

Appalachian Byway of Ohio

2025 Corridor Management Plan

Ohio Department of Transportation Byways

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Table of Contents

I. Introduction & Map	4
A. Byway Introduction.....	4
B. Byway Route Map	5
II. Byway Strategic Plan: Vision, Mission, Goals and Actions	6
A. Vision and Mission	6
B. Recent Accomplishments.....	6
C. Goals, Objectives, Action Plan, Responsibilities, Timeline and Funding	7
III. Byway Organization: Structure, Committees, Volunteers, Partners and Budget.....	9
A. Structure	9
B. Description of Current and Future Byway Committee Representatives, Partners and Stakeholders.....	9
C. Primary and Secondary Byway Leader Contact Information	10
D. Level of Participation in State/Regional Byway Meetings and Trainings	11
E. Byway Leadership Succession Plan	11
IV. Byway Corridor Conditions: Roadways, Safety, Intrinsic Resources, Accessibility	12
A. Road Conditions and Signage	12
B. List of Primary and Secondary Intrinsic Quality/Resources.....	13
C. Changes in Intrinsic Qualities/Resources Since Last CMP	18
D. Accessibility to Intrinsic Qualities/Resources: Pull-Offs, Rest Areas, Visitor Amenities, etc.	18
V. Visitor Experience: Interpretation, Stories, Preservation, Wayfinding/Signage	21
A. Interpretation Since Designation	21
B. Byway Story.....	21
C. Future Interpretations.....	22
E. Preservation	23
F. Sign Inventory	23
VI. Marketing: Promotion, Featured Attractions and Future Plans	24
A. Current and Future Planned Marketing Activities	24
B. Recommended Products or Attachments for Media and Public Relations	24
VII. Public Participation: Community Partners, Public Forums, Critical Issues	25
A. Ongoing Communication and Cooperation with Community Partners.....	25

B. Public Meeting and Public Participation Opportunities	25
C. Steps Taken to Update Mission and Vision	25
D. Narrative on Critical Issues and How They Will be Addressed	25
VIII. Appendix	26
A. Ohio Byway sign inventory (Microsoft Excel Spreadsheet, GIS information formatted as latitude, longitude as per ODOT guidelines).....	26
B. Most Current Byway Map	26
C. Maps Identifying Primary Intrinsic Quality/Resource Locations	27
D. Byway Photographs	27
E. Marketing Materials.....	29

I. Introduction & Map

A. Byway Introduction

The Appalachian Byway includes a four-county experience in the Southeast-Central Ohio Appalachian region. It traverses scenic state route 78 from east to west from Clarington at the Ohio River to Nelsonville. The byway also includes a portion of SR 284 north that leads to The Wilds in Cumberland Ohio. On the byway, guests experience the natural wonders found only in the Appalachian foothills. The route winds through a region of Ohio rich in history, abundant in natural resources and outdoor recreation and offers old-fashioned food, fairs and festivals.

Experience the region's natural and cultural heritage assets as you enjoy works of the region's artisans, musicians, museums and historic landmarks along the journey. The Appalachian Byway is home to historic farms and orchards, country stores, three rivers, a host of lakes and more!

Enjoy your stay at one of many quaint bed and breakfasts or the state lodge.

The intrinsic qualities for the Appalachian Byway of Ohio are scenic and historic with cultural and recreational as secondary qualities.

B. Byway Route Map



Guests to the Appalachian Byway of Ohio can access State Route 78 from Interstate 77 at Caldwell, Ohio, from Exit 25. It also connects with the Ohio River Scenic Byway in Clarington, Ohio, on State Route 7.

The byway traverses all or part of Athens, Hocking, Monroe, Morgan, Muskingum and Noble Counties in southeast Ohio.

II. Byway Strategic Plan: Vision, Mission, Goals and Actions

A. Vision and Mission

Vision:

The Appalachian Byway authentically represents and tells the compelling story of the Ohio Appalachian region.

Mission:

Educate and promote, through a collaborative effort, the natural and cultural intrinsic qualities of the Appalachian Byway corridor while identifying ways to enhance the Appalachian experience.

B. Recent Accomplishments

- 2019
 - Developed the multi-county effort including Athens, Monroe, Morgan, Muskingum and Noble, to expand and rename and extend the Morgan County Byway to the Appalachian Byway of Ohio.
- 2020
 - Byway became a member of the National Scenic Byways Foundation
 - Created new Byway logo and marketing materials (Appendix E)
 - Byway coordinator attended the 2020 Byway Leader Training by National Scenic Byways Foundation (NSBF) and a variety of webinars by NSBF.
 - 2020 Eastern Ohio Development Alliance Tourism Award
- 2021
 - Byway secured a 2021 Toyota grant through the National Scenic Byways Foundation “Love Our Byways” for a beautification project
 - 2021 National Scenic Byways Foundation Community Award
 - Byway Coordinator was appointed to represent the North Central Regional on the National Extension Tourism Design Team; presented at the 2021 National Extension Tourism Conferences on Byway Marketing & was published in the Conference Proceedings (See <https://publications.extension.org/view/1050836521/2/>)
- 2022
 - Byway coordinator attended the 2022 Heartland Byway Conference (with National Scenic Byways Foundation) in Leavenworth, Kansas, through a scholarship from the National Extension Tourism (NET) Design Team; Coordinator presented on Awards Panel Roundtable.
 - Byway Coordinator presented at the National Extension Community Development Professionals

- 2023
 - Byway Coordinator authored a national fact sheet for National Extension Tourism: “Scenic Byways Boost the Tourism Sector” <https://extensiontourism.net/scenic-byways-boost-the-tourism-sector/>
 - Byway Coordinator served as Ohio Byway Links Secretary; appointed President in 2024

C. Goals, Objectives, Action Plan, Responsibilities, Timeline and Funding

These are suggested goals that are over-arching and affect the Appalachian Byway of Ohio as a whole.

1. Maintain the multi-county byway organization.
2. Continue collaborative voice / brand promoting the Appalachian Byway of Ohio.
3. Keep the byway story compelling, authentic and unique including themes and subthemes reflecting components of natural and cultural resources.
4. Tell the byway story through interpretation, education and promotion.
5. Use local festivals and events to foster the telling of your byway story of Ohio Appalachia from pre-settlement to present day natural resource extraction.
6. Embrace the region’s genealogical roots and demographic patterns.

Goal I: Increase the participation of the byway in larger events.

Objective	Person/Group Responsible	Timeline	Action Plan	Funding
Support America 250/Ohio	Byway Committee	2024-2025	Participate in America 250/Ohio events Encourage communities along the byway to participate Byway coordinator to encourage community and theaters to participate	TBD

Goal II: Expand engagement with leaders at the county-level.

Objective	Person/Group Responsible	Timeline	Action Plan	Funding
Engage new Byway County leaders	Byway Coordinator	2024-2025	Re-engage CVB partners where staffing has changed Byway coordinator to encourage participation by Athens, Morgan and Muskingum Counties	TBD

Goal III: Develop ideas for expansion and improvement to the byway.

Objective	Person/Group Responsible	Timeline	Action Plan	Funding
Seek additional byway funding	Byway Coordinator	2025	Seek potential funding through grants Byway coordinator to research Clean Ohio, FHWA Byways	TBD

Goal IV: Improve and maintain the experience of travelers on the byway.

Objective	Person/Group Responsible	Timeline	Action Plan	Funding
Maintain ABO signage	Byway Coordinator	2025	Work with ODOT byways coordinator on ABO signage	TBD

III. Byway Organization: Structure, Committees, Volunteers, Partners and Budget

A. Structure

The Appalachian Byway of Ohio is coordinated in collaboration of the Monroe, Noble, Morgan and Athens County Tourism entities (CVBs or Tourism Councils). The entities enjoy a variety of existing regional tourism and cultural promotion efforts. Weaknesses include small staffs, and one county is volunteer-only with limited Tourism office hours and funding from limited bed taxes and/or local fundraising efforts. Partners have met to expand and market the byway.

