

KnoXWays

"Your Pathway to Fun!"

Knox County, Ohio



KnoxWays is your pathway to fun. No matter what you look for in recreational activities Knox County has it for you. Are you the active type who enjoys hiking or biking? Maybe you enjoy running or jogging; simply walking or running a marathon. How about boating and canoeing? Do you enjoy more leisurely activities like camping, picnics, bird-watching, or scenic drives? Maybe fishing is your cup of tea. Are you into athletic activities like swimming, volleyball, softball or golf? Is entertainment what you're looking for; things like concerts, festivals and Indian Pow Wows? All this and more is yours with KnoxWays — your pathway to fun.

If boating or fishing or fun in the water is your idea of a good time, visitors have not just a wide choice of activities but a tough one. KnoxWays waterways include the Kokosing River, designated both a scenic river and a scenic waterway and the Mohican River, which officially earned a Scenic River designation at the end of 2006. The Kokosing River, a nearly pristine river, winds its way through some of the most beautiful scenery in the state of Ohio. Canoe access is available at several points including public access at Riverside and Memorial parks in Mount Vernon; near the Brown Family Environmental Center on Laymon Road just off Ohio 229 outside Gambier; two new access points on Big Run and Pipesville roads and south of Howard near Ohio 36 and County Road 35. The Kokosing River has been designated the state's first Discover Ohio Waterway Trails River and will allow for improved access for canoes.

The Mohican River is in the process of being declared an Ohio Scenic River. A scenic river designation is a special declaration made by the director of ODNR to identify the highest quality rivers remaining in the state. The confluence of the Kokosing and Mohican Rivers forms the Walhonding River.

KnoxWays trails offer another attraction for the visitor looking for outdoor fun. Knox County offers not one but two hiking and biking trails with one in the works. The anchor to the county trails is the Kokosing Gap Trail, the largest all-volunteer maintained trails in the country. The Kokosing Gap Trail has endpoints in Mount Vernon and Danville and winds its way through 14 miles of woods and farmland. Stops in Gambier with its restored steam locomotive, railcar and caboose, water fountain, picnic table and restroom and Howard with a small playground, water fountain and restroom make the trip exceedingly enjoyable.

The Mohican Valley Trail has its endpoints in Danville and Brinkhaven. Bikers and hikers using the Kokosing Gap Trail will find the Danville end of the Mohican Valley Trail just a few short blocks away. For those who get as far as Brinkhaven, the beautiful and impressive Bridge of Dreams awaits them. This covered bridge is the second longest covered bridge in Ohio. The Heart of Ohio Trail in Centerburg is a trail in the making. Already a portion of the trail has been cleared and is in use. This 16-mile-long trail will connect in Mount Vernon with the Kokosing Gap Trail. The Heart of Ohio Trail will provide recreational and educational opportunities to local residents and visitors alike.

Seasonal attractions are also a part of the fun in Knox



County. Spring finds the numerous Dogwood trees in Knox County in full and stunning bloom. Several Dogwood tours are available and have been a crowd pleaser for many years. Drive-it-Yourself tour maps are available for two beautiful trails; the Mohican Trail, north of Danville and the Wakatomika Trail, south of Martinsburg. The tours take place every year during the second weekend of May.

At the other end of summer is the not to be missed fall foliage. The already stunning landscape of Knox County bursts into flaming fall colors. Drive-it-Yourself tour maps are available from the Knox County Convention & Visitor's Bureau for Knox County, Wakatomika, Mohican Valley and Mount Vernon.

Find out about all these and more KnoxWays attractions on the following pages or by visiting www.KnoxWays.org
KnoxWays is your pathway to fun.

