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FEBRUARY



MAY



MAY



OCTOBER



OCTOBER



JULY



AUGUST



DECEMBER



JULY



JUNE



SEPTEMBER



DECEMBER



JULY



DECEMBER

- February:** Brews and Stews in downtown Greenfield
- May:** Chocolate & Wine Walk in uptown Hillsboro
- May:** Wine Walk in downtown Greenfield
- May – October:** Hillsboro Farmers Market
- June:** Greenfield Music Festival
- June – July:** Movies Under the Stars in Hillsboro
- July:** Booming in the 'Boro in Hillsboro
- July:** Festival of Bells in uptown Hillsboro
- July:** Annual Amish Consignment Sale on Karnes Road
- July:** Rumble in the Hills at Rocky Fork Lake

- August:** Leesburg Festival in downtown Leesburg
- September:** Highland County Fair in Hillsboro
- October:** Jeepers Creepers in uptown Hillsboro
- October:** Oktoberfest in downtown Greenfield
- December:** Leesburg Luminary in downtown Leesburg
- December:** Eagles Christmas Parade in downtown Greenfield
- December:** Hillsboro Uptown Tree Lighting and Christmas Parade in uptown Hillsboro
- December:** Lynchburg Parade in downtown Lynchburg

Discover Highland County: THE GATEWAY TO GETAWAY



Highland County... YOUR LOCAL TRAVEL DESTINATION

Welcome to the foothills of Appalachia, where day trips turn into weekend escapes and longer stays feel just right. Within 65 miles of Dayton, Cincinnati, and Columbus, your getaway begins with an easy drive on five major state routes and opens to miles of adventure.

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Taste the difference of fresh, locally sourced ingredients at restaurants that fit every budget. Wander our farmers markets, discover Amish and Mennonite shops in eastern Highland County, and treat the family to small-town sweets from beloved local bakeries. Explore authentic hidden gems like the Highland Nature Sanctuary and the Music Makers Museum, and experience the community pride that makes this place special.

Cover photo by Photography by Emmy Lee

Photos throughout the guide by Photography by Emmy Lee, Grace Dunseith, and from Summer Scavenger Hunt submissions.

From handmade crafts to stylish boutiques, you'll find one-of-a-kind shopping around every corner. Ready to start planning? Visit www.VisitHighlandCounty.com for current events, business listings, and trip ideas.

Let the adventure begin. You never know what kind of adventure you will find as you explore all that Highland County has to offer.

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In the foothills of Appalachia, Highland County is a vibrant 550-square-mile destination where historic downtowns, family-owned businesses, charming boutiques, and unique eateries meet wide-open spaces and welcoming communities. Just a 60-minute drive from Columbus, Cincinnati, and Dayton, it's the perfect place for a day trip, weekend escape, or a longer stay. If you're planning your route through our towns and villages, you're in the right spot. Let the adventure begin.



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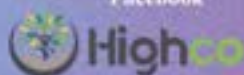
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Hillsboro

Hillsboro is the county seat and Highland County's largest community, featuring Ohio's oldest county courthouse still in operation. The beautiful Greek Revival courthouse dates back to 1834 and is Ohio's oldest courthouse in continuous operation. The city was plotted with wide streets and the main thoroughfares are adorned with large and beautiful homes.

All of Hillsboro's streets seemingly lead "uptown" to the business district, and with historic restorations and new construction in recent years the community is undergoing something of a renaissance. A host of thriving businesses serve the needs of residents and visitors alike.

Several Hillsboro residents have risen to prominence, including former Governor Allen Trimble, cartoonist Milton Caniff, women's temperance leader

Eliza Thompson and sportswriter Hugh Fullerton.

Prominent activities in Hillsboro during the year include the Festival of the Bells in early July, the Christmas parade in December, and more intimate activities such as the Chocolate/Wine Walk sponsored by the Hillsboro Uptown Business Association.

The Highland County Historical Society is headquartered in Hillsboro and is very active in curating the area's rich history. One such project is called "Voices from Lincoln," about the old Lincoln School attended by African-American students during times of segregation. The society was also involved in updating and expanding Elsie Ayres' history originally written for the city's 1957 sesquicentennial. "The Hillsboro Story" is now in its third printing.



GREENFIELD



The village of Greenfield, situated along the creek that divides Highland and Ross Counties, is where many visit to enjoy the scenery, experience the festivals, and learn about the community's fascinating history. Founded in 1799, Greenfield once had an active quarry that produced limestone for some beautiful churches and homes that remain irresistibly photogenic.

Kayakers enjoy the waters of the Paint during warm weather months, and the bike path that begins at Felson Park is a popular venue for bikers, hikers, walkers and joggers. After a few hours of exploration or exercise, hungry visitors may seek refreshment at the popular Catch 22 Sports Pub or Old Town Pizzeria II in Greenfield. The downtown is home to a variety of shops featuring clothing, interesting antiques, artwork and much more.

