

Little Miami Scenic River



Ohio Department of Natural Resources
Division of Watercraft
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In this document:

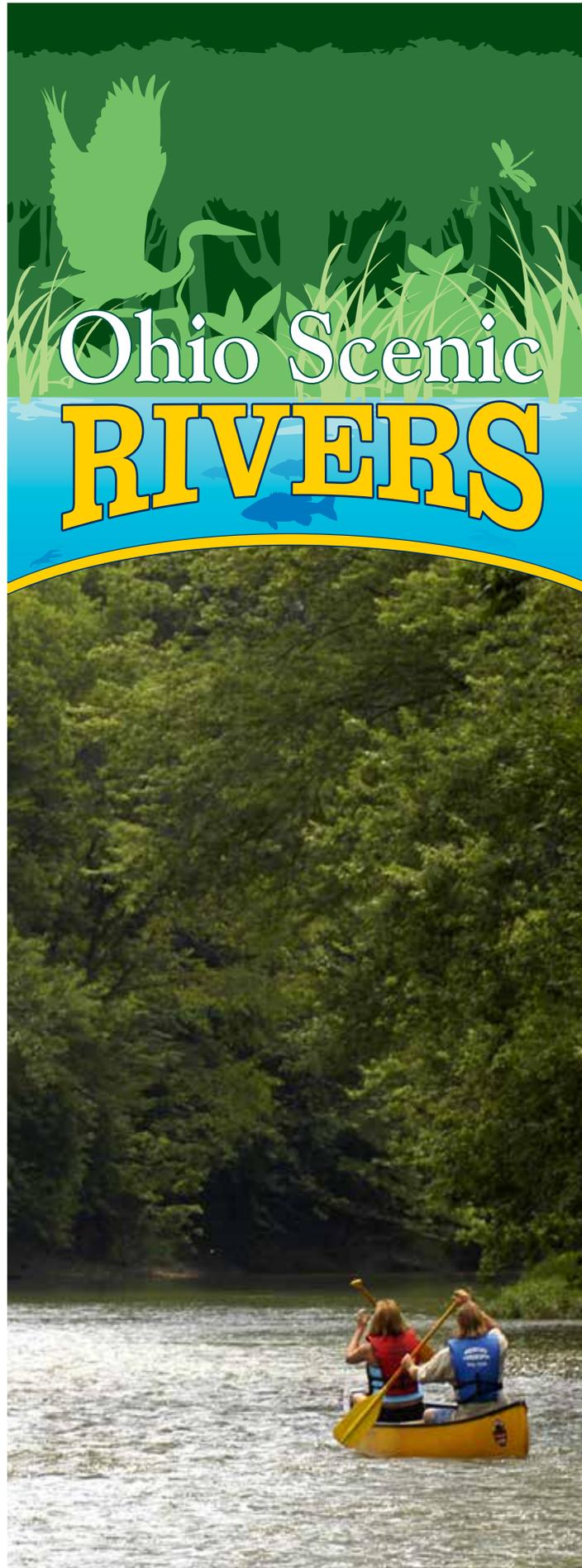
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Little Miami River



The Little Miami River is one of Ohio's highest quality river systems with exceptional water quality and biological diversity. The Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (OEPA) has recorded 78 fish species from the system including 3 state-endangered and 2 state-threatened species. Historically, 36 species of unionid mollusks have been recorded from the Little Miami including 1 federally-endangered, 5 state-endangered, and 2 state-threatened species.

The OEPA lists 68.8 miles, or 67% of the Little Miami River, as meeting the criteria for Exceptional Warmwater Habitat (EWH), which is the highest aquatic life use designation that can be assigned to a stream in Ohio. The EWH aquatic life use designation means that the Little Miami possesses "waters capable of supporting and maintaining an exceptional or unusual community of warm-water aquatic organisms having a species composition, diversity, and functional organization comparable to the seventy-fifth percentile of the identified reference sites on a statewide basis" (*Ohio Administrative Code 3745-1-07*).

The high quality and biological diversity of the Little Miami is an attribute not only of good water quality but exceptional in-stream habitat as well. Healthy stream systems in Ohio typically comprise alternating riffles, runs, and pools that repeat as one moves downstream. It is this riffle-run-pool complex that provides different types of habitat utilized by different aquatic organisms. One would expect to find a variety of darters in the riffles, suckers in the runs, and bass and catfish in the deeper pools. A clean, rocky stream bottom with gravel, cobbles, and boulders along with root wads, downed trees, overhanging vegetation, and other habitat features, increases the biological diversity of the Little Miami River.

The Little Miami River, with several large and small communities within its watershed, is most threatened today by urbanization. Research shows a direct correlation between the amount of impervious surfaces (roof tops, parking lots, etc.) in a river's watershed and its water quality and biological diversity. Studies show that a river's water quality and biological diversity will begin to decline at levels of imperviousness as low as 5-10%. The most sensitive—often rare and endangered—species disappear first. Increased pollutants from storm water running off parking lots, habitat destruction, loss of riparian forest, loss of floodplains, increased flash flooding and increased wastewater discharges are some of the negative impacts of urbanization. Communities along the Little Miami need to take the initiative now to limit these negative impacts through land use planning and regulation.



