



WELCOME

Welcome to the Twin Valley Trail connecting the trails of Germantown and Twin Creek MetroParks through the historic village of Germantown. We hope that your hike will provide you with the physical challenge, mental rejuvenation, and spiritual enrichment you seek. In turn, we trust that you will treasure the trail and its resources, protecting them in every way you can.

Most of this trail is on the MetroParks trail system within Germantown and Twin Creek MetroParks. You are asked to stay on the trail to help preserve the diverse flora and fauna of the Twin Valley. The trail joins the Twin Creek Bikeway (1.75 miles) on the outskirts of the village of Germantown in addition to a short road walk (1 mile). Please be particularly careful on these sections to respect the rights of

TWIN VALLEY TRAIL MANAGEMENT

MetroParks staff would like to thank all of the volunteers who gave thousands of hours to build and maintain the Twin Valley Trail.

The Twin Valley Trail is managed by Five Rivers MetroParks with cooperation from the village of Germantown and German Township where the trail is paved. The trail is maintained by staff and volunteers. You can help these volunteers by your responsible use of the trail and your efforts to be a "Leave No Trace" hiker.

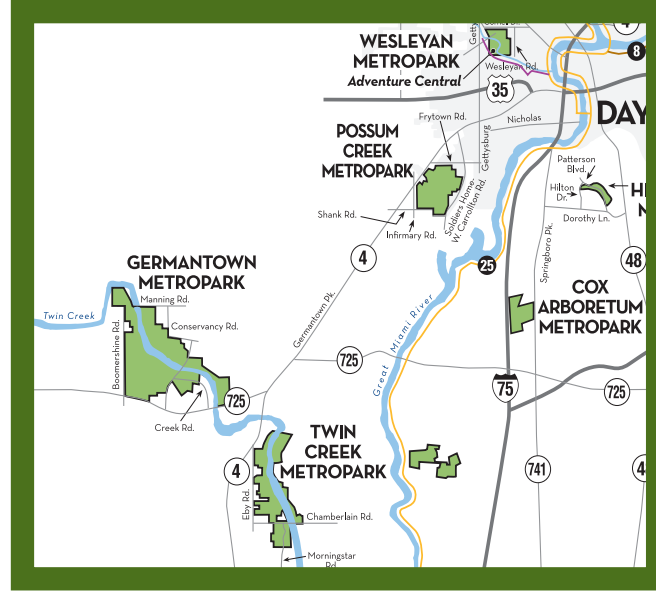
For information on public trail work days go to metroparks.org/volunteer.

adjacent landowners in addition to your own safety on the road.

Small parties that can fit in up to two tents, (maximum six people) can utilize our backcountry camps of Oak Ridge, Cedar Ridge, and Pine Ridge where they will find a secluded experience among the wilds of the Twin Valley. No fires are permitted at these sites.

Backpacking groups may also hike into our frontcountry campsites of Shimp's Hollow, Old Mill, or Twin Creek if they seek more backpacking options. These sites are suitable for groups that are too large for the backcountry camps.

Camping along the entire trail is in designated locations by permit only. Camping reservations can be made online at metroparks.org or by calling Five Rivers MetroParks at (937) 275-7275 M-F 8AM-5PM or walking in 409 E. Monument Ave., Third Floor.



It's our nature.

This park is one of 25 outstanding public facilities operated by your Five Rivers MetroParks system. Founded in 1963 to serve the greater Dayton area, MetroParks protects nearly 16,000 acres of open space and provides year-round recreation, education and conservation opportunities. Facilities are available to the public free of charge – made possible by Montgomery County citizen support of a property tax levy.

For More Information

Permits and trail information(937) 275-PARK (7275)
Website: metroparks.org
Overnight Parking Trailheads: Germantown MetroPark
Twin Valley Welcome Center, 6910 Boomershine Rd.
Germantown Sled Hill, 6206 Boomershine Rd.
Spillway Parking lot, 7101 Conservancy Rd.
Overnight Parking Trailheads: Twin Creek MetroPark
Hopewell Parking Lot, 8502 Chamberlain Rd.
High View Shelter, 9688 Eby Rd.

Ranger Assistance

Contact the Montgomery County Sheriff's Office dispatcher at: (937) 535-2580.
For emergencies call 911.