Several seasonal festivals liven up Greenfield, including the Greenfield Music Festival featuring free entertainment, lots of food, and many other activities. Other seasonal events include a Wine Walk in May, a German themed Oktoberfest in late September, and a Christmas parade in December.

Some very interesting characters inhabit Greenfield's history and are revered by the Greenfield Historical Society. C.R. Patterson, a former slave from Virginia, settled in Greenfield and became a master builder of horse-drawn carriages as well as a leading citizen. Later his son Fred guided C.R. Patterson & Sons into the business of making automobiles and the company enjoyed even greater success. The Patterson-Greenfield debuted in 1915 and

was a highly regarded motorcar. The company also produced school buses, hearses and other specialty vehicles from around 1915 until the 1930s when Fred Patterson's death and the Great Depression eventually ended this unique chapter in automobile history.

Greenfield may be a small town, but it is full of charm and many interesting stories. Greenfield offers a variety of different activities such as shopping local small businesses, participating in annual festivals and events, discovering memorials and murals, going for hikes, kayaking along Paint Creek, and so much more. From the indoor experiences to the outdoor adventures, Greenfield Ohio has so much to offer.



LEESBURG

Leesburg is a small town that can be found in Highland County, Ohio. The town was founded in 1802 by Nathaniel Pope, John Walters and John Howard. Leesburg also got its name from the city of Leesburg in the state of Virginia. Known as “The Friendly Village” of Leesburg, this quaint village boasts several shopping opportunities, a variety of restaurants and a wonderful community. Surrounded by rich farmland, residents of the Leesburg area benefit from agriculture and livestock production. In the early years after the village was first established, it was best known for its flouring and woolen mills.

Residents have the benefit of being close to larger cities such as Columbus and Cincinnati while still benefiting from the slower pace of life offered in Leesburg. There are also several recreational opportunities available to those who live here, such as hiking and biking trails, fishing spots, beautiful scenic places, and so much more.

The Leesburg Lions Club started the Leesburg Luminaria back in 1991, which is a special annual event for this town. Every December, the Leesburg community lights up the sidewalks with beautiful luminary candles which are placed in white paper bags. People gather around the streets to see the lights, wander through the

10 | Tour Highland County

business’s open houses and participate in festive holiday activities. You can taste delicious hot chocolate and enjoyable cookies the town has to offer during this event. On this day, the sounds of kids laughing and carolers voices filling the air. There are wagon rides, the crowning of the King and Queen and a place to visit Santa Claus.

The village of Leesburg also holds an annual event known as The Leesburg Festival. Held during the first weekend of August each summer, this two day festival is held for everyone to enjoy. During this event, there are activities for both children and adults to participate in. The festival offers a variety of food and vendors, a volleyball, basketball, and baseball tournament, an art show, 5K Glow Run through the town, a small parade, cornhole tournaments, and much much more. Leesburg’s Summer Festival is a great way to spend the first weekend of August, and gives a great opportunity to get outside and enjoy the warm weather.

This wonderful little town offers so many things for both visitors and residents to enjoy. Whether it be participating in a fun and exciting festival, stopping by one of the many small shops lined along the streets, or simply taking a leisurely stroll through the village, Leesburg, Ohio has so much to offer.

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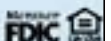
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Lynchburg



Lynchburg is a quaint rural village located in northwest Highland County Ohio. This little village is proudly surrounded by family-owned farms. In the past, the town was known for its whiskey distillery. Lynchburg is also home of the only covered bridge in the state of Ohio that is used to connect two counties. If you and your family are looking for a trip filled with history and excitement, Lynchburg is the place to be.

Founded in 1830, the village of Lynchburg was named after the city of Lynchburg, Virginia. Back in 1910, this little town was the home of a very large whiskey distillery.

A man named John Bowen from the Pricetown area began building the distillery in 1855. Lynchburg's Freiberg and Workum (F&W) Whiskey Distillery produced whiskey for the next 60 years. When the Cincinnati-based F&W Distillery began producing whiskey in 1857, it had a capacity to mash in only 100 barrels per day. At the height of its production in 1910, it could process 3,000 bushels daily with a storage capacity of more than 100,000 barrels. The distillery developed into a self-contained operation, employing warehouse workers, bottlers, carpenters, malters, packers, night policemen, coal wheelers, engineers and proof-makers, mail

room clerks, stenographers, bookkeepers and labelers. The distillery's coopers built their own whiskey barrels, which were constructed with wooden stays and hoops just outside Lynchburg. Today, only one of the buildings from the Freiberg and Workum Whiskey Distillery operation remains in Lynchburg, Ohio, and is now a privately owned building.

The covered bridge is a popular attraction in Lynchburg, Ohio. The bridge is a historic wooden covered bridge that spans the east fork of the Little Miami River. Lynchburg is the home to Ohio's only wooden covered bridge that connects two counties: Highland County and

Clinton County. In 1870 the bridge was constructed for a cost of \$3138.66 by local bridge builder John C. Gregg of Hillsboro, who had built a number of bridges in the area. The project was completed in December 1870. It occupies a site at which a gristmill and sawmill once operated by the power of the Little Miami.

