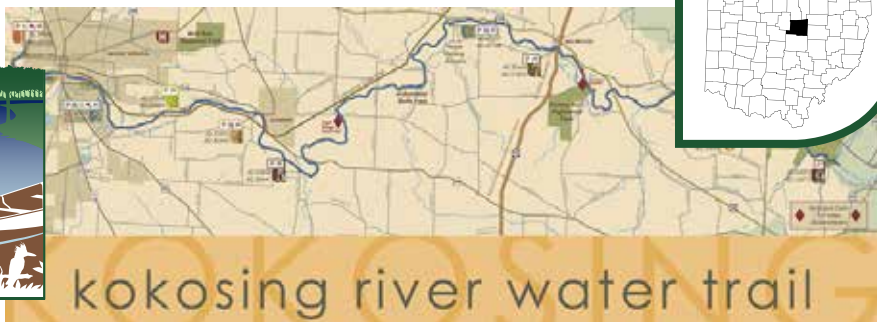


Kokosing River Water Trail

28 Miles / Class I+ to II

The Kokosing State Scenic River maintains its natural quality as it winds through mostly wooded and rural portions of Knox and Coshocton counties in Central Ohio. Beginning in Mount Vernon, this water trail includes long deep pools, riffles, short rapids, and scenic sandstone cliffs. Opportunities abound for wildlife viewing, fishing, and hunting. Designation as a state scenic river and proximity to the Kokosing Gap Trail make this Ohio Water Trail an ideal paddle/pedal destination.

Combine a paddling trip on the Kokosing State Scenic River Water Trail with bicycling to create a unique outdoor adventure. Sites 2, 4, and 6 are located at or very near the Kokosing Gap Trail – a paved path. Placing a bike at one of these trail intersections provides a nice alternative to needing a second vehicle to get back to the launch site.



TRAIL AT A GLANCE

	DISTANCE TO NEXT SITE
1 - Riverside Park Greenwood Ave.	2.9 mi
2 - Memorial Park Mt. Vernon Ave.	2.7 mi
3 - Lower Gambier Road	1.6 mi
4 - Laymon Road Bridge	2.0 mi
5 - Big Run Road Bridge	7.4 mi
6 - Pipesville Road Bridge	2.7 mi
7 - Millwood Road	6.0 mi
◆ FACTORY RAPIDS class III at high levels	
8 - Riley Chapel Road Bridge	2.6 mi
9 - Township Road 423	end of trail
TOTAL DISTANCE: 27.9 miles	

LEGEND

- 1 Site
- EM Emergency Bridge Access
- P Parking
- Paddle/Pedal Connector
- Restrooms
- Picnic Area
- Drinking Water
- H Hospital
- Water Trail
- Paved Trail
- Scenic Byway
- USGS River Gauge



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Brown Family Environmental Center at Kenyon College
 College Township
 Knox County Board of Commissioners
 Knox County Park District
 City of Mount Vernon
 Muskingum Watershed Conservancy District
 Ohio Department of Natural Resources
 Photographs courtesy of:
 Knox County Agricultural Museum
 Knox County Engineer, Jamie L. Henry
 Gloria Parisson

The information contained in this guide is believed to be accurate. The Ohio Department of Natural Resources and the Knox County Park District are not responsible for any inaccuracies.
 Interpretation and use of the map and its contents are the responsibility of the user.

RESOURCES	EMERGENCY NUMBER: 911	
Coshocton Co. Convention & Visitors Bureau*	800-338-4724	visitcoshocton.com
Knox Co. Convention & Visitors Bureau [local food, camping, or canoe rental information]	800-837-5282	visitknoxohio.org
Knox Co. Park District [water conditions]	740-392-7275	knoxcountyparks.org
Knox Ways [scenic byways, outdoor recreation info]		knoxways.info
Kokosing Gap Trail	740-392-6102	kokosinggaptrail.org
Leave No Trace [low-impact outdoor recreation]	800-332-4100	Int.org
Muskingum Watershed Conservancy District	877-363-8500	mwcdlakes.com
ODNR Division of Watercraft [boating laws, safety tips, scenic rivers]	877-4BOATER**	ohiodnr.com/watercraft
ODNR Division of Wildlife [fishing, hunting, wildlife viewing]	800-WILDLIFE	ohiodnr.com/wildlife
Ohio Water Trails	614-265-6484	ohiodnr.com/watercraft
US Geological Survey [real-time water flow conditions]	888-275-8487	waterdata.usgs.gov