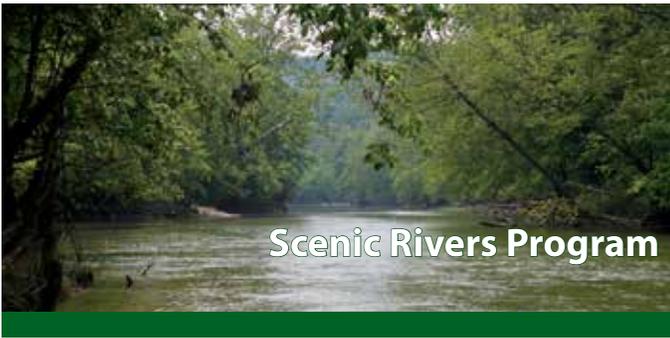
Well before legislation was passed creating wild, scenic, and recreational rivers, there was state and local interest in protecting the Little Miami River. In an effort to determine the potential of including the Little Miami in a national system of designated rivers, the Ohio Department of Natural Resources, with the encouragement of local organizations, asked the Ohio University Planning Institute in March 1966 to study both the Little Miami as well as the intent of proposed legislation. The study, completed in April 1967, concluded that the Little Miami River possesses the physical character, environment, historic associations, and location making its preservation as a free-flowing river and its inclusion into a national system highly desirable.

Strong local interest in protecting the Little Miami River led to the formation of Little Miami Incorporated, a nonprofit organization, in September 1967. Little Miami Inc. advocated strongly for the protection of the Little Miami River as well as the passage of state and federal legislation creating wild, scenic, and recreational river programs.

Subsequent to the passage of the State's Scenic Rivers Act in February 1968, the Little Miami River became the first river in Ohio to receive official designation as a State Scenic River. The northernmost section of the Little Miami and the North Fork was designated on April 23, 1969, with the final designation, which encompassed the rest of the 105 miles of river, taking place October 27, 1971. The Little Miami is still the only river in Ohio to be designated in its entirety.

In addition to state designation for the Little Miami, there was also strong interest in receiving federal designation for the river. With the passage of the federal Wild and Scenic Rivers Act in October 1968, eight initial rivers were established as well as a list of 27 others, including the Little Miami, to be studied for possible inclusion in the national system. In November 1970, the Little Miami River Wild and Scenic River Study concluded that a section of the river from Glen Island, upstream to State Route 72, met the criteria for inclusion in the national wild and scenic rivers system. This section was designated as Ohio's first National Scenic River in August 1973.

The remaining section of the Little Miami, from Glen Island to the confluence with the Ohio River, did not initially meet the criteria for inclusion into the system due to human impact within the river corridor. Years of clean up work by organizations such as Rivers Unlimited, Little Miami Inc., and concerned citizens and landowners ultimately resulted in this section meeting the criteria for, and being designated as, a National Recreational River in January 1980. Today, the Little Miami is the longest of Ohio's three nationally designated scenic and recreational rivers with 92 miles being included in the system.



Ohio pioneered the river protection movement in February 1968 with the passage of the nation's first Scenic Rivers Act. Ohio's program predated the passage of the national scenic rivers act which occurred in October 1968. This legislation provided for a state program that would work cooperatively with local landowners, governments, conservation organizations, and other partners to protect Ohio's remaining high quality streams.

The Ohio Scenic Rivers Act provides three categories for river designation—wild, scenic, and recreational—based on the degree of natural character that a river possesses. All wild, scenic, and recreational rivers possess excellent water quality and exceptional biological diversity and have intact riparian forests and limited human disturbances within the river corridors. In addition these rivers provide excellent opportunities for paddlers, fisherman, birders, hikers, and other outdoor enthusiasts.

Ohio has 14 designated wild, scenic, and recreational river systems including 800 river miles across the state. Three systems—the Big and Little Darby Creeks, the Little Miami River, and sections of the Little Beaver Creek complex—are also designated as National Scenic and Recreational Rivers.

Wild, scenic, or recreational designation is strictly voluntary. The process is generally initiated locally by interested citizens, landowners, local governments, businesses, and conservation organizations. As a first step, the Scenic Rivers Program requires resolutions of support from a majority of the political subdivisions through which the river proposed for designation flows.

Upon receipt of these resolutions, the Scenic Rivers Program will initiate a designation study reviewing the river's natural character compared to established criteria. Criteria include depth and continuity of riparian forest corridor, water quality, biological diversity, numbers and size of impoundments (if any), number of bridge crossings, and miles of roads within 300 feet of the river as well as the percent of impervious surfaces within the river's watershed. If the river meets the necessary criteria, the authority to officially designate the river as wild, scenic, or recreational lies with the Director of the Department of Natural Resources.



Through your purchase of an Ohio Scenic Rivers License Plate, you can help protect the legacy of Ohio's high quality streams and rivers for future generations.

