

Historical Setting

Ottawa and Wyandot Indians, along with German settlers, built their lives and landmarks along the river; many sites still visible today like Indian Green Cemetery. See traces of Johnny Appleseed, old Victorian homes, antique shops and living history programs at the Historic McKinnis Farmhouse in Litzenberg Memorial Woods, visible benefits of the oil boom prosperity in NW Ohio as well as famous hometown heroes and inventors.

Recreational Opportunities

Fun and fitness all seasons of the year await park visitors in many parks along the Byway. The nationally recognized 20 mile Heritage Trail, a canoeing waterway, creative playgrounds and top ranked golf courses are among public and private facilities open for outdoor adventures located nearby. Cross country ski through winter wonderlands or catch prize fish from reservoirs. From scuba diving to geocaching and bicycling, the Old Mill Stream countryside has something for everyone.

Cultural Lifestyles

Beautiful gardens, cemeteries full of genealogy and architecture of

The Old Mill Stream Scenic Byway

Ottawa and Findlay Main Streets exhibit the craftsmanship and cultural diversity of old and new settlers. Stained glass of the Courthouses and churches, the music, arts and cultural contributions of generations can be experienced along the way, including nearby University of Findlay, Libraries, Putnam County and Hancock Historical Museums and Black History Cultural Center.

Natural Areas to Explore

The Blanchard River valley is a changing green scene of spring wildflowers, migrating birds and fall color. Rolling ridges of old glacial Lake Erie are now full of majestic trees mixing with wetlands and watchable wildlife. River-parks provide boating access and scenic views of the watershed through the countryside along the Old Mill Stream Parkway.

Scenic Routes

View farmsteads and cozy villages like Glandorf, Gilboa and Mt. Blanchard on the meandering route of the Byway and several scenic side trips. Photographers have picture spots at old iron bridges and overlooks along country roads, full of seasonal color and sunsets.



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A Simple Route to Follow

The Byway follows federal, state and local roadways along the river in Putnam and Hancock counties. It links with Interstate 75, and the Lincoln Highway National Historic Byway at Old US 30 in southern Hancock County. Motorists can travel both ways – east or west from any starting point. Watch for the colorful, Ohio Byway signs along the way. A west to east route to follow is described below:

West Gateway – Route starts at SR 15 and Putnam County Road (CR) 11 north of Ottawa, and goes west and south through Glandorf via State Route (SR) 694.

At US 224, the route turns left / east into Ottawa and jogs left / north on Hickory St., then right / east on 3rd St., turning right / south on Moe St. At US 224 again, the Byway turns left / east for a short distance, then goes right / south-east on Old US 224, or Agner St., winding along the river thru Gilboa to the Hancock – Putnam County line.



In Hancock County, travelers head into Findlay on US 224 to CR 223 just west of Interstate 75, turning right / south-east along the river and under the Interstate. At Broad Ave., turn right / south crossing the Blanchard River (road then becomes Western Ave) to West Main Cross, SR 12. The route turns left / east thru Downtown Findlay, along the river to Bright Rd. At the bridge, turn right / south on Bright Rd. and then left / east right away onto SR 568, soon crossing the river again, and on to Marion Township Road (TR) 241. Turn right / south on TR 241 across the river, then left / east on TR 208 thru Riverbend Park, turn right / west around the Findlay Reservoirs via TR 207. At Hancock CR 234, turn left / south on CR 234 to SR 37, left / south-east on SR 37, crossing SR 15 and on to Mt. Blanchard. South of the village, the route continues straight south on CR 17 to Old US 30 – *the East Gateway*.



It's a Sunday Drive, Everyday!



Travel through Hancock & Putnam Counties along the Blanchard River

Hancock – Putnam County Scenic Byway Committee

Contact us at the Hancock Park District Headquarters

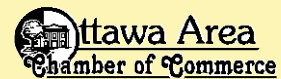
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www.ohiobyways.com - click on: Old Mill Stream Scenic Byway

The Old Mill Stream Scenic Byway

Sawmills, gristmills and waterpower shaped a region for Native Americans and settlers, carving a country out of the Ohio wilderness bounded by rivers and the Great Black Swamp. The 1910's ballad, *Down By The Old Mill Stream* by local songwriter Tell Taylor is a signature of the times, giving its name to the scenic route meandering along the Blanchard River.

