Buckeye Trail Anywhere:
Hike Where You Are

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Buckeye Trail Anywhere:
Hike Where You Are

Congratulations on taking your first step to hiking the Buckeye Trail, wherever you may be!

Ohio is home to many beautiful state parks and wonderful nature trails, giving all of us the opportunity to get outside and explore. With thousands of miles of trails here in our great state, Ohio truly is the Heart of Adventure!

This Buckeye Trail Anywhere Guidebook will lead you on an adventure through Ohio no matter where you live. Ohioans can use this guide to follow a winding path around the state connecting charming towns and natural wonders along the trail.

While this guide was primarily designed to be an easy-to-use educational resource to help school teachers get students moving, anyone can take part in this fun activity. As you navigate the trail, you'll explore many of Ohio's special and beautiful landscapes from the shores of Lake Erie to the rolling hills of Appalachia and some of the winding rivers and remnants of Ohio's canal past.

Hiking in Ohio is a special experience that is a great activity to share with friends or loved ones. I have made lifelong memories hiking with my family throughout our great state. Hopefully, reading this guide will encourage you to take a trip to a new part of Ohio for some hiking and sightseeing. While you're there, be sure to stop at a local restaurant for a warm meal or window shop for some unique gifts.

I welcome you to the Buckeye Trail community and hope you enjoy all the wonderful things that make **Ohio the Heart of it All**!

Very Respectfully Yours,

Mike DeWine

Mike DeWine
Governor

Buckeye Trail Anywhere:
Hike Where You Are

Dear Trailblazers and Teachers,

I invite you and/or your class on a "hike" of Ohio's Buckeye Trail from the comfort of your own gym, track, hallway, community—anywhere! **Buckeye Trail Anywhere** is for everyone, from elementary students to older adults. For teachers, the best part is that buses and substitute teachers are not required to embark on this field trip around the great state of Ohio!

Did you know the Buckeye Trail provides a fascinating outdoor experience spanning over 1,440 miles around the state? Use the included map, informational guide, and mileage trackers to "hike" the Buckeye Trail. This can be done as either an individual or group challenge and is a chance to explore Ohio's rich geography, ecosystems, and cultural heritage from anywhere!

Please use this fantastic resource as an educational tool to learn and teach others about local history and the major hiking trail that's right in your backyard. I hope this guide along Ohio's Buckeye Trail fosters a deeper connection to the natural world and communities around the state.

Sincerely,

Mary Mertz

Mary Mertz
Director

Buckeye Trail Anywhere

Buckeye Trail Anywhere is a fun activity exploring all Ohio has to offer while virtually traversing wooded footpaths, historic towpaths, abandoned railroads, diverse communities, and more. Anywhere's primary audience is educators of elementary through high school students but it is also useful outside of formal education settings. The goal of Buckeye Trail Anywhere is to assist learners of any age to be physically active and gain knowledge of Ohio's great outdoors. This activity engages participants in essential physical activity habits as they explore all of Ohio without leaving your school, senior center, or wherever you may be.

This guide provides information that can be used to supplement learning as participants "hike" the entire Buckeye Trail *virtually*.

- **Teachers:** This is your guide. How you use it in your classroom is up to you. However, we've provided some suggested activities to get you started. The activities address Ohio's Learning Standards for Physical Education, Social Studies, Math, and other subjects, as outlined by the Ohio Department of Education.
- **Golden Buckeyes (Senior Citizens):** We are happy that you are here. Use this guide to learn more about the Buckeye State. Feel free to change any of the physical recommendations to fit your abilities and environment.

What is the Buckeye Trail?

Founded in 1959, Ohio's Buckeye Trail (BT) is the longest hiking trail in Ohio. It is unique as it is the only long-distance hiking trail entirely within Ohio. It also holds the record for being the longest loop trail in the United States entirely within one state.

Since the trail is a loop, you could start your hike at one location, follow the trail, and continuously walk for as long as you desire. Blue Blazes serve as a beacon along the trail leading us for a little over 1,440 miles from Lake Erie to the Ohio River, and all around Ohio and back again.

What are the Blue Blazes?

Blue Blazes are two-by-six-inch painted markings along the path of the Buckeye Trail. Hikers should look out for these to make sure they are on the right path, and to get an idea of what lies ahead. You could be on one side of Ohio one day and another side the next day, yet still come across the same type of markings on the trees or telephone poles. Below are pictures of the two forms of active blazes.

Blaze: *The trail is clear and straight.*

Offset Blazes: *The trail turns in the direction that the upper blaze is offset.*

How to use this guide

Objective

Buckeye Trail Anywhere creates the experience of virtually hiking the trail by keeping track of the laps you walk or the steps you take. Those laps or steps are then converted into miles that correspond to sections along the Buckeye Trail. This guide also provides descriptions of the different trail towns and other attractions found along the trail that you can learn about throughout your journey.

Let's Get Started!

1. **Start your adventure on the Buckeye Trail map** (see page 59). You will begin with the Burton section, the official northern starting point of the Buckeye Trail. From here on out, the document will refer to participants as "**trailblazers**."

2. Buckeye Trail Anywhere can be measured in one of two ways: 1) **by counting laps** or 2) **by counting steps** (suggested for Golden Buckeyes). Buckeye Trail Anywhere is broken down into 26 sections. As each section is completed, participants "unlock" information on trail towns and nearby attractions of the next section.

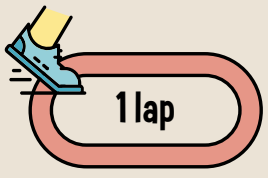
Buckeye Trail Anywhere is meant to work on your terms so feel free to customize the lap/step conversion.

There are several ways you can expand on this plan such as running, creating a walking challenge, or exploring the trail with teams.

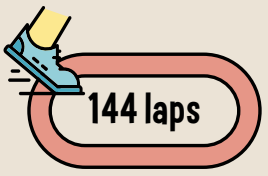
Option 1: Count Your Laps

Participants can track their **laps** then convert them into miles (see example below).

Counting Laps



1 lap around the gym or track = 10 miles on the Buckeye Trail



144 laps around the gym or track = 1,440 Buckeye Trail Anywhere miles

Option 2: Count Your Steps

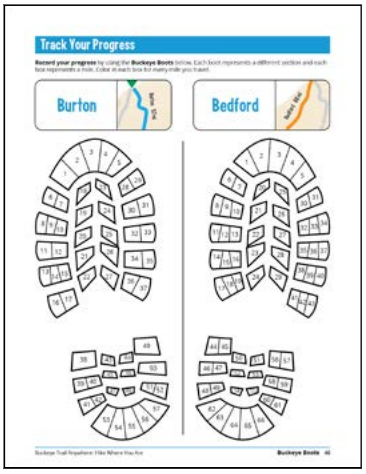
Participants can track their **steps** then convert them into miles (see example below).

Counting Steps

1,000 steps = 20 miles on the Buckeye Trail

72,000 steps = 1,440 Buckeye Trail Anywhere miles

3 **Record your progress** by using the Buckeye Boots (see pages 46–58). Each boot represents a different section and each box represents a mile. Color in each box for every mile you travel.



4 **Make your way around the map.** After you complete a section, color it on the map (see page 59).

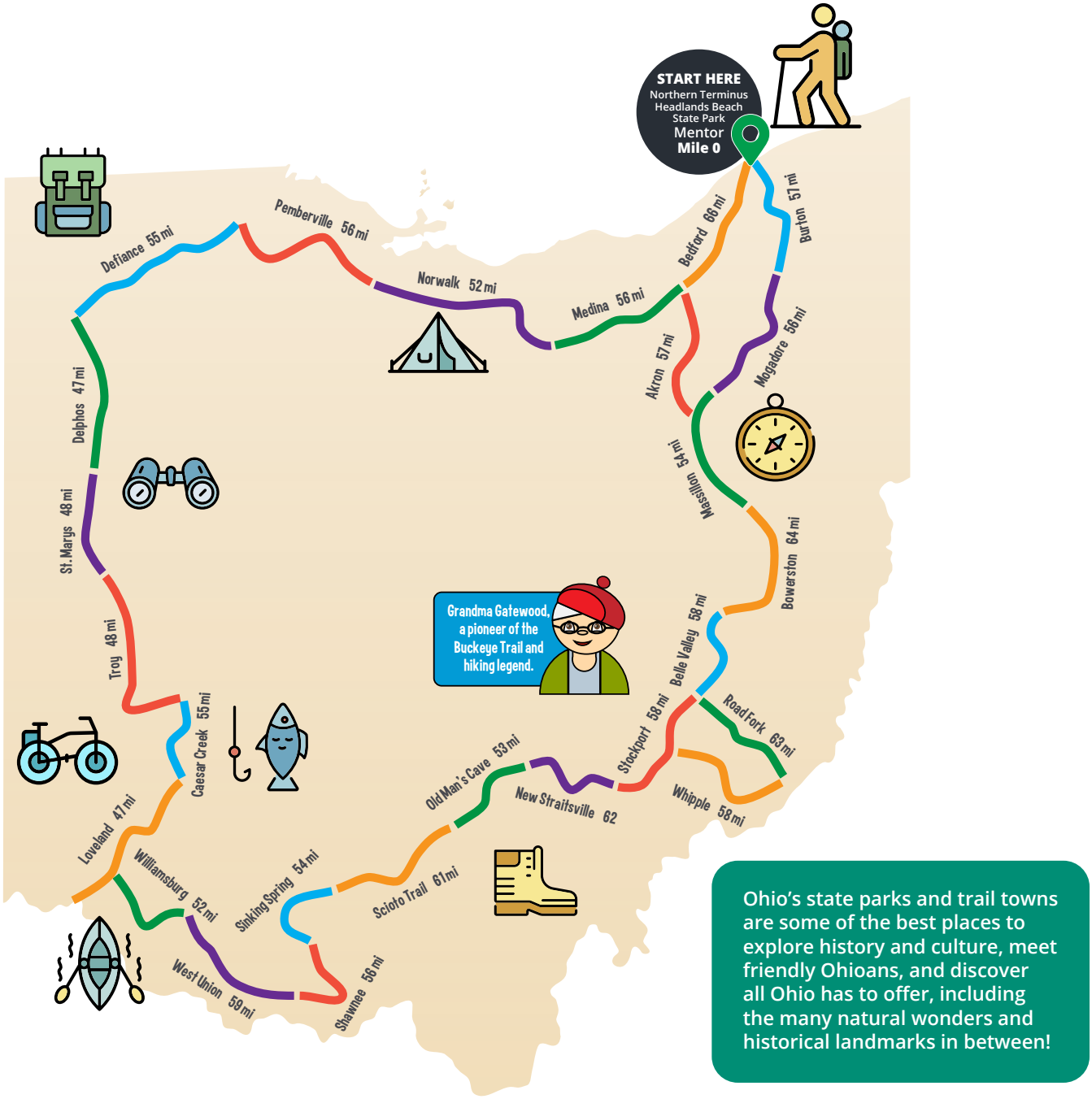
To request a 22" x 32" poster-sized map, visit **ohiodnr.gov/buckeyetrailanywhere**.

5 **Collect your Trail Champion certificate** (see last page). Participants who successfully complete Buckeye Trail Anywhere can proudly display their achievement.

Discover adventures along the trail

Teachers and trailblazers—to give a taste of reality, this guide is written as though trailblazers are on the ground traversing the Buckeye Trail. Use this guide to learn and teach about the geography, recreation, history, and wildlife of the Buckeye Trail. Ohio's state parks, forests, nature preserves, and wildlife areas are excellent starting points for your Buckeye Trail adventures. Many campgrounds sprinkle the trail and can serve as base camp for multiday treks. Or, if the comforts of home are more your style, the many historic and quaint Buckeye Trail Towns host warm and inviting lodging.

The trail towns officially designated by the Buckeye Trail Association, along with many other towns along the Buckeye Trail, are essential resources for many hikers on a long journey. These towns offer local restaurants for a well-deserved warm meal, convenience stores for resupplying food to carry on the trail for multiple days, local shops to purchase unique goods and collect souvenirs, and much more. Many Buckeye Trail Towns are much more than junctions for hikers, but hubs of activity for many outdoor enthusiasts.

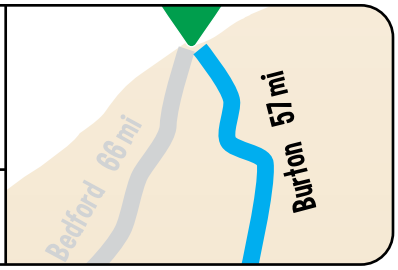


Ohio's state parks and trail towns are some of the best places to explore history and culture, meet friendly Ohioans, and discover all Ohio has to offer, including the many natural wonders and historical landmarks in between!

Trail Section:

Burton

Miles: 57	Start date:	End date:



Headlands Beach State Park

Mentor
Headlands Beach State Park is proud to be the official northern starting point and northernmost site of the Buckeye Trail. Besides providing exceptional sunbathing and swimming opportunities along the longest natural sand beach in Ohio, Headlands Beach also offers unique beach glass hunting, kite flying, and phenomenal Lake Erie sunset viewing. Picnicking is available throughout the park and a paved hike/bike trail runs along the park's unique sand dunes habitat.

Part of this unique environment, both common and rare wildlife become a showcase. Headlands Beach State Park is one of Ohio's premier birding locations. Lake birds, shorebirds, and raptors take advantage of the park's mix of habitats positioned along Lake Erie's shoreline.

Enrichment

For homework, have trailblazers research where the sand at Headlands came from.

Short Answer: The source of the sand is primarily the erosion of glacial soils onshore. For more, see **The geologic guidebook to Ohio state parks in the Lake Erie region**.

Headlands Dunes State Nature Preserve

Mentor
Headlands Dunes State Nature Preserve, located adjacent to Headlands Beach State Park, is one of the last of its kind in Ohio. This community is much more than just an accumulation of sand along a shoreline. It is a living assemblage of fascinating and highly specialized plants and animals occurring in an environment too hostile for most other organisms to survive.

Chardon

Follow the Burton section of the Buckeye Trail from Mentor and you'll reach the city of Chardon (Geauga County).

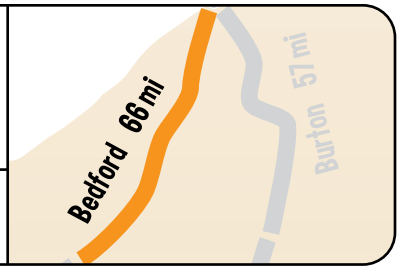
This quaint community—designated a city after the 2000 census found its population to be just over 5,000 people—is home to a rich maple syrup history. The annual Geauga County Maple Festival, the largest of its kind in Ohio, occurs annually in April and celebrates the beginning of the spring season. The event is hosted in the historic Chardon Square, a central area of the city with buildings dating back to the 19th century, including the Geauga County Courthouse.

A stop in Chardon is a must as you hike the Buckeye Trail. From restaurants and antique shops to many parks and historical attractions, there's something for everyone in Chardon.

Trail Section:

Bedford

Miles: 66	Start date:	End date:



Mentor

The city of Mentor (Lake County) sits right along Lake Erie, one of the five Great Lakes.

James A. Garfield, the 20th president of the United States, was born in nearby Moreland Hills, Ohio, but purchased a home in Mentor just four years before he was elected president in 1880. Garfield was the first presidential candidate to front porch campaign to a national audience, which he did largely from his Mentor home. Today, the house still stands as the James A. Garfield National Historic Site and features the United States' first presidential memorial library. Three other presidential libraries are now scattered across Ohio, as more United States presidents have come from Ohio than any other state.

Just south of Mentor in Kirtland, Ohio, sits the Holden Arboretum, a massive natural area with more than 3,600 acres of beautiful flowers, trees, trails, and lakes. With it being one of the largest of its kind in the United States, there is much to experience including a canopy walk 65-feet above the ground, wildflower gardens, Stebbins Gluch natural history preserve, and a 120-foot tower providing a stunning view of the area.

Enrichment

1. For homework, ask trailblazers to research the five Great Lakes and rank them in order of size, by surface area or square miles, or from largest to smallest.

Answer: Lake Superior, Lake Huron, Lake Michigan, Lake Erie, Lake Ontario.

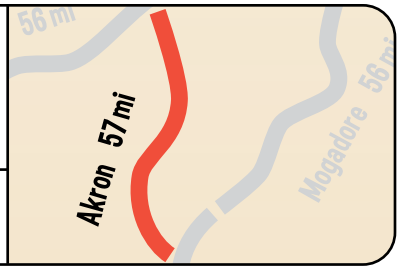
2. For homework, ask trailblazers to research a National Natural Landmark and write a paragraph on something interesting they found. Visit the National Natural Landmark for a directory.

Mentor Marsh State Nature Preserve

Mentor
Mentor Marsh, designated as a National Natural Landmark in 1966, occupies an ancient, abandoned channel of the Grand River. It was also the first site to be dedicated as a State Nature Preserve in Ohio and is a hotspot for birding. A beech-sugar maple forest occupies the higher elevations bordering the marsh. At the eastern edge of the preserve, there is a mixed oak swamp forest, a type of forest that has been destroyed in most parts of the Lake Erie region.

Ohio has nearly 150 state nature preserves which contain remnants of Ohio's pre-settlement past, rare and endangered species, and wondrous geologic features.

Trail Section:		
# Akron		
Miles: **57**	Start date:	End date:



Cuyahoga Valley National Park

Heading south from the Bedford section we reach the Akron section. Right by the trail we see Cuyahoga Valley National Park. This park has the honor of being the only national park in the state. This linear park is centered along the Cuyahoga River, a designated American Heritage River, and includes waterfalls, wetlands, forest, hills, and much more. The park has about 100 waterfalls with Brandywine Falls being the most popular. Make sure to stop by the observation deck to see this beautiful 60-foot-tall waterfall. You can even take a scenic railroad tour through the valley.

Portage Lakes State Park

Akron

Some of the lakes that make up Portage Lakes State Park in Akron, Ohio, were the direct result of glacial activity, formed by huge chunks of ice which broke off the retreating glacier and melted in depressions forming what we call *kettle lakes*. The Portage Lakes is also comprised of man-made feeder reservoirs for the canals to maintain the required depth of 4 feet. The boats that navigated the canals gave life of goods to important industries in the Akron area, such as stoneware pottery, sewer pipe manufacturing, the match industry, and the tire and rubber industry. The lakes were used for transporting goods until the canals were abandoned due to severe damage sustained during the Great Flood of 1913.

Now, Portage Lakes State Park offers visitors a variety of outdoor recreational experiences. Boating options include sailing, jet skiing, and water skiing. Swimming and fishing are popular on eight surrounding lakes. Portage Lake's wetlands attract waterfowl and shorebirds providing visitors enjoyment whether hunting or observing wildlife.

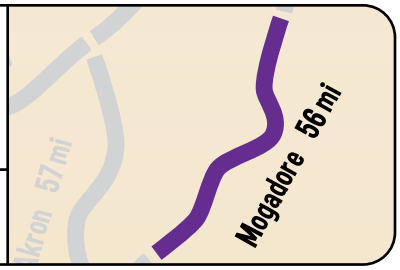
The park sits at one of Ohio's highest points and serves as a major watershed divide. Water from the eight lakes travels down from the peak of the divide in two directions—some water flows north to Lake Erie and some flows to the Ohio River. Every day, 21 million gallons of water flows through the lake system, roughly equivalent to filling up 31 Olympic-sized swimming pools.

Cooperrider Kent Bog State Nature Preserve

Cooperrider-Kent Bog is a living relict from the Ice Age. In glacial times, bogs and forested landscapes occurred in many areas of Ohio. During this time, animals such as mammoth, mastodon, musk ox, caribou, short-faced bear, elk-moose, ground sloth, and giant beaver roamed. Ohio's Ice Age animals utilized these habitats in this area and across the state. At these glacial times animals such as mammoths, mastodon, musk ox, caribou, peccary, short-faced bear, elk-moose, ground sloth, and giant beaver roamed. These giants of the past were reliant on these areas in Ohio to survive.