In 1963, the bridge was on its way to being removed and replaced with a conventional uncovered bridge. The community fought back against this and held a letter-writing campaign for its preservation. The Lynchburg Covered Bridge was later renovated in 2023. The covered bridge that has stood watch over its community for over 150 years was rededicated during a special ceremony at Ruth Cramton

Memorial Park in Lynchburg where actors in period costumes portrayed characters from some of the bridge's 15-plus decades.

One of the most popular shops in this town is Terry's Grocery and Pizza. This same building also includes Terry's Ice Cream, the home of the "Crazy Shake." Located along State Route 50, Terrys is a very popular place for both visitors and residents in Highland County. Whether it's grabbing a delicious pizza for dinner, or getting one of the biggest and most creative shakes you'll ever see, Terry's is an excellent place to visit while in Highland County. The shop also offers both indoor and outdoor seating for customers who want to sit down and relax while they enjoy their food.

During the winter holiday season, the citizens of Lynchburg hold their annual two day Lynchburg Village Christmas. The Village Christmas is an event that started over 30 years ago as a way for local businesses and crafters to open up their shops and homes to showcase their products and creations. During this event, visitors can enjoy a breakfast with Santa Claus, carriage rides, music throughout the town, and lastly watch the lighted Christmas parade.

The wonderful village of Lynchburg, Ohio has a variety of things to offer for both visitors and residents of northwest Highland County. No matter when you come to visit, Lynchburg will have something waiting for you to explore.

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Mowrystown

This little village was first established in 1809 by William Mowrys. During this year, William Mowrys built a tavern and became the town's first postmaster. This moment marked the beginning of the settlement of the area.

Ohio was a key state in the Underground Railroad network; a secret system established to help enslaved African Americans escape to the Northern states or Canada. Mowrystown and the surrounding area played a significant role in assisting escaped slaves on their long journey to freedom.

The Mowrystown area is home to two great restaurants that serve some of the best home cooking in the area. Mona Lisa's Restaurant offers a variety of delicious home cooked meals that are brought to your table by wonderful staff. This little sit down diner is located on 12 South High Street in Mowrystown.

The Highland South Kitchen is another popular sit down place for Mowrystown residents and visitors. This wonderful little restaurant is open



for breakfast, lunch, and dinner. They are also known far and wide throughout the area for their home cooking including their homemade cream pies with mile high meringue. The Highland South Kitchen is located at 1940 State Route 62 in Winchester, Ohio.

Chuck Wait Tire is Mowrystown's very own auto repair and tire shop that is well known throughout the region. Chuck Wait Tire features a wide variety of tires from quality brands that will fit any need and they have top notch customer service. Chuck Wait Tire serves

as the unofficial welcoming center to Mowrystown and is located at 21 East Main Street.

While Mowrystown is a small village, it offers a friendly community and a large amount of history. Mowrystown is a great spot to visit while spending the day in Highland County.

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Highland County Prepares to Celebrate America 250

TWO-DAY CELEBRATION PLANNED FOR JULY 17-18, 2026



In July 2026, Highland County will join communities across the nation in commemorating the 250th anniversary of the United States of America. This once-in-a-generation celebration, part of the nationwide America 250 initiative, will honor the people, places, and stories that have shaped both Highland County and our nation.

The Highland County America 250 celebration will take place on Friday, July 17, and Saturday, July 18, 2026, featuring theatrical performances, Pioneer Day exhibits, courthouse tours, community activities, and a grand finale concert on the courthouse lawn. It promises to be a weekend that both honors the past and celebrates the future.

FRIDAY, JULY 17 - THE TRIAL THAT IGNITED CHANGE

The celebration begins Friday evening at Southern State Community College with a special Mock Trial Presentation, "The Trial that Ignited Change."

This dramatic reenactment will revisit the 1954 Philip Partridge trial, when Highland County Engineer Philip Partridge confessed to setting fire to the Lincoln School, Hillsboro's all-Black elementary school. His motive, though controversial, was to force school integration in the wake of the landmark *Brown v. Board of Education* ruling.

Partridge was convicted and sentenced, but his actions, and the Board of Education's decision to repair rather than integrate, set the stage for the Marching Mothers—

a courageous group of women and children who led a years-long protest that culminated in the 1956 case, *Clemons v. Hillsboro Board of Education*, requiring integration of local schools.

This presentation will not only bring local history to life but also shine a light on Highland County's role in the broader struggle for equality and justice.

SATURDAY, JULY 18 - A COUNTYWIDE CELEBRATION

Saturday will be filled with activities stretching across Highland County, perfect for history lovers, families, and anyone seeking a memorable summer outing. The day begins in Hillsboro with the Farmers Market at the courthouse square, where visitors can browse local produce, handmade goods, and enjoy the lively energy of the community. Around 10:00 a.m., Pioneer Day exhibits and museum openings will get

underway. Food trucks will be open in the area and tours will be offered of Ohio's oldest continuously operating courthouse.