KnoXWays

Wolf Run Park Knox County, Ohio



Wolf Run Park is one of the latest additions to a first-string line up of recreational facilities in Knox County. The Park came about because of the dedication of local conservation-minded individuals and organizations. Many elements went into founding the Park; Clean Ohio Funds needed a local match which was provided by the Knox County Commissioners who donated approximately 30 acres of Knox Woods, a research and woodland preservation area adjacent to the proposed Wolf Run Park. Kenyon College and its Philander Chase Foundation took approximately 167 acres of land off the market until funds could be found to purchase the tract for the Park. The donation by Mary Miller of 93 acres of farmland to the Mount Vernon Community Foundation was in turn donated to the Park district for the Wolf Run project.

The Park has several designated trails with more in the works. The topography is varied enough to delight hikers of all skill levels. It is approximately 288 acres of woodland, open space, wetlands, ponds and natural habitats. All of the nature trails have been laid out to minimize impact on both plants and wildlife.

Wolf Run Park is also a great place to go to relax or take in the beauty of the Kokosing River Valley. Bird watchers will also be delighted with the birds using the available

habitat, including the endangered Yellow-Bellied Sapsucker which uses the wooded habitat for foraging and shelter. Recently, telltale signs of Sapsucker activity were discovered on the Woodland Trail. Yellow-Bellied Sapsuckers drill orderly rows of very small holes in trees, returning later to dine on the bleeding sap and small insects attracted to the sap. Sapsuckers are attracted to wooded streams and wetlands, which Wolf Run Regional Park provides.

Wolf Run Park also offers access to the aforementioned Knox Woods, a wildlife preserve.



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Rails to Trails

Knox County, Ohio



The **Kokosing Gap Trail**, situated in the heart of Knox County, draws visitors from all over the state of Ohio and for good reason. This scenic Rails-to-Trails biking and hiking trail runs through some of the most beautiful countryside in the state. Running 14 miles with endpoints in Mount Vernon and Danville, this tree-lined trail winds through woods and farmland with stops at Gambier and Howard where amenities are available for the biker, hiker, jogger or skater. If you start in Mount Vernon there is a large parking area convenient to the Trail and a picnic shelter adjacent to the Trail.

The Gambier stop offers restroom facilities and a water fountain. It is only a short trip up into Gambier itself where the visitor can have a meal at one of four dining establishments. Or they can pick up snacks, drinks and other supplies at The Village Market or even buy a book or magazine at the Kenyon Bookstore. The Gambier stop offers a restored steam locomotive, railroad flat car and authentic B&O Railroad caboose for kids and parents to explore.

The next stop on the Trail, Howard, has one of the most recent, and perhaps most welcome, improvements on the Trail. Rotary Park was the gift of the Mount Vernon Rotary Club, which raised funds for a playground playset, restrooms, a water fountain and picnic tables. The club also planted new trees in the area to provide a restful and relaxing stop before the Trail's home stretch. Rotary Park is situated near the Howard underpass, one of the Trail's most impressive structures.

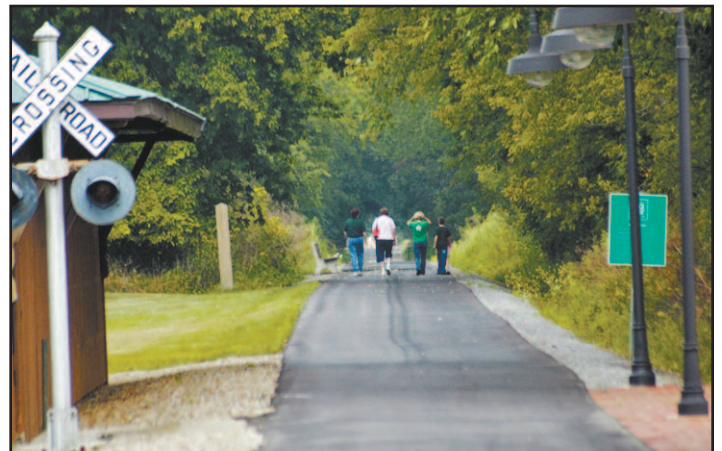
The final stop on the Trail (or the halfway point if your plans are to return to Mount Vernon) is Danville where small shops and eating establishments provide an interesting stopover. Danville is also where the Kokosing Gap Trail connects with the Mohican Valley Trail.