Today, Kent Bog supports the largest, southernmost stand of tamarack (a native Ohio conifer) in the continental United States. There are over 3,500 tamaracks in the population with many robust seedlings growing among the larger trees.

Trail Section:		
# Mogadore		
Miles: **56**	Start date:	End date:



Mantua

Mantua (pronounced "MAN-uh-way") is a village along the Cuyahoga River in northern Portage County. Inspiration for the naming of the town came from the Tappan family, who returned from a European tour in 1842 and renamed their local properties after the favorite Italian towns: Mantua and Ravenna. The village didn't officially become "Mantua" to reflect its connection to the Italian city until 1898.

Mantua is full of historical gems listed on the National Register of Historic Places, including the Horace L. Hine House, the Mantua Station Brick Commercial District, and the William H. Crafts House . These sites are well-preserved examples of 19th century architecture. The gentle flow of the Cuyahoga River on the outskirts of town adds additional beauty to the already charming village.

The annual Potato Festival—a family favorite for over 50 years—is always the talk of the town.

Entertainment, food, rides, and fun abound to celebrate the end of summer. Years ago, festival attendees witnessed the creation of the world's largest serving of mashed potatoes and gravy mashed with a cement mixer. In 2015 festival organizers claimed another record by creating the world's largest pierogi with a 230.5 pounds dumpling that cemented itself in the history books.

West Branch State Park

Ravenna
West Branch State Park is located on the west branch of the Mahoning River in Portage County. The river was named for the Delaware Tribe word mahonink, meaning "at the salt lick." Historically, a salt works was located southeast of present-day Warren along the river. The salt attracted a variety of wildlife and was harvested by Native Americans and early settlers.

Visitors to West Branch can traverse the park's woods and meadows by foot, bike, or horseback via miles of scenic trails, including a link to the statewide Buckeye Trail. The landscape is marked by a large stand of beech-maple woodlands and harbors a variety of plant and animal life. The park also offers opportunities for boating, fishing, disc golf, hunting, and numerous fun activities such as an 18-hole disc golf course.

In 1965, the federal government completed the Michael J. Kirwan Dam & Reservoir. Kirwan, the namesake of the dam, represented Ohio in the United States Congress and was a powerful leader on conservation and natural resources. The reservoir also stores water for future use during dry periods.

Enrichment

For homework, ask trailblazers to **research a historic place listed on the National Register of Historic Places** and write a paragraph on something interesting they found. Consider the research trailblazers completed during the Bedford section on National Natural Landmarks. What is the difference between National Natural Landmarks and National Historic Places?

Answer:
National Natural Landmarks are recognized for biological and geological features whereas National Historic Places are recognized for associated human history, culture, and architecture.

Wingfoot Lake State Park

Mogadore
In 1916, Goodyear Tire and Rubber Company purchased land in southwestern Portage County to begin manufacturing its own blimps—a type of airship with a non-rigid balloon. The lake, called Wingfoot Lake after Goodyear's logo, provided the crucial water supply for the operation. They built a hangar, workshops, a hydrogen plant, and a landing field. During World War I in 1917, Goodyear and the U.S. Navy teamed up to make nine blimps at Wingfoot Lake for important missions.

After World War II, the Goodyear blimp fleet was pressed into service for advertising and promotional campaigns, including telecasts of college football games. The northern shore of Wingfoot Lake was developed for employee outings and corporate retreats in the 1960s. Several recreational facilities were built, including large picnic shelters with fireplaces, baseball fields, volleyball and bocce ball courts, paved courts for basketball and tennis, playgrounds, and boating facilities. In 2006, Goodyear closed the park, and it was added to Ohio's state park system in 2009.

Today, Wingfoot Lake State Park provides visitors of all abilities with a delightful day spent outdoors. Groves of tall trees, expanses of grass, and a picturesque lake create a relaxing backdrop to paddling, fishing, picnicking, an accessible Storybook Trail, and disc golf. On a clear day, visitors can spot the Goodyear Blimp parked in its hangar on the lake's southern shore. According to Goodyearblimp.com, the hanger stands as the oldest airship facility in the world. Goodyear pilots come from all over to be trained onsite at Wingfoot Lake.

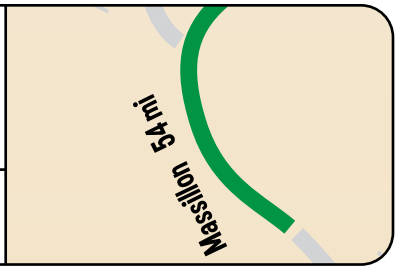
Quail Hollow State Park

Hartville
Quail Hollow State Park in Stark County, Ohio, has a rich history rooted in Native American habitation and early settler influence. Once the home of the Lenape people, also called the Delaware, the land slowly morphed from pristine wilderness to a farming haven over the course of the 19th century. Early settler Conrad Brumbaugh built his first home on the property around 1820. This property was later acquired in 1914, along with several other adjacent parcels, by Harry Bartlett Stewart, the chief executive office of the Akron, Canton and Youngstown Railroad. He named the property Minnie Taylor Farm after his wife. The farm featured a large manor home and servant's cottage. The Stewart family sold the property at a discounted price to the Ohio Department Natural Resources in 1975, although Stark Parks has managed the daily operations of the park since 2016.

The park boasts 19 miles of trails open for hiking, mountain biking, and cross-country skiing amid its scenic landscapes.

Enrichment

The purpose of the **Goodyear Blimp** has evolved over time. If you were in charge of redesigning the Goodyear Blimp for the future, what new features or technologies would you add? Use a blank sheet of paper to draw your new design and explain your choices.

Trail Section: **Massillon**			
Miles: **54**	Start date:	End date:	

Zoar

Those unfamiliar with the Buckeye Trail may envision days hiking in Ohio's most remote places, and at times, that visual is accurate. But hikers of the Buckeye Trail know that you can't always take the road less traveled. As hikers enter the village of Zoar in Tuscarawas County, they cross a bridge over I-77 with countless cars buzzing by. Zoar was founded in 1817 when about 200 people fled from Germany to the United States, seeking to escape the religious persecution of the time. For over 80 years, this group lived together and formed much of what is seen in the historic village today. Zoar is also one of the longest lasting communal settlements in the United States according to The Ohio History Connection. The Number One House (a residence for the original elders), the town hall, and the Zoar Hotel are original and time-tested symbols of the community. William McKinley, the 25th president of the United States and resident of nearby Canton, Ohio, stayed at the Zoar Hotel on various occasions. In 2016, the United States government coined the village of about 75 families a National Historic Landmark District.

The village offers numerous unique tours and visitation options. With many museums, shops, and food options there are hours of fun to be had. They host Civil War reenactments, an immersive experience for students to experience Ohio during this time period, blacksmithing classes, and numerous antique shows. For the foodies, Zoar has its own pie and pretzel days in March. In October, nightly ghost tours of the historical buildings around the village are offered for only the bravest of visitors.

Trailblazers should be mindful leaving Zoar—the Buckeye Trail and the North Country Trail run concurrently here. As you leave the area, the North Country Trail splits off and heads east towards Pennsylvania.

For more information visit **Zoar Village**.

Challenge

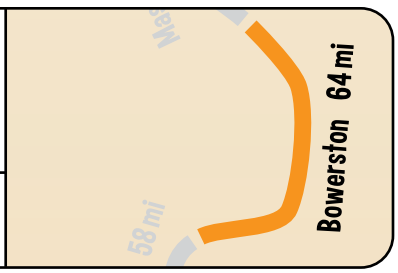
Getting outside is great for your physical and mental health and can make any day so much better. Spending just 15 minutes in nature can lower stress, boost mood, and improve sense of well-being.

Commit to getting outside for 15 minutes daily. This can be accomplished in a variety of ways—walking, birdwatching, riding a bike, playing sports, or whatever works best for you! Ohio has a lot to see and offer—enjoy it!

Trail Section:

Bowerston

Miles:	Start date:	End date:
64		



Deersville

With an official population of 67 in the 2022 census, Deersville in Harrison County is a charming historical village tucked away in the hills of eastern Ohio.

The Deersville General Store, which celebrated its 125th anniversary in 2023, is famous for its homemade ice cream. The Buckeye Trail is so special to Deersville that the General Store created an ice cream flavor in its honor—Buckeye Trail Krunch. It's vanilla ice cream with peanut butter cups, crispy rice, and blue sprinkles. Don't forget to try this well-deserved sweet treat as you traverse through Deersville on the Buckeye Trail.

Tappan Lake and Clendening Lake are both a stone's throw from town. From campsites to cozy cabins, they both offer fun for the whole family. Beach swimming, fishing, boating, and hiking are just some of the possibilities.

Enrichment

Ask trailblazers **"What is the significance of the Buckeye Trail to Ohioans?"** You can choose to have them answer individually or gather in small teams to formulate an answer.

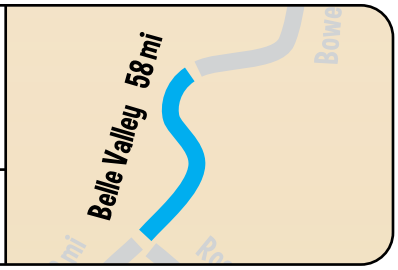
No answer is a bad answer, but here are some suggestions:

1. A connection to the great outdoors and some of Ohio's most beautiful natural spaces. The Buckeye Trail showcases some of Ohio's most diverse ecosystems and scenic landscapes.
2. The Buckeye Trail promotes a healthy lifestyle by offering Ohioans a space to be active.
3. The Buckeye Trail plays a role in connecting Ohioans to history and natural heritage.
4. The Buckeye Trail offers Ohioans rewarding opportunities through volunteerism. The Buckeye trail is maintained largely through the efforts of volunteers of the Buckeye Trail Association (BTA). BTA coordinates trail maintenance, improvement projects, and community outreach. Volunteerism fosters a sense of pride and community in Ohioans.

Trail Section:

Belle Valley

Miles: 58	Start date:	End date:



Salt Fork State Park

With thousands and thousands of acres of land and water, Salt Fork State Park is Ohio's largest state park. Located in eastern Ohio, Salt Fork encompasses a stunning landscape featuring forested hills, open meadows, and misty valleys home to winding streams.

Did you know Ohio is ranked 4th in the country for sightings of the mythical Bigfoot? In fact, Salt Fork State Park has hosted the largest Bigfoot conference in the eastern United States since 2005. Those curious to learn more about the legends of Bigfoot, often called Sasquatch, are encouraged to check out the **Bigfoot series** on the OhioDNR YouTube channel.

Salt Fork State Park is also known for its preservation of history. One early resident of Guernsey County, Benjamin Kennedy, constructed a beautiful stone house overlooking Sugar Tree Fork in 1837. Built from locally quarried stone, the Kennedy Stone House is a sturdy reminder of bygone days. Because of its unique and enduring construction, the house is listed in the National Register of Historic Places and can be visited most weekends from May through October.

Wolf Run State Park

Caldwell

Wolf Run State Park is located in southeastern Ohio's Noble County, the last of the 88 counties incorporated in the state. The Wolf Run area has been dramatically changed as original forests were cleared by the axes of early settlers and replaced with farms and villages that supported the profitable industries built on the areas mineral resources such as coal, iron ore, building stone, and salt. Since then, much of the forest has regrown and now covers 70 percent of the region. A forest that regrows after the original timber was cleared is called a *second-growth forest*.

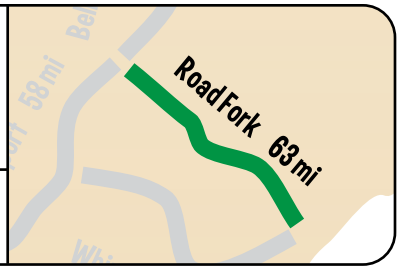
Oil was accidentally discovered near Caldwell in 1814 when Robert McKee began drilling a well to obtain brine. At the depth of 475 feet, a crevice was struck containing oil. At first considered a nuisance, the true value of the oil was eventually realized, and oil rigs soon lined the valley of Duck Creek. Oil production declined during the Civil War but resumed after the war, peaking near the end of the nineteenth century.

Present-day Wolf Run offers scenic, peaceful woodlands and cool, clean waters for a quiet retreat. Nestled in the heart of Appalachia, the region's second-growth forest now provides high-quality outdoor recreation such as camping, hiking, fishing, boating, hunting, and winter recreation.

Trail Section:

Road Fork

Miles:	Start date:	End date:
63		



Wayne National Forest

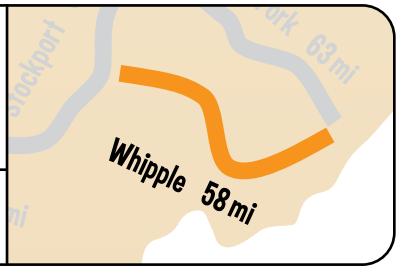
One of the least populous parts of the Buckeye Trail, the 63-mile Road Fork section is dominated by the extraction industry. Rich in resources, mining and drilling operations are especially popular in this region. While on this section of the trail you can wander into Wayne National Forest to see its stunning nature. With a little over a quarter million acres in the forest, you can hike or bike on trails and enjoy the shade of the forest canopy for hours on end.

What exactly is the **extraction** industry? In Ohio, the extraction industry includes natural gas, oil, coal, ethanol, and a variety of rocks and minerals such as limestone and salt. These source materials are used to make **a variety of everyday products.**

Trail Section:

Whipple

Miles:	Start date:	End date:
58		

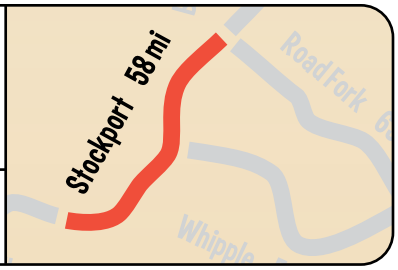


Similar to the Road Fork section, Whipple is one of the least populated sections of the trail. It is also dominated by the extraction industry. Make sure that you stock up before heading down this section as there is no resupply station anywhere along its 58 miles. Be ready to climb up and down some hills, as you'll experience nearly 10,000 feet of elevation change over the course of this section. While on the trail there are some small communities you can visit that provide two restaurants and a bar to grab a quick bite to eat.

Trail Section:

Stockport

Miles: 58	Start date:	End date:



Appalachian Hills Wildlife Area

McConnelsville
Appalachian Hills Wildlife Area, a multi-year project to expand public land access, is ODNR's largest wildlife area and a popular destination for hunting, fishing, trapping, and other forms of wildlife recreation. During the land reclamation process, ponds were created to provide fishing opportunities for anglers. In other areas of the park, woodlands, islands of vegetation, and open areas offer diverse landscape to view and explore. These areas are prime habitat components that provide excellent hunting opportunities. The diverse nature of Appalachian Hills Wildlife Area also provides the opportunity for trappers to pursue nearly all Ohio furbearers.

Miner Memorial Park & Big Muskie Bucket

Just down the road is a monument to the achievements of American Electric Power and its subsidiary Central Ohio Coal Company. Historically in this region, large excavators were used to mine coal from the area's bedrock. Big Muskie was the largest dragline excavator ever built. The 220-cubic-yard, 240-ton bucket is a true engineering marvel. Due to the massive size of the machine, Big Muskie had to be built on site.

Starting in 1967, more than 300 railcars and 250 trucks hauled the necessary pieces to Muskingum Mine. It took a team of engineers more than two years to erect Big Muskie. When completed, the massive machine stood 240-feet tall.

The behemoth digger worked by dragging its bucket along the ground to strip away layers of soil and rock that covered high-sulfur coal. Big Muskie could lift 325 tons of earth and rock in a single "bite." Between 1969 and 1991, Big Muskie ran 24 hours a day, 364 days a year, moving more than 483 million cubic yards of rock and earth.

In the early 1990s, demand for high-sulfur coal had declined significantly. The immense cost of powering Big Muskie could no longer be justified, and it was shut down. In May 1999, Big Muskie was disassembled and recycled. All that remains is the bucket. Today visitors can climb inside the bucket and imagine what it took to create this impressive piece of machinery.

Muskingum River State Park Historic Lock and Dam #6

Muskingum River State Park's system of locks and dams helped open the state and the entire Midwest to trade and development. It is the only remaining system of hand-operated locks in the country and is on the National Register of Historic Places. Lock and Dam #6 are located in Stockport, a town along the Buckeye Trail.

Step back in time and envision missionaries settling along the headwaters of this picturesque river in 1761. The first permanent settlement in Ohio was established in 1788 at Marietta. One of the city's founders, General Rufus Putnam, recognized the economic potential of the Muskingum River for transporting raw materials to eastern markets and brought in New England shipbuilders.

In 1824, steam-powered paddle wheelers joined flatboat and keelboat traders to generate public support for river navigation. West Point graduate Major Samuel Curtis designed a system of 10 dams and 11 locks to connect the Muskingum River to the Ohio and Erie Canal at Dresden. Opened in 1841, the system provided navigable waterways from Marietta to Lake Erie. Ohio demonstrated the viability and economic benefits of a canal system to the world and paved the way for the Panama Canal.

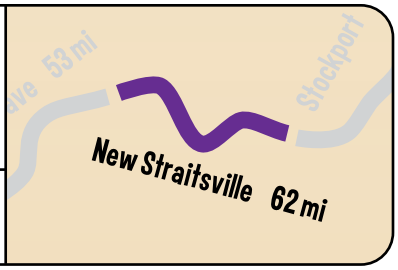
Stockport Mill

In 1906, the Stockport Mill became the third mill on this site since 1842, as the previous two burned down in fires. At its prime, the Stockport Mill used water power for milling flour and generating electricity. Farmers and community members frequented the mill to buy supplies and share news. In 1997, the feed mills also stopped operations, leaving the building and mills unused. In 2000, the renovated building reopened but it wasn't until 2006 that the Mill's turbines once again began the hard work of powering the Stockport Mill Inn Hotel and Restaurant. The mill has a great view of the Muskingum River and ODNR Lock #6 (which is part of the Muskingum River Parkway hand operated river navigation locks) which is on the opposite side of the river directly across from the mill. The Stockport Mill is designated as an Ohio Historical Landmark.

Trail Section:

New Straitsville

Miles:	Start date:	End date:
62		



Burr Oak State Park

Glouster
Burr Oak State Park blends modern convenience with Ohio's wilderness spirit. Miles of forested ridges and hollows can be found here. The park offers a rustic full-service lodge with family suites and a cozy campground with easy access to the lake. A substantial trail system ranges from moderate to difficult with portions intersecting the statewide Buckeye Trail.

Most people visiting Burr Oak State Park expect to find abundant bur oak trees. Surprisingly, few bur oak trees grow in the park. As a matter of fact, bur oaks don't typically thrive in southeastern Ohio.

So, how was the park misnamed? The first European settlers in this area saw a tree in the forest that reminded them of a tree back home they called "burr oak." We don't know which tree species they misidentified, but the name stuck. The small community of Burr Oak, just outside the park, also bears this misnomer. When it came time to name the new state park in 1952, someone decided on "Burr Oak."

Trail Section:

Old Man's Cave

Miles:	Start date:	End date:
53		

Boch Hollow State Nature Preserve

Logan
Located in northern Hocking County at the edge of the Hocking Hills Region, Boch Hollow provides an excellent opportunity to see a diverse range of habitats including riparian corridors, mature wooded hills, ridges, sandstone outcrops, seeps, ponds and old fields. Seven miles of hiking trails including the Buckeye Trail takes you through a diversity of habitats.

The most significant natural feature in the preserve is Laurel Falls (formerly Robinson Falls), a rare example in Ohio of a type of canyon waterfall.

Unique among Ohio's preserves is the mission of Boch Hollow to serve as an educational site for hands-on environmental education of Appalachian Ohio ecology. Primarily geared toward local school children, the staff also provide programs to the general public as well as various civic and environmental organizations.

Lake Logan State Park

Logan
Located within the rolling Appalachian foothills of southeastern Hocking Valley, Lake Logan State Park is secluded and offers boating, hiking, fishing, and hunting opportunities. Originally known as Hocking Lake, the park was renamed Lake Logan to reflect the Native American heritage of the area. The lake and nearby town are named after Mingo Chief James John Logan.

