

• Dispose of waste in a responsible manner • Do not litter and leave the area cleaner than you found it • Properly dispose of what you can't pack

Outdoor Ethic

• Leave What You Find

other lakes and rivers

not collect water or dirt

others can observe

• Keep noises to a minimum

distance

• Do not introduce invasive species in the

form of bait or plants and animals from

• Clean equipment between trips and do

• Respect wildlife and observe from a

• Leave nature and cultural artifacts so

• Take breaks away from other visitors

• Respect the privacy and rights of the

from the landowner before entering

• Control pets or leave them at home

landowners as most of the shoreline is

privately owned and requires permission

BE CONSIDERATE OF OTHER VISITORS

• Keep access sites clean for the landowners and for other boaters

 Look at river gages or call locals for current conditions

 Be aware of all Ohio boating laws as well as any local rules and ordinances

 Make sure you have an approved, properly fitting lifejacket for each person

 Recreate on Durable Surfaces • Travel on durable surfaces, such as rock, gravel, and sand, when portaging • Stay clear of vegetation and mud Use existing access sites

• Leave the trail undisturbed and remember that the natural artifacts are where they belong already

 $\mathcal{R}ules$ to Live by for Boating & Fishing PACK IT IN, PACK IT OUT

> The Tuscarawas River provides a serene and scenic environment, perfect for paddling and fishing. It is important to understand that all paddlers and anglers are required to adhere to Ohio Department of Natural Resource's regulations regarding each activity on the river. Be sure to check the current regulations for boating and fishing before heading to the river.

REGISTER YOUR BOAT Boats must be properly titled, if required, and registered. Registrations are required for every recreational boat in Ohio. Outof-state boats must be properly registered according to the home state's regulations. PACK THE REQUIRED EQUIPMENT

The safety equipment required for each boat depends on the type of propulsion and length of the boat, as well as where and when the boat will be operated. An approved, properly fitting life jacket is always required for every boater. Other equipment requirements can be found at watercraft.ohiodnr.gov.

BOATING EDUCATION REQUIREMENT If you were born on or after January 1, 1982 Ohio law requires that you complete an approved boating safety education course to operate any powered watercraft greater than 10 horsepower. Courses can be found at watercraft.ohiodnr.gov.

FISHING LICENSE AND REGULATIONS A valid Ohio fishing license is required to fish on the Tuscarawas River. Species size requirements and bag limits apply and can be found at wildlife.ohiodnr.gov.





The Big Water Connection

Welcome to the Tuscarawas River Water Trail!

From the heart of civilization to the edge of wilderness, the Tuscarawas River is a 130 mile long tributary to the Muskingum River. Beginning just south of Akron, it flows through four counties before joining the Walhonding River near Coshocton, to form the Muskingum River. The water trail takes paddlers through the center of urban living to the peaceful rural escapes of Eastern Ohio while passing historical sites and natural landscapes along the way. Whether you are looking for a quick jaunt between towns or a longer trip through quiet stretches of nature, the Tuscarawas River has it a From glaciated to unglaciated terrain, Ohio's beauty can be seen from the mighty Tuscarawas River.

History of the Tuscarawas River The Tuscarawas River was named after herons, and a variety of turtles sunning the Native American village of Tuscarawi, on rocks are a common sight while floating down the river.

located near present day Bolivar. The river was an important passageway and trade route for the Delaware Tribe, and later settlers. The river offered travelers a convenient route that ran north and south, and was part of the first water passages from Lake Erie to the Ohio River. Canoes, ferries, and even steamboats have navigated the Tuscarawas at some time in the past few centuries. The Tuscarawas River was also a feeder to the Ohio and Erie Canalway that operated from 1827 to 1870. Today, the river is a popular place for recreation, most notably for paddling and fishing. The river has always provided important habitat for abundant wildlife. Fish species that can be found in the Tuscarawas include catfish, bluegill, carp, crappie, and northern pike, plus smallmouth, largemouth, and rock bass. White-tailed

deer, wild turkeys, beavers, gr

Don't forget to look up while traveling along the Tuscarawas River! Migrating and nesting birds can be found along the waterway throughout the year. The riverway is also the home of several bald eagle nests. The eagles can be seen soaring up and down the river searching for their next mea

The Tuscarawas River is an amazing body of water that connects our area of Ohio with other states, and eventually a much larger body of water, the Atlantic Ocean. The river flows south through Summit, Stark, Tuscarawas, and Coshocton Counties. The confluence of the Tuscarawas River and the Walhonding River is near the City of Coshocton, where the rivers converge to form the larger Muskingum River. The Muskingum River flows south to Marietta and empties into the Ohio River, which flows into the Mississippi River, to the Gulf of Mexico, and ultimately into the Atlantic Ocean.