Members include:

County Organization	Name	Position
Athens County CVB	Amy Spoutz	Marketing Director
Monroe Tourism Council (under the umbrella of Monroe Arts Council)	Mick Schumacher	President
Monroe County Park District	Mike Lloyd	Monroe Park Board Vice-Chairman
Morgan County CVB	Tracy Simons	
Noble County Chamber and Tourism Council	Allen Fraley (2019-2023) Jeff Minosky (2023-2024)	Executive Directors
The Wilds/Muskingum County	Jan Ramer	Director

B. Description of Current and Future Byway Committee Representatives, Partners and Stakeholders

Leaders from the participating County Tourism Councils represent membership comprised of citizens and community leaders, historians, elected officials (county commissioners) and tourism business owners (representing culinary offerings, lodging, arts centers, festivals and more!)

Also supportive of the by-way are the following:

Organization	Name and Position	Contact Information
Buckeye Hills Regional Council https://buckeyehills.org/	Sam Miller Development Director	1400 Pike St. Marietta, OH 45750 (740) 374-9436 SMiller@buckeyehills.org

Ohio Department of Transportation https://www.transportation.ohio.gov/wps/portal/gov/odot/home	Tom Barrett ODOT Historic Bridge & Scenic Byways Coordinator	1980 W Broad St. Columbus, OH 43223 (614) 446-3232 Tom.Barrett@dot.ohio.gov
The Ohio Governor's Office of Appalachia https://development.ohio.gov/cs/cs_goa.htm	John Carey Director	77 S. High St. Columbus, OH 43215 (800) 848-1300 John.Carey@development.ohio.gov
Twin City Opera House Theater https://www.operahouseinc.com/	Adam Shriver	15 W. Main St. McConnelsville, OH 43756 (740) 962-3030 twincityoperahouse2@gmail.com

C. Primary and Secondary Byway Leader Contact Information

Organization	Name, Position & Email	Contact Information
Athens County Convention and Visitors Bureau www.athensohio.com	Amy Spoutz Byways Contact amyspoutz@yahoo.com	667 East State Street Athens, OH 45701 (740) 592-1819 Fax: 740-593-7365
Monroe County Convention and Visitors Bureau www.mcohiotourism.com	Mick Schumacher	118 S. Paul St. Woodsfield, OH 43793 (740) 472-4848
Morgan County Convention and Visitors Bureau visitmorgancountyohio.com	Tracy Simons director@visitmorgancountyohio.com	35 W Main St McConnelsville, OH 43756 (740) 962-4909 or (740) 818-8843
Noble County Chamber & Convention and Visitors Bureau	Jeff Minosky Director	419 W. Main St. Caldwell, OH 43724 P.O. Box 48 Caldwell, OH 43724

www.visitnoblecountyohio.com		(740) 732-7715
Noble County Tourism Information Center www.visitnoblecountyohio.com	allen@noblecountychamber.com	419 W. Main St. Caldwell, OH 43724 P.O. Box 48 Caldwell, OH 43724 (740) 732-5288
Noble County - Ohio State University Extension www.noble.osu.edu	Gwynn Stewart Community Development Educator stewart.1818@osu.edu	46049 Marietta Rd., Ste. 2 Caldwell, OH 43724 (740) 732-5681

D. Level of Participation in State/Regional Byway Meetings and Trainings

- 2020 Gwynn Stewart, byway coordinator attended the Byway Leader Training by National Scenic Byways Foundation (NSBF) and a variety of webinars offered by NSBF.
- 2022 Gwynn Stewart, byway coordinator attended the Heartland Byway Conference (with National Scenic Byways Foundation) in Leavenworth, Kansas, through a scholarship from the National Extension Tourism (NET) Design Team.
- Gwynn Stewart & Mick Schumacher attend tri-state Tourism OSU/WVU Extension tourism group meetings (WV, PA, OH).
- Gwynn Stewart, Mick Schumacher, and Jeff Minosky are members and attend Ohio’s Appalachian Country events, as schedules allow. www.appalachianohio.com

E. Byway Leadership Succession Plan

Should there be any county-level staffing changes, Byway Leadership Succession will be determined with input from The Appalachian Byway Advisory Committee and from the Boards of the leader organizations listed above in Section C.

IV. Byway Corridor Conditions: Roadways, Safety, Intrinsic Resources, Accessibility

A. Road Conditions and Signage

The state roadways are comprised of two lanes with wide berms. The route is maintained by county offices of the Ohio Department of Transportation. Portions of the byway were re-paved in 2024. A pedestrian safety project was completed by ODOT D10 at exit 25 off I-77 along SR 78 near Caldwell. There is also Amish buggy traffic in Monroe County (with no specified buggy lanes). There are seasonally groups of car clubs and motorcycle clubs utilizing the byway. From the energy sector, the roads are heavily used by oil and gas trucks.

The SR 78 portion is 105 miles and SR 284 is 10 miles = 115 total miles



A pedestrian safety project was completed by ODOT D10 at exit 25 off I-77 along SR 78 near Caldwell.



A roundabout in Morgan County.

i. Existing official ODOT byway sign

Now available along the entire byway.

ii. Local byway signs

Not applicable.

iii. Interpretative sign

Several interpretive signs are located along the byway. Those that are known to the committee to date include:

1. Thorla-McKee Park – Home of first Oil Well
2. Jesse Owens State Park & Miner’s Memorial Park
3. The Wilds

4. Hocking Valley Railway

iv. Future sign needed

None at present.

B. List of Primary and Secondary Intrinsic Quality/Resources

Primary Intrinsic Quality	Secondary Intrinsic Quality	Site and Location	Description
Cultural	Natural	Appalachia	Located in the foothills of the Appalachian Mountains across four Appalachian Regional Commission-designated counties in Southeast Ohio, <i>(in the Central Appalachian region of the Ohio designated area)</i> , the byway features the culture, scenic beauty and storied history of the hardworking and resilient Appalachian people.
Cultural	Historic	The Ohio Valley River Museum 601 Front St, Marietta, OH 45750 (39.42067, -81.46274)	The Ohio Valley River Museum in Clarington, Ohio, houses an unexpected variety and number of local artifacts related to the culture of early riverfront life. Clarington has long played a part in the river’s history. In 1912, a river boat named the “Liberty” was built in the village by skilled craftsman. Can be seen from Ohio SR 7 at Clarington! (Ohio Valley Community Credit Union Building) – located at the corner of Ferry & Market Streets, one block north of SR 78. 112 Ferry Street (across Market Street from Clarington Carry Out).
Cultural		Parade of the Hills Festival, Nelsonville Public Square, Nelsonville, OH 45764 (39.46121, -82.23210)	Hosted in Nelsonville in mid-August, the festival features a fabulous line-up of live music, including the Ohio State Old Time Fiddlers’ Contest (at Stuart’s Opera House), a parade, food and more! Music sponsor: Ohio Arts Council