The Hocking River provided sufficient waterpower for the operation of grist and sawmills, particularly at the falls above the town of Logan. Logan was slow to progress until the opening of the Hocking Canal, a branch of the Ohio-Erie Canal, in 1838. Several industries prospered due to the rich mineral

resources, such as coal and clay, of the Hocking Valley. The discovery of immense quantities of coal gave rise to a flourishing mining industry. Towns appeared and vanished as quickly as mines opened and closed.

The clay soils of the Hocking Valley helped Ohio become a leader in clay products. The valley's firebrick industry manufactured clay tile, building and paving bricks, and clay sewer pipe. Evidence of the industry can be seen in the many brick houses and abandoned kilns of the area. Clay is still an important commodity in the region.

Hocking State Forest

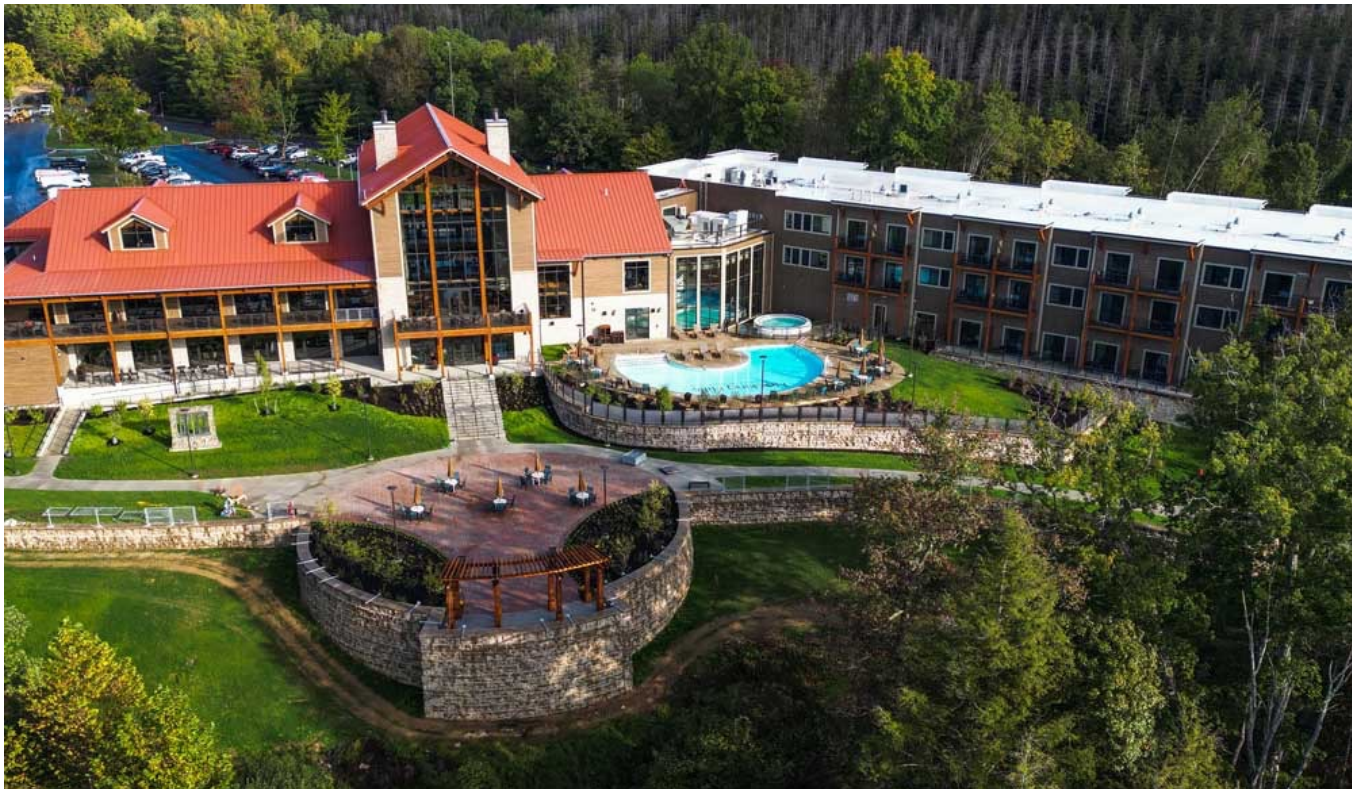
Rockbridge
Hocking State Forest features 9,815 beautiful acres in Hocking County, including 59 miles of hiking on three trails, 40 miles of bridle trails, 23 horse campsites, a rock climbing and rappelling area, and a fire tower. One of the special attractions of Hocking State Forest is the natural vegetation. Hocking State Forest has plant species commonly found farther north mixed with typically southern species to provide an unusual variety of native plant life and associated wildlife.

Enrichment

Ask trailblazers to **act out different activities** they might do on the Buckeye Trail. This gets trailblazers moving and thinking about the kinds of experiences they might have in real life.

To Play: Cut out the charade slips, fold them, and place them in a container. The first player draws a slip and acts out the word or phrase without speaking. Set a 1-minute timer. Players guess, and the correct guesser earns a point. The player with the most points at the end wins.

Putting on hiking boots	Stretching before a hike	Trail running	Setting up a tent
Building a campfire	Birdwatching	Photography	Horseback riding
Climbing over a fallen log	Using a map	Gathering firewood	Drinking from a water bottle
Sweating	Using sunscreen	Admiring the view	Getting bit by a mosquito
Using bug spray	Rubbing sore feet	Taking off your jacket	Putting out a campfire
Stepping over a puddle	Hiking in the rain	Spotting a bear	Tripping on a rock
Feeling lost	Tying your shoelaces	Rolling up a sleeping bag	Watching the sunset
Getting stung by a bee	Pointing out a deer	Celebrating at the “finish line”	Biking
Roasting marshmallows	Fishing	Picnicking	Exploring a cave
Setting up a hammock	Singing campfire songs	Telling ghost stories	Smelling wildflowers



Hocking Hills State Park

Logan
Hikers and nature lovers have plenty to enjoy in this awe-inspiring park from season to season—with stunning ice formations in winter, wildflowers adorning the forest floor in springtime, and vivid foliage in the fall. Located in southeastern Ohio, Hocking Hills State Park is a national and internationally acclaimed state park. The park has been at the top of many lists which boast the best places to visit in the state, country, and world.

The park has a vast number of activities available including hiking, wildlife watching, camping, fishing, and more. In October 2022, a new 81-room lodge opened and is the perfect place for a weekend getaway or a family vacation.

One of Hocking Hills State Park's most prominent features is Old Man's Cave. But just who was the "old man" in the cave?

The first suspect, Richard Rowe, was an avid outdoorsman who occupied the cave in the late 1700s with his dog Harper. Rowe lived out his life and died in the cave after trying to break the ice of the frozen creek with his musket. Local folklore suggests the cave is still haunted by Rowe based on accounts of people seeing the old man walking his dog.

The second suspect, Richard Retzler, lived in Old Man's Cave and many surrounding caves. Retzler was also a trapper and a veteran of the War of 1812. After some time, Retzler left the cave to visit family and found out his brother had died. With a desire to help his sister-in-law financially, Retzler returned to the cave to retrieve some money he had stashed. He died in the cave and never returned home to help his sister-in-law.

The third and fourth suspects are brothers Nathaniel and Pat Rayon, who lived in the cave around the same time as Rowe. They eventually moved to a nearby cabin but asked to be buried in the cave after their deaths.

Enrichment

Have trailblazers read the stories on the next page to themselves and breakout in small teams to discuss who they believe the "old man" to be and explain why. There is no right answer.

Who was the "old man" in the cave?

One of Hocking Hills State Park's most prominent features is Old Man's Cave. But just who was the "old man" in the cave?

Suspect 1: Richard Rowe

The first suspect, Richard Rowe, was an avid outdoorsman who lived alone in the cave in the late 1700s. He was born around 1784 in the Cumberland Mountains in eastern Tennessee, close to the border of Kentucky. He was the youngest of two brothers. After his mother passed away in 1796, the Rowe men trekked through Kentucky to Ohio where they set up a trading post. He told stories of attacks from the War of 1812 and it is believed he knew Ohio well from the Great Lakes to the Ohio River. He and his two hound dogs often took the Scioto River south to the Ohio River, but occasionally preferred traversing the valley of Salt Creek. It was on one of the trips he found the Hocking Hills region. He hunted near Ash Cave and Cedar Falls. He once went to the Ozarks and Black Hills looking for his brother without telling friends where he was headed. It took him three years to find him during which time Rowe's friends believed him to be dead. However, he finally returned. Rowe had told a relative from Black Hills that he was headed to Ohio to gather his belongings and would return the following spring. After spring passed, the relative came to Ohio in 1857 searching for Rowe. Locals directed him to Old Man's Cave where he found Rowe dead. His body was buried beneath the ledge of the cave. Another story goes that one winter day Rowe went down to the creek to get a cup of water, using the butt of his musket to break the ice. The impact caused the gun to fire, mortally wounding him. His story ends with a passing trading partner finding him and burying him in the floor of the cave.

Suspects 2 and 3: Nathaniel and Pat Rayon

Next, there is the story of two brothers, Nathaniel and Pat Rayon, who lived in the cave in 1795, around the same time as Richard Rowe. They built a cabin 30 feet north of the cave entrance but eventually moved to a nearby cabin. However, they enjoyed their time in the cave so much that they asked to be buried there. By the time the brothers died of old age, the Iles family owned Old Man's Cave and they agreed to the brothers last request. The Iles family claimed there once was a rock shelf inside the cave that has since fallen into the gorge and that was the gravesite of the Rayon brothers or the "Old Man." The Iles family dismantled the cabin the brothers built near the cave and relocated it to their nearby farm to be used as a tobacco drying house. The Iles Family sold Old Man's Cave to the state in 1924.

Suspect 4: Richard Retzler

The final suspect, Richard Retzler, lived in "Old Man's Cave" and many surrounding caves. Retzler was a trapper and a veteran of the War of 1812. After some time in the area, Retzler took a trip to visit family and learned his brother had died. Retzler told his sister-in-law he buried money in a cave and would return to help her financially once he retrieved it. From here his story converges with Mr. Rowe's. Retzler returned to the cave and used his firearm to break the ice. Mr. Retzler was injured by his firearm and a passerby buried him in Old Man's Cave. Local folklore suggests the cave is still haunted by Rowe based on accounts of people seeing the old man walking his dog.

Suspect 5: All the Old Men

Old Man's Cave is named for ALL of the old men who once lived there...

Who do you believe the "old man" in the cave was? Explain why.

Trail Section:

Scioto Trail

Miles: 61	Start date:	End date:

Tar Hollow State Park & Tar Hollow State Forest

Laurelville
The region derives its name from pine tar, an essential commodity in early Ohio households. It was taken from the knots and heartwood of the native pitch pine tree to be used in homemade balms and lubricants for pioneer wagons and equipment.

During the Great Depression, recreation facilities including the 15-acre Pine Lake and group camp were developed with support from President Franklin D. Roosevelt's New Deal agencies; Works Progress Administration (WPA) and National Youth Administration (NYA). The New Deal aimed to give people jobs, food, and a better life. In 1939, the Ohio Division of Forestry assumed management of the land which was known as Tar Hollow Forest-Park.

When the Ohio Department of Natural Resources was created in 1949, the Division of Parks and Watercraft accepted land from several state agencies, and Tar Hollow State Park was created from the earlier forest. Today the park is bordered by Tar Hollow State Forest—Ohio's third largest state forest.

Scioto Trail State Park & Scioto Trail State Forest

Chillicothe
The Scioto River Valley is nestled in an area rich with reminders of some of Ohio's prehistoric people: the Mound Builders. These Mound Builders left extensive earthworks throughout the Scioto River Valley and its tributaries.

The Scioto Trail was a Native American trail that followed the Scioto River from northern Ohio to the Kentucky hunting grounds. The trail was later used by settlers who traveled upriver from Portsmouth to the first capital of Ohio—Chillicothe. The Shawnee used the river as their primary means of transportation from one village to another.

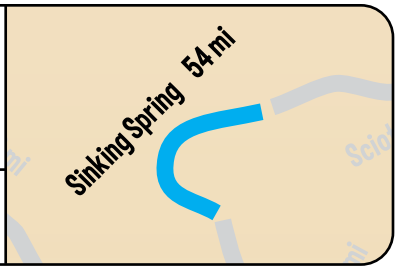
A monument erected in 1842 stood at the entrance of Scioto Trail State Forest to commemorate William Hewitt. For 14 years, he lived in a cave near what is now the park and surrounding forest. Hewitt died in 1838 at the age of 70 after becoming a local legend. Eventually, highway development whittled the cave away, and the monument was moved 1,000 feet north of its original site. The memorial now stands in the Scioto Trail State Park campground.

Scenic vistas and overlooks on several of the roads attract many visitors year round, but especially during the fall when the leaves are changing colors. Populations of deer, wild turkey, squirrel, and grouse encourage many hunters to pursue their favorite sport at Scioto Trail State Forest. Mushroom hunting in the spring attracts more visitors to the forest each year. From ridgetops to winding forest roads, visitors are offered breathtaking vistas of southern Ohio's Scioto River Valley. The beauty and seclusion provide an ideal escape for campers, fishermen, paddlers, and many other outdoor enthusiasts.

Trail Section:

Sinking Spring

Miles:	Start date:	End date:
54		



Pike Lake State Park & Pike State Forest

Bainbridge/Latham
Like Scioto Trail, Pike Lake State Park and Pike State Forest are located in an area that has many earthworks constructed by Ohio's prehistoric people. These people of Ohio lived in the Scioto River Valley and its tributaries, appearing here sometime around 800 B.C. Known as the Mound Builders, this group eventually gave rise to the woodland Native American cultures. One tribe, the Shawnee, made this area their home and hunting grounds. They were fiercely protective of their land.

The foundation of present-day Pike Lake State Park and Pike Lake State Forest hints back to the economic struggles of the Great Depression in the 1930s. To combat mass unemployment nationwide, the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) enrolled young men to work on various conservation projects, including in Pike County. The CCC workers hand-dug the lake, built multiple fire towers and accessible roads, and planted hundreds of pine trees. Today, the park is a testimony to the hard work of those who shaped it during those tumultuous times.

In addition to paddling and fishing afforded by the park's quiet lake, the park also offers a variety of seasonal cabins, family campground, and a group lodge. A nature center, hiking trails, shelter houses and a swimming beach round out the park's amenities.

Enrichment

CCC Poster Creation

Materials Needed:
- paper
- crayons or colored markers

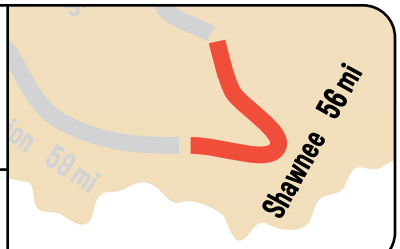
Optional Materials:
- magazines
- glue
- scissors

1. Discuss what the Civilian Conservation Corps was and its impact on Ohio. CCC projects could be divided into five primary categories: reforestation; construction of recreational areas; soil conservation; emergency and natural disaster aid; and fish and wildlife management. Project examples include: planting trees, building shelter houses, chiseling tunnels, digging lakes, fighting forest fires, etc.
2. Ask trailblazers to create posters that illustrate the work the CCC did to support recreation in Ohio. Be creative! Include drawings, words, or even cut-out pictures.

Learning Outcome: Trailblazers will gain an understanding of the importance of people working together and the CCC's environmental and community contributions.

To learn more about CCC contributions to Ohio State Parks, search for **Civilian Conservation Corps Legacy** on the OhioDNR YouTube Channel.

Trail Section:		
# Shawnee		
Miles: **56**	Start date:	End date:



Shawnee State Park & State Forest

West Portsmouth
Shawnee State Forest and Shawnee State Park encompass a part of the former hunting grounds of the Shawnee people. Historians note that the Shawnee name means "those who have silver," as the tribe conducted considerable trade in this precious metal. The Shawnees monitored the influx of white settlers from the line of ridges that overlooked the mighty Ohio River. During the 1700s, the Shawnee people were gradually displaced as the settlers continued to build their cabins and clear land in this region.

The Shawnee area is often called the "Little Smokies of Ohio." It is one of the most diverse areas of the state for plant and animal species. Due to its location in southern Ohio and proximity to the Ohio River, slightly warmer year-round temperatures allow for the survival of species not found in other parts of the state. Timber rattlesnakes are abundant in the region, but only occur in about 9 of Ohio's 88 counties.

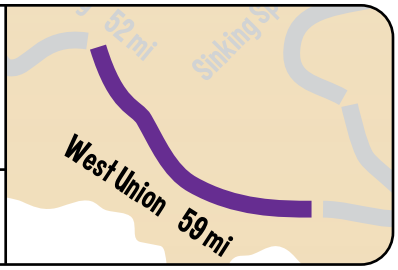
The scenic trail system between both properties offers a variety of options for nature lovers and outdoor enthusiasts. Two lakes and access to the Ohio River provide a variety of boating, fishing, and swimming opportunities. While at Shawnee State Forest, look for Shawnee's Copperhead Fire Tower. Built in 1924, it is the oldest fire tower in the state and provides stunning 360-degree views of the Shawnee hills.

Enrichment

1. Ask trailblazers why we needed fire towers in forests.
2. Ask trailblazers to list three things they think foresters may have taken with them to the fire towers.

Answers:
1. Before common use of planes and drones, fire towers provided a high vantage point for foresters to visually spot smoke from wildfires.
2. Binoculars, map, compass, two-way radio, and/or telephone.

Trail Section:		
# West Union		
Miles: **59**	Start date:	End date:



Grant Lake Wildlife Area

Grant Lake Wildlife area is the only ODNR property in this section of the trail. Purchasing of this land started in 1941 and continued until 2003. There is a beautiful 181-acre lake within the 412-acre wildlife area. There is a whole host of wildlife to see here and stunning nature scenes. Make sure to stop by and take time to admire the beauty of what Ohio and the Buckeye Trail has to offer.

Hiking through this section

While traveling through this section you will go through the towns of Bentonville, Russellville, Georgetown, and Mt. Orab. Though not designated as official trail towns, these are great places to stop and explore They all offer lodging and numerous opportunities for resupplying and shopping. Bentonville is also home to the Bentonville Anti-Horse Theft Society. Founded in 1853, its goal was to stop the stealing of horses as they were crucial for business and agriculture. The society still runs and operates today even though the theft of horses in this area is no longer an issue.

Enrichment

Ask students to write an acrostic poem using the word "Buckeye." An acrostic poem is a poem in which the first letter of each line spells out a word when read vertically. Here's an example:

Beneath the canopy
Unearth your wild spirit
Connect with the land
Keeping pace with nature's stride
Every step, an achievement
Young and old alike
End goal in sight

Trail Section:

Williamsburg

Miles:	Start date:	End date:
52		

East Fork State Park

Bethel
By the early 1800s, Americans coming from the East Coast had begun to occupy the new state of Ohio. The new settlers were attracted to the East Fork region and began early commercial activities such as grist mills, sawmills, blacksmith shops, tanneries, and stagecoach depots.

In 1869, two gold mines operated near the park. One mine was located near Elklick and consisted of a flume for washing gravel containing flakes of gold. The second mine near Twin Bridges tunneled underground to reach gold deposits.

In the late 20th century, the area took on a new appearance due to the creation of the East Fork Reservoir in 1978. Today, East Fork State Park offers diverse recreational and natural history opportunities only 25 miles from Cincinnati. Rolling hills, winding rivers, and the large Harsha Lake provide a beautiful backdrop for a wonderful getaway.

Milford
Milford (Clermont and Hamilton counties) is the first officially designated Buckeye Trail Town and the perfect place to launch many outdoor adventures.

Enrichment

To learn more about gold in Ohio including a map of gold locations, download **GeoFacts No. 9 Gold in Ohio**.