*[local information] **[Ohio only]

1

Riverside Park / Greenwood Avenue P ♿ 🚰

[CITY OF MOUNT VERNON] 40.399 -82.501

◆ **LOW WATER LEVELS:** water levels upstream of trail site 1 are usually too low to float.

Amenities are found in the park across Greenwood Avenue.

Easy paddling in this stretch — short rapids and long deep pools great for fishing. Two pipelines cross the river in this reach but pose no significant hazard; both can be crossed on the right in low water. Four bridge crossings: West High St. (US36/SR3), a railroad bridge, South Main St. (SR13), then another railroad bridge.

2

Memorial Park P ♿ 🚰

[CITY OF MOUNT VERNON] 40.384 -82.470

Off of Mount Vernon Avenue just upstream of bridge. Parking upstream and downstream of bridge. Other amenities in the park west of the access site. First paddle/pedal connector (3.7 miles to next connector).

The river below this access site goes through the Kokosing Gap, created during the last glacial period. The gap starts below the Kokosing Gap Trail bridge (an old railroad bridge, 1.5 miles downstream). Deer and turkey are often seen in this area along with a wide variety of birds including bald eagles.

3

Lower Gambier Road River Access P ♿

1782 Lower Gambier Road [KNOX COUNTY PARK DISTRICT] 40.378 -82.434



4

Laymon Road Bridge River Access P

10115 Laymon Road [BROWN FAMILY ENVIRONMENTAL CENTER] 40.376 -82.405

Great river access on old bridge right-of-way. Kokosing Gap Trail is approximately 500' south on Laymon Road. Second paddle/pedal connector (5.4 miles to the next connector). The Village of Gambier and Kenyon College are located on the hills just north of the access. The Brown Family Environmental Center at Kenyon College is a 461-acre natural studies area with a nature center and butterfly garden surrounding this access and offers many public programs. Call 740-427-5054 for more information.

This stretch of the river contains short riffles followed by long pools. The Kokosing Gap Trail crosses the river on a large railroad bridge 0.5 mile downstream.