Two colorful designs are available, a great blue heron or an endangered Ohio brook trout, at a cost of \$25.00, in addition to the normal fee, for a set of plates at the time of purchase and each renewal. Money generated from the sale of Scenic Rivers License Plates goes to the Scenic Rivers Protection Fund. With over 123,000 plates being sold, over \$1,800,000 has been generated for scenic river protection.

Scenic Rivers License Plates have funded projects on designated wild, scenic, and recreational rivers across the state, including riparian forest acquisition and protection, dam removal, educational programming, access development, implementation of non-point source pollution controls, land use and watershed planning, and scientific research.

Want to help? Donations to the Scenic Rivers Protection Fund are accepted year round, supporting numerous projects such as stream quality monitoring, scientific research, stream restoration, and even the printing of this map.





Wear a Lifejacket

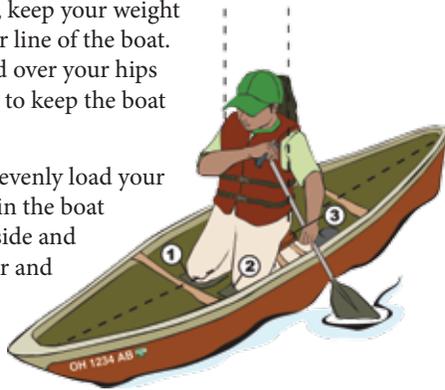
More than 80% of all boating fatalities occur because the person wasn't wearing a lifejacket. Many people think a lifejacket says "non-swimmer," but the truth is, no boating expert would be without one. Lifejackets have come a long way from the uncomfortable lifejackets of your youth. From inflatables worn around the waist that open only when they hit the water to lightweight styles, a comfortable lifejacket can ensure a safe trip.

- Wear a lifejacket at all times, particularly in moving water. By law, children under 10 must wear lifejackets of an appropriate size on boats under 18 feet.

Keep It Stable

When entering and exiting the boat, always maintain three points of contact (see 1, 2, and 3 below).

- When moving around, keep your weight low and over the center line of the boat. Keep shoulders aligned over your hips and inside the gunnels to keep the boat from tipping.
- Do not overload or unevenly load your boat. Keep the weight in the boat centered from side to side and bow to stern. The lower and closer the load in the boat is to the boat's centerline, the more stable it will be.



Common Hazards...

Foot Entrapments



If your boat capsizes, do not attempt to stand or walk if you are in swift-moving water. You might slip and pin a foot between submerged rocks. Once pinned, the force of the current can push your body under the water and hold it there. Always keep your feet up, pointed downstream, and swim to calm water before standing.

Floods and Swift Water

Novice paddlers should never boat on streams when water is spilling out of the banks. High water causes hazards such as lowhead dams to become even more dangerous. Unseen obstacles such as floating logs or submerged trees may also threaten a boater. Flood levels are monitored throughout the state. Know water conditions before you go.

waterdata.usgs.gov

Lowhead Dams and Waterfalls



Never attempt to boat over a dam or waterfall. Lowhead dams can range from a few inches to a couple of yards in height. Small dams can look harmless, particularly in swollen streams, but they are very dangerous because of the turbulence at the base of the dam. Boats as well as people may become trapped in this hydraulic. Know the location of lowhead dams and waterfalls. Carry your boat around the hazard and launch at a safe distance downstream. Scout a river or stream in advance of any boating trip and avoid these hazards.

Strainers



River obstructions that allow water to flow through but block or "strain" people and boats are known as strainers. Overhanging branches, downed trees, log jams, and flooded islands are all potential strainers. All strainers should be avoided, especially in swift water.

Cold Water Immersion and Hypothermia



Sudden immersion in cold water can be deadly. The initial "cold shock" can cause immediate, involuntary gasping, hyperventilation, panic, and vertigo – all of which can result in water inhalation and drowning. It can also cause sudden changes in blood pressure, heart rate, and heart rhythm that also may result in death. The longer you are immersed in cold water, the harder it is to control your body. Manual dexterity and coordination deteriorate rapidly, and within 30 minutes, hypothermia (cooling of the body's core temperature) can begin. Loss of consciousness and death with or without drowning can result.

The best prevention for cold water immersion is to take all measures to avoid capsizing your boat. Keep your lifejacket securely fastened to help 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. Uncontrollable shivering, slurred speech, and lack of coordination are early symptoms. To guard against hypothermia, dress in layers using materials that wick moisture away and retain heat, such as silk, polypropylene, fleece, and wool. Every boater should be able to recognize and know how to treat hypothermia.

Additional Safety Tips:

- **Never** boat alone.
- Dress for the water temperature. Bring an extra change of clothing with you in a waterproof bag. Pack your cell phone in this bag.
- Neoprene shoes or tennis shoes with woolen socks are recommended footwear.
- Do not attempt to stand or walk in swift water.
- Be prepared to swim. If the water looks too hazardous to swim, then don't boat on it!
- **Never** boat over lowhead dams.
- Portage (carry your boat around) any section of water about which you feel uncertain.
- If you capsize, hold onto your boat unless it presents a life-threatening situation. If floating in current, position yourself on the upstream side of the capsized boat.
- Carry plenty of drinking water.
- Avoid overexertion and guard against extreme weather.