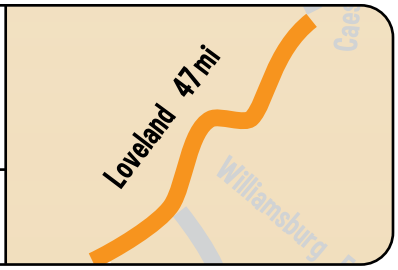
Hikers visiting Milford will find "The Junction"—a signpost that marks the intersection of over 23,000 miles of long-distance trails spanning across the United States.

- Buckeye Trail (1,440 miles)
- North Country Trail (4,800 miles)
- American Discovery Trail (6,800 miles)
- Sea-to-Sea Route (7,800 miles)
- The Underground Railroad Bicycling Route (2,000 miles)
- Ohio to Erie Trail (326 miles of cycling)
- Little Miami Scenic River (76+ miles of paddling)
- Little Miami Scenic Trail (78 miles of cycling)

Long ago, a piece of Milford's economy was built on another type of "trail": The Little Miami Railroad. The rail line was originally proposed in 1835 to transport passengers from Cincinnati to Springfield. It finally brought passengers to Milford for the first time in 1841—less than a year before the line went bankrupt. Milford's John Kugler took over the line and trains started chugging once again. By 1851, the line was able to reach all the way to New York. A trip from Cincinnati to New York looked something like this for a typical passenger: a day trip on the train from Cincinnati to Cleveland, an overnight boating trip to Buffalo, New York, and another day trip to Albany, New York, followed by one last night boat ride.

There's so much to enjoy in Milford, where earthen paths and historic railroads collide.

Trail Section:		
# Loveland		
Miles: **47**	Start date:	End date:



Loveland

Loveland, not far from Cincinnati, is right at the edge of the Little Miami River and three different Ohio counties—Hamilton, Clermont, and Warren.

The town is a great stop for cyclists or Buckeye Trail hikers out for an adventure on the Little Miami Scenic Trail. The paved trail is just over 78 miles long, making it one of the longest paved trails in the country. Most of the trail is part of Little Miami State Park. Outdoor enthusiasts can stop for a meal or do some shopping in historic downtown Loveland as they take a breather from the trail. Nisbet Park welcomes many to the town, and offers restrooms, a picnic shelter, bicycle repair stations, and more.

While in Loveland, the Loveland Castle Museum is worth a stop. The Historic castle was started in 1927 and is based on a French castle that the creator visited during World War I.

Last but not least, Loveland is home to a unique mascot—the Loveland Frog. You may see the frog on a bike ride, canoeing down the river, or around Loveland Park. They also host Return of the Frogman events every leap year to build upon the legend.

Little Miami State Park

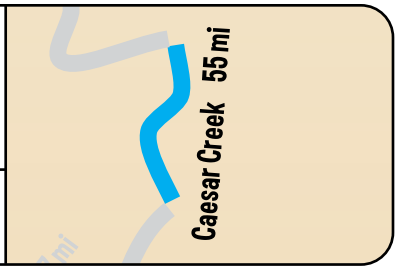
Waynesville
The wooded lands of the Little Miami River Valley were home to several early Ohio Native American cultures. Nearby are the largest and best-known earthworks in the state at Fort Ancient.

In more recent history, this area was inhabited by the Miami Indians and the Shawnee. After the War of 1812, the area attracted settlers. Numerous mills were developed on the riverbank and several still stand today. Clifton Mill near Yellow Springs is still in operation. By the mid-1800s, the river corridor was bustling with grist mills, textile mills, stagecoach trails and a railroad line.

Little Miami State Park is a unique recreational asset in the state park system: a trail corridor. This scenic, riverside trail offers numerous recreational pursuits—bicycling, hiking, cross-country skiing, rollerblading, backpacking and horseback riding. The corridor also provides access to boating on the Little Miami River. It meanders with the river through four counties encountering rolling farm country, towering cliffs, steep gorges, and forests along the way.

Trail Section:

Caesar Creek



Miles:	Start date:	End date:
55		

Caesar Creek State Park

Waynesville
Caesar's Creek Pioneer Village is a living history museum located at the southwestern end of Caesar Creek Lake. The Pioneer Village showcases an open-air collection of relocated and restored log buildings. Walking through the reconstructed village, visitors can see a Quaker meetinghouse, a pioneer schoolhouse, blacksmith shop, carpenter shop, and family cabins. Echoes of pioneer life resonate throughout the rustic village.

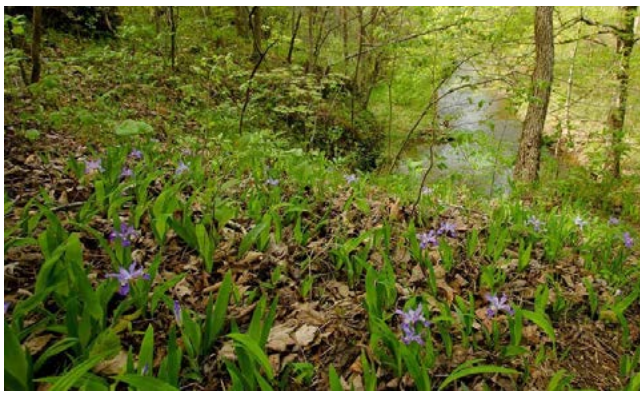
Volunteers brought the buildings together from all over the region to form Caesar's Creek Pioneer Village. Several structures were moved to Caesar's Creek Pioneer Village in 1978. During this time, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers prepared to impound the Caesar's Creek Valley. During flooding preparations, the Army Corps dismantled many old houses in the area and found many original log cabins, some dating back to the 1700s. To save them from destruction, these cabins were moved to Caesar's Creek Pioneer Village.

The buildings are open during special events held throughout the year. Events range from Civil War reenactments to old-time cooking, harvest festivals, and more. These events are often a great time to see the inside of the buildings. During the rest of the year, visitors can take a self-guided tour of the grounds.

A large sprawling lake, sunny meadows, and a wooded ravine await visitors at Caesar Creek. Boaters will find all the amenities for a great day on the water and a large campground with cozy sites. Other activities include hiking, mountain biking, horseback riding, and archery.

Davis Memorial State Nature Preserve

Peebles
Davis Memorial State Nature Preserve features beautiful cliffs made of a rock called *dolostone*. Dolostone is a sedimentary rock that formed from the remains of certain sea animals. Over the course of many millions of years, shell fragments and other remains accumulated on the seafloor, which eventually became solid bedrock that is now exposed at Davis Memorial. E. Lucy Braun, a groundbreaking environmentalist and a pioneering woman in her field, studied plant ecology at Davis Memorial. She earned her Ph.D. in 1914, six years before women won the right to vote.



Spring Valley
Built on a hillside near the Little Miami River, Spring Valley (Greene County) is a village in the southwestern part of Ohio near Dayton. It was founded in 1844 at a major intersection of the Cincinnati-Xenia Pike and the Little Miami Railroad, creating prime opportunities for a flourishing economy and trade scene.

Every year in October the village of Spring Valley holds its annual Spring Valley Potato Festival. This weekend-long celebration has crowned kings and queens, potato miniature golf, a mashed potato eating contest, and much more. If you are near Spring Valley in October, be sure to stop by this festival.

The Buckeye Trail leaves Spring Valley as it heads north on the Little Miami Scenic Trail. If your feet need a break from a long hike or you're just looking for a fun way to cool down, the village has river access to the Little Miami River—a perfect place to paddle.

Just east of the Little Miami River is Spring Valley Wildlife Area. The purchase of land for this public hunting and fishing area began in 1953. The area includes the old Sinclair Fur Farm lake and marsh which was improved in 1954 to create the modern 80-acre lake. In addition to hunting and fishing, secondary uses such as gun and archery target shooting and wildlife observation have become increasingly important. Cropland is managed to provide adequate distribution of wildlife food and cover in conjunction with the permanent meadow and woody cover. More than 100,000 trees and shrubs have been planted to provide permanent wildlife cover.

Xenia

The village of Xenia located in Greene County, another adventure hub and Little Miami River community, has earned the moniker "The Bicycle Capital of the Midwest." In fact, four major cycling routes converge around Xenia Station, a modern replica of the village's original railroad station. Those four trails—the Little Miami Scenic Trail, the Ohio to Erie Trail, the Creekside Trail, and the Jamestown Connector Trail—boast hundreds of miles of peddling and hiking opportunities.

From recreation to history, Xenia has a little bit of everything. People have found stone tools and other items in this region that date back more than 15,000 years.

Just North of Xenia lies Oldtown, where the vibrant Shawnee settlement of Old Chillicothe was founded in the 1770s, and led by Chief Blackfish. The people living in the town relied on the Little Miami River for transportation and sustenance. Daniel Boone was captured in February 1778 and lived in Old Chillicothe as part of Blackfish's family until he fled months later in June. Simon Kenton was also held atOld Chillicothe and punished for his crimes against the Shawnee.

In 2024, the Ohio Department of Natural Resources opened Great Council State Park to honor the lives of the Shawnee and pioneers, past and present.

Yellow Springs

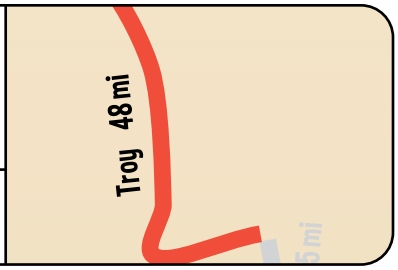
The Buckeye Trail enters the heart of Yellow Springs (Greene County) on the Little Miami Scenic Trail. Mike DeWine, Ohio's 70th governor, was born and raised in Yellow Springs where his family started a seed company.

Yellow Springs Station serves as a welcome into town along with many hiker-favorite restaurants, eclectic stores, and overnight lodging options. Why is the village called Yellow Springs? A natural spring rich in iron sits in the village's Glen Helen Nature Preserve. In the early days, many people visited the springs for its perceived medicinal benefits.

While the Buckeye Trail doesn't pass through nearby John Bryan State Park or the adjacent Clifton Gorge State Nature Preserve, these properties are remarkably scenic. John Bryan State Park is distinguished by its remarkable limestone gorge, and Clifton Gorge is an outstanding example of interglacial and postglacial canyon cutting.

Right down the road is Clifton Mill which was built in 1802, making it one of the oldest and largest water-powered grist mills still in operation today. Each winter season they have an amazing display of lights.

Trail Section:		
# Troy		
Miles: **48**	Start date:	End date:



Dayton

Dayton (Montgomery County) has earned a couple notable nicknames over the years, including "Gem City," "Birthplace of Aviation," and "Outdoor Adventure Capital of the Midwest." It is much larger than other Buckeye Trail Towns and its amenities for outdoor enthusiasts are abundant.

- **Gem City**—Few Daytonians can explain why Dayton is nicknamed the Gem City. Some guesses include that it was after a racehorse from Dayton named Gem, or it is because of the city's fantastic work to beautify city grounds.
- **Birthplace of Aviation**—Orville and Wilbur Wright, who lived in Dayton throughout parts of their childhood, built the Wright Flyer—the first powered flying machine—in Dayton. The Wright Cycle Company in Dayton is where Orville and Wilbur started their company in 1892. Today, the city is a hub of aviation heritage, featuring the Dayton Aviation National Heritage Park and the National Museum of the United States Air Force at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base.
- **Outdoor Adventure Capital of the Midwest**—Its location along the Great Miami River makes the area a paddlers' paradise. Dayton is home to launch ramps for three major state-designated Water Trails: Stillwater River, Mad River, and the Great Miami River. It also sits right in the middle of the largest bikeway network in the United States.

In search of more historical places? Carillon Historical Park is a great place to learn about the history of Dayton and its citizens. Blast to the past by stepping into the Newcomb Tavern which was built in 1796 and is the oldest building in the city.

Troy

Hiking into the City of Troy (Miami County) is like taking a step back in time. The city's name is even based on the ancient city of Troy, and the town's inhabitants even call themselves "Trojans." The old-fashioned town square includes all the features of small-town living: a candy shop, a corner bicycle shop, a butcher shop, and of course, a stately historic courthouse.

Most notably, the Troy-Hayner Cultural Center is the heart of the arts in the Troy community, offering art and local history exhibits as well as free musical performances year round. The Buckeye Trail once again meets the Great Miami River through Troy, so don't forget to soak in the natural small-town feel.

Piqua

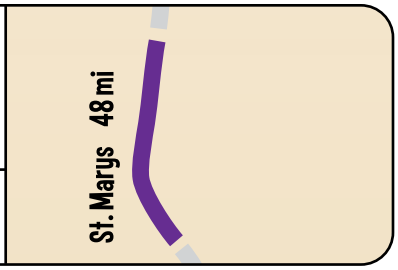
By continuing along the Great Miami River from Troy, hikers reach the city of Piqua (Miami County) and arrive at the downtown's Lock Nine Park by following the former Miami and Erie Canal pathway.

Notable stops include the public library and Fort Piqua Plaza to see the beautiful architecture that dates to 1891. The plaza building was constructed as a form of retaliation against their neighbors after Piqua lost the Miami County Courthouse building to the neighboring town of Troy.

If you're in Piqua during Labor Day weekend, make sure to head downtown to take part in the annual Piqua Heritage Festival. This festival depicts pioneer life and lets you see what Native American villages were like. There is also food, music, and more fun to be had the whole weekend.

Piqua was also home to John Scott Garbry, a conservation hero and 1986 inductee into the Ohio Department of Natural Resources' Ohio Conservation Hall of Fame. Garbry dedicated much of his time, energy, and property to education and the preservation of natural resources.

Trail Section:	St. Marys	
Miles: 48	Start date:	End date:



Lake Loramie State Park

Minster
A throwback to Ohio's canal era, Lake Loramie was originally constructed in 1824 as a reservoir for the Miami and Erie Canal. Canal workers earned between 30 and 50 cents per day for their hard work of cutting down large trees and digging ditches with picks and shovels.

A short feeder canal connected Lake Loramie with the main canal which provided transportation from the Ohio River at Cincinnati north to Lake Erie. The canal system reached its peak of economic importance in the mid-1800s. Eventually, the advent of the railroads and destruction caused by the floods of 1913 forced the abandonment of the canals the same year.

The lake and surrounding lands became Lake Loramie State Park in 1949, and much of its heritage can still be seen around the park today. Boating, fishing, swimming, and picnicking are popular activities in the park. In winter, the park offers ice fishing, sledding and snowmobiling.

Fort Loramie

Fort Loramie, Ohio (Shelby County), sits beside one of the Great Miami River's tributaries, Loramie Creek, and is one of the major towns along the Miami and Erie Canal. German immigrants helped build the canal between 1836 and 1841.

The Miami and Erie Canal brought all sorts of commodities into town, including the limestone used to build the foundation of St. Michael's Catholic Church. The canal also helped local industry flourish by helping export agriculture and wood products to major cities. The Great Flood of 1913 destroyed much of the Miami and Erie Canal and the village of Fort Loramie.

If you hike into Fort Loramie at the right time in the summer, you may be able to experience the annual Country Concert. The event is a multi-day ountry music festival that has occurred annually since 1981.

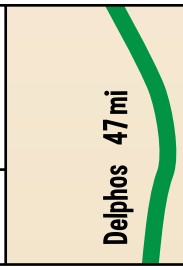
St. Marys

The area in and around Grand Lake St. Marys State Park in Auglaize County played an important part in the development of the Northwest Territory. The St. Marys River served as a vital link between the Great Lakes and the Ohio River. Because of this heavy water traffic, the renegades Simon and James Girty established a trading post, which eventually evolved into the town of St. Marys.

In 1837, work commenced on a reservoir for the Miami and Erie canal to maintain the canal's 5-foot water depth. Workers, using hand tools, were paid 35 cents a day. At its completion in 1845, the 13,500-acre Grand Lake was the largest man-made lake in the world. The lake was connected to the canal by a 3-mile feeder.

The canal prospered until the advent of the railroads in the 1870s. The area experienced another boom in the late 1890s when oil was discovered. For a time, the lake was dotted with oil derricks. Today a pile of rocks near the center of the lake marks the spot of the last producing well.

Trail Section:		
# Delphos		
Miles: 47	Start date:	End date:



Delphos

Delphos (Allen and Van Wert counties) has a lot to offer history buffs hiking the Buckeye Trail. Two museums on Main Steet highlight major influences on the town: canals and the postal service.

The Delphos Canal Commission Museum is dedicated to highlighting transportation, the people of Delphos, and major accomplishments throughout village history. The basement features a model train display to celebrate the impact of the railroad industry on the town.

In September the city throws their annual Delphos Canal Days to celebrate the history of the city and their people. There are carnival rides, local food and music throughout the weekend, and lots of fun for everyone.

The second museum, the Delphos Museum of Postal History, is one of only three postal museums nationwide and has an impressive display of stamps, antique postal vehicles, one-of-a-kind mailboxes, and much more.

Delphos has been warm and inviting to hikers for decades, and even lets backpackers pitch their tents inside city parks.

Enrichment

Give trailblazers the **postcard template** found on the next page. Ask them to write a short letter to home as if they've just hiked a section of the trail. Ask them to describe what they saw, felt, and experienced. Encourage them to consider their five senses and to be creative!

STAMP
HERE

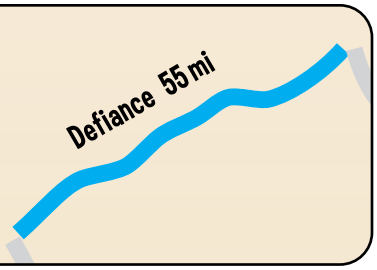
Trail Section:

Defiance

Miles: 55

Start date:

End date:



Defiance

The natural confluence of the Maumee and Auglaize rivers near Defiance (Defiance County) is a significant contributing factor for the development of northwestern Ohio. The waters of these two great rivers were a source of life for Native Americans and frontiersmen alike.

This was a rich hunting and fishing area for Native American peoples. The most famous of this area was Pontiac, an Ottawa chief. He is remembered for the infamous "Pontiac's Conspiracy," which was a rebellion of Native American tribes against trade policies in 1763.

Blue Jacket, a great Shawnee war chief, made his home near the banks of these same rivers in the late 1700s. In 1793, a "Grand Indian Council," the greatest assembly of tribal representatives on the North American continent, was also held here. The council convened with the determination to stop the American westward expansion.

While in Defiance, make sure to stop at Fort Defiance Park to read about and see the history that built this town. The fort does not stand in its former glory, but you can see remaining structures and a few cannons on display.

Independence Dam State Park

Defiance
Independence Dam State Park is located along the banks of the beautiful Maumee State Scenic River and is an ideal place for boating, fishing, or paddling.

The park sits on what used to be Fort Winchester's Camp No. 3, dubbed Fort Starvation. The nickname came from soldiers' stories of skimpy servings. Some days, men went without any salt and flour, mainstays of meals. Hunger caused weakness among soldiers, many of whom died from sickness and disease. It is believed more than 300 soldiers were buried at Fort Starvation. Their bodies were found 30 years later during the construction of the Miami and Erie Canal and buried once again in Ohio, this time honored by military rites. Markers and memorials to the fort and brave soldiers can be found throughout the park.

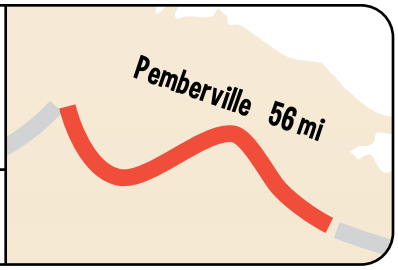
Remnants of Ohio's canal era are evident along seven miles of the historic canal. Look to see if you can find any clues from the past, such as ruins of old locks, while exploring the park.

Napoleon

The city of Napoleon (Henry County) is home to about 8,700 people. You might see one of its most iconic landmarks from a distance as you hike toward town: a Campbell's Soup water tower. The city wouldn't be complete without the world's largest tomato soup can sculpture, which sits outside of the Campbell's Soup plant nearby. It's a massive cylinder—about 33 feet wide and 33 feet tall. The company is a major employer in the area.