Cultural	Historic	Patchwork Jewels Quilt Barns	<p>Patchwork Jewels Quilt Barn driving tour includes two barns near SR 78 (one near Cameron and one near Lewisville). A driving tour audio program is available at https://ohio.org/destination/monroe-county-patchwork-jewels-quilt-barns/</p> <p>The barns were painted by Monroe native, Scott Hagan, the Barn artist who also painted Ohio's 88 Bicentennial barns.</p>
Cultural		<p>Monroe Fall Festival Monroe Co. Fairgrounds</p> <p>46760 SR 26N Woodsfield, OH 43793 (40.112107, -81.09865)</p>	<p>Hosted annually in mid-October at the Monroe fairgrounds, the festival features entertainment, antique agricultural equipment, a petting zoo, 5K run and other children's activities, live music and more!</p>
Cultural	Historic	<p>Appalachian Foothills Fall Festival & Old Iron Power Show Noble County Fairgrounds</p> <p>Co Rd 56, Caldwell, OH 43724 (39.740522, -81.52858)</p>	<p>Hosted in mid-Sept. annually, by Noble County Chamber of Commerce and The Old Iron Power Club, the event features music, history, food and fun!</p> <p>Music sponsor: Ohio Arts Council</p>
Cultural		<p>Morgan County Heritage Day</p> <p>McConnellsville Village Square (39.64912, -81.853512)</p>	<p>Hosted annually in mid-October in downtown McConnellsville celebrates its Appalachian roots. Free admission features food, fun, music, museums, movies and more!</p>
Cultural	Historic	Nelsonville	<p>Situated at the edge of the Hocking Hills region, the starbrick-lined streets of</p>

			<p>Nelsonville hold a story rich in history, arts and the great outdoors.</p> <p>Steeped in the culture and history of coal mining and brick making, Nelsonville is truly a unique community with some of Ohio’s best family attractions! The Hocking Valley Scenic Railway, the Rocky Outdoor Gear Store, Stuart’s Opera House, the Historic Public Square, Hocking College, the Hockhocking Adena Bikeway and great one-of-a-kind shops and galleries.</p>
Cultural	Historic	<p>Miner’s Memorial Park</p> <p>4470 E. State Route 78</p> <p>McConnelsville, OH 43756</p> <p>(39.69959, -81.730875)</p>	<p>Miner’s Memorial Park lies within American Electric Power’s (AEP) ReCreation Land, a 34,000-acre public recreational area in Morgan County reclaimed through the planting of more than 63 million trees. A keystone at the park is the giant 220-cubic-yard 240-ton bucket from “Big Muskie,” the largest dragline ever built, which moved more than 483 million tons of rock and soil from 1969 to 1991.</p>
Cultural	Recreational	<p>The Wilds</p> <p>14000 International Rd.</p> <p>Cumberland, OH 43732</p> <p>(39.83088, -81.732999)</p>	<p>The Wilds, a 9,000-acre wildlife conservation facility. The Wilds is a private, non-profit safari park and conservation center that combines cutting-edge conservation science and education programs with hands-on experiences and one-of-a-kind adventures that include zip lining, horseback riding, fishing and more</p> <p>This preserve was created from the region’s history as a coal extraction area. The park’s wildlife conservation practices are in an area that was once devoted to coal strip mining.</p>
Natural	Recreational	<p>Jesse Owens State Park and Wildlife Area</p> <p>Miners’ Memorial</p> <p>4470 E. State Route 78</p>	<p>The rolling hills of Jesse Owens State Park and Wildlife Area are a success story in environmental stewardship, conservation and reclaiming land for outdoor recreation. Located in Morgan County and surrounded by thousands of acres of land open to public use, the 5,735-acre park and wildlife area is teeming with wildlife as well as</p>

		McConnelsville, OH 43756 (39.69959, -81.730875)	ponds and waterways full of paddling, boating and fishing opportunities.
Historic		The Monroe County Courthouse 101 N Main St, Woodsfield, OH 43793 (40.08012, -81.22626)	Main Street, Woodsfield; The Monroe County Courthouse was constructed in 1906. It is a three-floor structure in Greek style architecture featuring a stained-glass dome, clock and bell tower, and a two- story stained-glass window on the north side dedicated to Monroe County. <i>This Courthouse is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.</i>
Historic		Hollister-Parry Park Museums 217 Eastern Avenue (SR 78) Woodsfield, OH (39.76203, -81.112498)	Hollister-Parry Park Museums, One-Room Stone Schoolhouse, and a Dairy Barn are located at 217 Eastern Avenue, Woodsfield, OH. Recreation includes the historic Hollister-Parry House museum, an original dairy museum and a reconstructed one- room stone schoolhouse. "Amenities" include electric, water and restrooms. The house was built in the 1860s and is furnished in turn-of-the-century style. The Museum contains priceless heirlooms that portray life in Monroe County during the 1800's and the early 1900's. During the summer months, a caretaker and tour guide welcome visitors to explore Monroe County's rich historic past, but hours are limited. Listed on the National Register of Historic Places
Historic		The Monroe Theater 104 North Main Street Woodsfield, Ohio (39.762956, -81.114808)	Owned by Monroe Arts Council (in process of renovation)
Historic	Scenic	Sgt. Herman Zerger Highway	In honor of World War II veteran and former POW, Herman Zerger, memorial Highway was dedicated in 2019.

		State Route 78	SR 78 is scenic and a beloved route by driver enthusiasts
Historic		Thorla-McKee Well Park 18448-18490 Frostyville Rd, Caldwell, OH 43724 (39.739687, -81.49840)	The county seat, Caldwell offers a quick review of the first oil well in North America at Thorla-McKee Park. <i>This is your story!!!! The extraction of resources from Appalachia!</i> <i>Listed on the National Register of Historic Places Caldwell is the county seat of Noble County, the last of Ohio's 88 counties to be formed.</i>
Historic		Old State Route 78	Originally, Ohio's State Route 78 took a different route through Caldwell than it does today. The "historic" route meandered through downtown Caldwell. The Village of Caldwell will note the historic route. The Village is also in the process of having a historic portion of the downtown designated by the National historic registry as a Historic District.
Historic		Historic Farms	There are multiple 100- & 150-year farms along SR 78.
Historic	Cultural	Twin City Opera House Theater 15 W. Main St. McConnelsville, OH 43756 (39.64931, -81.85355)	Located on the square in McConnelsville and serving as both a live performance venue and a movie theater, the venue has entertained Morgan County citizens and surrounding area continuously for 120 years. <i>Listed on the National Register of Historic Places</i>
Natural	Recreational	Wayne National Forest Off-road Bike Trails 13700 US Highway 33 Nelsonville, OH 45764	This small national forest covers almost a quarter of a million acres of Appalachian foothills. The forest offers backpacking, primitive camping, ATV and biking trails and hunting/camping/fishing.
Natural	Recreational	Burr Oak Lodge & Conference Center	Located in southeast Ohio, the quiet and remote Burr Oak State Park has a rustic, country charm in its 2,593-acre scenery of

		10660 Burr Oak Lodge Rd. Glouster, OH (39.53101, -82.035321)	wooded hills and valley farms. As one of Ohio's resort parks, Burr Oak offers a wide array of overnight accommodations with its lodge, cabins and campground. The Burr Oak blends modern conveniences with the wilderness spirit of Ohio.
Natural		The Beautiful Ohio River	The byway begins at the Beautiful Ohio River and adjoins the Ohio River Scenic Byway at Clarington.
Natural	Recreational	Piatt Park Piatt Park Rd, Woodsfield, OH 43793 (39.81175, -81.079286)	Piatt Park is located four miles east of Woodsfield off State Route 78. Turn left onto CR 30 then left onto TR 2308. Enjoy 119 acres of hiking trails through a fantastic cave and gorge area, camping, picnic shelter/house, ground and a handicapped shower house/restroom.
Recreational	Historic	Hocking Valley Scenic Railway 33 E Canal St. Nelsonville, OH 45764 (39.45879, -82.233587)	Watch the hills roll by along a former coal mine railroad line – 12 miles from Nelsonville to Logan. <i>Listed on the National Register of Historic Places</i>

C. Changes in Intrinsic Qualities/Resources Since Last CMP

None.