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TWIN VALLEY TRAIL

PARK FEATURE GUIDE



METROPARKS.ORG

GET OUT & LIVE

Dayton, Ohio, is "The Outdoor Adventure Capital of the Midwest!"

Vibrant Culture • Active Lifestyle • Convenient Access

EXPERIENCE YOUR FIVE RIVERS METROPARKS

- Play on 16,000 acres of public land managed by Five Rivers MetroParks!
- Learn a new skill with a program or trip.
- Give back on a volunteer work day.
- Ride your mountain bike at MoMBA.
- Cruise the Nation's Largest Paved Trail Network.
- Fish or paddle Ohio's Largest Water Trail Network.

- ### CONNECT WITH THE COMMUNITY
- The Adventure Summit & Speaker Series
 - Bike to Work Day Pancake Breakfast
 - Wagner Subaru Outdoor Experience

For a complete list of outdoor retailers, clubs, and places to rent equipment go to outdoordayton.com.

Five Rivers MetroParks is proud to have been recognized as a Trail Town and Bicycle Friendly Community, and to partner with Ohio Water Trails. MetroParks also is proud to partner with Dayton Regional Rowing, a Community Olympic Development Program for the sport of rowing.



Five Rivers MetroParks
409 E. Monument Ave., Third Floor
Dayton, OH 45402
(937) 275-PARK (7275)
outdoors@metroparks.org

TIPS, RULES & REGULATIONS

FINDING YOUR WAY

The Twin Valley Trail is marked by a backpacker icon located on posts placed along the trail. At some points, the backpacker icon will be painted on pavement to mark the trail. Other trails, which are all loops, within Germantown and Twin Creek MetroParks are marked in various colors.

IF YOU BECOME LOST, STAY CALM

STOP: Sit, Think, Observe, Plan. If on a trail, stay on it, proceeding in one direction. If unable to find a trail, walk downhill until you find a stream or road. Above all, conserve your energy and stay warm. Periodically, give distress signals in groups of threes; answers to distress signals are given in groups of twos. If forced to camp, stay within view of the trail, because rescuers will be using it when looking for you.

RANGER ASSISTANCE

Contact the Montgomery County Sheriff's Office dispatcher at: (937) 535-2580 or 911 for emergencies. In both emergency and non-emergency situations, please inform the dispatcher that you are in a MetroParks facility. A MetroParks Law Enforcement Ranger will be notified and will respond to the situation as soon as possible.

WATER

Because water sources are unreliable during dry seasons, always carry plenty of water. The purity of water from unprotected water sources cannot be guaranteed by Five Rivers MetroParks or any other jurisdiction with which the trail falls. All agents expressly disclaim liability for any impurities in such water. To be safe, all water should be purified by filtering, chemically treating or boiling

before use. Potable water is available year-round at the Twin Valley Welcome Center during park hours.

Dry: Shimp's Hollow, Cedar Ridge, and Pine Ridge Seasonal Stream: Old Mill, Twin Creek 1, 2, & 3 Pond: Oak Ridge Spigot: Chamberlain Rd. Trailhead (Seasonal availability)

FOR YOUR SAFETY, REMEMBER:

- Leave a trip plan with friends so that someone will know where you are and whom to contact in case of emergency.
- Watch for sudden changes in weather.
- Be aware of common nuisances such as ticks, biting gnats, and poison ivy.
- Plan your trip carefully, allowing plenty of time and energy for rugged terrain.
- Familiarize yourself with the symptoms and treatment of hypothermia.
- Carry extra food, dry clothes, and a map.
- When walking on or crossing roads, be careful of vehicle traffic.
- Please respect private property.



BACKCOUNTRY REGULATIONS

For your own and others' safety and enjoyment, please be aware of the following regulations in addition to the standard MetroParks rules that can be found at trailhead kiosks.