In Leesburg, visitors will be able to explore the village's history through tours of the Train Depot, the Veterans Memorial, and the Historic Leesburg Friends Meeting House. By late morning, attention shifts to Greenfield, where the historic Edward Lee McClain High School will open their doors for tours and the Greenfield Historical Society will host a series of programs running from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

By early afternoon, the celebration moves west to Lynchburg. Beginning at 1:00 p.m., guests can visit the Lynchburg Historical Museum, enjoy a walk across the charming covered bridge, or take part in learning about the former local distillery.

Throughout the day, the historic Hillsboro area will feature walking tours, courthouse presentations, and screenings of old films that showcase the community's past. Each community's events will add a unique flavor to the overall celebration, painting a complete picture of Highland County's rich heritage.

As the day draws to a close, the community will come together in Hillsboro for two very special events. At 6:00 p.m., a new Revolutionary War Memorial will be unveiled on the courthouse grounds, honoring the sacrifices of Highland County residents who contributed to America's independence. Immediately following the dedication, the courthouse lawn will transform into a concert venue. The evening will conclude with a recreation of the beloved Hillsboro Military Band, whose spirited performances were a highlight of community life in the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

A CELEBRATION FOR ALL

No matter your interest—history, music, food, or family fun—there will be something for everyone during Highland County's America 250 celebration.

"This is an opportunity to honor our roots while celebrating the future," said Brad Roades, President of the Highland County Board of Commissioners. "The events we have planned will highlight the stories, people, and places that make Highland County unique while connecting us to America's broader history."



Mark your calendars for **July 17-18, 2026**, and join us as we honor our past, celebrate our present, and look ahead to our future.

Stay updated by following Highland County's America 250 Celebration on Facebook or visiting www.VisitHighlandCounty.com.



Popular Areas in Highland County

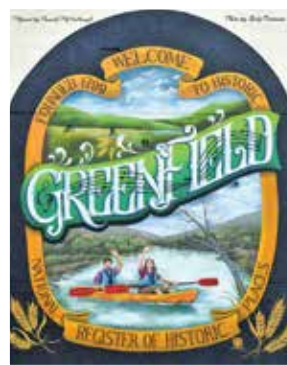


FALLSVILLE WILDLIFE AREA

Fallsville Wildlife Area is the home of spectacular waterfalls and beautiful wildflower displays along 3 miles of trails. It is the home of a variety of wildlife and nesting and migratory birds. Six stocked ponds are located in the area that are available for fishing.

FORT HILL

Fort Hill Earthworks & Nature Preserve is an amazing place to visit for nature lovers, hikers, and history buffs. This preserved space is home to one of the most extensive and historically significant Native American earthworks sites in the region. Fort Hill was built by the Hopewell culture around 2,000 years ago.



GREENFIELD

The Village of Greenfield, situated along the creek that divides Highland and Ross counties, is where many visit to enjoy the scenery, shop in the downtown area, experience the festivals, and learn about the community's fascinating history.

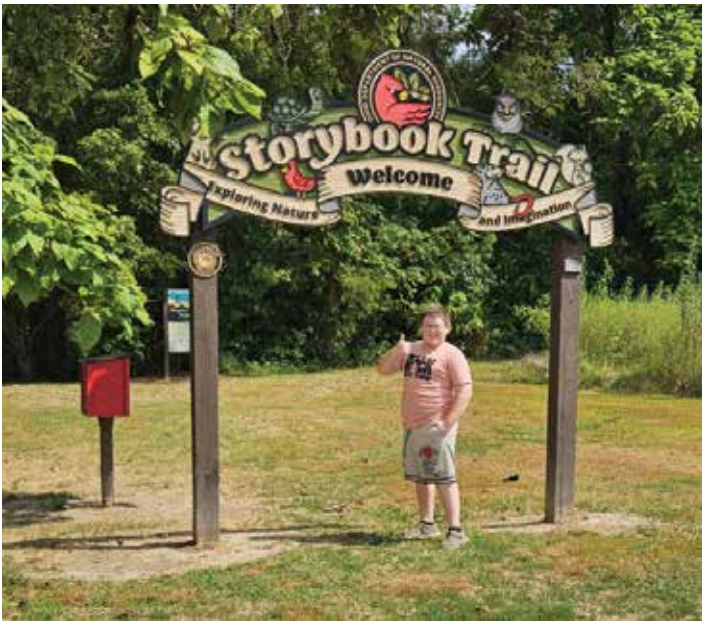


HIGHLANDS NATURE SANCTUARY

The Highlands Nature Sanctuary is a 3000-acre preserve. The Highlands Nature Sanctuary is known for its superb hiking trails, overnight nature retreats, wealth of botanical diversity and spectacular spring wildflower displays.

HILLSBORO

Hillsboro is the county seat and Highland County's largest community. All of Hillsboro's streets seemingly lead "uptown" to the business district which has featured historic restorations and new construction in recent years.