The Old Mill Stream Scenic Byway stretches 52 miles over Hancock and Putnam counties, linking the Lincoln Highway National Historic Byway to small villages, parks, landmarks and Findlay *Flag City USA*. Travelers can experience both Ohio's heritage and hospitality – *it's a Sunday drive, everyday, all seasons of the year!*

The Top 20 Points of Interest

Sites selected are generally open and accessible to the public with interesting, visual and interactive experiences.

Putnam County

- 1 Glandorf Park**
Playgrounds, gardens, seasonal restrooms, trails, picnic areas
- 2 St. John the Baptist Church - 1878**
Gardens, cemetery & monument
- 3 Our Lord's Park, Ottawa**
Rest stop in Downtown, fountain
- 4 Ottawa Main Street**
Architecture, shops & services
- 5 Hotel DuMont / Schnipke Inn - 1901**
Restaurant with exhibits inside
- 6 Putnam County Courthouse Square - 1912**
Courthouse, Firemans' Monument, Clock and Chamber of Commerce office nearby
(www.OttawaOhioChamber.com)
- 7 Third Street Historic District**
Brick street, old homes

- 8 Waterworks Park, Ottawa**
Log/scout house, shelterhouse, picnic areas, gazebo, senior center
- 9 Harman Cemetery (log cabin nearby)**
A century of tombstones
- 10 Gilboa Main Street Historic District**
Old homes, historic bridge to walk over the river, park, church and Gilboa Stone Quarry (scuba diving center) on west edge of village

Sidetrips recommended include:

- ✓ Ottawa - the railroad depot - 1878 at 4th St. and Taft Avenue
- ✓ Near Gilboa via Road 5 to 1889 Crawfis College site and Cherry's Farm Market (on US 224)



Glandorf

West Gateway

Ottawa

Gilboa

Hancock County

11 Heritage Trail Center

Start of nationally recognized 20 mile Boy Scout trail to Van Horn Cemetery, horse trail

12 Litzenberg Memorial Woods & Homestead

Trails, Historic 1847 McKinnis House & Garden, interpretive exhibits, Indian Green Cemetery nearby, shelters and restrooms

13 St. Michael the Archangel Church - 1866

Gardens and grotto

14 Hancock County Courthouse Square

1888 Courthouse, Municipal Building, Dorney Plaza, gardens and monuments

15 Downtown Findlay Gas Light Historic District

Victorian style facades, shops and services, Ft. Findlay site at Main St. Bridge

16 Hancock County Convention & Visitors Bureau

Travel & tourism information
(www.visitfindlay.com)

17 Riverside Park & Waterfalls Area

Shelterhouses, riverwalk, playgrounds, historical monuments, seasonal swimming pool / boat rentals / restrooms

18 Hancock Park District Visitors Center

Interpretive exhibits, maps, river overlook
(www.hancockparks.com)

19 Riverbend-Findlay Reservoirs Area

Trails, campgrounds, shelters, restrooms, interpretive panels, fishing, river & reservoirs overlooks

20 Island Park, Mt. Blanchard

Johnny Appleseed monument, shelters, restrooms, trails & overlook along river

Sidetrips recommended include:

- ✓ Findlay West Sandusky Street Historic Area with Hancock Historical Museum with many buildings/ exhibits, old homes between Main Street and Western Avenue
- ✓ North Main Street to Riverwalks and University of Findlay International Children's Book Art and Mazza Museum
- ✓ South on Osborn Avenue at Riverside Park to Sandusky St., then east to Tell Taylor birthplace, County Fairgrounds and Brinkman's Country Corner

The Scenic Byway map shows the variety of highways that can be traveled in either direction or taken in small day trips. The blend of brick streets in Ottawa and winding river roads by waterfalls and sweeping curves through the countryside offer a pleasurable driving experience for 52 miles.

East Gateway

Mt. Blanchard

Findlay