D. Accessibility to Intrinsic Qualities/Resources: Pull-Offs, Rest Areas, Visitor Amenities, etc.

Intrinsic Quality/Resources	Pull-off	Parking	Rest Area	Visitor Amenities
Clarington				BP Gas station and quick stop available
Ohio Valley River Museum		Yes		

Monroe County Courthouse		Yes – on square		
Woodfield				Multiple Gas stations available in Woodfield (Duke & Duchess just beyond town square on 78; Dick’s just beyond Woodfield village limits on 78). Olive Tree Inn for lodging and many fast food and family-owned restaurants.
Hollister-Parry Park Museums		Yes		
Lewisville				Lewisville Carry Out - Gas station and quick mart available.
Caldwell		There is a Park & Ride located on SR 78 & I-77.		There are four hotels in town for lodging, and several restaurant options, including family-owned and fast food. Tourism Information Center 44189 Fairground Rd. Caldwell, OH 43724 (740) 732-2191
McConnelsville				Loding and a variety of

				restaurants are available in town. There are also multiple gas stations.
Twin City Opera House Theater		Yes - on street		
Morgan County Historical Society Museums				
Glouster				Lodging is available at Burr Oak Lodge & Convention Center.
Nelsonville				Two bed and breakfast hotels and cabin rentals are available for lodging. Restaurants are also available, including family-owned options.

All interpretation, Pull-Offs, and visitor amenities along with associated parking, public restrooms and amenities are to be accessible per the Americans with Disability Act. This includes accessibility for persons with mobility, hearing, sight, and cognitive impairments.

There are about 42.5 million Americans with disabilities, making up 13% of the civilian noninstitutionalized population, according to the U.S. Census Bureau data from 2021. This group includes people with hearing, vision, cognitive, walking, self-care or independent living difficulties. Therefore, for the story of the byway to be told to all, new programs and improvements need to be accessible while existing sites should have transition plans in place by those who own and maintain them.

V. Visitor Experience: Interpretation, Stories, Preservation, Wayfinding/Signage

A. Interpretation Since Designation

The Appalachian Byway of Ohio includes all or portions of five Appalachian Ohio counties. A variety of publications and articles were produced about the byway. In addition, it was promoted through Ohio's Appalachian County offerings, Ohio's Byway advertising and website and on the county CVB websites, as well as through the National Scenic Byway Foundation and Ohio Tourism videos.

B. Byway Story

The Appalachian Byway was originally designated in 1999 as 39 miles in Morgan County. Our goal is to offer travelers a look at the culture and natural rustic beauty of the Ohio portion of the Appalachian foothills. Since 2018, partners in four additional counties have worked to expand the byway to a five-county experience in the Central Ohio Appalachian region. It traverses scenic State Route 78 from Clarrington to Nelsonville. The byway also includes a portion of SR 284 north to The Wilds in Cumberland.

The Appalachian Region: Appalachia is known as a cultural region in the Eastern United States that includes Ohio and portions of 12 other states from the southern tier of New York to northern Alabama and Georgia. Historically, the region contained major deposits of coal and extraction industries for coal, oil and gas have been prevalent. Recent discoveries of commercial natural gas deposits in the Marcellus Shale formation and Utica Shale formations have once again focused attention on the Appalachian Basin for oil and gas. Salt mining is also part of the heritage of the region.

Coal has been an important fossil fuel for the nation and for Ohio, especially Appalachian Ohio. Since 1800, 3.7 billion tons of coal have been mined in Ohio from underground and from surface mines. Noble and Athens Counties in the byway footprint are in the state's top 10 historic producing counties. Details about the history of mining are available at The Miner's Memorial Park in Morgan County. It's famed "Big Muskie" dragline bucket is on display. Surface-mining equipment like it helped Ohio improve coal production in the 1970s and beyond. However, due to the Federal Clean Air Act, Ohio's coal production has declined nearly 59 percent due to the high sulfur content of its coal. However, Ohio still has 20+ coal-fired power plants in operation.

The Appalachian Byway: The Byway route winds through a region of Ohio rich in culture, abundant in natural resources and offers old-fashioned food, fairs, music and festivals. Experience the region's natural and cultural heritage assets, artisans, musicians, folk arts and crafts, museums and historic landmarks along the journey. The Appalachian Byway is home to farms and orchards, country stores, three rivers and more! Guests may choose to stay at one of many quaint bed and breakfasts, modern hotels or the state lodge.

The Appalachian Byway follows Ohio State Route 78 beginning at the beautiful Ohio River in Clarington, Ohio. Monroe County is often called the Switzerland of Ohio. It was settled around 1800 by a group of Swiss immigrants who were flat boating down the Ohio River to a new home further west. They made land fall in Monroe County one night and fell in love with an area that reminded them of Switzerland.

Guests travel across Monroe through its county seat, Woodsfield and the village of Lewisville. As SR 78 leaves Monroe County, it takes you miles from ordinary as it weaves past historic and Amish farms into Noble County, Ohio's last county of 88 to be formed. The Southeastern portion of Ohio has strong agricultural roots with well-kept farms dotting the landscape and famous "Mail Pouch tobacco" painted barns as a reminder of the former tobacco farming days.

Like many Appalachian areas and towns that relied on extractive industries, the Noble County trek offers scenes from the turn-of-the-century's traditional oil and gas wells and today's Appalachian Basin oil and gas revival, as well as a historic review of the first oil well in North America at Thorla-McKee Park.

The Wilds, a 9-000-acre wildlife conservation facility is a destination in the northern leg of the byway. The Wilds is a private, non-profit safari park and conservation center that combines cutting-edge conservation science and education programs with hands-on experiences. This preserve was created from the region's history as a coal extraction area.

Situated along Route 78, ten miles east of McConnelsville, Ohio, the Miner's Memorial Park pays tribute to coal with its 34,000-acre public recreational area in Morgan County. Reclaimed through the planting of more than 63 million trees, a keystone at the park is the giant 220-cubic-yard 240-ton bucket from "Big Muskie," the largest dragline ever built. The area is also home to the state-designated Jesse Owens State Park and Wildlife Area.

The Appalachian route provides a scenic, uninterrupted-by-cell-phone journey to the Morgan County seat. Home to the historic McConnelsville and its Twin City Opera House Theater located on the square in McConnelsville and serving as both a live performance venue and a movie theater, the venue has entertained Morgan County citizens and surrounding area continuously for 120 years.

The Appalachian Byway continues southwest from Morgan County into Athens County's Nelsonville where its industrial history of coal and brickmaking pave the way for the experiences it offers guests today.

Situated at the edge of the Hocking Hills region, the star brick-lined streets of Nelsonville hold a story rich in history, arts and the great outdoors. The Hocking Valley Scenic Railway, the Rocky Outdoor Gear Store, Stuart's Opera House, the Historic Public Square, Hocking College, the Hockhocking Adena Bikeway and great one-of-a-kind shops and galleries. Plus, those beautiful Starbrick blocks, lining the sidewalks of the Historic Public Square.

C. Future Interpretations

There is a desire to have more interpretation for the byway's intrinsic resources that are not currently interpreted.

E. Preservation

None provided.

F. Sign Inventory

See Appendix A.

Refer to TIMS highway sign data at

https://gis.dot.state.oh.us/tims_classic/map?center=-81.2848183248988,39.67507933302621&level=10&visiblelayers=Boundaries:-1%7CRoadway%20Information:13%7CProjects:-1%7CEnvironmental:-1%7CAssets:-1

VI. Marketing: Promotion, Featured Attractions and Future Plans

A. Current and Future Planned Marketing Activities

The Byway is marketed through its web presence (ODOT and go.osu.edu/abo), on social media (Facebook) and through traditional public relations (press releases, events, CVB activities, multi-county visitor guides). Coordination with partnering CVBs will include marketing and event-based promotions, as well as social media. Future efforts will focus on partnering with four-county CVBs and regional tourism entities (i.e., Ohio's Appalachian Country, Appalachian Regional Commission) to promote the byway assets. CVBs will integrate the byway into existing visitor guides, social media (LinkedIn, Facebook, Twitter, Instagram), key event promotion and more.