If soup art isn't your thing, you'll get your fill of enjoyment from the many historical features of the town, including the Miami and Erie Canal, county courthouse, sheriff's office, and multiple churches. The canal and two railroad lines were major impetuses for the town's booming industry starting in the 1880s. Downtown also offers a variety of shopping and food establishments to get you off your feet and take a break from the trail.

Trail Section:		
Pemberville		
Miles: **56**	Start date:	End date:



This part of the trail is one of the flattest in all Ohio. It's great for farming thanks to the last "Ice Age" which helped create organic-rich soils great for agricultural purposes. While walking this section you will see mostly farmland and a few small towns sprinkled throughout, such as Bowling Green, Pemberville, Woodville, and Elmore to name a few. These towns have a host of lodging, food, shopping, and fun to be had.

Enrichment

Check out @OhioDNR **"Ohio Rock Talks Episode 12: The Ice Age in Ohio"** on YouTube.

In this episode, Geologist Tyler Norris discusses what happened in Ohio during the Ice Age and how it shaped the landscape we see today. Topics covered include the glacial deposits that make up the land surface, how they influence the way we live, and how we use these natural resources. Norris also discusses what the Ohio Geological Survey is doing to map these materials and what information is useful to Ohio citizens, industry, and government agencies.

Q&A

Q: What was the name of the last glaciaction to cover Ohio?

A: Wisconsin.

Q: What is an ice age?

A: A period of cooler temperatures and climate that leads to the accumulation of large sheets of ice on land (called glaciers). During the last Ice Age, these glaciers migrated south to Ohio from Canada due to gravity before melting and retreating with warming temperatures.

Q: How many ice ages has the Earth experienced?

A: At least 5 "major" ice ages.

Q: True or False: All of Ohio was once covered by a glacier during the last Ice Age.

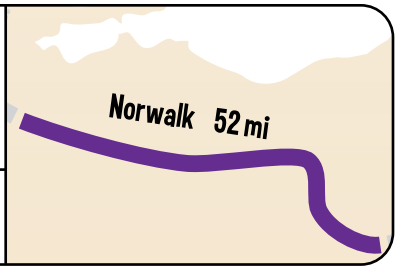
A: False. Southeastern Ohio was not covered by glaciers during the last Ice Age.

Q: True or False: Giant Beavers lived during the Ice Age but are now extinct.

A: True.

Further Reading:
GeoFacts 33: Ice Age in Ohio—Evidence Below Our Feet

Trail Section:		
# Norwalk		
Miles: **52**	Start date:	End date:



Wakeman

Wakeman (Huron County) was founded along the Vermilion River in between Cleveland and Toledo in 1824. Historically, the town was an important pitstop for trains where they would refill on essential coal. Some trains would also take passengers to the two major cities nearby.

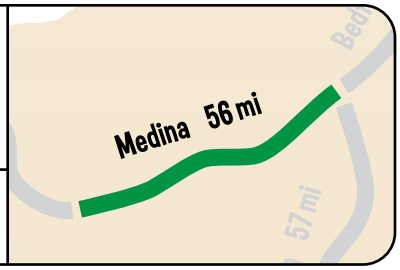
Wakeman's downtown area is full of great stuff for Buckeye Trail adventurers. You can find gifts, delicious ice cream and pizza, a smoothie shop, and even a cozy coffee shop. If you're looking for a fun and friendly place to explore, Wakeman has it all.

Findley State Park

Wellington

Before becoming a state park in 1950, Findley State Forest was formed in the 1940s. The project began after a local Lorain County judge, Guy B. Findley, donated 890 acres of forest to the state of Ohio as part of his fight against juvenile delinquency. Judge Findley took a special interest in serving local youth. He was involved in Boy Scouts of America and served as a trustee for the Cleveland Christian Home for Children, among other youth and community-serving organizations. Many species of trees were planted in the park in perfect rows by Judge Findley himself.

Popular with hikers and mountain bikers, the park has a variety of activities to offer from disc golfing to hunting. The trails are lovely in all seasons, but particularly inviting during autumn and spring. The park's forests, meadows, and quiet waters offer a peaceful backdrop for camping, boating, and hiking. Make sure to check out the Storybook Trail while at the park. The Storybook Trail is a ½-mile path that features different nature-themed books to enjoy all year long. A Little Free Library is located at the beginning of the trail so visitors may choose to take a book home or leave one for others. After the trail, a natural playground offers additional play space.

Trail Section: **Medina**			
Miles: **56**	Start date:	End date:	

Spencer Lake Wildlife Area

Spencer
Spencer Lake Wildlife Area is in the glaciated portion of the state and characterized by gently rolling topography; the soil is rather heavy and the lower, level land tends to be wet in the spring.

Fish species in Spencer Lake include largemouth bass, bluegill, and channel catfish. Cottontail rabbits, ring-necked pheasants, and fox squirrels are the most common game species, with rabbits the most abundant. Muskrats, raccoons, minks, opossums, and skunks are common, and waterfowl are hunted at the lake and stream in the area. Deer and wild turkeys are spotted occasionally. A great variety of both nesting and migrant birds utilize the area. Of particular interest to birding enthusiasts is the spring migration of waterfowl and songbirds.

Enrichment

Migration Challenge:
Have trailblazers pretend they are birds migrating for spring. Ask them to pretend to fly by flapping their arms for 1 minute. Explain that migration can be exhausting for birds. Some birds travel thousands of miles across mountains, forests, and oceans to reach their destinations.

Question: What do you think birds need to stay healthy before, during and after migration?

Answer: Food, water, and a safe resting place. The right habitat is critical for migratory birds to accomplish their ambitious journeys across the globe. Wind also can aid migratory birds flights.

How did the Blue Blazes begin?

In 1958, an Ohioan and Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) employee named Merrill Gilfillan wrote to the Columbus Dispatch. He brought to light the idea of creating a trail that goes from the city of Cincinnati all the way to Lake Erie near Cleveland. Gilfillan hoped this extensive trail would inspire people of all ages, but especially the youth, to take the time and get outside to learn more about Ohio.

This new trail quickly gained popularity, and in February 1959, Gilfillan and partners met in Columbus to begin the formation of this trail. The Buckeye Trail Association, or BTA, emerged in June 1959. The BTA was formed to organize and manage the creation of the Buckeye Trail while also promoting to Ohioans.

Gilfillan's dream became a reality on September 19, 1959, when the BTA opened the first 20 mile-section of the trail near Hocking Hills State Park in Hocking County. Emma "Grandma" Gatewood, a long-distance hiking pioneer and co-founder of the Buckeye Trail, was a key component to this first section and was on the inaugural hike with other members of the BTA. The inaugural 20 miles featured the iconic blue blazes to mark the trail.

The trail expanded vastly over the years until it reached its final and current design in 1980. The trail is designed as a footpath for hikers, but parts of the trail allow bicycles, kayaks, horses, and more.

The Buckeye Trail Association is currently manned by a vast number of local volunteers who continually improve the trail experience. From upgrading existing trial, to building new sections of the Buckeye Trail, the BTA also actively promotes the many opportunities for adventure along the trail to hosting social gatherings—the organization does it all. The BTA isn't alone in its mission, as it takes many committed partners to keep Ohio a wonderful place for adventure. The Buckeye Trail is a great example of how one big idea can become a reality when many people come together.

Photo Credit: *Buckeye Trail Association*

Photo Credit: *Buckeye Trail Association*

Photo Credit: *Buckeye Trail Association*

Trail Champion spotlight

Emma "Grandma" Gatewood

Let's dive into the amazing life of Emma "Grandma" Gatewood. She was no ordinary grandma—she was a true hiking pioneer and hero.

Emma was born in Gallia County, Ohio, in 1887, one of 15 children in her family. Growing up, her father was distant, and her siblings slept four to a bed. Emma could only work up to an 8th-grade education but continued learning about many passions on her own. At the age of 19, Emma married an abusive farmer with whom she had 11 children. Emma's escape from everyday life came from the woods, where she would seek peace and solitude.

After her kids were grown and she lived independently, Grandma yearned for adventure. In 1955, she left home at the age of 67 to walk from Georgia to Maine on the Appalachian Trail.

With a heart full of determination, she became the very first woman to hike the whole Appalachian Trail from start to finish all by herself in one go. It took her 146 days to hike over 2,000 miles.

But that's not all—Grandma loved the Appalachian Trail so much that two years later, in 1957, she hiked it again. And not only that, but she also hiked it a third time in different sections.

Grandma did things differently, too. Instead of heavy hiking boots, she wore sneakers, and instead of a big backpack, she used a simple laundry sack to carry her stuff. She was a real trailblazer, showing everyone that you don't need fancy gear to enjoy the great outdoors. She only carried what she really needed, and everything she brought had more than one use. That way, her backpack (or laundry sack) was never too heavy. She usually had around 20 pounds of stuff, including food and water.

Grandma became famous after her amazing feat. She even appeared on television programs like the Today Show. She inspired many Americans to go hiking, especially women. She showed them that they could be strong and adventurous, just like her.

Later, Grandma returned to Ohio and co-founded the Buckeye Trail. She established the first twenty miles of the trail near Hocking Hills State Park in 1959.

In 2012, Grandma was honored by being inducted into the Appalachian Trail Hall of Fame. She is forever remembered for her amazing adventures and how she inspired so many people. The Ohio Department of Natural Resources inducted Grandma into the Ohio Natural Resources Hall of Fame in 2022, recognizing her contribution to preserving and protecting Ohio's natural wonders for the benefit of all.

Remember Emma "Grandma" Gatewood. She was a true hiking legend who showed us all that you're never too old or too "anything" to go on a grand adventure. The great outdoors is waiting for you to explore, just like she did!

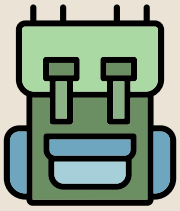
Preparing to hike the Buckeye Trail

The Buckeye Trail can be explored in many ways, virtually by use of this document or in-person." Some brave hikers will "thru-hike" the trail. They'll start on day one and attempt to conquer the entire trail, spending each day and night outdoors before going home. This can take anywhere from 60 to 90 days on average! Others will take a few nights at a time and complete the trail in short sections. Some hikers, though, prefer to not camp at all. They'll hike a few miles during the day and then head home.

Though different people hike in different ways, a safe and fun trip requires the right gear. **Check out the lists on the next page** to see what you might need as you make life-long memories on the trail.

Enrichment

1. Ask your trailblazers to **make a list of 10 items they would pack** if they were to "thru-hike" the Buckeye Trail. Compare it to the lists on the next two pages.
2. ***Variation:*** Bring in some common household items found on the next two pages. Invite a trailblazer to "dress up" as if they were ready to hit the trail. Is their backpack too heavy?



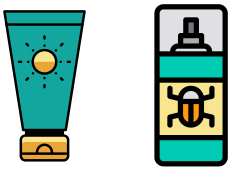
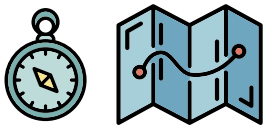
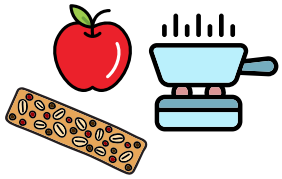
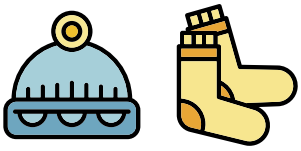
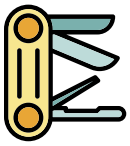
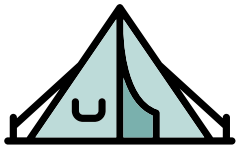
Packing the Essentials

Make sure to check out **@OhioDNR "What's in My Pack"** series on YouTube before heading out on your trip. This video series explores a variety of outdoor pursuits to help you determine the items you should be carrying with you in your pack before you head out for your next outdoor adventure.

Hiking checklist

Whether you are heading out on the trail, teaching your class, or leading a group of older adults, hiking is a great way to explore all the sights of the Buckeye Trail. Should you or your trailblazers choose to hit the physical trail, remember the buddy system is best so bring some friends or family along for a memorable experience in the great outdoors.

Even short hikes require being prepared with a few essential items. Don't forget to pack these items for a fun and safe experience.

☐ **Water Bottle and Filter** Staying hydrated is crucial, so bring a water bottle on your hike and a filter if you'll drink from streams and rivers.	☐ **Sun and Bug Protection**  Smother yourself in sunscreen during a hike on a bright, sunny day. Pesky bugs are everywhere so bring bug spray.	☐ **Map and Compass**  X marks the spot on the map. But which way is it? North, south, east, or west? Compasses help you navigate through the woods.	☐ **Food and Cooking Gear**  Your favorite trail mix, granola bars, and fresh fruits are great choices for a day hike. Include a cooking pot for overnight.
☐ **Rain Gear** Imagine being soaked as you hike. Keep a raincoat and rain pants with you—you never know when a cloud might erupt.	☐ **Extra Clothes**  Wet clothes are uncomfortable for hikers. Bring extra clothes and dry socks to keep your feet blister free.	☐ **Pocket Knife**  A multi-tool pocket knife can be useful for cutting lines, opening cans, and whittling sticks.	☐ **Whistle** Don't let yourself get lost in the woods. If you do, keep blowing your whistle until help arrives.
☐ **Toilet Paper** Nature calls at home and in the remote wilderness. Keep yourself clean and fresh on your hike with some toilet paper.	☐ **First Aid Kit** Minor scrapes, bumps, and bruises can often be taken care of in the woods with a small first aid kit.	☐ **Sleeping Bag** Pack a sleeping bag with a temperature rating for the climate in which you'll be camping.	☐ **Tent**  A tent is your portable home away from home. It'll keep you dry and protected from the elements as you sleep in the wilderness.

What's in your backpack?

Going on a backpacking trip is an exciting way to explore the outdoors for multiple days. Unlike day hiking, trailblazers will get to experience nights under the stars. Everything needed for the trip should fit right on the trailblazers back.

Create a drawing of the items you would pack for a trip and explain why each one is important.

Just how long is the Buckeye Trail?

1,440 miles is quite a long way...

That's equal to:

- 2,534,400 yards
- 7,603,200 feet
- 91,238,400 inches

How many steps would it take to walk the entire trail?

On average, it takes between 2,000 and 2,500 steps to walk one mile depending on your height.

Let's assume it will take you about 2,500 steps to walk one mile. 2,500 steps x 1,440 miles = 3,600,000 steps to circle all of Ohio on the Buckeye Trail! That's a lot of work for your feet!

1. Have you ever walked or ran a lap around a track? Imagine completing 5,760 laps around that track. That's the same distance as the Buckeye Trail. *(Based on a quarter-mile track)*
2. To score a touchdown, the offense (including the quarter back, running back, and others) must work together to carry the football into the opposing team's end zone. Sometimes, that can be almost 100 yards (300 feet) of running from one end zone to the other. Each endzone is 10 yards (or 30 feet), making a football field 120 yards (or 360 feet) long. To cover the total length of the Buckeye Trail, a football team would need to run the length of the entire field 21, 120 times. That's a lot of running up and down the field. Do you think your favorite football team could run that far?
3. If we lined the Buckeye Trail with yellow No. 2 pencils, how many pencils would we need? A brand-new pencil is about seven inches which means 13,034,057 brand-new pencils in one long line would finally reach 1,440 miles. Where would we even get that many pencils?
4. Let's have some more fun. Imagine we lined the Buckeye Trail with something else yellow but much larger than a pencil—school buses! It would still take about 190,080 school buses lined end-to-end to reach 1,440 miles. That'd be a massive parade of buses!

What distances are similar to the 1,440-mile Buckeye Trail?

- The drive from Cincinnati, Ohio, to Cleveland, Ohio, is about 250 miles and takes approximately 3 hours and 45 minutes. You'd have to walk from Cincinnati to Cleveland about 5 ¾ times to match the distance of the Buckeye Trail.
- The drive from Columbus, Ohio, to Albuquerque, New Mexico, is 1,459 miles and takes over 20 hours. It crosses seven states.
- By traveling as the crow flies in any direction from Columbus, Ohio, for 1,440 miles, you can reach:
  - 43 of the 50 United States
  - 5 provinces in Canada
  - Cuba, the Bahamas, and the Turks and Caicos islands

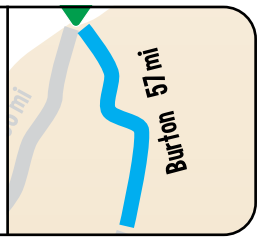
It's time to do your own math!

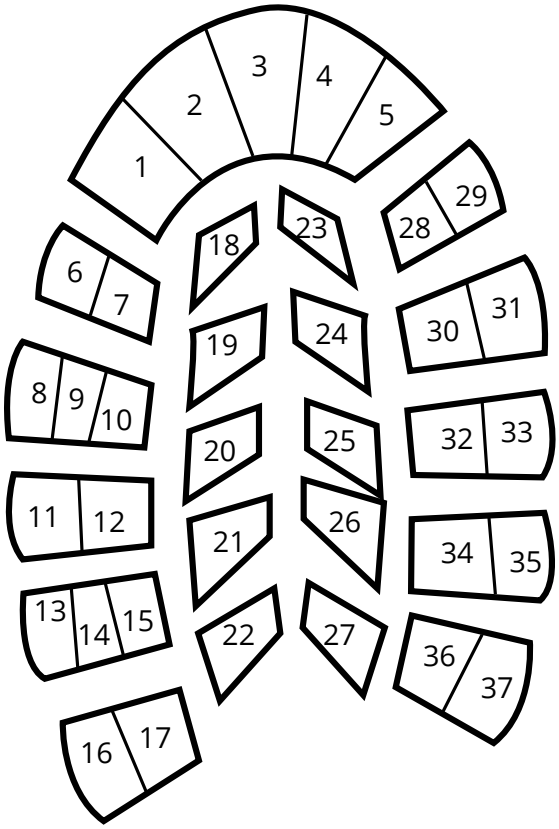
1. Find an object. It can be anything—your shoe, a couch, a loaf of bread, anything!
2. Use a ruler to find out how long it is.
3. How many of those items placed end-to-end would it take to equal the length of the 1,440-mile Buckeye Trail? Figure out the equation to calculate that length. If it helps, take special note of the miles-to-inches, miles-to-feet, or miles-to-yard conversions above.

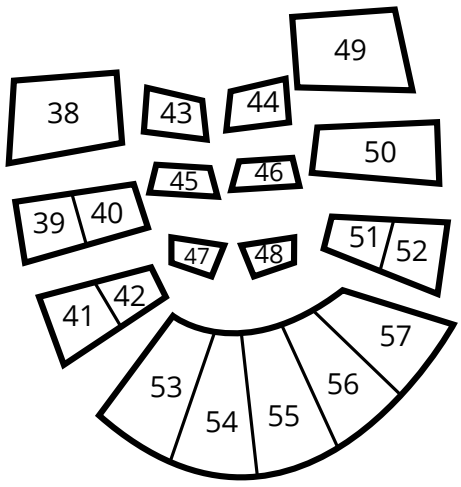
Track Your Progress

Record your progress by using the **Buckeye Boots** below. Each boot represents a different section and each box represents a mile. Color in each box for every mile you travel.