5

Big Run Road Bridge River Access P

8921 Big Run Road [KNOX COUNTY PARK DISTRICT] 40.359 -82.385

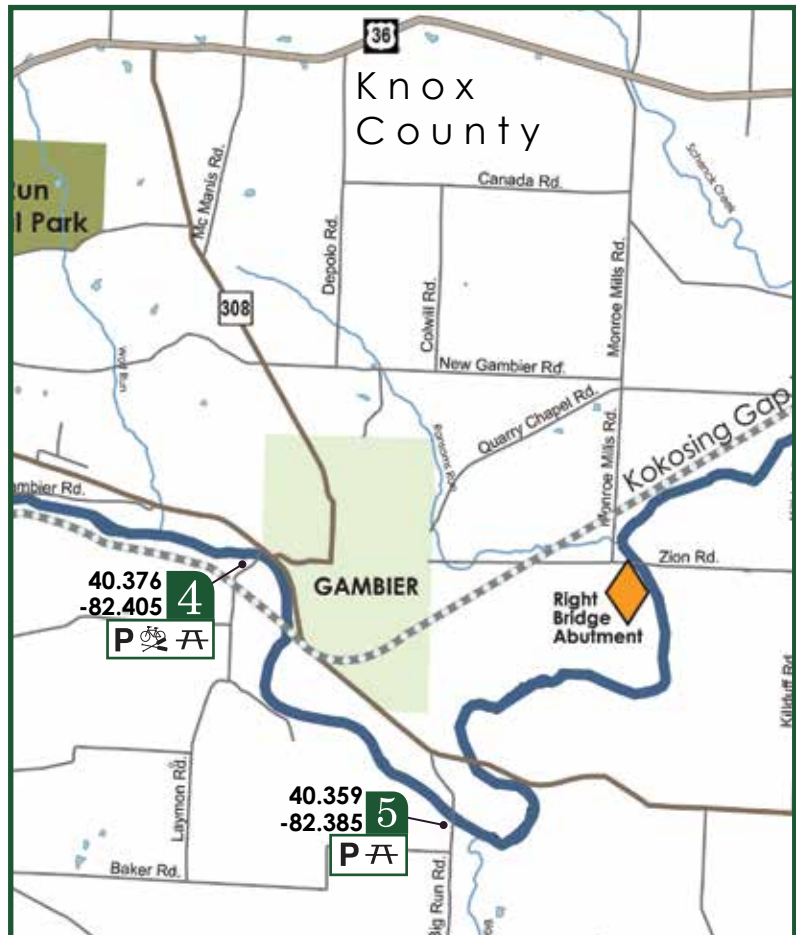
Great river access on old bridge right-of-way. Excellent smallmouth bass fishing upstream and downstream of this access. Big Run enters on river right immediately below the access. On river left are the remains of the last water-powered grain mill in Knox County. Beyond a large horseshoe bend in the river, short rapids lead to strainers and deep pools along a series of sharp bends. Bridges are located at Newcastle Road, Zion Road, Killduff Road, and Stull Road.

The historic bridge located at site 5 is a one-span, 190 foot-long, river-connected Warren through truss bridge. The bridge, built in 1915, was manufactured locally by the Mount Vernon Bridge Company. The bridge was recently rehabilitated by the Knox County Engineer and was awarded the 2011 Historic Bridge Award by the Federal Highway Administration, ODOT, and Ohio Historic Preservation Office.



The Zion Road bridge can be seen from 0.5 mile upstream. Fishing is excellent here.

All lands between sites 5 and 6 are privately owned, except Indianfield Bluffs Park. The park is located nearly five miles downstream of Big Run Access and contains several 200-year-old sycamore trees.



6

Pipesville Road Bridge River Access P

12059 Pipesville Road [KNOX COUNTY PARK DISTRICT] 40.404 -82.322

Great river access on old bridge right-of-way. Last paddle/pedal connector. Smallmouth bass and catfish opportunities are great near this access. This site is a good launch point for a day trip to the end of the water trail at the confluence of the Kokosing and Mohican rivers – 11.5 miles downstream. The hamlet of Howard is nearby on US36. Camping and canoe rentals are available downstream at a privately-owned campground.