Each of these rivers has its own watershed or an area of land where all surface runoff drains to a single body of water. Watersheds can be as small as a puddle or as large as the Atlantic Ocean. The Tuscarawas River is one of the largest watersheds in Ohio, draining over 2,500 square miles. The upper portion has many urban uses/ influences, including public water supply for the City of Barberton, as well as wastewater treatment discharges for many municipalities along the river. The lower portion of the river is dominated by forest cover and crop lands.

The Tuscarawas River is a part of the larger Muskingum River Watershed and has been utilized for flood control since the 1930s. The Great Flood of 1913, which is known as Ohio's largest natural disaster, changed Eastern Ohio's landscape. The storm brought a rainfall amount that was normally seen in two to three months, in only four days! Every river in Ohio flooded its banks. The flood claimed over 500 lives and caused millions of dollars' worth of damage Valley. As a result, the Ohio Conservancy Act was signed in 1914 and became a model for other states to follow.

fun while enjoying the Tuscarawas River. Let us

know about your adventures on the Tuscarawas River Water Trail by sharing on social media with #OhioFindItHere. - Governor Mike DeWine &

District and Rural Action's Middle Tuscarawas River Watershed Office. Access to the river is managed by the following partners. All access

First Lady Fran DeWine

WATER TRAIL PARTNERS

The Muskingum Watershed Conservancy District (MWCD), pictured center, was formed in 1933 with a plan to build 14 dams throughout the Muskingum Watershed to support flood control and water conservation projects. Two of those dams, Bolivar and Dover Dams were built on the Tuscarawas River. Today, the MWCD works in partnership with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) to maintain and manage the series of dams and reservoirs, with 10 of the reservoirs also maintained for recreation.

River Safety

Water Quality

The Tuscarawas River is a wonderful natural resource, with bountiful clean water for animals and people to enjoy. All the land that drains surface water into the Tuscarawas River is called the Tuscarawas River Watershed. The health of the watershed determines the health of the river and how clean the water is, or the level of water quality.

There is a long history of area residents and

organizations working to make the Tuscarawas

the water quality of the Tuscarawas River. The Ohio Environmental Protection Agency evaluates Ohio's surface water on a regular basis and informs the public of the quality and health of the waterway. The Tuscarawas River Watershed was assessed in the early 2000's and was found to have some of the highest water quality

River cleaner and safer for everyone to enjoy.

Projects, such as reclaiming abandoned mines and upgrading sewer plants, are

ongoing, and have contributed to improving

club. Paddlers are responsible for their

LIFEJACKET the victim was not wearing a lifejacket. Ohio leading authorities encourage every paddler

ALWAYS WEAR A PROPERLY-FITTING

boating trip. There are a larger variety BE PREPARED BY PROPERLY

in the state. The main sources of pollutants in the Tuscarawas River are nutrients,

sedimentation, and habitat alterations,

which happens when people change the

You have a role to play in improving water

quality, too! Practice "leave no trace" when

on the river, and do not alter the banks

or flow of the river. For more information

about the Tuscarawas River Watershed,

and to view the entire water quality report,

check out visit MWCD.org/watertrails.

natural flow of waterways.

RESEARCHING AND PACKING Check the weather and respond

to assist emergency personnel.

accordingly. Avoid extreme weather and notification of medical conditions or water looks too dangerous to swim, Avoid capsizing by not overloading your

DRESS TO GET WET!

in the water. Do not stand or walk in swift temperatures. Wear shoes that attach currents, slippery river bottoms, or drop-

> TRAVEL SMART a reliable person, detailing where you are paddle over lowhead dams or paddle

feet pointed downstream and floating on

SWIMMING AND WADING

Paddling on cool river water is the perfect

under the influence of alcohol or drugs. **IN CASE OF EMERGENCY**

the boat unless it is too dangerous to do so. A boat filled with water will still side of the boat, floating on their back

Look Out for Hazards

inherent risks that can lead to injury or

paddling and river conditions are always

a paddling skills course offered by

organizations like the American Canoe

Paddling on Ohio's streams and rivers can be relaxing or exciting, but can also be dangerous. Paddlers should be aware of potential dangers and be prepared to respond accordingly.