- No motorized vehicles, bicycles, horses, or pack stock are permitted on the Twin Valley Trail.
- A camping permit is required for all overnight use and must be in the trip leader's possession at all times. Call (937) 275-PARK (7275) or visit metroparks.org/camp
- Camping is permitted only at designated locations.
- Maximum stay per camp (Oak Ridge, Cedar Ridge, Pine Ridge) is two consecutive nights.
- Backcountry campsites are limited to two small backpacking tents per site.
- Frontcountry camping areas (Shimp's Hollow, Old Mill, Twin Creek) are available to hike into and can more easily accommodate larger groups.
- Overnight parking is only permitted at designated parking lots.
- Fires are not permitted in the backcountry camps (Oak Ridge, Cedar Ridge, Pine Ridge). Use a backpack stove or carry food that does not need to be cooked.
- Fires are permitted in the group camps at the designated rings (Shimp's Hollow, Old Mill, Twin Creek) if you are permitted to camp there. Only use firewood provided.
- Carry out your trash. Burning, burying, or leaving trash is prohibited. Do not place trash in pit toilet.
- Keep creeks clean and available for wildlife. Do not use any type of soap within 200 feet of a water source.
- Let wildlife remain wild. Do not feed, touch, or interfere with wildlife. This kind of behavior is detrimental to animals. Please suspend food and garbage above ground to lessen the chance of theft by animals and holes in your tent or pack.
- Stay on the trail: shortcutting causes erosion.
- If you must bring a dog, it should be leashed (no longer than 8 feet) and under control at all times.
- No alcohol

Report emergencies to park Rangers by calling the sheriff's office at (937) 535-2580 or 911.



Five Rivers MetroParks is a proud partner of the Leave No Trace Center for Outdoor Ethics. We practice and support Leave No Trace skills and ethics and believe in the stewardship of America's public lands. Join us in our work to Leave No Trace.

PLAN AHEAD AND PREPARE

Know local regulations, water sources, and emergency access routes.

TRAVEL AND CAMP ON DURABLE SURFACES

Stay on the trail; don't cut switchbacks. Camp in designated sites.

DISPOSE OF WASTE PROPERLY

Pack out trash and food waste. Bury human and pet waste 6 inches deep, at least 200 feet from the trail or water.

LEAVE WHAT YOU FIND

Don't take flowers or other sensitive natural resources. Don't disturb historic artifacts.

MINIMIZE CAMPFIRE IMPACTS

Scouring the landscape for wood can be decimating and fire scars are a long-lived eyesore. Know local regulations.

RESPECT WILDLIFE

Don't feed or disturb wildlife. Store food properly to avoid attracting raccoons and rodents. If you must bring a pet, keep it on a leash with a maximum of 8 feet.

BE CONSIDERATE OF OTHER VISITORS

Keep group size small; no more than 12 on overnight trips, 25 on day trips. Minimize noise and intrusive behavior. Share facilities.

TRAILBLAZING

Experience backpacking on the Twin Valley Trail with the connection of Twin Creek and Germantown MetroParks!

TWIN VALLEY TRAIL

Twin Valley Trail is located in southwestern Ohio, less than 30 minutes from downtown Dayton. The trail system can be accessed from trailheads at 10 park locations within Germantown and Twin Creek MetroParks. Overnight parking for backpackers is only available at the Boomershine Road/Sled Hill entrance, the Twin Valley Welcome Center and the Spillway parking lot in Germantown MetroPark, as well as the High View parking lot on Eby Road and the Hopewell parking lot on Chamberlain Road in Twin Creek MetroPark.

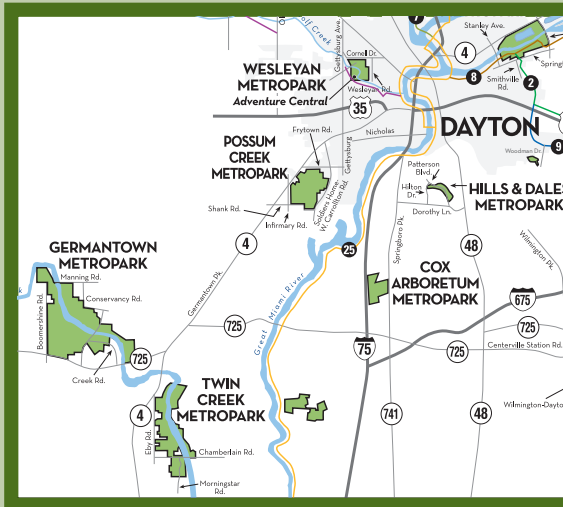
Five Rivers MetroParks is dedicated to protecting greater Dayton's natural heritage and to providing outdoor recreation and education experiences that inspire a lasting personal connection with nature.