B. Recommended Products or Attachments for Media and Public Relations

i. Short description of byway for use in publications.

Take an Ohio road trip! Enjoy the rustic beauty of southeastern Ohio while traveling the scenic route along the foothills of the Appalachian Mountains. The 105-mile Appalachian Byway of Ohio connects with the Ohio River Scenic Byway with the Hannibal Locks and Dam on State Route 7 in Hannibal, Ohio and moves up to State Route 78 to cross through Monroe County into Noble County and continues along SR 78 into Morgan County ending in Nelsonville, Ohio (Athens County). Byway travelers may also enjoy a short trip north of SR 78 along SR 83 to The Wilds in Muskingum County and then travel south along SR 284 to rejoin the byway.

ii. Seasonal digital photographs

See Appendix D.

iii. Brief description of the top 5-10 unique/authentic attractions on the byway,

See brochure (Appendix D): <https://noble.osu.edu/program-areas/community-development/appalachian-byway-ohio>

iv. Provide website/URL (if available) and local website/URL that manages byway

go.osu.edu/abo

v. Marketing contact information

Gwynn Stewart email: stewart.1818@osu.edu phone:(740)305-3177

VII. Public Participation: Community Partners, Public Forums, Critical Issues

A. Ongoing Communication and Cooperation with Community Partners

The coordinator maintains an email list and a Facebook group with partners.

B. Public Meeting and Public Participation Opportunities

The Byway has inquired with Buckeye Hills, the regional transportation planning organization (RTPO) about adding a Byways table at its RTPO public meetings, however, with staff turnover, this has not yet been a reality.

C. Steps Taken to Update Mission and Vision

None needed.

D. Narrative on Critical Issues and How They Will be Addressed

One critical issue is the need to strengthen meetings with key partners and stakeholders. There has been a good deal of turnover in the leadership of the county-based CVBs in the past few years. There continues to be a need to strengthen partnerships with new staff. The coordinator has taken advantage of existing regional tourism meetings and events to do so.

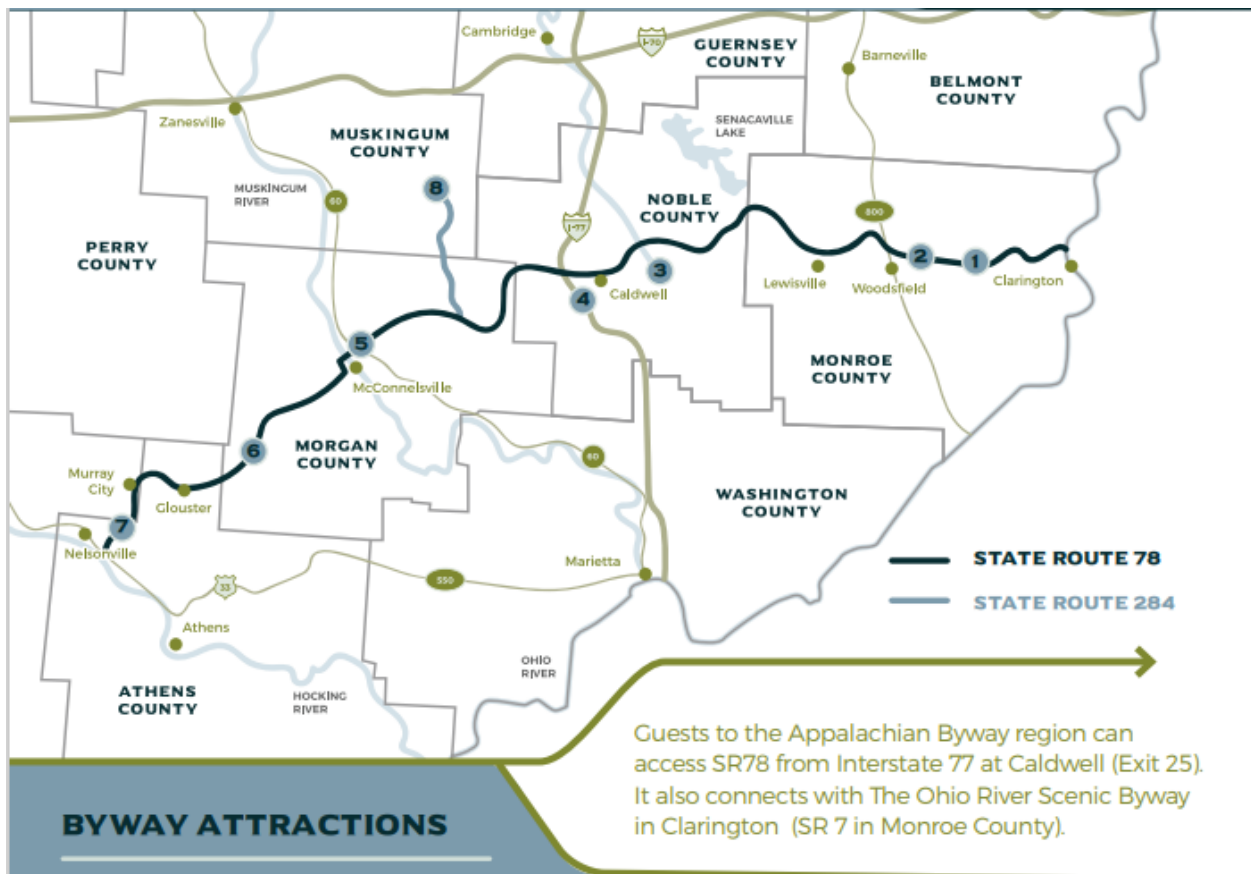
VIII. Appendix

A. Ohio Byway sign inventory (Microsoft Excel Spreadsheet, GIS information formatted as latitude, longitude as per ODOT guidelines)

Refer to TIMS highway sign data at

https://gis.dot.state.oh.us/tims_classic/map?center=-81.2848183248988,39.67507933302621&level=10&visiblelayers=Boundaries:-1%7CRoadway%20Information:13%7CProjects:-1%7CEnvironmental:-1%7CAssets:-1

B. Most Current Byway Map



C. Maps Identifying Primary Intrinsic Quality/Resource Locations

"There is so much **culture** and **beauty** in Appalachian Ohio. Our scenic byways offer **unique experiences** and a **different view** for travelers in our state." - THOMAS BARRETT, OHIO BYWAY PROGRAM COORDINATOR

POINTS OF INTEREST



Guests to the Appalachian Byway region can access SR78 from Interstate 77 at Caldwell (Exit 25). It also connects with The Ohio River Scenic Byway in Clarington (SR 7 in Monroe County).

BYWAY ATTRACTIONS

Jail Museum in Caldwell

The Twin City Opera House Theater in McConnelsville

Stuart's Opera House in Nelsonville

Miner's Memorial and Jesse Owens State Park in Morgan County

Thoria-McKee Park, first oil well in America in Caldwell

Quilt barns
Covered bridges
Historical coal mines
Historic farms
Orchards
Country stores
Rivers and lakes

ACCOMMODATIONS

There are a variety of hotels as well as quaint bed and breakfast establishments, camping and a State Park Lodge as options.