LEESBURG

The quaint and friendly Village of Leesburg boasts several shopping opportunities as well as some necessities. Surrounded by rich farmland, residents of the Leesburg area benefit from agriculture and livestock production.

LYNCHBURG

A rural village on the western side of the county is Lynchburg. Although it is home of the only covered bridge in Ohio that connects two counties; the most popular attraction is Terry's Pizza and Terry's Ice Cream, the home of the "Crazy Shake."

MOWRYSTOWN

Located on the southwest edge of the county, Mowrystown is a small village filled with charm. You can find some great home cooking and one of the best tire shops in the region in Mowrystown.

PAINT CREEK LAKE

Paint Creek Lake is a beautiful body of water that has everything you need to make your day unforgettable. From kayaking and exploring the shoreline, to swimming and simply taking in the stunning views, there's no shortage of fun things to do on Paint Creek.

ROCKY FORK LAKE

Rocky Fork Lake State Park is where active visitors can boat, fish, camp, kayak and so much more. There are a variety of shops and eating establishments located among the Rocky Fork Lake community.

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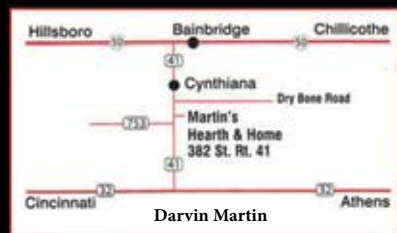


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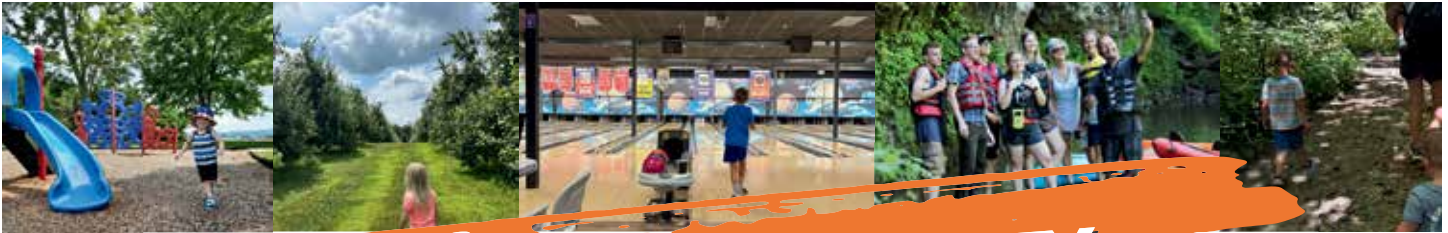


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THAT AWAITS YOU IN HIGHLAND COUNTY

Highland County has an abundance of hiking trails, all ranging from easy and short walks to long and challenging paths. Most of these trails can be found at the county's state parks and nature preserves. Other smaller trails can be found as well such as the Nature Trail at Liberty Park and the Greenfield Bike Trail at Felson Park.



HIKING IN Highland County

ROCKY FORK AND PAINT CREEK STATE PARK

are two of the most popular hiking areas in Highland County. Both state parks offer multiple different levels of hiking trails. Rocky Fork has three trails that are open to the public. These trails include the Bird Observation Trail, Deer Loop Trail, and Storybook trail. This Storybook Trail features a different story about every six months laid out on child-sized panels that line the trail. Paint Creek offers six trails for visitors to explore. The East Trail Loop, Harmony Trail, and Little Pond Trail can all be traveled by foot. Additionally, Paint Creek State Park features 25 miles of bridle trails (the North Bridle Trail and South Bridle Trail) and 12 miles of mountain bike trails.

THE MILLER STATE NATURE PRESERVE

offers three main trails: the Arch Trail, the Tulip-tree Trail, and the Falls Trail. The Arch Trail is a short trail that features views of rock formations and the Rocky Fork Creek. This natural bridge is made out of Peebles dolomite, which is what most of Ohio's natural arches are formed out of. The Arch Trail is the shortest and easiest of the Miller Nature Sanctuary Trails. The Tuliptree Trail is 0.75 miles long. This trail boasts classic Rocky Fork scenery with rock-scapes, sparkling streams, and beautiful spring flowers. The Tuliptree Trail loops through a stand of tuliptree (*Liriodendron Tulipifera*) so named because of the tulip-like flowers produced by the tree in late spring and early summer. At one mile in length, the Falls Trail is

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For more info, call 937-544-8252.

AIM7037747

the longest hiking trail at the Miller Nature Sanctuary. The Falls Trail follows Rocky Fork downstream to the extreme northeastern end of the preserve, passing its namesake near the half-way point. A small tributary enters from the north and tumbles over the gorge wall forming an impressive waterfall during wetter times of the year.