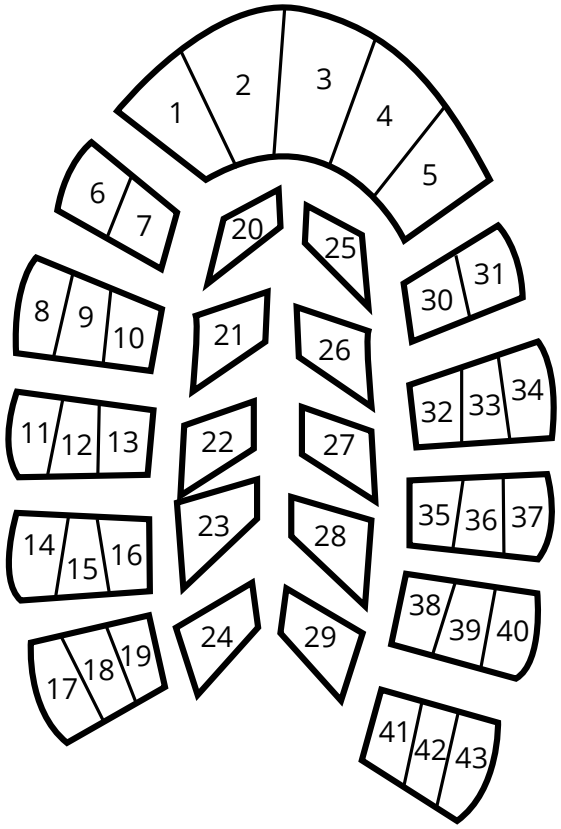
Burton

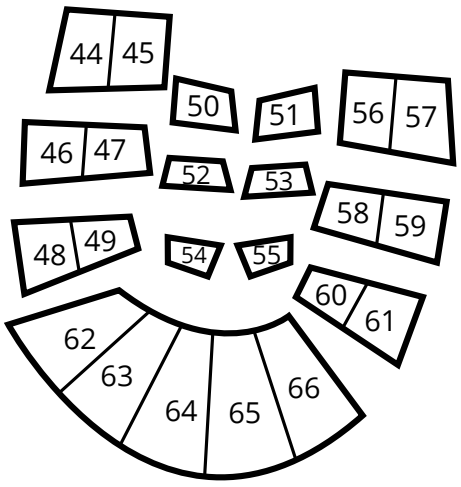




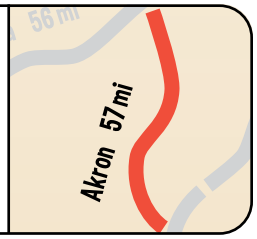


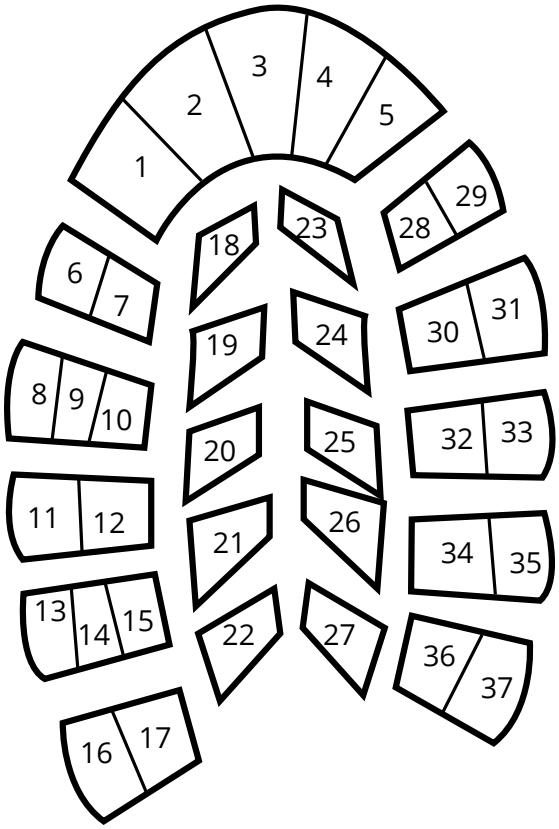
Bedford

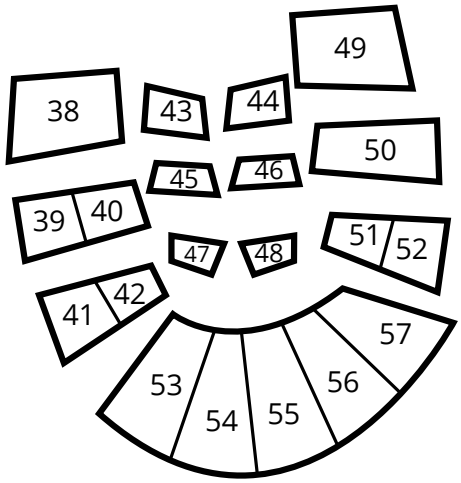




Akron







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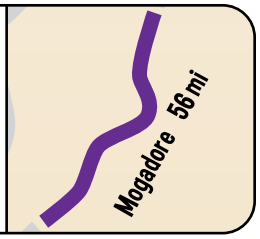
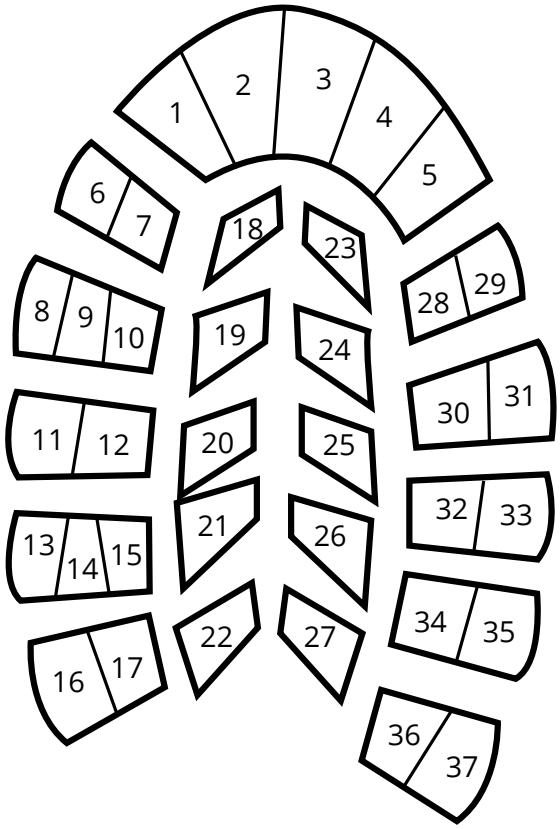
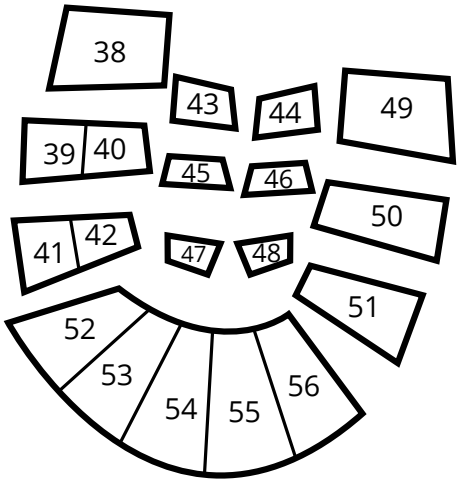
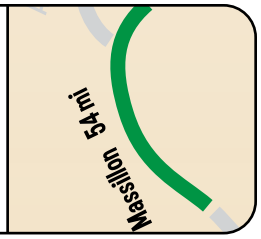
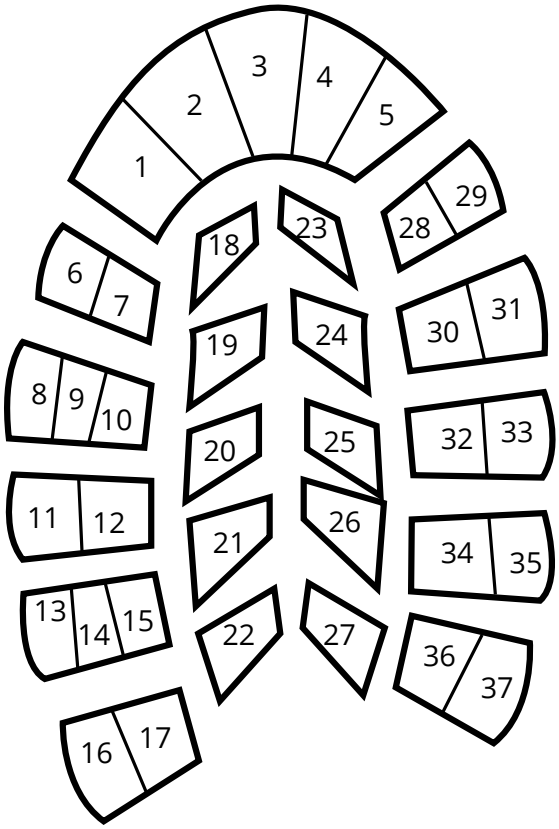


