

Kokosing River Water Trail - Map (page 1 of 4)



...a paddler's map & guide to designated access along the Kokosing State Scenic River

A 28-mile Water Trail; Class I+ to II

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

TRAIL AT A GLANCE

Site	River Access	Distance to next site
①	Riverside Park	2.9 miles
②	Memorial Park	2.7 miles
③	Lower Gambier Road	1.6 miles
④	Laymon Road Bridge	2.0 miles
⑤	Big Run Road	7.4 miles
⑥	Pipesville Road Bridge	2.7 miles
⑦	Millwood Road	6.0 miles
◆ FACTORY RAPIDS: Class III at high water levels ◆		
⑧	Riley Chapel Road Bridge	2.6 miles
⑨	Township Road 423	end of trail
TOTAL DISTANCE:		27.9 miles

LEGEND

- Water Trail
- Water Trail Access
- Boating Hazard
- River Gauge
- Bike Trail
- Proposed Bike Trail
- Public Lands
- Parking
- Paddle/Pedal Connector
- Restrooms
- Drinking Water
- Picnic Facilities
- Camping
- Canoe Rental
- Hospital

Resources

EMERGENCY NUMBER	911
Knox County Park District (water conditions)	740-392-7275
Knox County Convention & Visitors Bureau (local info)	1-800-837-5282 VisitKnoxOhio.org
Kokosing Gap Trail	www.kokosinggaptrail.org
Leave No Trace (low-impact outdoor recreation)	1-800-332-4100 www.lnt.org
Muskingum Watershed Conservancy District	www.mwcdlakes.com
ODNR Division of Natural Areas & Preserves (state scenic rivers)	614-265-6453 ohiodnr.com/dnap
ODNR Division of Watercraft (boating laws, safety)	1-877-4BOATER (Ohio only) ohiodnr.com/watercraft
ODNR Division of Wildlife (fishing, hunting, wildlife viewing)	1-800-WILDLIFE ohiodnr.com/wildlife
ODNR <i>Trails for Ohioans</i>	ohiodnr.com/trailsplan
Ohio Water Trails	ohiodnr.com/watertrails
US Geological Survey (real-time water flow conditions)	waterdata.usgs.gov

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



Ohio Department of Natural Resources
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The Kokosing River Water Trail designation was made possible through a partnership with Knox County Park District.

International Scale of River Difficulty

Flooding may change the stream's rating to a higher classification. Boaters should have advanced paddling skills to attempt any stream over Class II.

- Class I: Few riffles and small waves; easy boating.
- Class II: Waves up to three feet with wide channels; easy rapids.
- Class III: High, irregular waves with narrow passages; requires scouting and constant maneuvering.
- Class IV: Long, difficult rapids with constricted passages in turbulent water; scouting necessary; rescue difficult.
- Class V: Difficult, long and very violent rapids with highly congested routes; scouting must be done from shore; rescue presents a hazard to life.
- Class VI: Most dangerous rapids; boating is nearly impossible and life-threatening.

Paddling Terminology

- Abutment** - supporting structure of a bridge
- CFS** - Cubic Feet per Second; measurement of water flow
- Chute** - clear passage through rapids
- Confluence** - place where two or more streams flow together
- Hydraulic** - recirculating current formed when water drops over a large rock, ledge, or lowhead dam
- Portage** - carry boat around a hazard in the river
- River left** - as you look downstream in the direction the water is flowing, the left side of the river
- River right** - as you look downstream in the direction the water is flowing, the right side of the river



Kokosing River Water Trail - Map (page 2 of 4)



Water Trail Narrative

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

① Riverside Park/Greenwood Avenue

Unimproved river access; amenities found in the park across Greenwood Avenue. City of Mt. Vernon

Easy paddling in this stretch — short rapids and long deep pools great for fishing. Two concrete pipes cross the river in this reach but pose no significant hazard; both can be crossed on the right in low water. Four bridge crossings: W. High Street (US 36/SR 3), a railroad bridge, S. Main Street (SR 13), and another railroad bridge.

② Memorial Park

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

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

③ Lower Gambier Road River Access

Improvements planned. Knox County Park District

④ Laymon Road Bridge River Access

Great river access on old bridge right-of-way. Kokosing Gap Trail is approximately 500' south on Laymon Road. Second paddle/pedal connector (5.4 miles to next connector).