PHOTO COURTESY BARBARA BRIDGERS



PHOTO COURTESY CALVIN CHAMBERS



PHOTO COURTESY CALVIN CHAMBERS



PHOTO COURTESY CALVIN CHAMBERS

1 Monroe County

PIATT PARK

2 Monroe County

HOLLISTER-PARRY PARK MUSEUMS

3 Noble County

THORLA MCKEE PARK

4 Noble County

JAIL MUSEUM



PHOTO COURTESY CALVIN CHAMBERS



PHOTO COURTESY CALVIN CHAMBERS



PHOTO COURTESY CALVIN CHAMBERS



PHOTO COURTESY CALVIN CHAMBERS

5 Morgan County

BIG MUSKIE BUCKET

6 Morgan County

BURR OAK STATE PARK

7 Athens County

NELSONVILLE PUBLIC SQUARE

8 State Route 284

THE WILDS

D. Byway Photographs

Spring:



Summer:



Autumn:



Winter:



Marketing Materials

- Byway video - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eGO3XzKECEU&feature=youtu.be>
- Localized website - <https://noble.osu.edu/program-areas/community-development/appalachian-byway-ohio> also go.osu.edu/abo
- Byway web feature and photos with Ohio Tourism's Cooperative - <https://faes-wpwebprd01.org.ohio-state.edu/hosted/noble/>
- Facebook page - <http://www.facebook.com/AppalachianBywayofOhio>
- Byway included on regional Roadrunner Magazine motorcycle maps - <https://www.visitnoblecountyohio.com/scenicdrives>

Byway Postcard



Brochure



Along the journey enjoy the works of artisans, musicians, museums and historic landmarks.

The Appalachian Byway of Ohio includes State Route 78 at Clarington, Ohio, crosses through Monroe County into Noble County and continues along SR 78 into Morgan County ending in Nelsonville, Ohio (Athens County). Byway travelers may also enjoy a short trip north of SR 78 along SR 284 to The Wilds in Muskingum County and then travel south along SR 284 to pick up the byway again.

For more information, visit
DOT.STATE.OH.US/OHIOBYWAYS

BYWAY PARTNERS

ATHENS COUNTY

Athens County Convention & Visitors Bureau
667 East State Street Athens, OH 45701
740-592-1819 | athensohio.com

MONROE COUNTY

**Monroe Arts Council
Convention & Visitors Bureau**
118 S. Paul St. Woodfield, OH 43793
740-472-4848 | mchohio.com

The Monroe Park District
105 W. Court St. Woodfield, Ohio 43793
(740) 472-1528 | monroecountyohio.com

MORGAN COUNTY

Morgan County Convention & Visitors Bureau
35 W. Main St. McConnelsville, OH 43756
740-962-4809 or 740-554-6382
visitmorgancountyohio.com

NOBLE COUNTY

Noble County Chamber & Tourism Office
508 Main St. Caldwell, OH 43724
740-732-7715 | visitnoblecountyohio.com

**The Ohio State University Extension -
Noble County Community Development**
46049 Marietta Rd., Ste. 2, Caldwell, OH 43724
740-732-5681 | www.noble.osu.edu



EXPERIENCE SOUTHEAST OHIO'S NATURAL AND CULTURAL HERITAGE

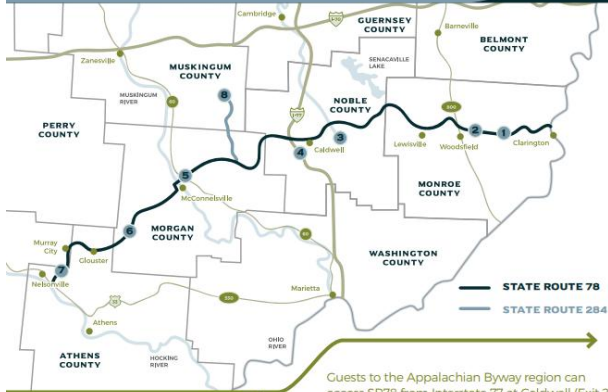


ENJOY THE RUSTIC BEAUTY OF SOUTHEASTERN OHIO WHILE TRAVELING ALONG THE FOOTHILLS OF THE APPALACHIAN MOUNTAINS.

120+ MILE ROUTE THROUGH SCENIC SOUTHEAST OHIO

"There is so much **culture** and **beauty** in Appalachian Ohio. Our scenic byways offer **unique experiences** and a **different view** for travelers in our state." - THOMAS BARRETT, OHIO BYWAY PROGRAM COORDINATOR

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Thoria-McKee Park, first oil well in America in Caldwell

Quilt barns
Covered bridges
Historical coal mines
Historic farms
Orchards
Country stores
Rivers and lakes

ACCOMMODATIONS
There are a variety of hotels as well as quaint bed and breakfast establishments, camping and a State Park Lodge as options.



1 Monroe County
PIATT PARK



2 Monroe County
HOLLISTER-PARRY PARK MUSEUMS



3 Noble County
THORLA MCKEE PARK



4 Noble County
JAIL MUSEUM



5 Morgan County
BIG MUSKIE BUCKET



6 Morgan County
BURR OAK STATE PARK



7 Athens County
NELSONVILLE PUBLIC SQUARE



8 State Route 284
THE WILDS

Byway Itinerary



Travel the Appalachian Byway of Ohio to Experience Southeast Ohio's Natural & Cultural Heritage!

Enjoy the rustic beauty of southeast Ohio while traveling along the foothills of the Appalachian Mountains.

The 105-mile Appalachian Byway of Ohio also joins The Ohio River Scenic Byway in Monroe County's Clarington (SR 78 @ SR 7). You can also enjoy the Wayne National Forest Byway in the region.

- Monroe County ~ Piatt Park, The Monroe Theatre in downtown Woodsfield;
- Noble County ~ Thortla-McKee Well (America's first oil well), Historic Jail Museum, historic downtown Caldwell & Hotels at I-77 Exit 25
- Morgan County ~ Miner's Memorial & Big Muskie Bucket, McConnelsville's Opera House & Burr Oak State Park;
- Muskingum County ~ (up SR83) to The Wilds (a wildlife conservation center); and
- Athens County ~ Nelsonville Public Square & Linka to Triple Nickel Motorcycle roads.

Learn more: go.osu.edu/abo



Above: Big Muskie Bucket
Below: Morgan's Opera House



Above: Nelsonville Fountain
Below: Caldwell Christmas



State, regional and national press for the Appalachian Byway of Ohio

- National Scenic Byway Foundation - <https://nsbfoundation.com/blog/appalachian-ohio-byway-3/>
- National Scenic Byway Foundation Honorable Mention award for public/private partnerships (2020)
- Ohio Magazine:
 - “Heritage Road Trips” - <https://www.ohiomagazine.com/travel/article/heritage-road-trips-2020>
 - “Discover Monroe County This Summer” - <https://compassohio.com/discover-monroe-county-this-summer/>
 - “Find an Autumn Escape Along the Appalachian Byway of Ohio” - <https://compassohio.com/find-an-autumn-escape-along-the-appalachian-byway-of-ohio/>
 - “Treehouses: Experience an Adventure in Enchantment and Serenity” – <https://compassohio.com/experiences/treehouses-experience-adventure-enchantment-serenity/>
 - “Ice Skating Noble County” – <https://compassohio.com/ice-skating-noble-county/>
 - “Noble County Ohio’s Hallmark Christmas to Remember” - <https://compassohio.com/noble-county-ohios-hallmark-christmas-to-remember/>
- American Road – https://www.mydigitalpublication.com/publication/?i=660378&ver=html5&p=25&fbclid=IwAR178kK807DI4Go6EoDCifX71hGxVg_uGa5ZV0snire7y93YyXEj7wona50
- Bountiful Blessings Travel Blog - <https://www.bountiful-blessings.com/the-appalachian-byway-of-ohio-a-perfectly-relaxing-road-trip/?fbclid=IwAR0jKxkE9WKODpKREgLm4B10LGgt2G6h7tzOWV4aEC-2U6C-hDuFzoqNJ-w>

Awards and related press



National Scenic Byway Foundation Board member Chris Sieverdes, Monroe County Commissioner Mick Schumacher, National Scenic Byway Foundation Executive Director Sharon Strouse, Byway Coordinator Gwynn Stewart and Congressman Bill Johnson



2021 Byway Community Award Stories and Best Practices

Appalachian Byway of Ohio

The Appalachian Byway of Ohio is a winner for its "Save the Historic Islands in Downtown Woodfield, Ohio" project, served to protect and preserve the cultural and historical assets of Downtown Woodfield, OH. Partners from The Appalachian Byway of Ohio in Monroe and Noble County led an effort to bring attention to the importance of the downtown Woodfield historic island structures at risk of being eliminated in an Ohio Department of Transportation Safety project.