DAMS

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers operates and maintains two large floodprotection dams along the Tuscarawas River, including the Dover Dam which spans the entire river. These dams control water levels and discharge to regulate the flow of water downstream and can prevent flooding in times of high precipitation or snowmelt runoff. These dam structures can create unpredictable currents and are extremely dangerous. NEVER attempt to boat through the dam structures as there are unseen hazards that can cause entrapment or injury. Plan to begin your trip downstream of these dams, end upstream, or portage around.

Before heading out, know the location of any lowhead dams and waterfalls on the trail. NEVER attempt to boat over a dam or waterfall. Even if it is small and looks harmless, hydraulic turbulence at the base of any dam is capable of trapping boats and people underwater. Always portage around these hazards.

LOWHEAD DAMS AND WATERFALLS

COLD WATER IMMERSION AND HYPOTHERMIA Sudden immersion in cold water

can be life threatening. Involuntary gasping, hyperventilation, panic, and vertigo may occur which can lead to water inhalation and drowning. It can also cause sudden changes in blood pressure, heart rate, and heart rhythm that may also lead to death. The longer you are immersed in cold water, the harder it is to control your body. Manual dexterity and coordination deteriorate quickly, and within 30 minutes hypothermia, the cooling of the body's core temperature, can begin. Loss of consciousness and death can occur even without drowning. Dress to get wet and for the cold. Check

the air and water temperature before going paddling. If the temperatures added together are less than 120°, a wet or dry suit is recommended. Remember that even when the air temperature is warm, water temperatures may be cold and present a risk. Take all measures to avoid capsizing your boat. Keep your lifejacket secured and remember to keep your head above water if you fall overboard. You don't have to be submerged to succumb to hypothermia – wind chill, rain, and perspiration can contribute to the condition.

MEDINA

STRAINERS

Strainers are any object in the river that allows water to pass but not larger material. People and boats may be "strained" or stuck by attempting to pass these objects, and capsizing may occur. Examples of strainers include overhanging branches, downed trees, log jams, and flooded islands. Portage around these hazards if there is no other way to navigate the boat in the water. **FOOT ENTRAPMENTS**

Never attempt to stand in or walk across a swift-moving stream as feet may become pinned under submerged rocks, causing loss of balance. The force of the current is capable of pushing your body underwater and holding it there. In the case of capsizing, swim to shore or to calm water before standing. Keep your feet up and pointed downstream. **FLOODS AND SWIFT WATER**

High waters cause obstacles like lowhead dams and fallen trees to become even more dangerous. Submerged hazards, such as branches or logs, can also endanger the boater. Never boat on flooded water. Before heading out on the trail, check water levels and flood information at waterdata.usgs.gov. River Gauging & Safety

A stream gauge or gauging station is placed along bodies of water to measure water levels and discharge or flow. Data is collected and can be used for public safety information as well as understanding water management, hazard management, environmental research, and infrastructure design. The US Geological Survey (USGS) placed the first streamgage in 1889 and has over 7,000 gauges nationwide.

Streamgages are placed at numerous locations along the Tuscarawas River. Search for the streamgage information before heading to the river and check water levels and flow rate. High waters and swift running rivers are dangerous conditions for boaters. Examine boater experience levels and current water conditions to decide if it is safe to proceed. Real time river conditions are displayed at waterdata.usgs.gov.

• Understand the river before traveling

along an unfamiliar section. Follow

boating regulations and safety

river users out of danger.

guidelines to keep you and other

• Be courteous of other river users



Sharing the River The Tuscarawas River is a community asset

and it is important to understand and abide by simple guidelines to make the river experience better for all. • Know the boundaries of public

and private lands. Respect public property by following Leave No Trace principles and respect private property along the riverbanks by not trespassing. • Respect wildlife.

by allowing for space, privacy, and solitude. Be aware of anglers, on shore and in the water, and give

them a wide berth, passing by quietly.