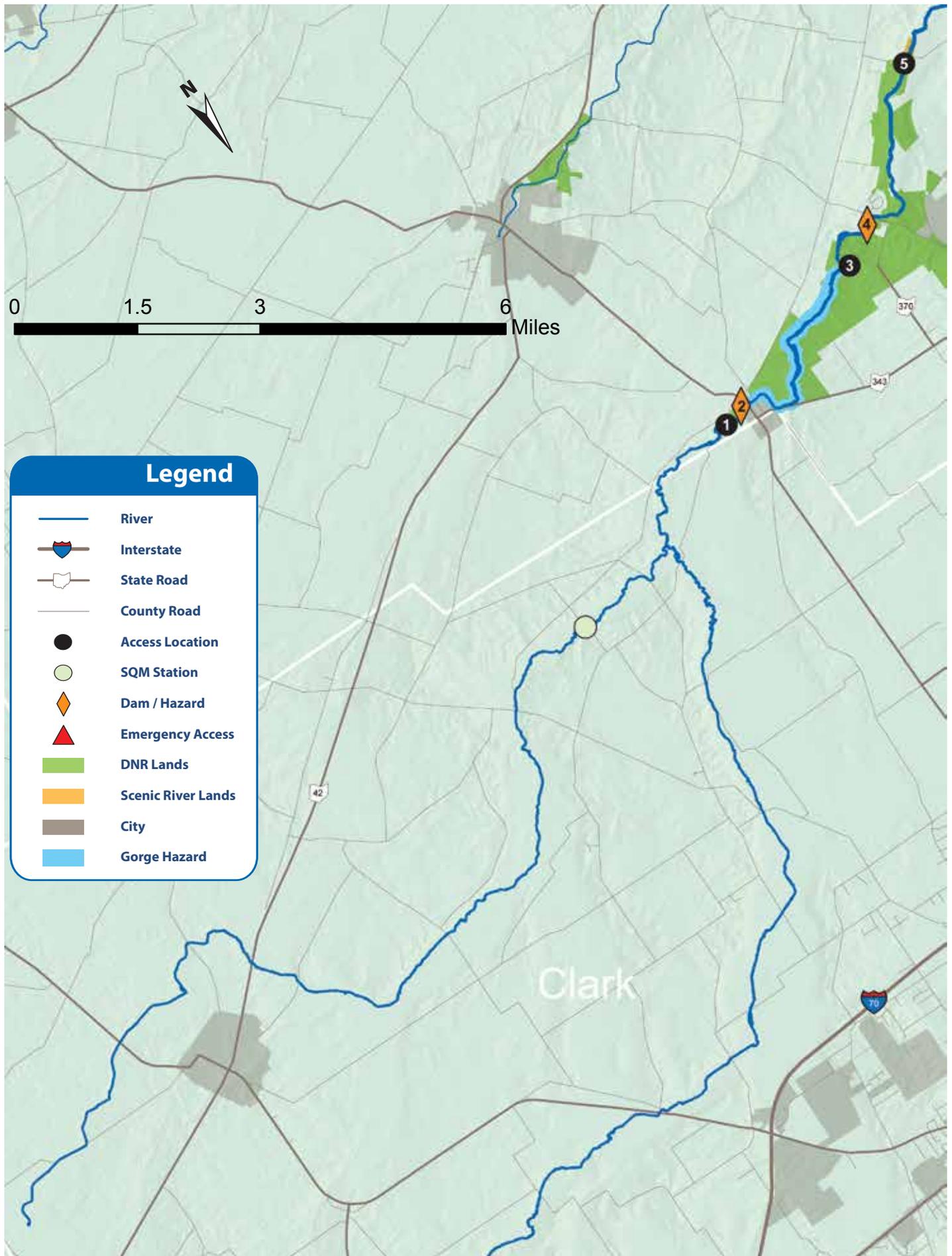
Little Miami Scenic River

Feature	Latitude	Longitude	County	Miles to Next Feature	Parking Lot	Roadside Parking	Canoe Rental	Ramp	Camping	Restroom	Picnic	Drinking Water	Food	Bike Trail	ADA
1 Clifton Reserve on South River Rd., access river left	39.79390	-83.81940	Greene	0.2	●					●					
2 DAM in Clifton at the head of the gorge	39.79410	-83.82240	Greene	3.0											
3 John Bryan State Park at bend below lower picnic area, 0.1 mile carry, access river right, seasonally, camping fee	39.78557	-83.86300	Greene	0.8	●		●	●	●	●	●				
4 DAM at start of Grinnell Mill Race, portage river right	39.78264	-83.87179	Greene	2.6											
5 Jacoby Road Launch, Morris Bean Reserve-Greene County Park District (GPCD), approx. 0.5 mile NW of intersection of Jacoby and Clifton roads, access river left	39.76390	-83.90200	Greene	2.5	●		●	●	●	●					
6 U.S. 68 bridge north of Xenia (RMM 82.3), roadside access river right	39.74815	-83.93097	Greene	0.3	●										
7 DAM, portage river right	39.74552	-83.93343	Greene	2.8											
8 Emergency access only at Fairgrounds Road bridge (RMM 78.4), access river left under bridge	39.72417	-83.96370	Greene	2.2											
9 Emergency access only at Trebein bridge, just south of intersection of Old Dayton-Xenia Rd. (Harlow Ln.) and Hilltop Rd.	39.70757	-83.98768	Greene	1.2											
10 Eagle Pass Canoe Launch, Glenn Thompson Reserve, Jacobs Landing-GCPD, access river left just before U.S. 35 bridge, 3 miles west of Xenia	39.70117	-83.99923	Greene	2.4	●		●			●					
11 Narrows Reserve Canoe Launch-GCPD, 0.1 mile downstream from Indian Ripple Road bridge, access river right. Camping with permit 0.75 mile from launch	39.68993	-84.02898	Greene	2.4	●		●	●	●	●	●				
12 Emergency access only north side of Upper Bellbrook Road bridge (RMM 70.6)	39.66210	-84.04035	Greene	1.3											
13 Mill Bridge Launch-GCPD, access river right just before Washington Mills Road bridge (RMM 69.3)	39.64517	-84.04285	Greene	1.0	●		●	●		●					
14 Bellbrook Canoe Rental (3234 Washington Mill Road, Bellbrook), access river right with permission	39.64230	-84.05790	Greene	1.0	●	●	●		●	●	●	●			