GERMANTOWN METROPARK

A world of wilderness awaits at Germantown MetroPark – less than 30 minutes from the Dayton. Spectacular ravines, towering trees, wildflowers and excellent opportunities to observe wildlife add to the appeal of this 1,655-acre MetroPark. It has been designated as a Watchable Wildlife viewing site by the Ohio Department of Natural Resources and an Important Bird Area by the National Audubon Society.

TWIN CREEK METROPARK

Wild, beautiful scenery and historic features beckon the visitor to this 1,000-acre MetroPark. You'll find hiking and horse trails and a picnic area that offers a splendid panoramic vista of the Twin Creek Valley. The park is centered on Twin Creek, one of the cleanest and most biodiverse waterways in the state. More than 500 species of plants and 70 species of nesting birds have been found here. In addition, 2,000-year-old earthworks constructed by the Hopewell Culture are protected here.



BACKPACKING AT ITS BEST, ON THE TWIN VALLEY TRAIL

Looking for a backcountry experience that traverses many different natural habitats with rich biodiversity and wildlife?

Welcome to the Twin Valley Trail. The TVT combines the existing network of trails in Germantown and Twin Creek MetroParks with a connection to create a longer, more integrated trail system. Set in the rolling hills of the Twin Valley, it provides a backpacking experience reminiscent of backcountry wilderness trails with beautiful hills, babbling brooks, abundant wildlife, history and small-town charm.

The trail system can be accessed from trailheads at ten park locations within Germantown and Twin Creek MetroParks. Overnight parking for backpackers is only available at designated overnight parking lots. Multiple trailheads allow the hiker to tailor his or her experience from day hikes of as little as 2 miles to 22 miles. By adding the other trail loops in both parks, the available trail system is over 43 miles.

The Twin Valley Trail is composed of three main parts: the 7.5 mile loop at Germantown MetroPark, the 8.3 mile loop at Twin Creek MetroPark and a 5.3

mile connector trail that runs along Twin Creek, connecting the two trail systems. Total mileage for the trail is more than 21 miles.

The trail site selection began in 2006 with a volunteer kickoff at Trailstock 2006, a MetroParks National Trails Day Event, and work continued through 2007 and 2008. A conservative estimate of volunteer work on this project would easily exceed 1,000 hours, in addition to the hundreds of hours put in by MetroParks staff. Volunteers consisted of individuals, groups of friends, families, Scout troops, businesses and corporations, as well as staff from every department in MetroParks. The completed trail is monitored and maintained by a full-time trail technician, MetroParks staff in the Twin Valley Zone, and volunteers.

From a conservation and ecological standpoint, the trail was designed to be a low impact, sustainable system. "An in-depth conservation assessment was done to help establish the trail route through sensitive wilderness areas. In several instances, the trail route was relocated to protect fragile and special indigenous plant species. The trail is a valuable asset to the health of the area's plant diversity, which allows staff greater access to invasive plant species,

facilitating their removal.

The Twin Valley Trail runs through almost every type of natural habitat imaginable – from young successional woods, to mature old-growth forests with towering trees, to meadows, rare grassland prairies, wetlands and riparian forests. Along the trail are valleys, ravines and overlooks with breathtaking vistas and viewsheds. Some of the most diverse, abundant wildlife in southern Ohio inhabit the area. Rare, threatened and endangered species such as resident bobcat and bald eagles, have been confirmed in the area since 2009. You'll also find common and spectacular birds, mammals and fish.

Several ponds border the trail and Twin Creek, which is rated a high-quality waterway in Ohio for bio-diversity.

Secluded camping opportunities are available to the backpacker at three locations along the trail system. Each location, or pod, has three sites, with each individual site large enough for two small backpacking tents (maximum six people.) These are primitive, backcountry-style campsites. Each pod also has a latrine along with a common area for cooking and socializing that support the three sites and up to six tents per night.

Go to metroparks.org/tvt for complete rules and regulations regarding camping on the Twin Valley Trail.