Fairview Avenue Trailhead 💯 👢

41.023201, -81.593202 (RM 112.5)

Lake Avenue Trailhead.

Lake Avenue Trailhead

This trailhead along the Ohio & Erie Canal Towpath Trail is managed by Summit Metro

Parks and is located on the north side of

Barberton, near the intersection of Fairview

Avenue and Norton Avenue Parking is available

within 80' of the access site on river right.

Be prepared for a longer trip! There are 20.4 river

miles between the Fairview Avenue Trailhead and

This trailhead along the Ohio & Erie Canal Towpath Trail is owned by Stark Parks and is located on the north end of Massillon, at the intersection of

Lake Avenue NW and SR 21. Parking available 200 from the access on river left. The access site is on

the other side of the trail. Restaurant, restrooms, canoe livery, and bike rental are available at this site. This is a take-out access only and paddlers

should exit the river here before the submerged

No portage available at this hazard. Paddlers

must exit the river at Lake Avenue Trailhead.

The next river access area is located at Lawrence

This access site is managed by Lawrence Township and is located near River Community Park at 11200 Glenpark Road NE in Bolivar, near the intersection

of OH-212 and I-77. Access site is on Glenpark Dr NE on the western side of the park. Parking is

located along the drive within 100' of the access point. Additional parking is available near the basketball courts. Restaurants and a canoe livery

are within walking distance. A community trail is

Broken dam debris on river right and river left. Runnable with care, chute is in the middle of

This trailhead along the Ohio & Erie Canal Towpath

Trail access site is managed by the Tuscarawas County Park Department and is located a half

mile south of Zoar, near the intersection of Dover

Zoar Rd NE and Towpath Road NE. The address is 8645 Dover-Zoar Rd, Zoar OH 44697. Parking area is 700' from the access site. To reach the access

site, follow the connector trail to the Ohio & Erie

Towpath Trail, turn right to cross the bridge and

the access is to the left on river right. Restaurants are within walking distance. During high water, this is a take-out area and paddlers should exit the

river before Dover Dam. Open dawn to dusk.

Portage available on river left. During high

water, paddlers must exit the river at Canal

Lands Park. The next river access area is located downstream of the Dover Dam at the Dover

This access site is managed by the US Army Corps

of Engineers and is located nine miles north of New Philadelphia, along OH-800 on the downstream side of the Dover Dam. Limited parking is available within 100' of access site on river right. Concrete

steps lead down from the parking area to access

This boat ramp is managed by the City of Dover

and is located on Canal St, near the intersection

of E. Front Street and S. Wooster Avenue. Located at 8645 Dover-Zoar Rd, Zoar OH 44697, the park is

open dawn to dusk. A large parking area is located within 100' of concrete boat ramp on river right.

Waterworks Park – New Philadelphia 🥏

site on the downstream side of the dam.

Canal Dover Park

Dover Lowhead Dam 40.513685, -81.476999 (RM 58.3) Portage available on river left.

Dover Dam River Access

Dover Dam

Dam River Access.

40.55789, -81.413 (RM 63.75)

Canal Lands Park

Lawrence Twp. River Community Park

pipe, as no portage route is available.

Massillon Submerged Pipe

40.80838, -81.52738 (RM 91.9)

Township Community Park.

accessible from this area.

Zoar Dam Debris 40.61129, -81.42893 (RM 68.9)

Fairview Avenue Trailhead **PORTAGE USGS** Gauge (RM 112.5) BARBERTON Hazard **Boat Ramp** Carry Down **SUMMIT Drinking Water Food Nearby** Parking Picnic Area CANAL FULTON Restroom **WAYNE** Trailhead 62 Camping Tuscarawas River Water Trail **Massillon Submerged Pipe STARK** 30 (RM 91.9) Public Access Not Available MASSILLON Other Waterways **Towpath Trail** Interstate Park Land City County Lawrence Township River @ @ @ Community Park (RM 71.8) **Zoar Dam Debris** Canal Lands Park 🔊 🔊 🖭 🔘 (RM 68.9) (RM 68.5) **CARROLL Dover Dam** Dover Dam River Access @ @ (RM 63.75) **HOLMES** (RM 63.65) **Canal Dover Park** (RM 59) Dover Lowhead Dam NEW PHILADELPHIA Tuscarawas terworks Park – New Philadelphia 🔊 🔊 🧬 📜 矣 New Philadelphia (RM 55) **Submerged Pipe** (RM 54.56) River Water Trail 416 Boat/Ramp ® @ ® (RM 51.75) **TUSCARAWAS**

