numbers refer to points on map side.

Cuyahoga Valley National Park (1)



MBJ Photography/Maribeth Joeright

There are over 35 miles of the BT running through Cuyahoga Valley National Park which includes the Bedford and Brecksville Reservations. Except for short segments on road including the Village of Peninsula, the BT is mostly wooded dirt trail or crushed limestone towpath. The Ohio & Erie Canal Towpath Trail, the Valley Bridle Trail, and other trails throughout the Park are often used by hikers to form loops along with the BT. You can even take advantage of the "Hike Aboard!" service offered by the Cuyahoga Valley Scenic Railroad. The Park is free and open to the public 24 hours a day so you can enjoy a night hike through the Valley, and Cleveland Metroparks offers reservable backpack campsites at Ottawa Point for free.

The Crooked River Chapter consists of the Akron, Bedford, Burton, and Mogadore Sections, and 20 miles of the Massillon Section. These sections form the "Little Loop" of the BT, a 256 mile long loop trail that traverses a variety of parks, trails and habitats. The trail consists of the Cleveland Metroparks, ODNr properties, all-purpose trails like Maple Highlands Trail, Geauga Park District, Summit Metroparks, and historical trails that pass several locks and canal era foundations including St. Helena Heritage Park in Canal Fulton featuring rides on an active canal boat. The Crooked River Chapter is known for its waterfalls, such as Blue Hen Falls and Cuyahoga Valley National Park, where one can take advantage of the backpacking campsites.



Tappan Lake (17)



Brandon Bates

Tappan Lake is one of the 14 lakes of the Muskingum Watershed Conservancy District and well-loved for its beaches and marina. Boaters have 2,350 acres available to traverse. The Lake offers beautiful views, such as a sunset at Wye Bay in the image above, visible from the Buckeye Trail. Located along the shore of Tappan Lake is the BTA's Beall Farmstead near the historic Village of Deersville, a designated Buckeye Trail Town. A one mile highlighted hiking opportunity exists beginning at Tappan Lake Dam near State Route 250 that curves from the lakeshore into the forested hills. The BT crosses the North finger of Wye Bay with scenic views and ends on Tappan Hills Road under a peaceful white pine forest.

The Muskingum Lakes Chapter is for those who live near the BT Massillon, Bowerton and Belle Valley Sections. We support the BT through hiking, backpacking, community, and volunteer events. Our efforts to promote use of the BT in our footprint include scheduled events such as group hikes, scavenger hunts and geocaching, kayaking and canoeing, trail construction work parties and campouts along with offering a shuttle service for hikers that travel from other areas. Our Chapter works from Hartsville to the Ohio & Erie Canal Towpath Trail by Zoar Village to the forested hills surrounding Clendenning, Tappan, Leesville, Piedmont, and Seneca Lakes of the Muskingum Watershed Conservancy District, as well as Salt Fork and Wolf Run State Parks and the recently designated Appalachian Hills Wildlife Area.



Wayne National Forest - Athens Unit(26)



Richard Lutz

After the completion of nearby Burr Oak Lake, the townspeople of Shawnee constructed their own lake in 1954. Tecumseh Lake is a great resource for fishing, kayaking, canoeing and birding. There's a loop trail around the Lake for a gentle walk as well as the 2-mile primitive Woodthrush Loop trail that guides hikers up into a mature hardwood forest with a diversity of forest habitats, and wildflowers. The Village of Shawnee, location of the BTA Office is just five minutes away.

The Little Cities of the Forest Chapter is named for the Villages that sprung up during the Hocking Valley Coal boom of the late 1800's which are now surrounded by the regenerating canopy of the Wayne National Forest. The Little Cities of the Forest Chapter is known widely for Ash Cave, Cedar Falls and Old Man's Cave at Hocking Hills State Park but has many other jewels as well. This region includes the BT Stockport, New Straitsville, and Old Man's Cave Sections leading hikers through the Appalachian Hills, Wolf Creek, and Wallace O'Dowd Wildlife Areas across the Muskingum River at Stockport, the BTA's Imhoff and Pretty Run Preserves, Burr Oak, Lake Logan, and Hocking Hills State Parks, Boch Hollow, Scheik, and Little Rocky Hollow State Nature Preserves, Hocking and Tar Hollow State Forests, and the Athens Unit of the Wayne NF.



