

Athens - Belpre Rail - Trail

Athens and Washington
Counties, Ohio



Access and Directions to Trail

As of 12 September 2018



A muscle-powered
recreational trail for
**HIKERS
BICYCLISTS
EQUESTRIANS**
athensbelpretrail.org



www.athensconservancy.org

Regional Overview

In 2010 the Athens Conservancy purchased several large pieces of the abandoned B&O railroad corridor across Athens County with a grant from the Clean Ohio Fund. Since then the Athens Conservancy has purchased additional right-of-way and helped establish a regional steering committee that hopes to develop a multi-use muscle-powered trail extending over 30 miles in southeastern Ohio with connections to the Moonville Rail-Trail, now located west of Mineral, the Hocking Adena Bikeway between Nelsonville and Athens, and the North-Bend Rail Trail between Parkersburg and Wolf Summit, West Virginia; other groups plan to connect the latter all the way to Pittsburgh and Washington DC. The Conservancy currently owns parts of the right-of-way located in Waterloo, Athens, Rome and Troy Townships in Athens County, and is continuing to negotiate to secure more right-of way.

Access to the Athens-Belpre Rail-Trail

There are three designated parking areas, none of which are designed for horse trailers.

1. On **North Torch Road** one-tenth of a mile north of its intersection with Torch Road, on the left. To get there from Athens, go east on US-50. After it merges with Ohio State Route 7, go another 3.3 miles to Torch Road (County Road 63) and turn left (this will be after crossing the Hocking River). Take Torch Road 0.6 mile to North Torch Road (County Road 62) and turn left. The parking area will be on your left.
2. On **Ireland Road** 3/4 mile north of US-50. To get there from Athens, go east on US-50. After it merges with Ohio State Route 7, go another 1.9 miles to Ireland Road (County Road 59). Turn left and go 0.75 mile to the rail-trail and parking will be on the left.
3. On **Frost Road** just east across the Hocking River from Ohio State Route 144. To get there from Athens, go east on US-50. After it merges with Ohio State Route 7, go another 1.1 miles to Ohio State Route 144. Turn left and take OH-144 north 4.0 miles to Frost Road (County Road 58). Turn right on Frost Road and the parking area will be on your left after crossing the Hocking River.

Open Portions of the Trail

There are currently three disconnected segments of the trail that are open.

Ellis Road Segment

The segment farthest east comprises 1.2 miles of rail trail from Ellis Road (Township Road 1265) in Torch to the Washington County line. To reach the trail from the North Torch Road parking area, go back on North Torch Road to Torch Road, turn left, and go one quarter of a mile to Ellis Road. Turn left on Ellis Road and the segment will be on your right just over one tenth of a mile from Torch Road. Ellis Road is private past this point.

Torch West Segment

In the middle is a 1.6-mile stretch of rail-trail. This extends from the North Torch Road parking area west. At 1.2 miles, the old roadbed of Brandeberry Road (Township Road 176) ascends to the right, and this can be taken one-tenth of a mile up to Brandeberry Road, then another three-quarters of a mile to Ireland Road, then west 0.9 mile on Ireland Road, then south 0.8 mile on Ireland Road to the Ireland Road parking area. The ascent on Brandeberry Road from the rail-trail, however, is rough and difficult. It is easiest to return on the trail to the parking area. The trail also extends another 0.4 mile west of Brandeberry Road to a dead end where a bridge is missing. Some interesting stone features and brick and stone retaining walls may be seen there.

Frost Segment

This is the longest available segment, extending 5.8 miles from Ireland Road (County Road 59) to Frost Road (Township Road 532). Going west from the Ireland Road parking area, the trail meets Frost Road (County Road 58) at 1.0 mile. The trail then parallels Frost Road (first a county road, then a township road) the rest of the way. It is another 3.2 miles to Frost Hill Road, at the community of Frost. The Frost Road parking area is on the left down the hill and across Frost Road. The rail-trail then extends another 1.6 miles to another crossing of Frost Road, where it terminates for the time being.

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