15 Emergency access only at Lower Bellbrook Road bridge	39.63308	-84.05162	Greene	1.0											
16 Emergency access only at S.R. 725 bridge	39.62082	-84.05030	Greene	2.4											
17 Little Miami Reserve Launch, Sparr's Landing, Constitution Park-GCPD, access river left, U.S. 42 North 0.25 mile on S.R. 725	39.60617	-84.01397	Greene	0.3	●		●	●		●					
18 Emergency access only at U.S. 42 bridge (RMM 63.7)	39.60203	-84.01388	Greene	2.5											
19 Ohio Spring Valley Wildlife area launch site just east of Roxanna-New Burlington Road bridge, access river left 0.1 mile past bridge	39.58268	-84.02962	Greene	0.7	●		●								
20 RiversEdge Canoe Livery (3928 U.S. 42 S, Waynesville), access river right with permission, 4 miles north of Waynesville on U.S. 42	39.57508	-84.03228	Warren	5.0	●	●	●		●	●	●	●			
21 DAM, portage river left. Short portage is not obvious and has brush, trees, and rocks to negotiate	39.53167	-84.06408	Warren	0.9											
22 Clint Fultz Park, access river left	39.52700	-84.07900	Warren	0.1	●					●				●	●
23 Harveysburg Hill Road bridge in Corwin, access river left just before bridge. Facilities 0.25 mile east in Corwin along Little Miami Scenic Trail	39.52720	-84.08003	Warren	0.6	●				●	●	●	●			
24 Emergency access only at S.R. 73 bridge	39.52510	-84.08780	Warren	2.6											
25 Caesar Creek Access, Little Miami State Park, access river left just before Middletown Road covered bridge	39.49817	-84.10052	Warren	0.4	●		●								
26 HAZARD—Confluence of Little Miami River and Caesar Creek can be hazardous if Caesar Creek Lake is discharging	39.49370	-84.10420	Warren	3.3											
27 Emergency access only at Oregonia Road bridge in Oregonia	39.45498	-84.09813	Warren	1.8											
28 Little Miami Canoe Rental Old Mill Base (219 Mill St./S.R. 123, Morrow) access river left with permission, camping fee	39.43195	-84.10240	Warren	0.2	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
29 Mathers Mill Access, Little Miami State Park, access river left at Wilmington Road bridge	39.42942	-84.10525	Warren	2.0	●		●							●	