East Fork State Park (42)



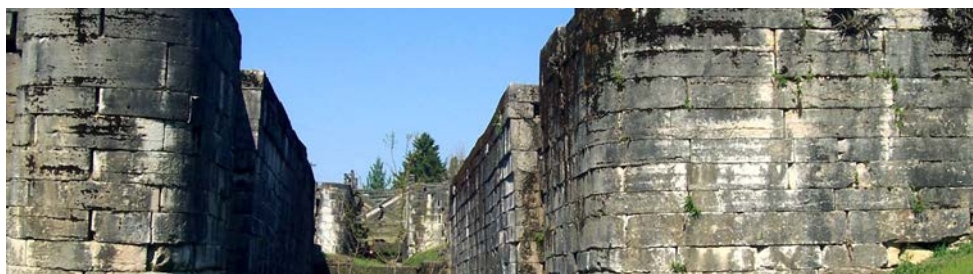
Matthew Patterson

One of Ohio's largest state parks at nearly 5,000 acres, East Fork is named for the East Fork of the Little Miami River. The park offers one of the longest backpacking loop trails with the BT on the southern side of William H. Harsha Lake, forested hills, and winding rock bottom streams. Park at the trailhead on North Campbell Road North of Bethel, Ohio. Hike east down the hill to the intersection of the BT. Turn left (north) and follow the blue blazes along the Backpacker Trail, which overlooks the lake with beautiful views. Hike as far as you like and turn around and return to your car to enjoy the views from the opposite direction.

The Miami Rivers Chapter is for those who live near or along the BT Williamsburg, Loveland, Caesar Creek, and Troy sections. We support the BT through hiking, backpacking, and volunteer events. The Chapter's area includes large portions of the Great and Little Miami River watersheds rich in cultural and natural history and opportunities for a variety of trail experiences. As in other areas of Ohio the BT serves as a unifying thread between the historic Miami & Erie Canal, downtown Dayton, Yellow Springs, Glen Helen, the Little Miami National Scenic River and State Park, Xenia, Caesar Creek State Park, Fort Ancient Earthworks, Milford, the Ohio River's Queen City, Cincinnati, Batavia and East Fork State Park and more.



Lockington Locks (50)



Dale Wical

The Lockington Locks are a group of canal locks on the former Miami and Erie Canal. The locks are at the southern end of the Loramie Summit, which stretches 21 miles from Lockington North to New Bremen. The Loramie Summit is the highest point between Cincinnati and Toledo on the canal. In 1969, the Lockington Locks were listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The locks qualified for inclusion on the Register as an important engineering accomplishment. The restoration of Lock 1 South occurred in 2014.

Along the Miami & Erie Canal Chapter you will encounter a lot of historical locations. You will walk the original towpath past many of the original locks of the Miami & Erie Canal. You will pass through Deep Cut Park, a National Register Historic Site, which is a 6,600 foot long, 50 foot deep cut made entirely by hand. Further along you will pass through towns where Native Americans had their villages and reservations. You will walk the path that General Wayne and his troops used in 1794. You will walk the route used during the War of 1812 between forts. And you can take a ride on a canal boat through a working lock at Providence Metropark near the Maumee River.