7

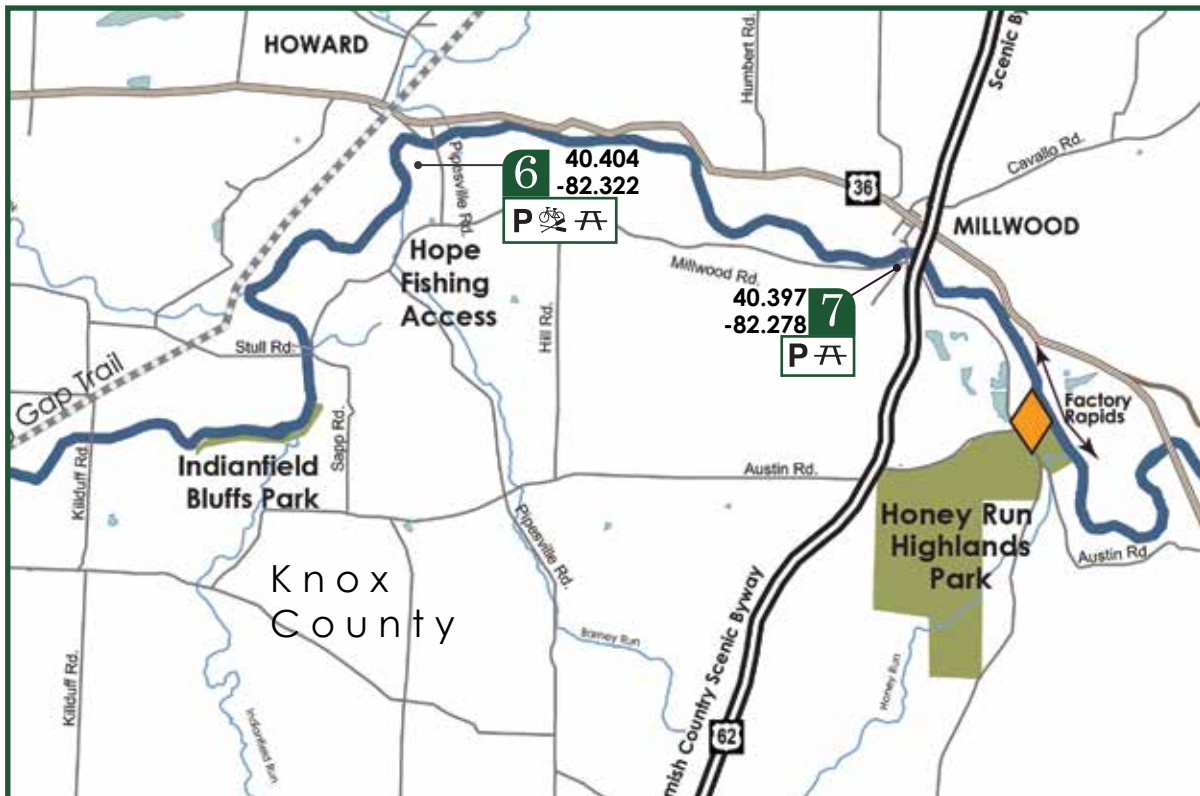
Millwood Road River Access P

11640 Bridge Street [KNOX COUNTY PARK DISTRICT] 40.397 -82.278

An excellent gravel beach at the access provides very good fishing opportunities. This access marks the beginning of the Kokosing State Scenic River's most scenic stretch. High sandstone bluffs line the river banks for the next 3.3 miles and can present challenging rapids. At one point below Factory Rapids, the river is pinched down to 20' wide between large sandstone boulders. This section of the river is used by local whitewater paddlers to hone their skills. Downstream of the rapids, Honey Run Waterfalls is a short, five-minute walk from the river (river right). Staats Road bridge crosses the river 3.7 miles downstream.

◆ **FACTORY RAPIDS:** Stay river left or portage the rapids on river right.

Downstream of access site 7. This section of the river has steep sandstone walls. Under high flow conditions, these rapids can be considered Class III. Boaters should be strong paddlers and have the skills to make quick course changes.



8

Riley Chapel Road Bridge River Access P

10300 Riley Chapel Road [KNOX COUNTY PARK DISTRICT] 40.373 -82.201

Good fishing upstream and downstream of access. Bald eagles are frequently seen in this area. The river runs through a very broad valley here, flanked by forested hills. SR715 parallels the left side of the river. Muskingum Watershed Conservancy District and Knox County Park District manage most of the land downstream river left. The Knox/Coshocton County line is about one mile downstream of the access.

9

Township Road 423 River Access P

[MUSKINGUM WATERSHED CONSERVANCY DISTRICT] 40.361 -82.161

Road ends on both sides of the river, no bridge. Access river left.

The Mohican River joins the Kokosing on river left at this last trail site to form the Walhonding River. Muskingum Watershed Conservancy District lands are open to the public for walking, hunting and fishing. This area floods readily in high water.

◆ **PLAN FOR DIFFICULT PORTAGE:** Travelers continuing from the Kokosing-Mohican confluence downstream need to plan for a difficult portage at the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Mohawk Dam, 5.9 miles downstream on the Walhonding River.