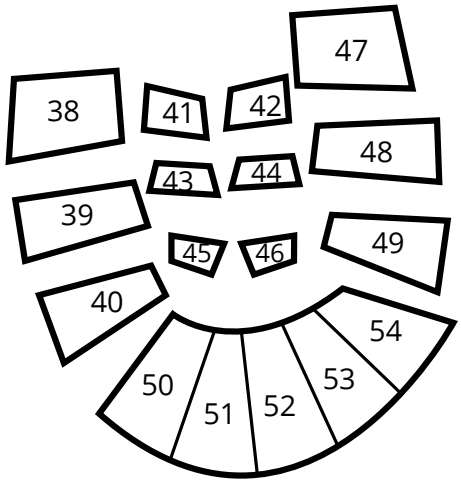




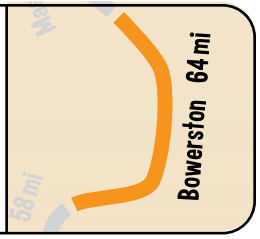
Massillon

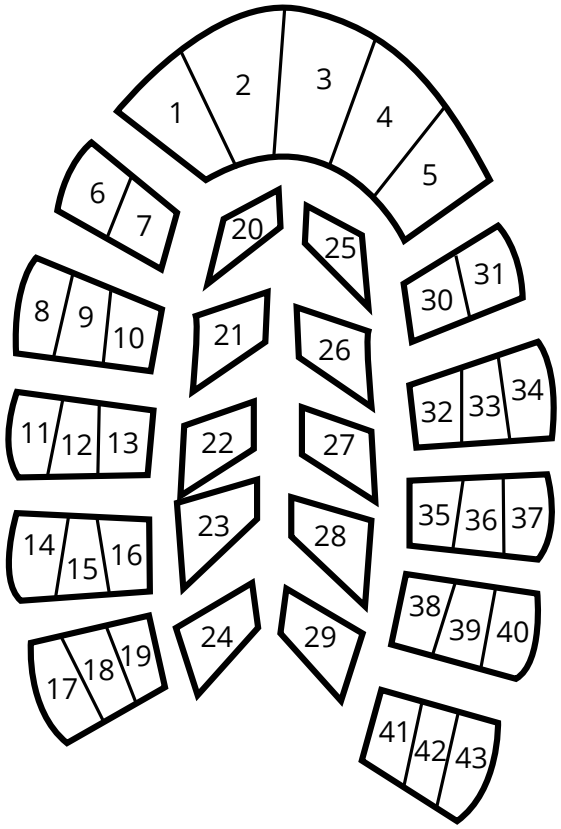


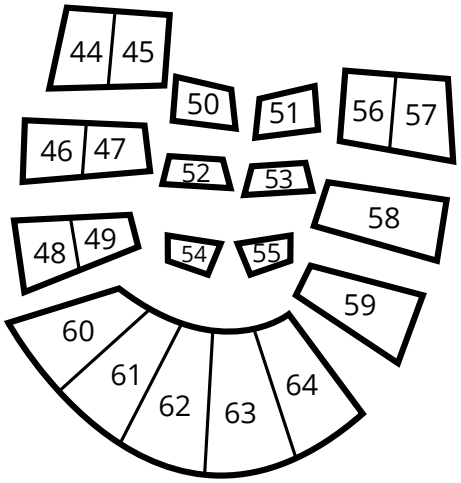




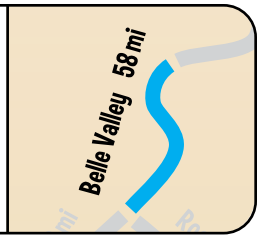
Bowerston

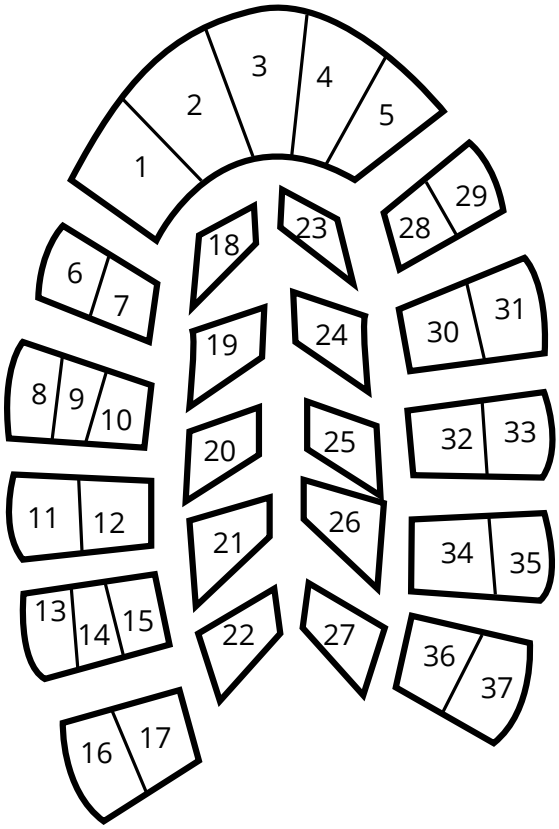


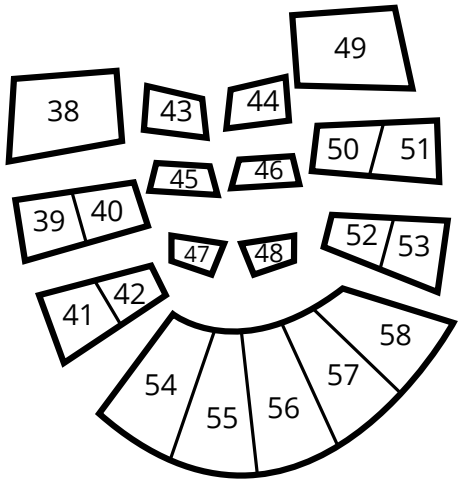




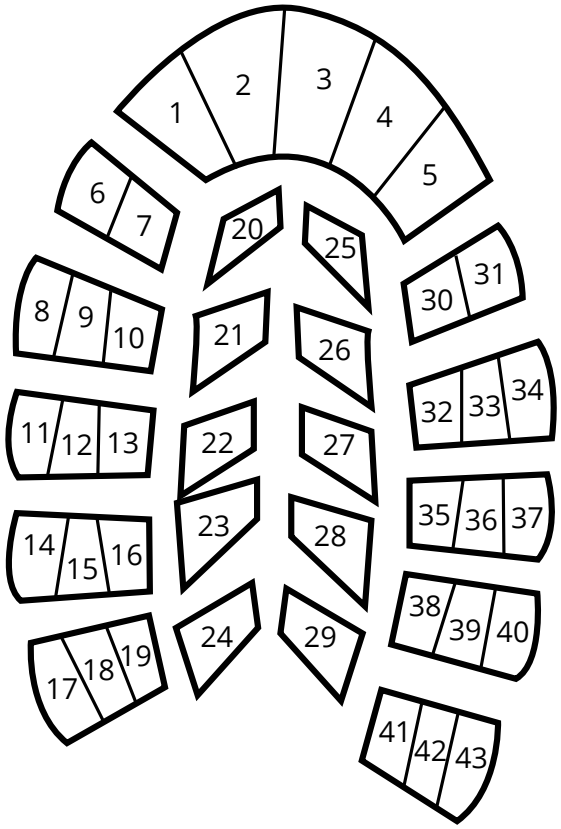
Belle Valley

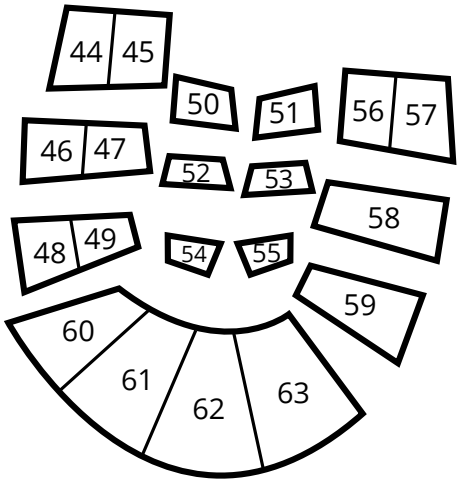




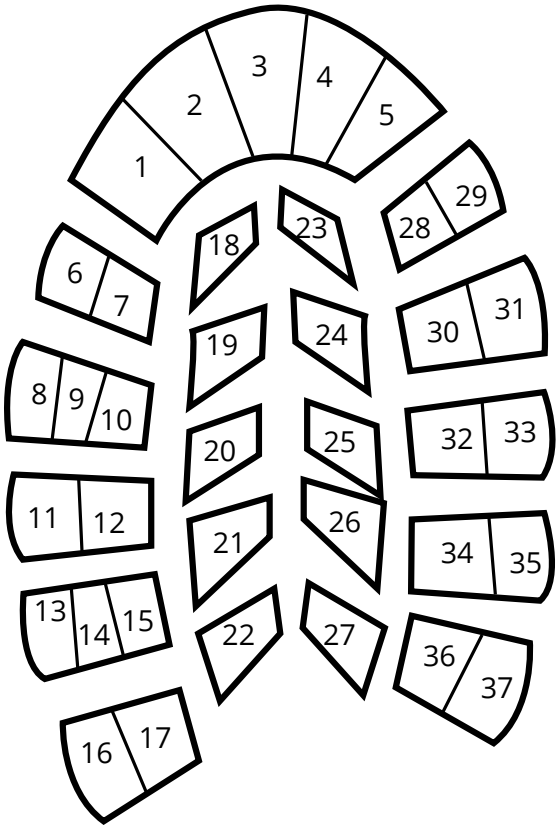


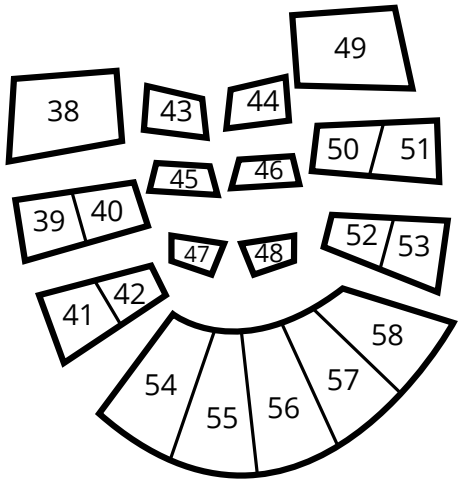
Road Fork



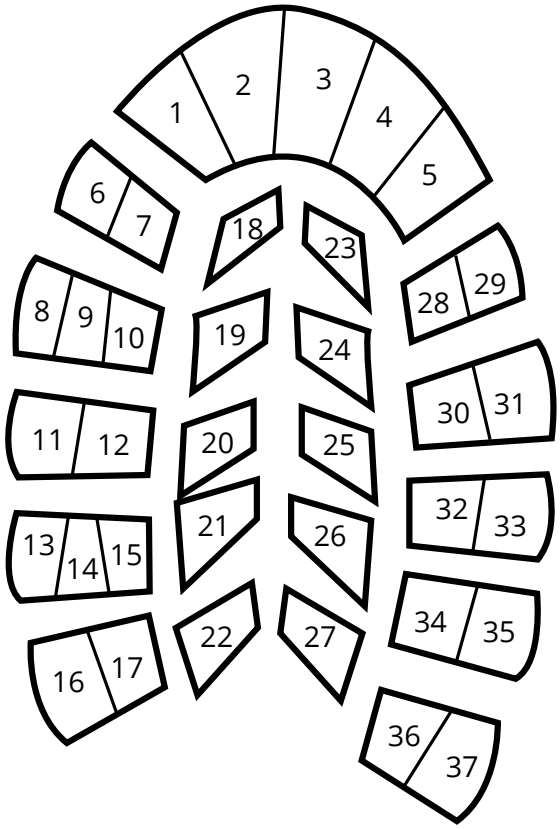


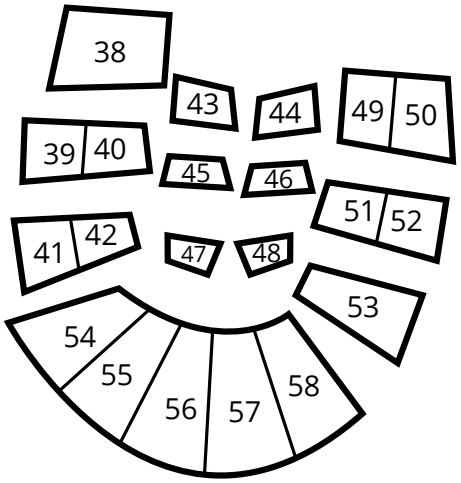
Whipple



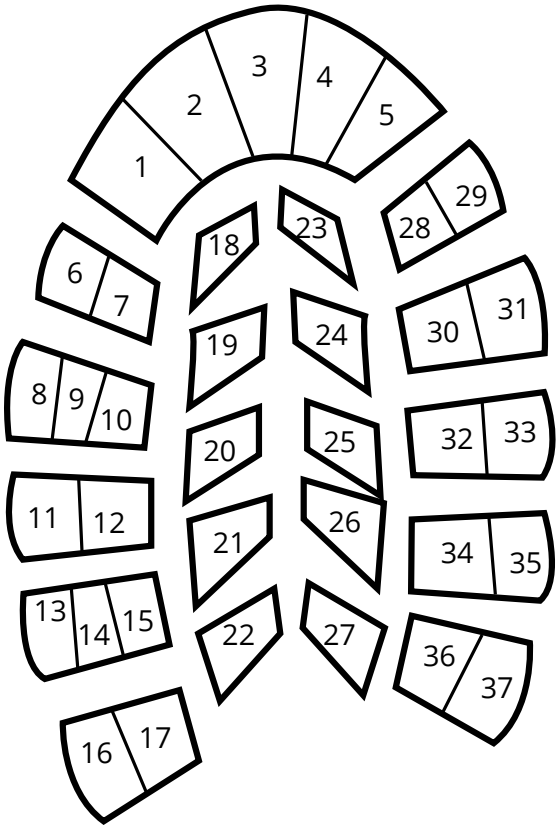


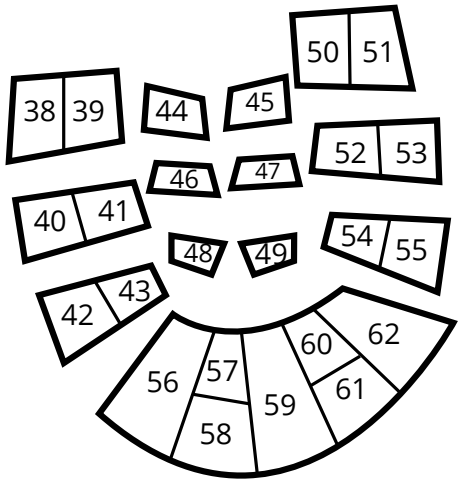
Stockport



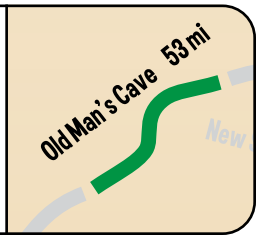


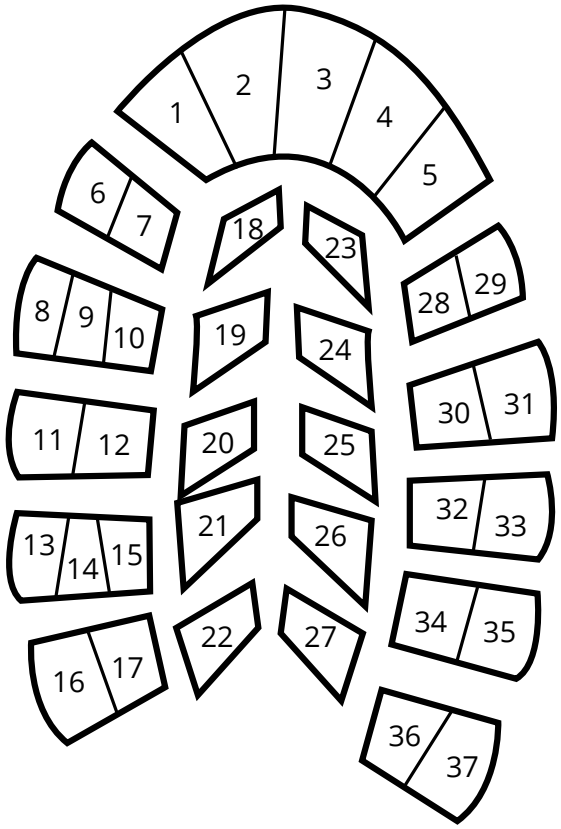
New Straitsville

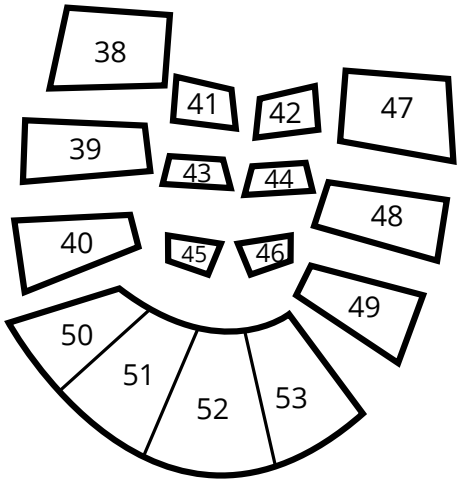




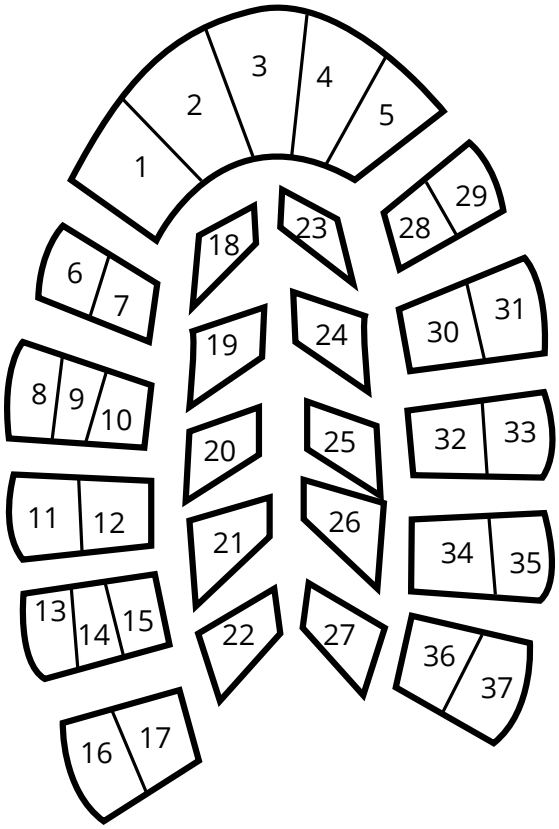
Old Man's Cave

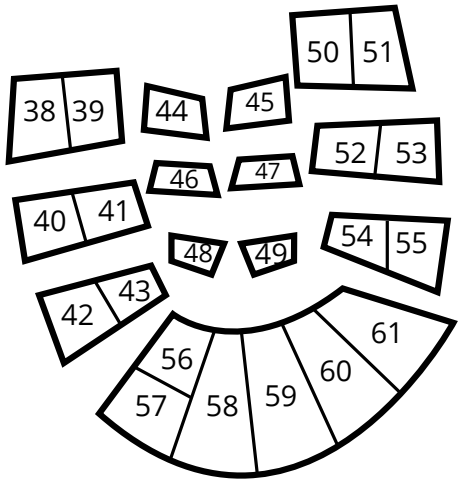




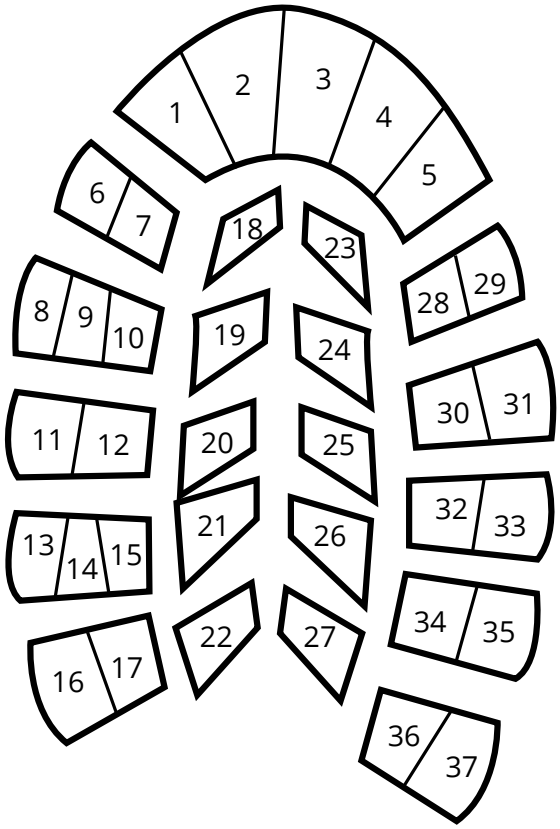


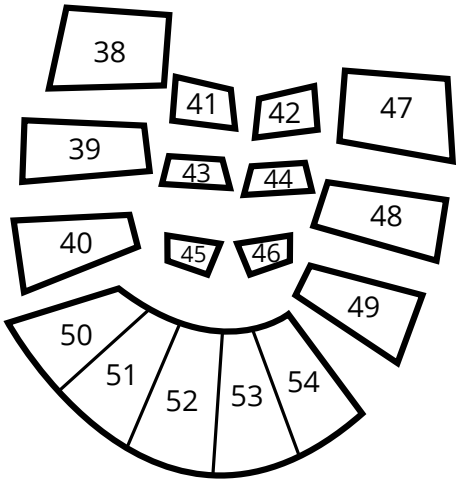
Scioto Trail





Sinking Spring





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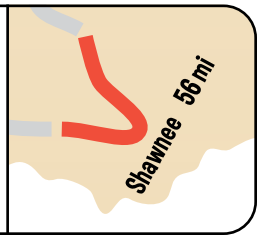

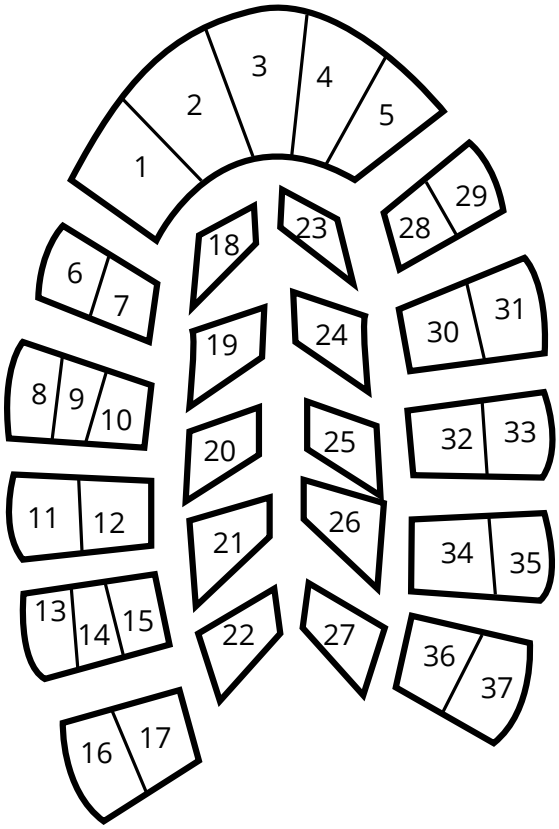

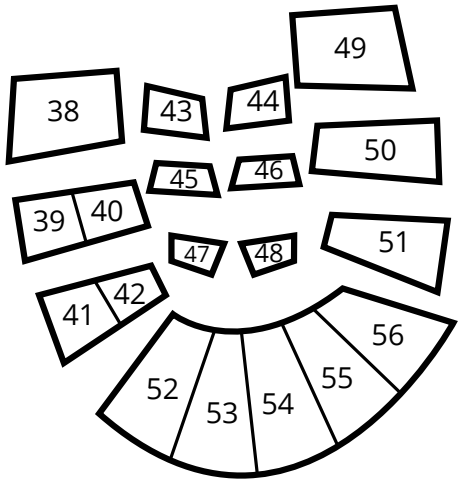

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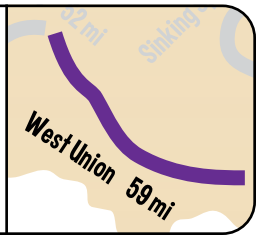
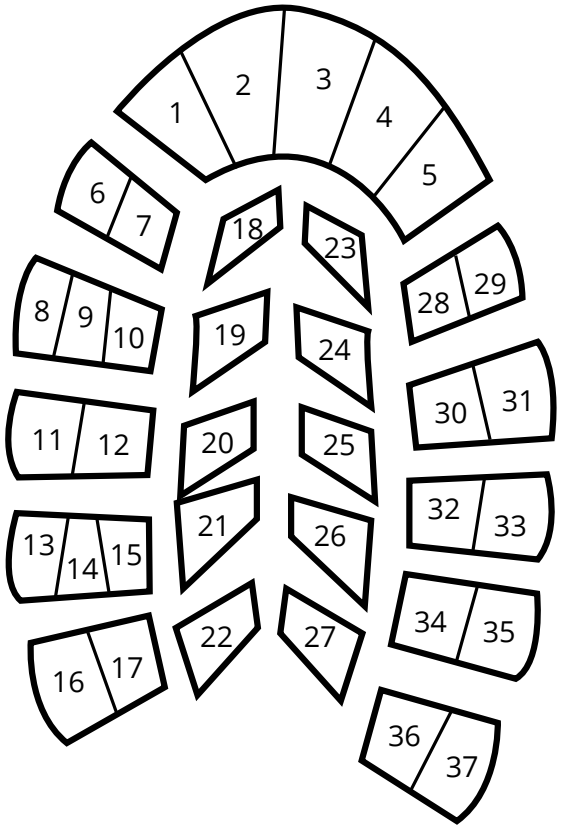
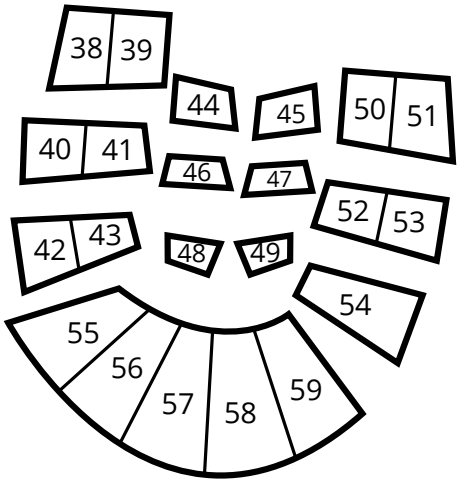
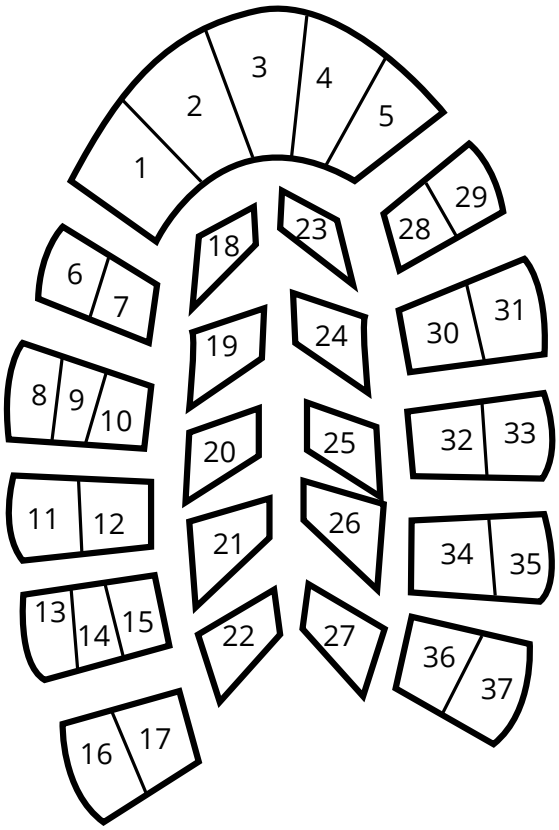