THE HIGHLANDS NATURE SANCTUARY is the non-profit Arc of Appalachia's oldest and largest preserve. The heart of the 3000-acre preserve is the breathtakingly beautiful Rocky Fork Gorge, a 100-foot high steep-walled dolomite canyon with breathtaking rock formations, ancient white cedars, grottoes, springs, and stone arches. The Highlands Nature Sanctuary is known for its superb hiking trails, overnight nature retreats, wealth of botanical diversity and spectacular spring wildflower displays – some of the most stunning showcases in all of the Eastern United States. This nature sanctuary offers seventeen different trails for visitors to explore. All hiking trails are open from sunrise to sunset, which gives plenty of time if you are looking for a full day of outdoor adventures.

THE OHIO BUCKEYE TRAIL is a popular attraction for visitors who love hiking, camping, and exploring the outdoors. Part of this special trail is located in South East Highland County, Ohio. The Sinking Spring section of the trail offers some beautiful scenery and hiking as its northern half passes through Pike State Forest. Instead of being guided by signs, hikers will be guided with what is known as the "blue blazes". These are 2 inch by 6 inch blue paint marks that can be found on the sides of trees and utility poles along the trail. These blue blazes can be found all around the state of Ohio.

Some smaller trails located in Highland County are the **LIBERTY PARK NATURE TRAIL** and **THE GREENFIELD BIKE TRAIL**. Liberty Park offers a small trail that follows along the outside of the park. This trail is great for birding, hiking, and running. It's unlikely you'll encounter many other people while exploring as this trail is mostly hidden along the outsides of the park. The Greenfield Bike Trail is the perfect place for you and your family to ring your bikes and have an adventure. This paved trail is located at Felson Park in Greenfield, Ohio.

Highland County, in beautiful southwest Ohio, offers an abundance of hiking trails for visitors to explore. Whether it be a long trail like the Ohio Buckeye Trail or a shorter trail at Rocky Fork State Park; these trails can be found all throughout the county's state parks and nature preserves. If you and your family are interested in hiking and exploring the outdoors, these hiking trails are perfect for you.



HIKING TRAILS IN HIGHLAND COUNTY:

GREENFIELD BIKE TRAIL

425 South McArthur Way, Greenfield, Ohio 45123

- Greenfield Bike Trail (3.5 miles/easy)

FALLSVILLE WILDLIFE AREA

10211 Careytown Road, New Vienna, Ohio 45159

- Fallsville Trail to Upper Waterfalls (0.7 miles/easy)

FORT HILL NATURE PRESERVE

13614 Fort Hill Road, Hillsboro, Ohio 45133

- Canby's Mountain Lovers Trail (3 miles/moderate)
- Fort Hill Gorge Trail (4.1 miles/advanced)

- Fort Trail (2.3 miles/moderate)

- Ohio's Buckeye Trail (12 miles/advanced)

HIGHLAND NATURE SANCTUARY

7660 Cave Road, Bainbridge, Ohio 45612

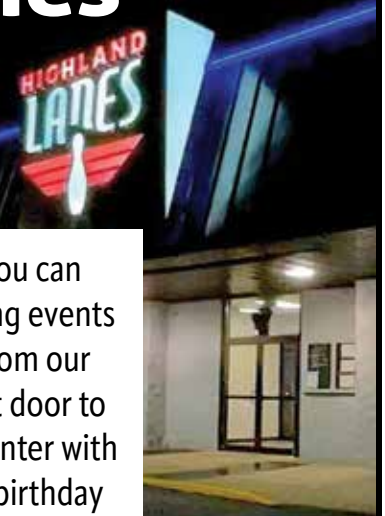
- Ashy Sunflower Trail (1 mile/easy)
- Barrett's Rim Trail (2.5 miles/moderate)
- Barrier Ridge Trail (3 miles/advanced)
- Buttonbush Trail (0.55 miles/easy)
- Cedar Run Trail (0.3 miles/easy)
- Connector Trail (0.6 miles/easy)

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- Eagle's Aerie Trail Loop (0.5 miles/easy)
- Etawah Woods Trail (1.3 miles/easy)
- God's Country Trail (1.9 miles/moderate)
- Kamelands Trailhead (2 miles/moderate)
- Listening Trail (0.5 miles/easy)
- Maude's Cedar Narrows Trail (1.5 miles/moderate)
- Prothonotary Trail (0.5 miles/easy)
- Ridgeview Farm's Restoration Trail (1.5 miles/moderate)

- Roundtop Loop (1.75 miles/moderate)
- Valley of the Ancients Trail (0.4 miles/easy)
- Which Wet Willow Trail (0.76 miles/moderate)

LIBERTY PARK

Diamond Drive, Hillsboro, Ohio 45133

- Liberty Park Nature Trail (2.6 miles/moderate)

MILLER STATE NATURE PRESERVE

13654 Barrett Mill Road, Bainbridge, Ohio 45612

- Arch Trail (0.5 miles/easy)

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- Falls Trail (1 mile/moderate)
- Miller State Nature Preserve Trail (3 miles/moderate)
- Tuliptree Trail (0.75 miles/easy)