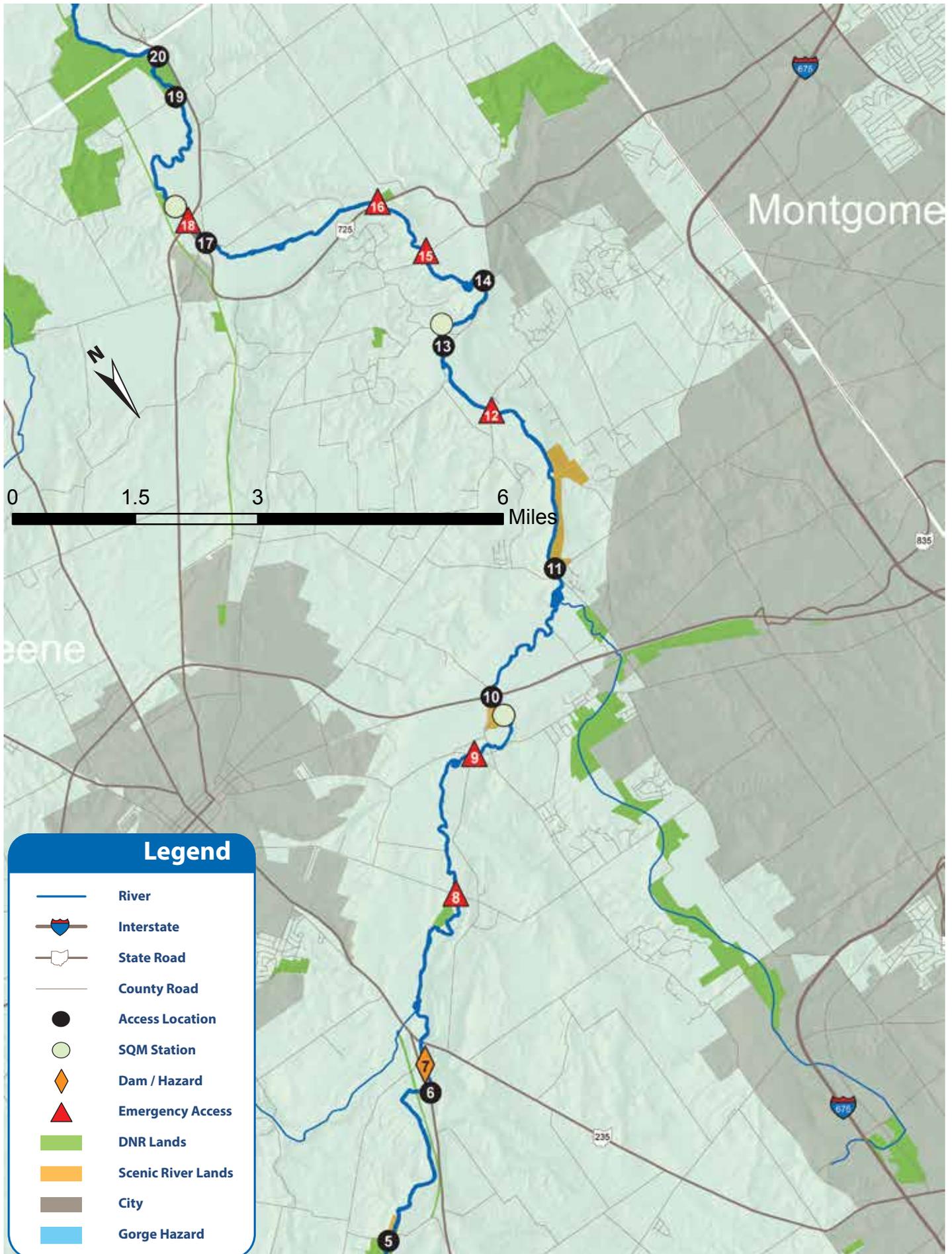
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Feature	Latitude	Longitude	County	Miles to Next Feature	Parking Lot	Roadside Parking	Canoe Rental	Ramp	Camping	Restroom	Picnic	Drinking Water	Food	Bike Trail	ADA
30 Fort Ancient Access, Little Miami State Park, access river left just past S.R. 350 bridge. Fort Ancient Canoe Livery (5701 S.R. 350, Oregonia)	39.40642	-84.10028	Warren	2.3	•	•	•		•	•	•	•	•		
31 Strout Road bridge, Morgan's Riverside Park, access river right just before bridge with permission; camping with fee	39.37922	-84.09282	Warren	2.8	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•		
32 Morrow Park on Hamlin St. in Morrow, access river left	39.35700	-84.12800	Warren	0.1	•					•				•	•
33 Fort Ancient Canoe Rental (219 Mill Street/S.R. 123 in Morrow) access river left with permission at S.R. 123 bridge	39.35638	-84.12907	Warren	1.6	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•		
34 Halls Creek Access, Little Miami State Park, access river right, locked gate between access & Mason-Morrow-Millgrove Rd. (Co. Rd. 38)	39.36573	-84.15550	Warren	1.0											
35 Emergency access only river right at Stubbs Mill Road bridge	39.36327	-84.17390	Warren	2.5											
36 Roger's Ball Park at Hobart and High in South Lebanon, access river right just above Main Street bridge	39.36800	-84.21560	Warren	0.5	•		•			•					
37 Emergency access only river right at S.R. 48 bridge	39.36877	-84.22503	Warren	2.3											
38 Emergency access only river right at Grandin Road bridge in Kings Mills	39.35180	-84.24257	Warren	2.6											
39 Old 3C bridge in Foster (Hamilton Township), Train Stop Restaurant just before bridge, access river left with permission	39.32192	-84.25238	Warren	0.3	•					•	•	•	•	•	
40 Carl A. Rahe Access (formerly Glenn Island Public Access), Little Miami State Park, access river right 0.2 miles past 3C bridge in Foster	39.31827	-84.25190	Warren	3.8	•		•			•	•			•	
41 Emergency access only river right behind Kiwanis Park in Loveland	39.27217	-84.26002	Hamilton	0.2											
42 C. Roger Nisbet Park in Loveland, access river right	39.26978	-84.26190	Clermont	0.1	•	•	•			•	•	•	•	•	•
43 Bishop City Park in Loveland, access river right just past West Loveland Ave.	39.26846	-84.26190	Hamilton	0.1		•	•			•	•	•	•		