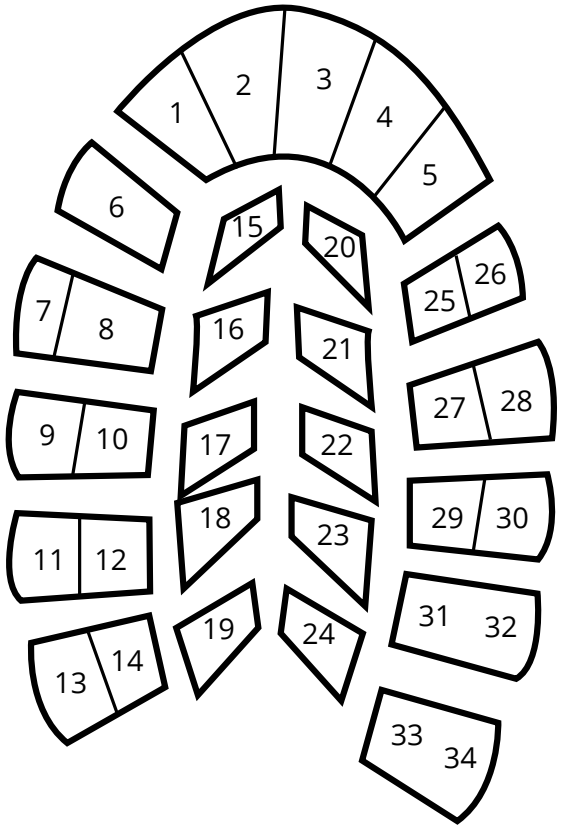


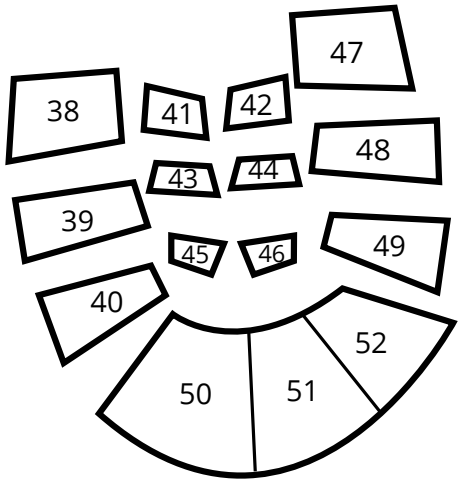


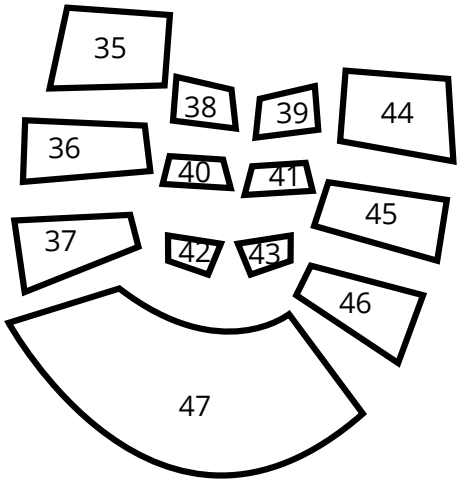
Williamsburg

Loveland









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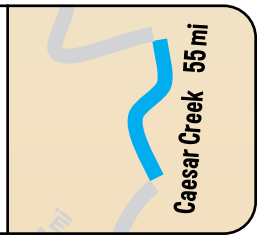
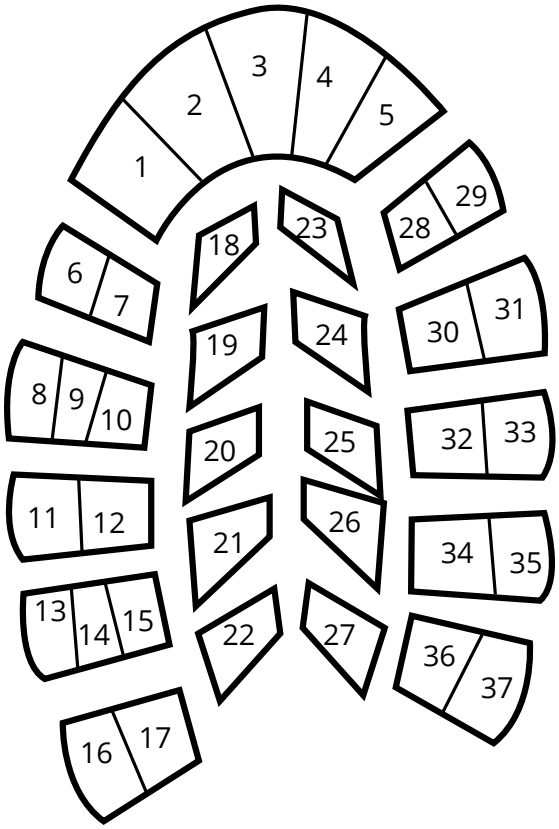
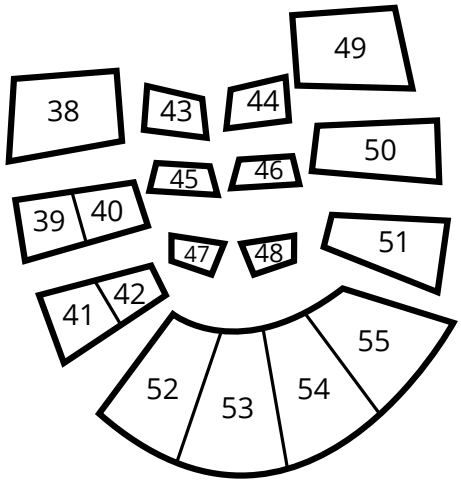
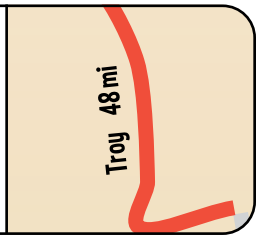
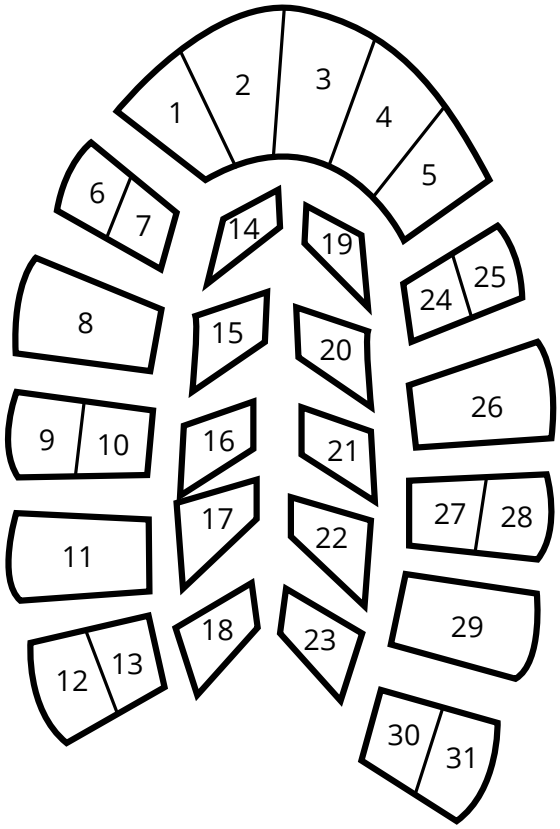


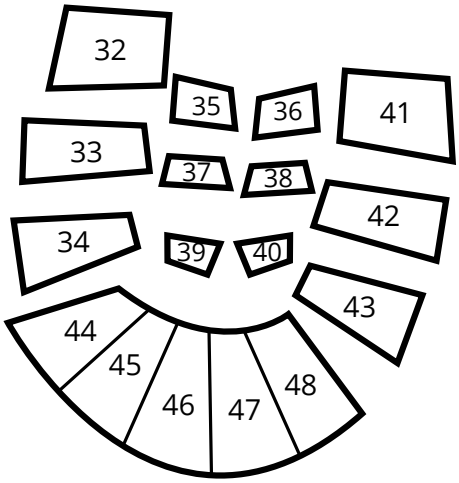




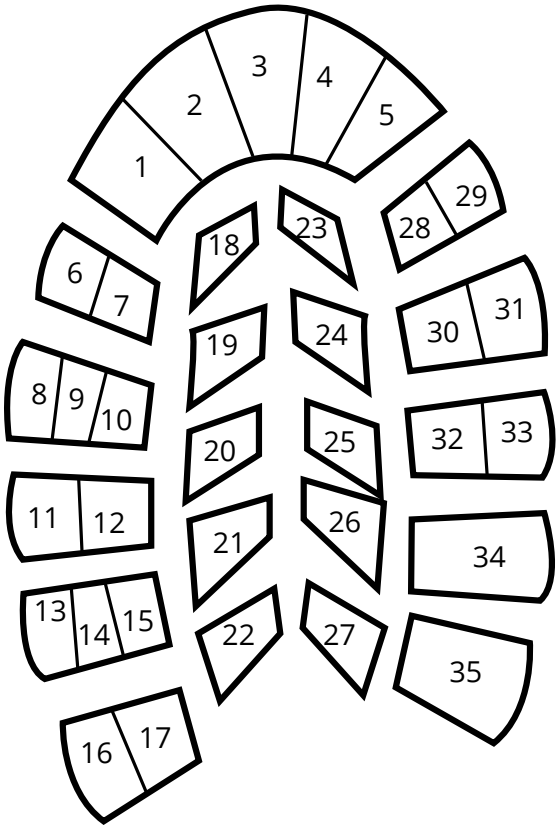
Troy

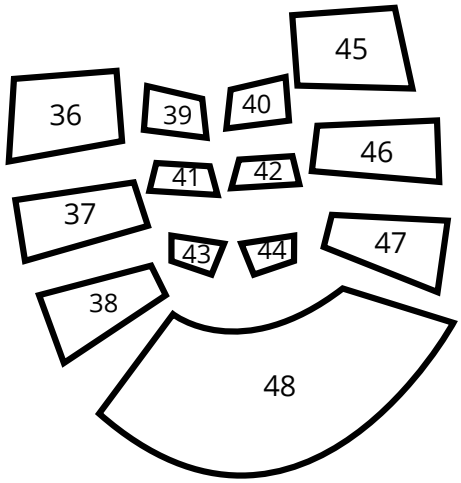






St. Marys





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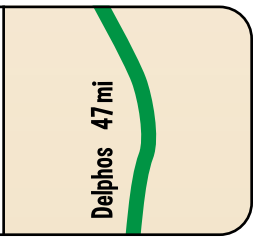

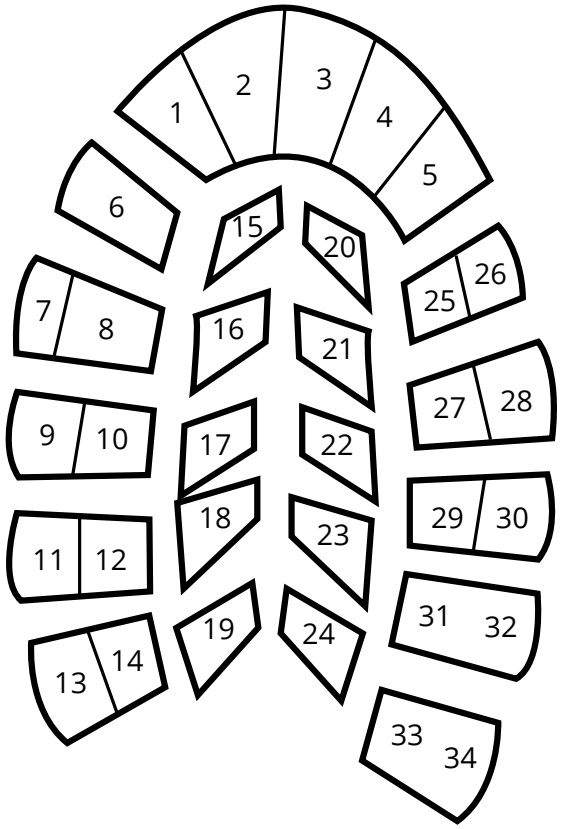

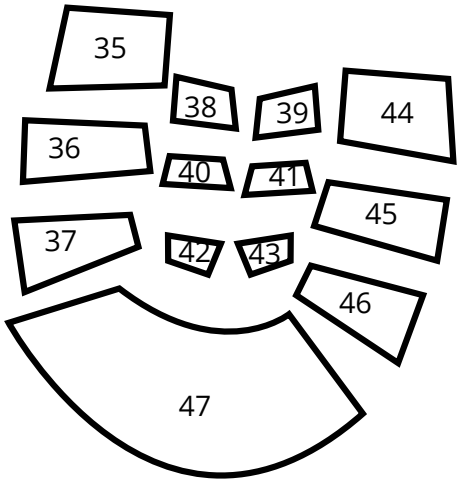

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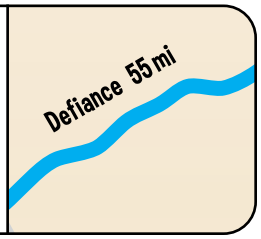
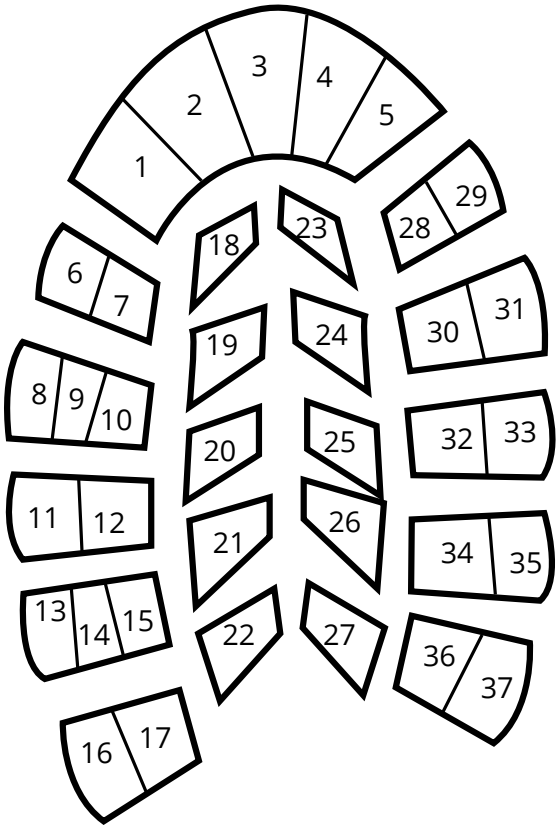
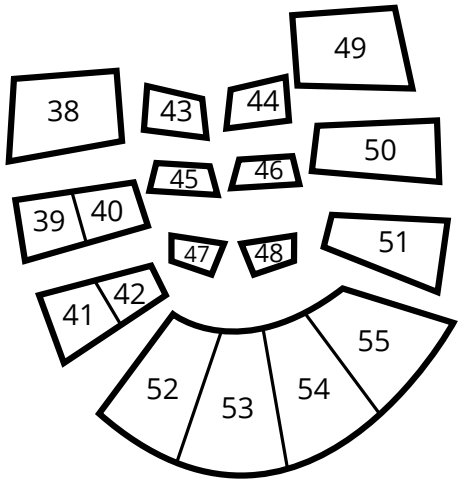
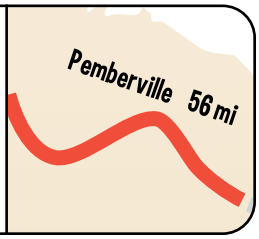
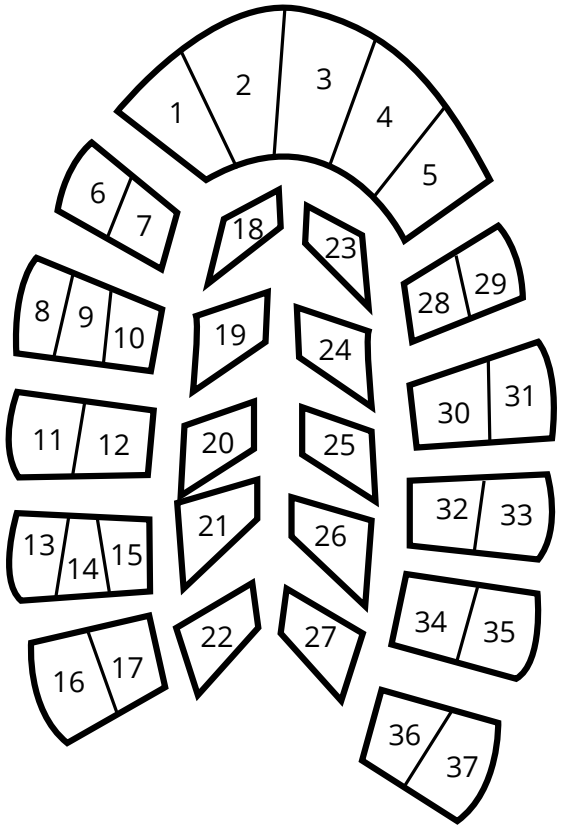


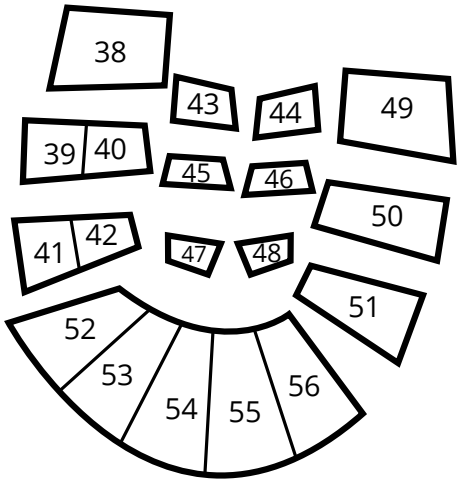




Pemberville







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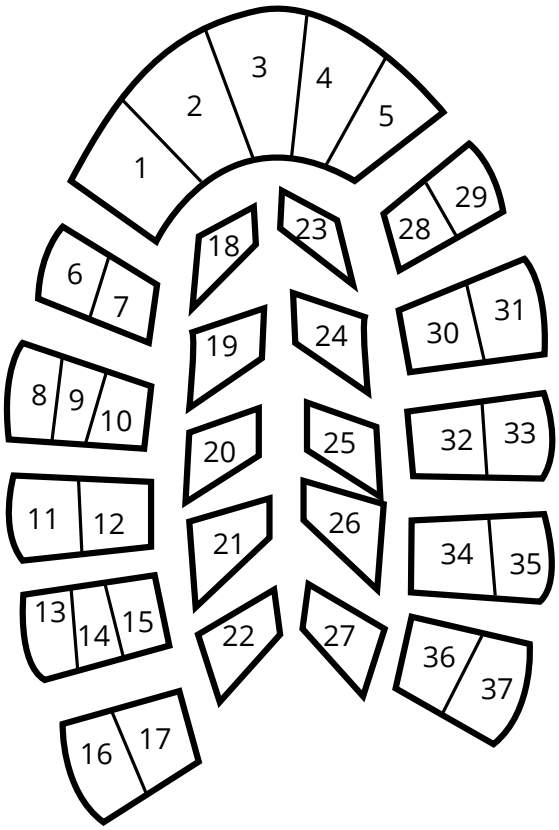

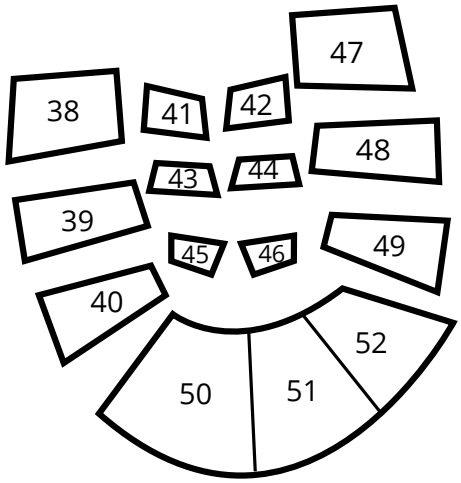

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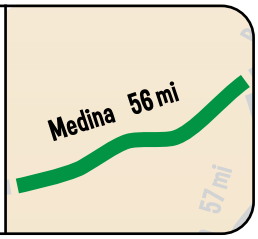

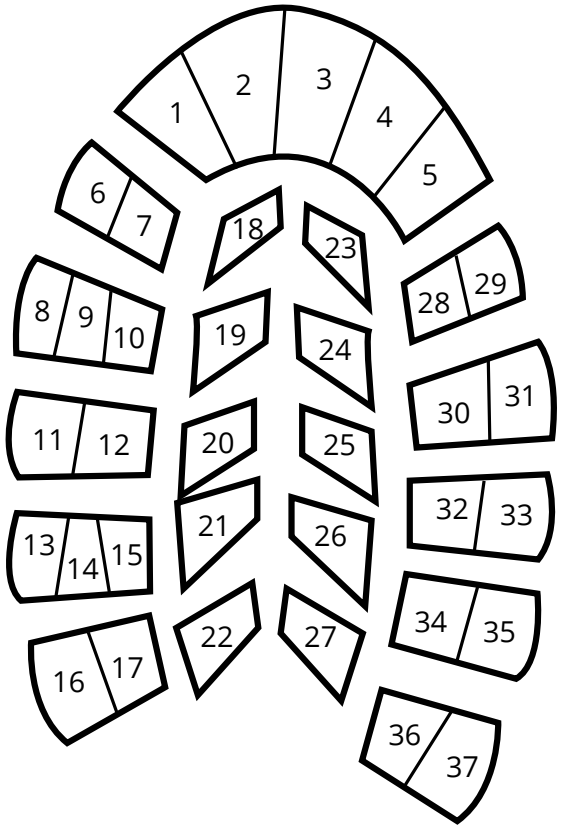

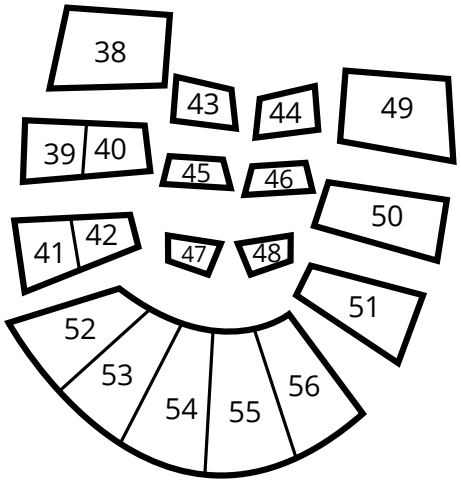

Buckeye Trail Anywhere
SECTION TRACKER
START HERE
Mentor
Mile 0
Pemberville 56 mi
Defiance 55 mi
Norwalk 52 mi
Medina 56 mi
Bedford 66 mi
Burton 57 mi
Mogadore 58 mi
Akron 57 mi
Massillon 64 mi
Bowerston 64 mi
Delphos 47 mi
St. Marys 48 mi
Troy 48 mi
Caesar Creek 55 mi
Loveland 47 mi
Williamsburg 52 mi
Sinking Spring 54 mi
West Union 59 mi
Shawnee 56 mi
Scioto Trail 61 mi
Old Man's Cave 53 mi
New Straitsville 62 mi
Stockport 58 mi
Belle Valley 58 mi
Rose Fork 63 mi
Whipple 58 mi
Grandma Gatewood, a pioneer of the Buckeye Trail and hiking legend.
The Buckeye Trail spans about 1,440 MILES, reaching every corner of the state.
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Ohio THE HEART OF IT ALL.
Learn more at BuckeyeTrail.org

Buckeye Trail Anywhere
Milestone Achievement

This certificate is proudly presented to

_____

Name

for completing **Buckeye Trail Anywhere:** Hike Where You Are.

_____

Date

Mary Mertz

DIRECTOR MARY MERTZ
Ohio Department of Natural Resources

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