PAINT CREEK STATE PARK

280 Taylor Road, Bainbridge, Ohio 45612

- East Trail Loop (8.9 miles/advanced)
- Harmony Trail (0.7 miles/easy)
- Little Pond Trail (0.8 miles/easy)
- North Loop Bridle Trail (6.1 miles/advanced)

- South Loop Paint Creek Trail (11.7 miles/advanced)

ROCKY FORK STATE PARK

9800 North Shore Drive, Hillsboro, Ohio 45133

- Bird Observation Trail (0.3 miles/easy)
- Deer Loop Trail (1.1 miles/easy)
- Storybook Trail (0.5 miles/easy)

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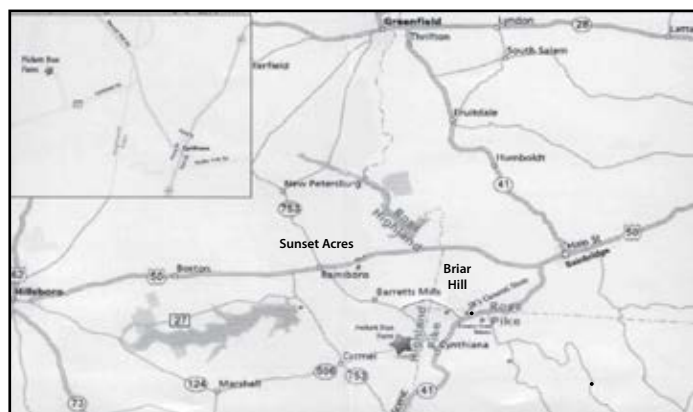
ENJOY THE OUTDOORS IN HIGHLAND COUNTY

Highlands Nature Sanctuary

Highlands Nature Sanctuary is a beautiful 2,800-acre preserve for some of the most beautiful wildflower displays in the state of Ohio. Visitors can hike along 16 miles of trails that lead to streams and dolomite caves. The sanctuary is noted for the incomparable Rocky Fork Gorge, a 100-foot-high canyon with stunning rock formations, ancient white cedars, grottoes, springs and stone arches. An easy way to enjoy the Rocky Fork Gorge is to hike the Valley of the Ancients trail about a half-mile in length with steps that descend 100

feet from the museum to the creek. Along the trail, hikers will have a chance to see Virginia Bluebells, Hepatica, Snow Trillium, Bloodroot, Wild Ginger, Wood Poppy, White Trillium and other species of stunning wildflowers.

There is also a lodge and cabins to relax in the natural setting. A unique lodging option is the cool Toadstool suite, a monolithic dome house with an interior crafted out of native hardwoods. Guests can sit on an Adirondack rocking chair on the porch and take in the silence of the woods.



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Closed Sunday

Rocky Fork State Park



Active visitors will salivate at the prospect of exploring two state parks in the county that feature beautiful lakes. Rocky Fork State Park east of Hillsboro dates back to 1950 when it was created for flood control purposes. It has evolved into much more than that, as boaters call it a paradise for water sports and anglers love the plentiful variety of fish available, including largemouth bass, bluegill, crappie, muskellunge, walleye, catfish and carp. The lake boasts almost 2,000 acres of water and nearly 31 miles of shoreline. Fishing tournaments are popular there, and major speed boat race sponsors find the lake ideal for racing events.

Bring your own kayak to explore the waterways at this state park. You'll see more nature along

the water, including birds and wildlife. Put in at the park and you can take out at Highland Nature Sanctuary.

The lake has unlimited horsepower, which is great for water skiing and tubing. There's also a sailboat club that's fun to watch on the water. Bring your sailboat to join in on the fun. Two large beaches are open for swimming. There's even a designated swim area for boaters.

Follow two hiking trails to see scenic gorges, dolomite caves, natural wetlands, woodlands and a bird watching observation station.

The popular campgrounds at Rocky Fork Lake offer primitive, electric and full hookup options.

SPEND AN AFTERNOON AT PAINT CREEK STATE PARK

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

Bring your horse and mountain bike to follow the trails through the park. Paint Creek State Park boasts



25 miles of bridle trails and 12 miles of mountain bike trails. There are hiking trails through mature woodlands and open meadows.

Fishermen love the lake that is home to saugeye, bluegill, bass, catfish and crappie. Watch for blue herons, osprey and bald eagles. The reservoir provides habitat for numerous waterfowl and shorebirds. The limestone outcroppings on the lake's edge provide nesting habitat for the cliff swallow. The campgrounds at

Paint Creek State Park provide a nice operational base for visitors wishing to explore the area.

Go rock climbing along the Harmony Trail and Spillway Wall through the Army Corps of Engineers. Put in your kayak at Felson Park in Greenfield and travel along Paint Creek, a gorgeous waterway. You can paddle all of the nine miles downstream to Paint Creek Lake.

Spend the night at the campground at the state park. If you bring your horse, you can opt for the equestrian campsites. There's also yurts and two deluxe camper cabins.