44 Loveland Canoe and Kayak at Carl Brown and Crutchfield Place, access river left just past railroad bridge with permission and fee	39.26627	-84.26031	Clermont	1.4	•		•			•	•	•		•	
45 Issac Walton League of America on Branch Hill-Loveland Rd. in Loveland, access river left with permission (private)	39.25360	-84.27904	Clermont	1.8	•		•	•		•				•	
46 Lake Isabella Park, Hamilton County Parks, off of Loveland Rd., access river right 0.25 mile past I-275 bridge, nominal fee and parking permit required	39.23580	-84.29974	Hamilton	1.4	•					•					
47 Emergency access only river left at S.R. 126 bridge	39.22505	-84.31779	Clermont	1.6											
48 Kelley Nature Preserve, Clermont County Park District, access river left just west of Miamiville off S.R. 126	39.20997	-84.30608	Clermont	0.9	•					•					
49 Fletcher Road access off of S.R. 126, north of Camp Dennison, access river right	39.21169	-84.29023	Hamilton	1.9		•									
50 Emergency access only at end of Lincoln Road off S.R. 126 just east of Camp Dennison	39.19484	-84.28229	Hamilton	1.5											
51 Access river left with permission just north of American Legion ballfield in Milford	39.17709	-84.29564	Clermont	0.6	•										
52 Canoe Launch at Jim Terrell Park (Milford) just south of U.S. 50 and Perry Rd. (S.R. 28) bridge in Milford, access river right	39.17041	-84.29856	Hamilton	2.1	•		•			•	•				•
53 Scenic River Canoe & Kayak at intersection of Roundbottom and Mt. Carmel roads south of Milford, access river left with permission and fee	39.14953	-84.31313	Hamilton	2.8	•		•			•	•				
54 Bass Island Access, Hamilton County Parks, southside of Newtown Road bridge, access river left with nominal fee, vehicle permit required	39.13560	-84.35448	Hamilton	4.1	•					•	•			•	•
55 Otto Armleder Memorial Park off of Wooster Pike, access river right with fee	39.11572	-84.40053	Hamilton	0.5	•		•								
56 Emergency access only river right at S.R. 125 (Beechmont Ave.) bridge (RMM 3.3)	39.11023	-84.40268	Hamilton	2.0											
57 Magrish River Lands Access off of Salem Rd., access river left. This is the last public take-out point on the river.	39.08495	-84.41877	Hamilton	0.5	•						•				
58 Harbour Towne Yacht Club and Shelter Cove Marina (private), access river left with permission and fee	39.08120	-84.42106	Hamilton	1.1	•		•			•	•	•	•		•