In downtown Woodfield, Ohio, one of the most unique and identifiable historic assets are the islands. The islands, in place since 1929, provide a sense of grand entry and serve as a focal point for the length of the public square. These islands are part of the community Christmas décor, holiday parades, Alumni events Monroe Central High School teams, and a heightened sense of seasons with the Garden Club's floral beauty. The islands provide an entry into the community. For visitors, they make a first impression.

Woodfield also serves as the County Seat for Monroe County. Based on the Ohio State's Historic Preservation Office findings, there are National Register-listed and eligible properties adjacent to the project, including Monroe County Courthouse, Monroe Bank, the US Post Office, and the Monroe Theatre.

Historic downtowns in the Appalachian area provide a culture-rich visitor experience as it links Woodfield to several similar downtowns: Caldwell, which recently received Historic District designation and whose Jail Museum is on the National Registry; McConnelsville, home to the

famed Twin City Opera House on the National Registry and its historical statue, as well as the Nelsonville Public Square with its famous fountain and star bricks.

The Downtown Woodfield historic district, identified as encompassing the Main St. buildings on all four quadrants of Woodfield's Square, was determined to be eligible for the National Register of Historic Places.

Contributing architectural components include the Woodfield Square site containing two center median islands, installed in 1929, and the 1940s-era four-lamp. Due to the work of the Appalachian Byway of Ohio, in coordination with the Monroe County Commissioners, Monroe Arts Council, Monroe Historical Society, Downtown building owners, and the Ohio Historical Society, ODOT determined a finding of "adverse effect" applicable to the safety project based on the potential historic district and the contributing components, the islands and streetlight. Savings the significant transportation elements of historic downtown Woodfield, Ohio, is directly aligned with the cultural resources' intrinsic quality of the Appalachian Byway of Ohio.

Read more about the Appalachian Byway of Ohio <https://ohio.org/wps/portal/gov/tourism/things-to-do/destinations/appalachian-byway-of-ohio>.

Appalachian Byway receives national award

Local advocacy groups represented by the Appalachian Byway of Ohio, has won a national community award for its "Save the Historic Islands in Downtown Woodfield, Ohio" project.

Byway Coordinator Gwynn Stewart accepted the 2021 National Scenic Byway Foundation (NSBF) Community Award Friday, June 4 in Woodfield's village square.

NSBF President Chris Stewart for creating and protecting the byway.

Over four years, the Stewart brought the whole ribbon or byway together," Stewart said, "connecting many communities all the way to Athens County."

The Appalachian Byway of Ohio spans 24 miles along State Route 9 between Clannagan and Nicholasville.

The byway revitalization project served to protect and preserve the cultural and historical assets of downtown Woodfield, according to an NSBF press release. Specifically, the village square market stands were at risk of being demolished in an Ohio Department of Transportation safety project.

The Appalachian Byway of Ohio coordinated with the Monroe County Commission, Monroe Arts Council, Monroe Historical Society, the Ohio Historical Society and downtown business owners to register concerns about the CDCOT project. In August 2020, Stewart collected a petition with more than 600 signatures asking CDCOT to consider



The Appalachian Byway ribbon received a 2021 Byway Community Award from the National Scenic Byway Foundation. Pictured from the award presentation are, from left to right, President Chris Stewart, Byway Coordinator Gwynn Stewart, and Ohio Congressman Bill Johnson.

the historic nature of the Post Office and the Monroeville Islands. "It was the conversation CDCOT inadvertently had with the award," said Stewart, "that determined that a finding of adverse effect was appropriate." The CDCOT project's goal to connect the islands to the downtown area triggered the byway's involvement.

The islands have been recognized as a local point of destination and has a full listing on the National Register of Historic Places. The Ohio State's Historic Preservation Office found the CDCOT project area to contain several National Register listed and eligible properties including the Monroe County Courthouse, Monroe High School, and the United States Post Office. These four byway communities, with their historic



It all started with Betty

Betty Higgins Davis, her great-grandson Ryan a 70-year-old resident of Monroeville Place, is pictured here with her youngest daughter, Sue (Thompson), her grand-daughter, Julie (Higgins), her great-grandson, Lincoln (Higgins), and her great-granddaughter, Lily (Higgins). It all started with Betty.

Area Honor Rolls

- Myron Elementary School recently released its honor roll for the fourth nine weeks.
 - Principal's List: Sixth Grade: Farman, Eaten
 - Seventh Grade: Sydney Egan, Olivia Romig, Madeline Cook, Juliana Dales, Olivia Gable, Ivory English, Jaxon Williams
 - Eighth Grade: Allison Hart, Jayden Haskins, Noah Hinson
 - Fourth Grade: Willow Eales, Kaitlyn Caldwell, Amelia Chapman, Jolie Christman, Bentley Chen, Carter Frye, Jet Kason, Parker Lake, Jaycee Usher, Kaitlyn Windland
 - Fifth Grade: Richard East, Emelio Lech, Gage Dashi
 - Sixth Grade: Jordyn Henson, Germany Russell, Willow Smith
- Redeemingly Career Center: Eighth Grade: Wesley Lech, Farley Williams
- Powhatan Elementary School recently released its honor roll for the fourth nine weeks.
 - Principal's List: Fourth Grade: Tiana Mays
 - Third Grade: MacKenzie Eales
 - Eighth Grade: Gianna Mays
 - Fifth Grade: Kaitlyn Williams, Isabelle Schindler, Brooke Fannon, Madison Moore, Kyrstin Houghland, Lauren Glass, Kaitlyn Jones
 - Fourth Grade: Hunter Ogilvie, Elyse Dietrich
 - Ninth Grade: Kaden Hunt, Jerry Griffin, Evan Edgill
 - Eighth Grade: Jayden Mitchell, Jackson Dashi, Madeline Voth, Kaitlyn

Area youth marketplace competes in national tournament

Eastern Ohio Development Alliance (EODA) Regional award for Tourism



Monroe Commissioner Mick Schumacher and members of the Monroe Park District at the Fisher's Grove Park along the byway.



EODA Excellence Awards for 2020 will be presented to eight recipients in July. Each member who nominated a recipient selected for an award will be making an individual presentation due to the postponement of the annual meeting to follow state rules regarding COVID-19. Following is a list of awards, recipients and member responsible for the nomination and presentation of each award.

Emerging Business Award

Griffith & Sons Trucking (Carroll County)
Nominated by Chris Modranski

Technology Award

AVC Technologies (Guernsey County)
Nominated by Norm Blanchard

Small Business Awards

Lockport Brewery (Tuscarawas County)
Nominated by John Kelly

Nothing But Chocolate (Guernsey County)
Nominated by Norm Blanchard

Saunders Machine Works (Muskingum County)
Nominated by Matt Abbott

Large Business Award

Shelly & Sands (Muskingum County)
Nominated by Matt Abbott

Tourism Awards

Appalachian Byway of Ohio (Athens, Monroe, Morgan & Muskingum counties)
Nominated by Gwynn Stewart

#live tusc (Tuscarawas County)
Nominated by Chris Abbuhl

Local Seniors will Graduate Despite COVID

By Anne Ollivovich

Of creative thinking and safety strategy, officials at Noble Local and Caldwell Exceptional schools have devised a way for their students to be able to receive their diplomas in person, while still maintaining a safe environment as prescribed by state and local health officials.