The **Mohican Valley Trail** serves as a connector between the Kokosing Gap Trail in Danville and The Holmes County Trail, near Brinkhaven. But it goes beyond being just a function. It has a raw and wild beauty that should appeal to the hardcore nature lover. And then there is the Bridge of Dreams, a 370-foot-long covered bridge built on an old railroad bridge. It crosses the Mohican River at the Brinkhaven endpoint and is the longest covered bridge in Ohio.

The Mohican Valley Trail is both gravel and earthen, having been originally planned as two side by side Trails. The earthen part was for horse/horse and buggy traffic and the gravel part for hikers, bikers and joggers. Over the years, however, the elements have conspired to blend and merge the two Trails into a more uniform configuration.

The Trail is quite rural in character and has minimal amenities. The Trailhead at Brinkhaven has a latrine and a hand water pump.

The grade of the Mohican Trail is much more variable than the relatively flat Kokosing Gap Trail. Most of the Trail has you either ascending or descending gradual, gentle pitches. The Trail does briefly drop down to one road crossing where the inclines on either side are considerably steeper. For those biking the Trail a mountain bike is highly recommended.



The **Heart of Ohio Trail**, a 16-mile trail from Centerburg to Mount Vernon, is progressing right along. Several sections of the trail are up and running and work continues on other sections at a steady pace. The best place to access the trail is from the Centerburg Memorial Park located at U.S. 36/Ohio 3 and Ohio 314.



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Hole in One

Knox County, Ohio

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For those who can't get enough of the sport of golf, the exciting courses found in Knox County will allow you to extend your passion no matter how far away from home.

Table Rock Golf Course in Centerburg is a favorite for those from Knox County as well as the Columbus area. This 18-hole, 72-par championship course has a unique layout and tees suitable for any level of accomplishment.

The daily special at **Hidden Holes Golf Club** keep the sport affordable as well as challenging on this interesting new nine-hole course. Truly living up to its name, Hidden Holes is located in rural northern Knox County and takes advantage of the rolling hills and beautiful landscapes.

For those with an unexpected urge to golf, **Tomahawk Golf Course** requires no tee times. This 33-par course is great for those who enjoy to walk and those who prefer to use a cart.

Located on the east side of Mount Vernon, **Hiawatha Golf Course** is perfect for those staying at a local hotel with a few hours with nothing to do. This 18-hole course is open from 7 a.m. to dark and is perfect for any skill level.

No matter which course you try, or if you try them all, you'll find the courses here in Knox County are just as competitive as courses anywhere in the country. The courses alone will bring you back to Knox County.

Area Golf Courses

Hiawatha Golf Course

901 Beech Street, Mount Vernon
(740) 393-2886

Hidden Holes Golf Club

10018 Gregg Road, Fredericktown
(740) 694-0631

Table Rock Golf Course

3005 Wilson Road, Centerburg
(740) 625-6589

Tomahawk Golf Course

10680 Quarry Chapel Road, Gambier
(740) 427-2081



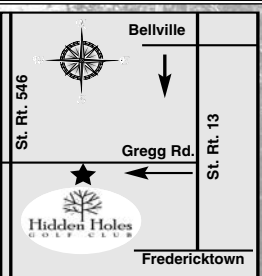


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Ramser Arboretum

Knox County, Ohio



The Ramser Arboretum, located in Jelloway, is a must-see for anyone interested in nature hikes or native Ohio hardwood trees. The Arboretum's 680 acres is home to more than 150,000 trees on terrain ranging from woods to pasture to wetlands. It was established in 1989 by Russ Ramser as an educational and outdoor recreational resource for individuals and groups interested in native Ohio hardwood trees and plant species.