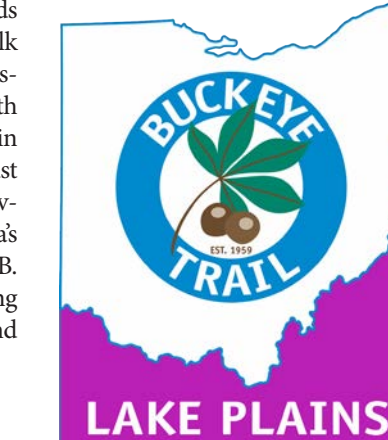
Richfield Heritage Preserve (65)



Andrew Bashaw

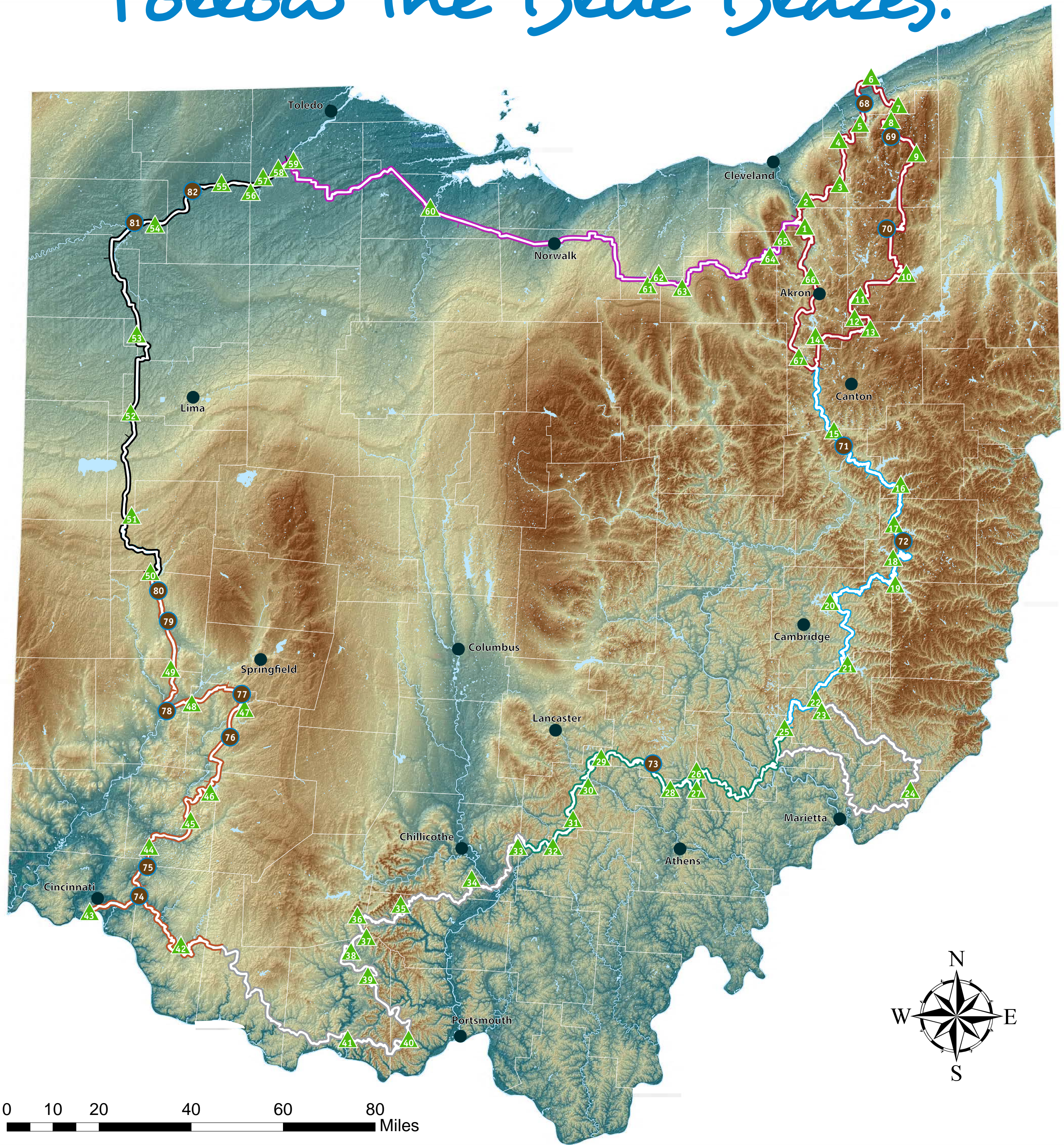
The Richfield Heritage Preserve (RHP) provides guests with an array of amenities, including fishing, self-guided orienteering, horse barn and trail riding, hiking, and BTA camping (permit required). From dawn till dusk, the 336-acre preserve, which the BTA was instrumental in saving for all to enjoy, is open year-round to the public. The RHP is rich in history and culture. Before the Richfield Joint Recreation District acquisition, the property's former occupants included three families, one of which was famed vacuum inventor James Kirby. And the BT passes by the picturesque Kirby Mill and dam, which is on the National Register of Historic Landmarks.