College Township

The Village of Gambier and Kenyon College are located on the hills just north of the access. The Brown Family Environmental Center at Kenyon College — a 300+acre natural studies area with a nature center and butterfly garden — surrounds this access and offers many public programs (740-427-5054). This stretch of the river contains short riffles followed by long pools. The Kokosing Gap Trail crosses the river on a large railroad bridge 0.5 mile downstream.



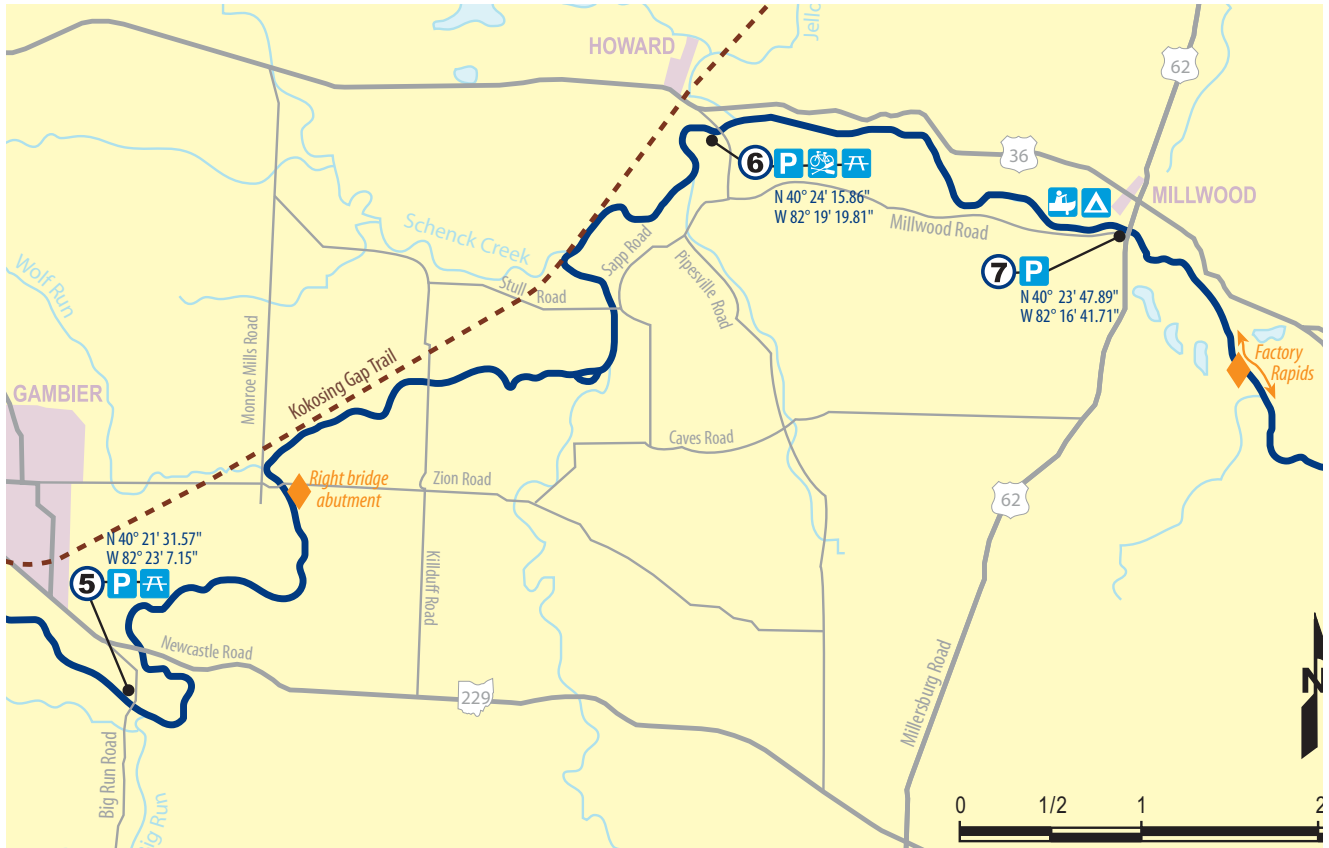
More About the Paddle/Pedal Option

Combine a paddling trip on the Kokosing State Scenic River Water Trail with bicycling to create a unique outdoor adventure.

Sites ②, ④, and ⑥ are located at or very near the Kokosing Gap Trail (a paved path). Placing a bike at one of these trail intersections provides a nice alternative to needing a second vehicle to get back to the launch site.