On Saturday, May 9, from 9:00 a.m. until about 4:30 p.m., Noble Local seniors will take part in a graduation ceremony. The graduation ceremony will be held in person, including one-on-one, four family members, Superintendent Dan Lefgren, Principal Justin Dennis, a board member, a photographer and a videographer will be present in the gymnasium.

Class President William Vandrey opens the ceremony with the closing speech, followed by an address by Superintendent Mike Seid, the opening speech by class valedictorian Loren Kelly, and addresses by Superintendent, Thomas Smith and Co-Valedictorian Anna...

Following this, seniors will come to receive their diplomas accompanied by four family members. A fifth family member may be accompanied if seniors call 888 Franklin by 2 p.m. on Wednesday, May 13 at 740-752-2341. In such cases, either the representative or the board member will step out to accommodate the fifth family member. No additional family members can be accommodated, as the process requires the presence of two people in order to present diplomas.

Here's how it all works. Seniors are being informed of graduation week, but you can check it out on the Noble Local Facebook page as well. All family members for each senior are being asked to arrive in one vehicle if possible, pulled up to the front parking lot of SHS and are to remain in the vehicle until told to get out by a school official. At that time, they are to enter through the front doors and walk to the gymnasium, where the senior will walk in cap and gown across the stage and receive his or her diploma.

Following this, the senior and family will exit through the gym doors and walk to the gymnasium, where the senior will walk in cap and gown across the stage and receive his or her diploma.

Starting to Get Back to Business as Usual: This Friday

You can get a Haircut and Eat in a Restaurant Again!

By Anne Ollivovich

In an Thursday's COVID-19 briefing call, county leaders announced that starting this Friday, May 15, businesses can begin to open up to the public. This includes hair salons, restaurants, and other businesses that have been closed since March 2020.

On Friday, May 15, 2020, businesses can begin to open up to the public. This includes hair salons, restaurants, and other businesses that have been closed since March 2020.



The staff at Perry's Place, LLC in Bell Valley are in compliance with the governor's standards for reopening restaurants prior to the next two weeks. Pictured is Allan Treble, husband of owner Perry Treble.

There will be social distancing in the waiting area, and there will be no groupings, making seating of food as large as available. The person who has an appointment will come to the door, where he or she is allowed to speak a caregiver in close proximity.

Government officials said they will be reopening on Friday, May 15. There are about 100 businesses, such as barbers, hair salons, and salons, that are still waiting to re-open. They include therapists, gyms and other places that are being re-opened in close proximity.

"This is a momentous occasion," Kline said.

Scenic Ohio Byway Signs are Up in Noble County



The Appalachian Byway of Ohio, recently approved as a scenic byway, is the 17th Ohio Department of Transportation Scenic Byway. The Appalachian Byway's route runs from 75 from Clanton, in Monroe County, through Mt. Morgan and Athens Counties ending in Newberry. There is also a short portion north in St. Clair to The Middle in Washington County. Signage for the newly designated scenic byway was recently erected.

"There is no more culture and history in Appalachian Ohio," said Thomas Barrow, Ohio Byways Program Coordinator, "and we are proud to offer unique experiences and a different view for travelers in our state. This byway invites us to explore the scenic Ohio byway to the west and enjoy the region's natural and cultural heritage."

The journey immerses the beauty and history of Appalachian Ohio with a route that features abundant natural resources, museums, historic landmarks and outdoor recreation opportunities.

"The Ohio Scenic Byway Program is a grassroots effort to highlight the scenic, historical and historic resources, cultural, historical, archaeological, recreational, natural and scenic—which collectively enhance the overall traveling experience. Program participation provides outstanding benefits to the region as well, such as tourism preservation, appreciation and promotion.

Partners in the byway include the Community Development program at Ohio State University Extension, Noble County Board & Tourism (Noble), the Noble County Commission & Visitors Bureau (Noble), the Mount Morgan Area Chamber of Commerce (St. Clair) and the Athens Co. CVR.

HARP Receives Appalachian Ohio Emergency Response Grant

HARP was awarded a grant from the Appalachian Ohio Emergency Response Fund. The grant will be used to fund supplies for emergency housing repairs in the area.

The Appalachian Ohio Emergency Response Fund has awarded \$10,000 in grants through a discretionary fund to support non-profit organizations that are working to provide basic necessities to ensure the health and safety of Appalachian Ohio's most vulnerable populations during the COVID-19 crisis.

Through this round of funding, the Foundation for Appalachian Ohio (FAO) awarded grants to eight non-profit organizations in a different across 19 counties in Appalachian Ohio. In total, through all three rounds of funding, the Appalachian Ohio Emergency Response Fund has now awarded nearly \$44,000 to 18 nonprofits serving 25 people in the region.

Appalachian Ohio counties, and many people will come to the aid of the region.

"As we get out third round of grants through the Appalachian Ohio Emergency Response Fund, we are continuously inspired by the love, strength, and determination of those working to provide meals, medical supplies, and other essential items," Foundation for Appalachian Ohio President and CEO Gary Dondos said.

HARP received funding for supplies to help with emergency housing repairs for seniors and veterans to ensure that they are able to remain in their homes. HARP serves Boone, Guernsey, Mason, Morgan, Washington, Monroe, and Belmont counties.

For more information on grants, please contact: Access Vice, the Alliance Family Health Center, Area Agency on Aging Region 5, Kach...



Photos by Gwynn Stewart
Map available at transportation.ohio.gov/traveling/ohio-byways/appalachian-byway

COMING SOON!

Appalachian Byway of Ohio

This brand-new guide focuses on sites along the 105-mile Appalachian Byway of Ohio that runs along the foothills of the Appalachian Mountains. The scenic byway makes its way across southeastern Ohio—from Nelsonville in northwest Athens County, through Morgan and Noble counties, and all the way to Clarington in east Monroe County.

Sites along and near the byway—primarily state Route 78 but including small stretches of state Routes 83 and 284—include historic theaters, a jail museum, Miner’s Memorial Park, the Big Muskie Bucket, and The Wilds, among others.

Learn More

This publication will be for sale on extensionpubs.osu.edu soon! In the meantime, learn more about the Appalachian Byway of Ohio at noble.osu.edu/program-areas/community-development/appalachian-byway-ohio.

About the Authors

Gwynn Stewart is an assistant professor of community development for the Noble County office of Ohio State University Extension. Gwynn provides research-based programming through Community Development that helps build sustainable and livable communities through civic engagement and collaboration. She is the recipient of numerous awards, including those directly related to the Appalachian Byway of Ohio:

- 2021 Ohio NACDEP Individual Award for Innovation & Creativity (for Appalachian Byway of Ohio Video)
- 2021 National Scenic Byway Foundation Community Award for Appalachian Byway of Ohio
- 2021 National NACDEP Runner-Up Award for Appalachian Byway of Ohio (Individual Innovation & Creative)
- 2021 Ohio NACDEP Award for Appalachian Byway of Ohio (Individual Innovation & Creative)
- 2020 OSU Extension Annual Conference Promotional Package/Individual - 2nd place award for the Appalachian Byway
- 2020 Eastern Ohio Development Alliance Tourism Award for the Appalachian Byway of Ohio
- 2020 National Scenic Byway Foundation Inaugural Award for Public/Private Partnerships - Honorable Mention

Christine Gelfey, MS, is an Extension educator for Agriculture and Natural Resources. Christine brings her expertise and experiences in Noble county to the farm chapter.



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