Charles B Miller Boat Ramp @ @ @ (RM 38.5) COSHOCTON **River Glenn Estates Access** Waterworks Park - 000 WEST/LAFAYETTE Coshocton Orange Access COSHOCTON (RM 15.25)

SIGNS ALONG THE TRAIL

Tuscarawas River WATER TRAIL

Parkš

Submerged Dam Ahead

Danger

Trailhead

Access Area Maintained by: Summit Summit Metro Parks Metro 330-867-5511

PORT WASHINGTO

Chute: Clear passage through rapids Confluence: Place where two or more streams flow Hydraulic: Recirculating current formed when water drops over a large rock, ledge, or lowhead

Cubic Feet Per Second (CFS): Used to measure

River Mile: The distance from the mouth of the

river, beginning at zero and increasing upstream

Portage: Carry the boat around some hazard in the river and re-enter downstream River Left: As you look downstream in the direction the water is flowing, the left side of the Today the Ohio & Erie Canal corridor is full of remarkable recreational opportunities. Many of

The Ohio & Erie Canalway Towpath Trail, one of

OHIO & ERIE CANALWAY

TOWPATH TRAIL

ODE OSNY STAND

Boat Launch

(RM 44.45)

HARRISON

Ohio's longest and most scenic trails, follows the Tuscarawas River through Summit, Stark, and a portion of Tuscarawas County. This trail follows the original mule path that ran along the Ohio & Erie Canal. The canal was a manmade channel constructed in the 1820s and 1830s to provide a transportation route that was faster than horse and overcame challenges of the river systems.

Philadelphia and is located two miles southeast of New Philadelphia, on the east side of OH-416.

416 Boat Ramp

Snyder's Landing Boat Launch 40.393593, -81.391187 (RM 44.45) This access site is managed by the Village of Tuscarawas and is located near the intersection of

This access site is managed by the City of New

site can accommodate large boats and trailers. Charles B Miller Boat Ramp

camping is available by permit only. Call 740-254-4116 for camping information.

200' of the access site on river left.

Tuscarawas Rd SE and Fellers Dr. A large parking area is located near the concrete boat ramp within 100' of the access site on river right. This access

This access site is managed by the Village of Gnadenhutten and is located at the west end of W. Main Street. At the end of the street, follow the drive to the left around the storage building. Limited parking is available within 200' of the access site on river left. Primitive

Be prepared for a longer trip! There are 23.25 miles between the Charles B Miller Boat Ramp and Orange Access.

of Wildlife for fishing access and is located five miles east of Newcomerstown, near the intersection of OH-751 and County Road 254 just south of US-36. Limited parking is available within

40.285185, -81.684527 (RM 15.25)

Orange Access

River Glenn Estates Access This access site is managed by the ODNR Division of Wildlife for fishing access and is located near the intersection of OH-93 and US-36. Parking is available at the Park & Ride lot 600′ from the river access on river right. The river access is on the

This access site is managed by the ODNR Division

west side of the OH-93 bridge. Waterworks Park – Coshocton 🔎 😃

40.278144, -81.870392 (RM 0.1) This access site is managed by the City of Coshocton and is located near Baird Concrete, at the north end of N. Water Street. Restaurants are located within walking distance. This area is close to the confluence of the Tuscarawas River and Walhonding River, forming the Muskingum River. This is also the first access site along the Muskingum River Water Trail.

Fairview

water flow

GUERNSEY

The Onio & Erie Canal ran from Lake Erie ii Cleveland to the Ohio River in Portsmouth. It flooding and the railroads made it obsolete.

the river access sites are shared trailheads with

40.48147, -81.44833 (RM 55) This access site is managed by the City of New Philadelphia and is located on Mill Avenue SW, near New Philadelphia's Skatepark Place. The river access site is near the S. Broadway Street bridge on the southeastern edge of the park. Parking is available near the park ballfields and a dirt lane allows for equipment drop-off or pick-up within 50' of river access on river left.

New Philadelphia Submerged Pipe 40.48459, -81.44245 (RM 54.56) Portage available on river left.