Kokosing River Water Trail - Map (page 3 of 4)



Water Trail Narrative

5 Big Run Road Bridge River Access

Great river access on old bridge right-of-way. **P** **A** Knox County Park District

Excellent smallmouth bass fishing upstream and downstream of this access. Big Run enters on river right immediately below the access. On river right are the remains of the last water-powered grain mill in Knox County. Beyond a large horseshoe bend in the river, short rapids lead to strainers and deep pools along a series of sharp bends. Bridges are located at Newcastle Road, Zion Road, Killduff Road, and Stull Road. The Zion Road bridge can be seen from 0.5 mile upstream. Fishing is excellent near this bridge. All lands between trail sites 5 and 6 are privately owned.

ZION ROAD BRIDGE: Stay left of the Zion Road bridge abutment on river right.

6 Pipesville Road Bridge River Access

Great river access on old bridge right-of-way. Last paddle/pedal connector. **P** **A** Knox County Park District

Smallmouth bass and catfish opportunities are great near this access. This site is a good launch point for a day trip to the end of the water trail at the confluence of the Kokosing and Mohican rivers (11.5 miles downstream). The town of Howard is nearby on US 36. Camping and canoe rental are available downstream.

7 Millwood Road River Access

Improvements are planned. **P** Knox County Park District

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

FACTORY RAPIDS: Downstream of access site 7. This section of the river has steep sandstone walls. Under high flow conditions, these rapids can be considered Class III (boater should be a strong paddler and have the skills to make quick course changes).



Kokosing River Water Trail - Map (page 4 of 4)



Water Trail Narrative

◆ **FACTORY RAPIDS:** Downstream of access site ⑦. This section of the river has steep sandstone walls. Under high flow conditions, these rapids can be considered Class III (boater should be a strong paddler and have the skills to make quick course changes).

⑧ Riley Chapel Road Bridge River Access

Bridge is being replaced; improvements are planned. P (roadside only) Knox County Engineer

Good fishing upstream and downstream of access. Bald eagles are frequently seen in this area. The river runs through a very broad valley here, flanked by forested hills. SR 715 parallels the left side of the river. Muskingum Watershed Conservancy District manages most of the land downstream river left. The Knox/Coshocton county line is about 1 mile downstream of the access.

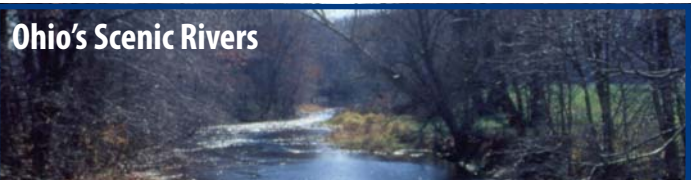
⑨ Township Road 423 River Access

Road ends on both sides of river, no bridge. Access river left. P Muskingum Watershed Conservancy District

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

◆ **Travelers continuing downstream need to plan for a difficult portage at the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Mohawk Dam, 5.9 miles downstream on the Walhonding River.**

Ohio's Scenic Rivers



The mission of Ohio's Scenic Rivers Program is to preserve the natural qualities of Ohio's finer streams so present and future generations may experience their natural beauty and value.

The Ohio Scenic Rivers Program works with citizen groups and all levels of government to identify and protect the best of Ohio's waterways.

The Kokosing River was designated a state scenic river in 1997. Wooded corridors, extensive floodplains and rural landscape have helped maintain Kokosing's purity, which is rare.

The Kokosing River watershed supports a variety of riverine plant communities. Dominant plant species include water willow, cattail, arrowhead, bur-reed, spike-rushes, water plantain, and sedges. Many plants thrive along the river banks, including five recognized in Ohio as endangered or threatened.

More than 40 species of mammals and nearly 80 species of breeding birds have been noted in Kokosing's riparian corridor. Home to many common reptiles and amphibians, the area is also home to the prehistoric-looking endangered hellbender salamander.

More than 70 species of fish have been documented in the watershed, including the endangered spotted darter and mountain brook lamprey. The river's fish population is relatively intact, reflecting the high quality of the watershed.

Many people make a direct contribution each year to preserving Ohio's scenic rivers. Volunteers regularly assist in litter cleanups, tree plantings, stream bank stabilization projects, and stream quality monitoring. On-going reforestation efforts beautify rivers and play a fundamental role in protecting the quality of our river ecosystems.