CONSERVATION IN THE TWIN VALLEY

The Twin Valley Trail winds along Twin Creek, a beautiful stream of clear water and wooded banks flowing through lush farmlands, small Midwestern towns, and protected natural areas. Because it is one of Ohio's most unpolluted streams, it is also a haven for fish and wildlife that are becoming increasingly scarce in many other streams.

To protect the Twin Creek and the surrounding land of the Twin Valley, Five Rivers MetroParks has leased or purchased land from willing sellers to provide effective land stewardship. However, the abundant life in these natural areas and in Twin Creek itself are also dependent on what happens on the surrounding private property. Five Rivers MetroParks has partnered with local communities, government agencies and private landowners to encourage land use practices that protect the stream. One of the most successful components of this new type of conservation is the acquisition of conservation easements. These are legal agreements where a landowner commits to permanently limiting the use of his or her property to agricultural or conservation uses. Although some landowners choose to donate easements to protect their property, most have chosen to sell these rights. The income from the sale can be reinvested in the farm, the land remains private property, and land is protected for a much lower price than outright acquisition.

The Five Rivers MetroParks Board of Park Commissioners has endorsed and funded the protection of the Twin Creek since 1968. These efforts have expanded and changed with time and have now become a strong and successful regional partnership. These efforts are helped, too, by citizen support of the MetroParks levy, which (when combined with grants and donations) has channeled millions of dollars into saving natural areas and open space for future generations.





TWIN VALLEY TRAIL

GERMANTOWN & TWIN CREEK METROPARKS

POINTS OF INTEREST

- TWIN VALLEY WELCOME CENTER**
Water and restrooms are available at the Twin Valley Welcome Center during park hours. Visit metroparks.org/tvwelcomecenter for more info and updates on future plans.
- OLD FOREST**
The largest tract of old woods in Montgomery County, it provides habitat to many species, including orchids, brown creepers and summer tanagers.
- VALLEY OVERLOOK**
This platform offers views of the Twin Creek Valley and Germantown MetroPark.
- DAM SPILLWAY**
The spillway provides crucial water storage depth in case of extreme flooding. The highest storage depth on record was 63 feet in 1959.
- THE GERMANTOWN DAM**
One of five dams built by the Miami Conservancy District in response to the devastating flood of 1913.
- LIMESTONE OUTCROPS**
The rock cliffs on the eastern shore of Twin Creek are one of the best fossil collecting spots in Ohio, including species dating back 450 million years.
- BOB SIEBENTHALER NATURAL AREA**
This beautiful woodland offers a rich display of spring wildflowers and scenic hiking year-round with more than 300 plant species.
- GUNCKEL HERITAGE HOUSE BED & BREAKFAST**
Built in 1826 by Phillip Gunckel, the inn offers a glimpse into the past of one of Germantown's oldest families. Located at 33 W. Market St. Call 937-672-5312 for reservation information.
- THE FLORENTINE (RESTAURANT)**
Although no longer a hotel, The Florentine is an excellent restaurant. It is considered the second oldest inn in Ohio, with its original brick section being built in 1816. For restaurant and tavern hours, call 937-855-7759.
- TWIN CREEK**
One of the cleanest and most biodiverse waterways in the state, it provides an excellent opportunity for wildlife observation.
- HOPEWELL EARTHWORK-CARLISLE FORT**
Carlisle Fort features remnants of earthen walls built approximately 2,000 years ago by the Hopewell Culture. It is currently listed in the National Register of Historic Places.
- CAMP HOOK**
Historical Boy Scout camp, founded in 1926, includes a fire ring, remains of many lodges and a chapel.