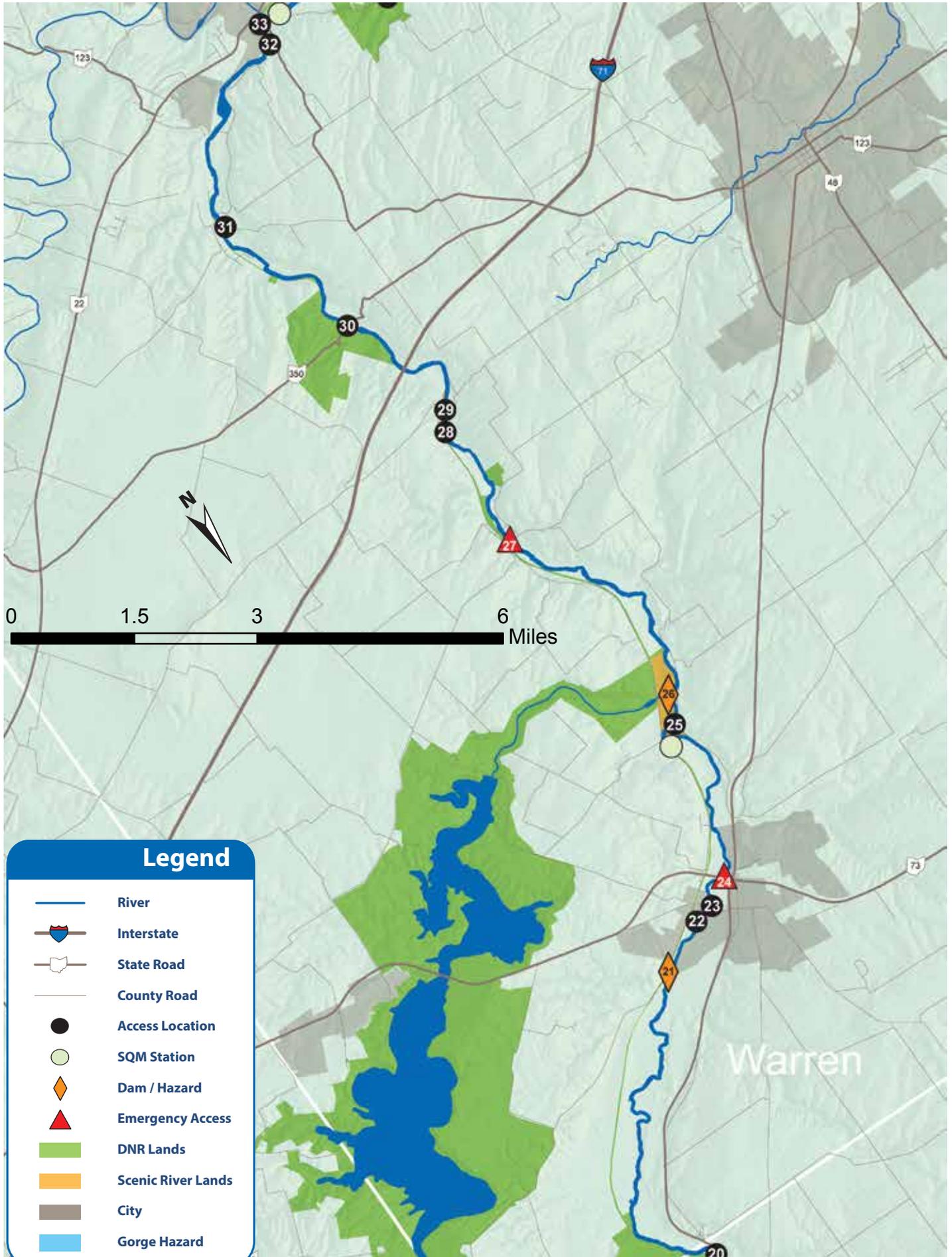
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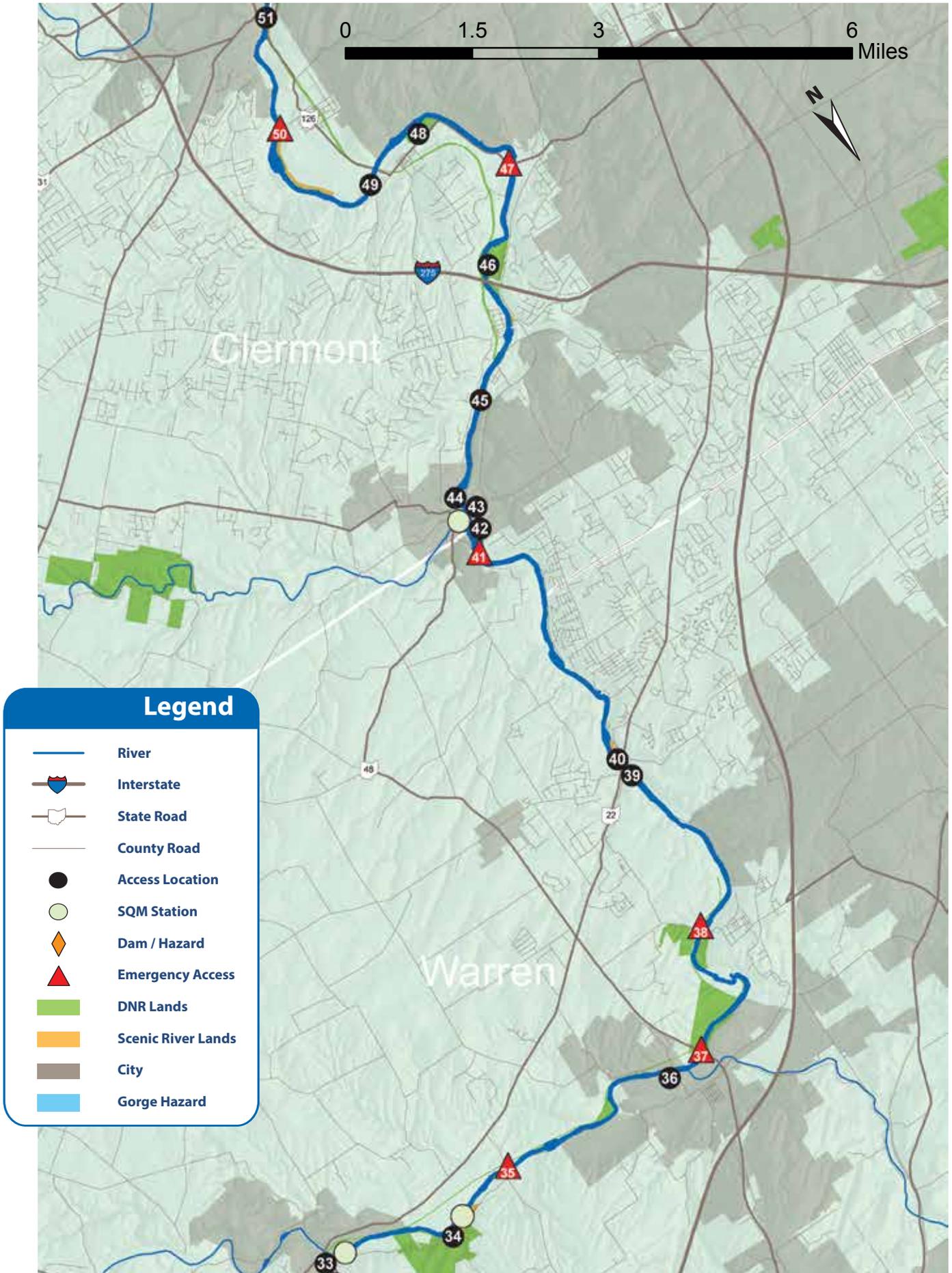
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