Fallsville

Fallsville Wildlife Area, located just seven miles north of Hillsboro, is the perfect getaway. The 1,785 acre state wildlife area is the home of some spectacular waterfalls and beautiful wildflower displays along three miles of charming trails. Additionally, it is the home of a variety of wildlife and nesting and migratory birds. Six stocked ponds of primarily largemouth bass and bluegill are located in the area that are available for fishing.



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Fort Hill

Southern Highland County is the home of several impressive prehistoric Indian earthworks. Fort Hill is one of the best-preserved examples of an ancient hilltop enclosure. Fort Hill was built by American Indians of the Hopewell culture, who live in Ohio approximately 2,000 years ago. Despite the name, Fort Hill was not an actual fort used for warfare, but more likely a ceremonial gathering place. Fort Hill is also a nature preserve, and the 1,200 acres are home to one of southern Ohio's largest mature forests, with many towering old trees.

Fort Hill's earthen barriers blend into the beautiful scenery, and the park has long been a favorite spot for family picnics and reunions where older folks can sit and visit while the young ones run up and down the hills and admire the beautiful trees that thrive along 11 miles of trails.



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OUTDOOR FUN IN

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ARCHERY

- Liberty Park - Harmony Lake

BIRDING

- Fallsville Wildlife Area
- Highlands Nature Sanctuary
- Oldaker Wildlife Area
- Paint Creek State Park
- Rocky Fork State Park

BOATING

- Paint Creek State Park
- Rocky Fork State Park

CAMPING

- Country Home Campgrounds
- Paint Creek State Park
- Rocky Fork State Park
- Shady Trails Family Campgrounds

DISC GOLF

- Liberty Park
- Rocky Fork State Park
- Paint Creek State Park

FISHING

- Fallsville Wildlife Area
- Liberty Park - Harmony Lake
- Oldaker Wildlife Area
- Paint Creek State Park
- Rocky Fork State Park

FRUIT PICKING

- Apple and Peach Picking at Karnes Orchard
- Strawberry Picking at Blue Ribbon Farm

GOLF

- Buckeye Hills Country Club
- Mini Golf at Paint Creek State Park
- The Elks Golf Course



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HIKING

- Buckeye Trail
- Fallsville Wildlife Area
- Fort Hill
- Greenfield Bike Trail
- Highlands Nature Sanctuary
- Liberty Park
- Miller State Nature Preserve
- Paint Creek State Park
- Rocky Fork State Park

HORSEBACK RIDING TRAILS

- Paint Creek State Park

HUNTING

- Fallsville Wildlife Area
- Oldaker Wildlife Area
- Paint Creek State Park
- Rocky Fork State Park

KAYAKING

- Highlands Nature Sanctuary
- Paint Creek State Park
- Rocky Fork State Park

MOUNTAIN BIKING TRAILS

- Paint Creek State Park

PICKLEBALL

- Railroad Street Park

PLAY AREAS

- Liberty Park
- Mitchell Park
- Paint Creek State Park
- Railroad Street Park
- Rocky Fork State Park
- Shaffer Park
- Dog Park at Liberty Park

ROCK CLIMBING

- Paint Creek State Park

SWIMMING

- Paint Creek State Park
- Rocky Fork State Park

WALKING

- Fallsville Wildlife Area
- Greenfield Bike Trail
- Highlands Nature Sanctuary
- Liberty Park
- Oldaker Wildlife Area
- Paint Creek State Park
- Rocky Fork State Park
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HIGHLAND COUNTY OFFERS A VARIETY OF LODGING OPTIONS

Spend a day or even a weekend exploring the variety of activities in Highland County

Highland County boasts a variety of lodging options for visitors. Options range from the traditional Mom and Pop hotels to cabins to rentable campers. The possibilities are endless for how you rest while visiting Highland County, the Gateway to Getaway.



Hotels & Motels

Highland County is home to four traditional hotels or motels that are located near Hillsboro. These lodging options give guests easy access to Highways 62 and 50 and can be a simple home away from home.

Bed & Breakfasts

Planning a date night? Forget the traditional dinner and movie and go all out for a getaway to a Bed & Breakfast in Highland County. More romantic than a typical hotel, quality bed and breakfasts offer a personal touch that makes your stay with a special someone even more memorable.

Cabins, Cottages & House Rentals

Planning a long weekend or a week to unwind from the hustle and bustle? Consider staying at one of the many cabin rentals offered throughout the county. Many cabins offer guests breathtaking views as Highland County is situated at the foothills of the Appalachian region.

Campgrounds

Get ready to experience the very best in family camping at our local campgrounds. Whether you prefer RV camping or tent camping, our campgrounds around Highland County offer attractions and amenities that help make a great family trip.

Rentable Campers

Want to camp but you do not own a camper? There are now options for a camper to be rented and delivered to your location within Highland County. The possibilities are endless ... campgrounds, fairgrounds, or even your family's backyard.



Want to learn more about the lodging options available in Highland County?

Visit www.visithighlandcounty.com/where-to-stay for a list.

VISIT

Amish & Mennonite Country

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WHEREVER ONE VENTURES IN *Highland County*,

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