The Medina Section of the BT is one of three sections that comprise the Lake Plains Chapter. Flatland and back roads make for easy hiking along the Pemberville and Norwalk Sections. Wide open fields, old barns, and rustic farmhouses embody the midwestern spirit. The BT joins the North Coast Inland Trail (NCIT), a multipurpose paved trail, in Elmore (Pemberville Section), and continues until to just east of Wakeman (Norwalk sSection). There are also several historical sites of interest along the way like America's first presidential library, which is part of the Rutherford B. Hayes Presidential Center in Fremont, and the towering 273' double-arch Chapin Bridge that was built in 1872 and spans the Vermillion River in Wakeman.





Follow the Blue Blazes!



Buckeye Trail Highlights

- | | | |
|--|--|--|
| 1 Cuyahoga Valley National Park | 18 Clendening Lake | 35 Pike State Park & State Forest |
| 2 Bedford Reservation | 19 Piedmont Lake | 36 Fort Hill Earthworks & Nature Preserve |
| 3 South Chagrin Reservation | 20 Salt Fork State Park | 37 Strait Creek Prairie Bluffs Nature Preserve |
| 4 North Chagrin Reservation | 21 Seneca Lake | 38 Serpent Mound |
| 5 Penitentiary Glen Reservation | 22 Wolf Run State Park | 39 Davis Memorial Nature Preserve |
| 6 Headlands Beach State Park & Headlands Dunes State Nature Preserve | 23 Caldwell Lake | 40 Shawnee State Park & State Forest |
| 7 Girdled Road Reservation | 24 Wayne National Forest - Marietta Unit | 41 Edge of Appalachia Nature Preserve |
| 8 Big Creek Park | 25 Appalachian Hills Wildlife Area | 42 East Fork State Park |
| 9 Headwaters Park | 26 Wayne National Forest - Athens Unit | 43 Eden Park |
| 10 West Branch State Park | 27 Burr Oak State Park | 44 Little Miami State Park |
| 11 Mogadore Reservoir | 28 Wallace O'Dowd Wildlife Area | 45 Fort Ancient Earthworks & Nature Preserve |
| 12 Wingfoot Lake State Park | 29 Boch Hollow State Nature Preserve | 46 Caesar Creek State Park |
| 13 Quail Hollow State Park | 30 Lake Logan State Park | 47 Glen Helen Nature Preserve |
| 14 Nimsilla Reservoir | 31 Hocking Hills State Park & Hocking State Forest | 48 Eastwood MetroPark |
| 15 Fort Laurens | 32 Buckeye Trail Pretty Run Preserve | 49 Taylorsville MetroPark |
| 16 Leesville Lake | 33 Tar Hollow State Park & State Forest | 50 Johnston Farm & Indian Agency Lockington Locks - Lockington Reserve |
| 17 Tappan Lake | 34 Scioto Trail State Park & State Forest | 51 Lake Loramie State Park |