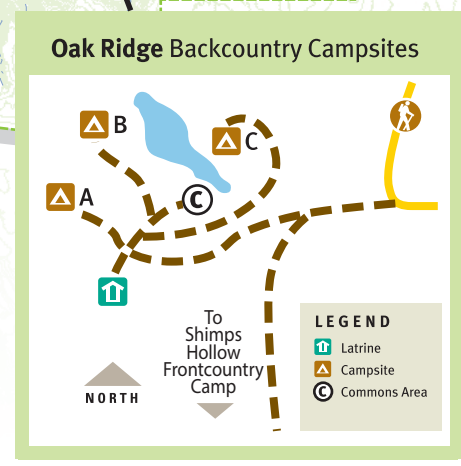
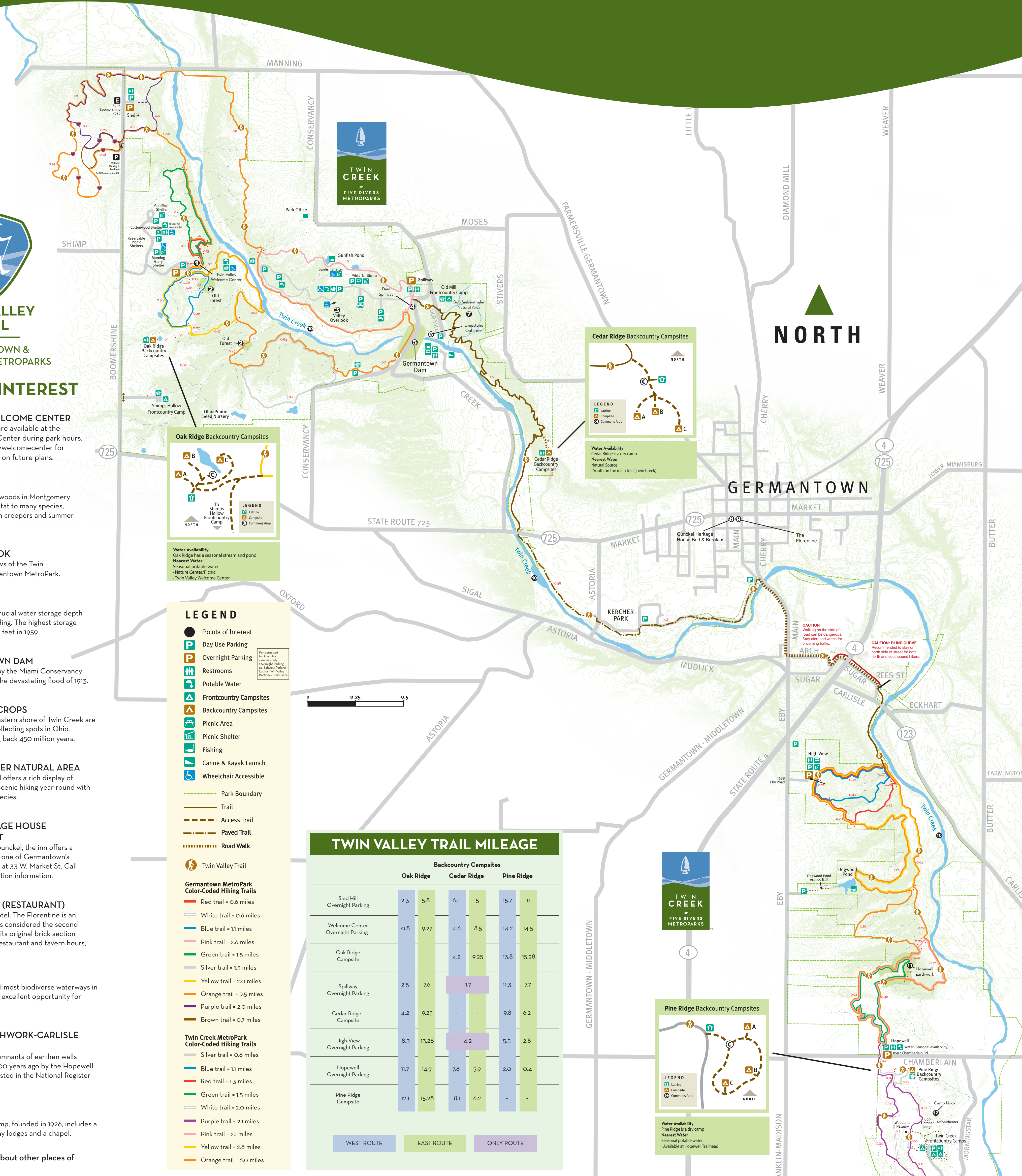
More detail information about other places of interest can be found at:

• Historical Society of Germantown, 937-855-7951

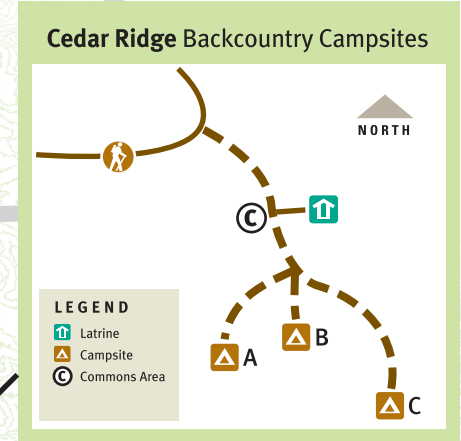
• Farmersville Historical Society, 740-696-2876

For a full list of Outdoor Recreation resources, including equipment rentals, visit outdoordayton.com

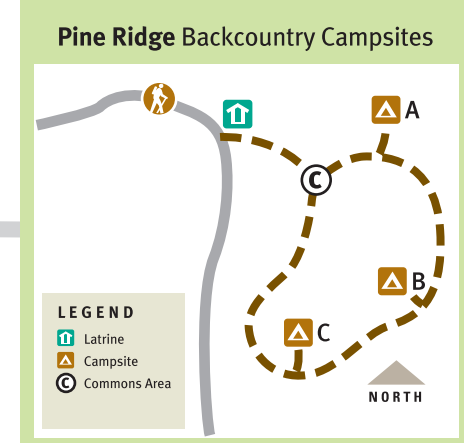
Special thanks to the Germantown Chamber of Commerce.



Water Availability
Oak Ridge has a seasonal stream and pond
Nearest Water
Seasonal potable water - Nature Center/Picnic
Twin Valley Welcome Center



Water Availability
Cedar Ridge is a dry camp
Nearest Water
Natural Source - South on the main trail (Twin Creek)



Water Availability
Pine Ridge is a dry camp
Nearest Water
Seasonal potable water - Available at Hopewell Trailhead

LEGEND

- Points of Interest
- P Day Use Parking
- P Overnight Parking
- Restrooms
- Potable Water
- Frontcountry Campsites
- Backcountry Campsites
- Picnic Area
- Picnic Shelter
- Fishing
- Canoe & Kayak Launch
- Wheelchair Accessible
- Park Boundary
- Trail
- Access Trail
- Paved Trail
- Road Walk
- Twin Valley Trail

Germantown MetroPark Color-Coded Hiking Trails

- Red trail = 0.6 miles
- White trail = 0.6 miles
- Blue trail = 1.1 miles
- Pink trail = 2.6 miles
- Green trail = 1.5 miles
- Silver trail = 1.5 miles
- Yellow trail = 2.0 miles
- Orange trail = 9.5 miles
- Purple trail = 2.0 miles
- Brown trail = 0.7 miles

Twin Creek MetroPark Color-Coded Hiking Trails

- Silver trail = 0.8 miles
- Blue trail = 1.1 miles
- Red trail = 1.3 miles
- Green trail = 1.5 miles
- White trail = 2.0 miles
- Purple trail = 2.1 miles
- Pink trail = 2.1 miles
- Yellow trail = 2.8 miles
- Orange trail = 6.0 miles

	TWIN VALLEY TRAIL MILEAGE					
	Oak Ridge		Cedar Ridge		Pine Ridge	
Sled Hill Overnight Parking	2.3	5.8	6.1	5	15.7	11
Welcome Center Overnight Parking	0.8	9.27	4.6	8.5	14.2	14.5
Oak Ridge Campsite	-	-	4.2	9.25	13.8	15.28
Spillway Overnight Parking	2.5	7.6	1.7	11.3	7.7	-
Cedar Ridge Campsite	4.2	9.25	-	9.8	6.2	-
High View Overnight Parking	8.3	13.28	4.2	5.5	2.8	-
Hopewell Overnight Parking	11.7	14.9	7.8	5.9	2.0	0.4
Pine Ridge Campsite	12.1	15.28	8.1	6.2	-	-

WEST ROUTE EAST ROUTE ONLY ROUTE

• Historical Society of Germantown, 937-855-7951

• Farmersville Historical Society, 740-696-2876

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Special thanks to the Germantown Chamber of Commerce.