The Ramser Arboretum has seven different hiking trails throughout the whole area, combining for about five miles of hiking. The Oak Trail is the entrance to the Arboretum. The other trails branch off at different points offering a variety of hiking experiences for the dedicated enthusiast. The Ramser Arboretum offers a number of recreational activities in addition to hiking. The Arboretum is a great place for those interested in bird watching and the terrain makes for some challenging cross country skiing in season. It should be noted the Arboretum is not all that handicapped-friendly. Trails and parking lots are grass covered and several of the trails include steep inclines and some moderately rough terrain.

Although the Arboretum does not conduct tours, it does make the facility available for outside groups to host certain events.



To get to the Arboretum, take State Route 3 from Mount Vernon north to Jelloway, about 15 miles. Turn right on State Route 205. The Arboretum is immediately to the left. Although there is no sign marking the Arboretum, the information kiosk is visible from the road.

For more information about the Arboretum, or to host an educational group hike, call (740) 599-5033. Requests and questions can also be sent to ramserarb@ecr.net.

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Area Parks

Knox County, Ohio



Small towns and parks go together and the towns and villages of Knox County prove the adage. Everything from small neighborhood parks to larger parks serving the community at large, every town and village in the county sports at least one.

Mount Vernon leads the list with six parks. The newest, **Foundation Park**, offers not just a well stocked fishing lake, but enough trees and grass for anyone wanting to get away from the sights and sounds of the city.

Mount Vernon's other major park is **Riverside Park** serving residents and visitors alike on the west side of the city. There is plenty to do at Riverside. The park features a gazebo and picnic shelter as well as a ball diamond and tennis and basketball courts. There is also a horseshoe pit and for the kids, playground equipment.

Like Riverside, **Hiawatha Park** offers a ball diamond, playground equipment and a picnic shelter. To this line up it also adds Hiawatha Aquatic Complex, the newest place to beat the summer time heat in Mount Vernon.

Memorial Park and **Phillips Park** host hundreds of baseball and softball games during the summer. Phillips is also the starting point for the Mount Vernon end of the Kokosing Gap Trail.

Lamb Park and **Dan Emmett Park** serve their respective neighborhoods by providing all the traditional park experiences for neighborhood children. Softball, swings, slides and sandboxes give kids plenty to do during the summer.

Fredericktown comes in next on the list of most parks. It hosts four under the direction of the Fredericktown Park District. **Levering Park**, **Merrin Park**, **Werner Park** and **Fredericktown Community Park**, featuring Sockman Lake, all provide Fredericktown residents a full line up of sports, games and recreation all year around.

Centerburg and Danville are both home to community parks that do double duty. The **Danville Memorial Park** also serves as the home base of the annual Danville-Howard Turkey Festival as well as home field for the Danville Blue Devils football team. **Centerburg Memorial Park** hosts the town's Oldtime Farming Festival each September, summertime baseball and softball games and the annual 4th of



July celebration.

Howard, Brandon, Brinkhaven and Gambier are also home to community parks which give residents a place to relax and unwind or maybe get in some much needed exercise.

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Wally Road Scenic Byway

Knox County, Ohio



When it opened in 1893, The Wallhonding Railroad line was considered one of the most scenic in the country. Nearly 118 years later the railroad is gone but the Wally Road area is still known for its scenic beauty.

Now the Wally Road Scenic Byway, which follows the Mohican River, takes the traveler along 10.41 scenic miles through Knox County as well as Holmes and Ashland counties. Along that stretch visitors to the area will find 1,886 campsites and 50 motel rooms to satisfy their accommodation needs in addition to restaurant facilities able to serve 250 travelers. In Knox County alone there are 506 campsites along the 4.2 miles of Wally Road.

Camping, hiking and fishing are all part of the Wally Road Scenic Byway, but there is much more. The area is also host to Kenhurst, depicting life in the late 1800s and early 1900s; The Mohican Bluegrass Festival, the Mohican Blues Fest and two annual Great Mohican Indian Pow Wows.

More information may be found from the web site www.wallyroad.com.

The Wally Road Scenic Byway is located off Ohio 3 outside of Loudonville or Ohio 514 outside Danville and Nashville. Both roads can be reached off of Ohio 39 in Ashland, Knox and Holmes counties.



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