Buckeye Trail Towns

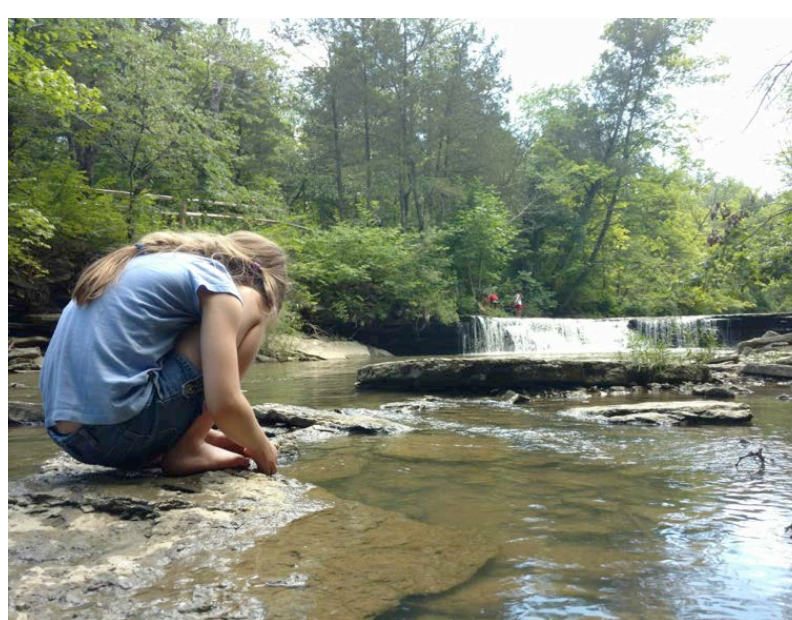
- 68 Mentor
- 69 Chardon
- 70 Mantua
- 71 Zoar
- 72 Deersville
- 73 Shawnee
- 74 Milford
- 75 Loveland
- 76 Xenia
- 77 Yellow Springs
- 78 Dayton
- 79 Troy
- 80 Piqua
- 81 Defiance
- 82 Napoleon



Our Buckeye Trail Towns provide destinations around which you can plan your outdoor adventures on the BT and beyond. Head here for a weekend or more and set up your base camp at a local campground, or enjoy the comfort of local hotels or bed and breakfasts. Hometown restaurants, shops, and other in-town amenities will complement your outdoor forays on the Buckeye Trail and other hiking trails, along creeks and rivers in your kayak, or out on mountain bike trails on your bike.

Designated Buckeye Trail Towns have embraced the BT as a part of their community and work with the BTA to improve the BT experience for community members and visiting BT enthusiasts to enjoy. Get to know the backroads and byways and genuine friendliness of small town Ohio as you base your next outdoor expedition from a Buckeye Trail Town community!

From the sandy beach of Lake Erie at Headlands Dunes State Nature Preserve through the forested Allegheny Plateau of the Wayne National Forest and Hocking Hills to the vista of the Ohio River Valley at Eden Park in Cincinnati and along the Little Miami River and historic Miami & Erie Canal back to Cuyahoga Valley National Park, the BT traverses over 1,400 miles around the Buckeye State. Day hikers and thru-hikers alike are led by blue blazes along wooded footpaths, historic railroad corridors, canal towpaths, rivers and lake shores, back country roads, and multi-purpose trails, threading together both rural and urban communities.



Recreate Responsibly

- 1. Know Before You Go:** Research your destination for local closures.
- 2. Practice Physical Distancing:** Cover your nose and mouth, opt to eat and rest outside, if you feel sick stay home.
- 3. Plan Ahead:** Check local conditions and prepare for the elements.
- 4. Play It Safe:** Slow down and choose lower risk activities to reduce your risk of injuries.
- 5. Explore Locally:** If you travel be mindful of your impact on local communities.
- 6. Leave No Trace:** Pack out any human or pet waste, be respectful of the land.
- 7. Build an Inclusive Outdoors:** Help make the outdoors safe, accessible and welcoming for all identities and abilities.

More information at recreateresponsibly.org



HIKE THE BT | JOIN THE BTA | VOLUNTEER TODAY!
info@buckeyetrail.org | (740) 394-2008



This Map Brochure has been funded by the Campbell Soup Foundation.