



SCENIC
OHIO

Scenic Ohio's mission is to serve as a leading advocate for the development and preservation of Ohio's scenic corridors and landscapes.

Scenic Ohio is a 501 (c) 3 charitable nonprofit organization. It is the only nonprofit in Ohio dedicated to protecting and enhancing the visual quality and scenic character of Ohio's towns and countrysides. Scenic Ohio is the longest standing nonprofit in America that advocates keeping our highway corridors beautiful and safe.

DONATIONS ARE WELCOME!
Send your tax deductible contributions to:
Scenic Ohio
P.O. Box 09816
Columbus, OH 43209

www.ScenicOH.org



Scenic Ohio has a unique history as the only organization dedicated to the sustained beautification of Ohio's byways and communities. Founded in 1933 as the Ohio Roadside Council, it has a distinguished heritage as the longest standing nonprofit organization in America dedicated to improving roadway environments and aesthetics. Scenic Ohio works with local and state agencies, communities and individuals to achieve its goals to conserve and protect Ohio's many scenic byways, its historic, prehistoric, and ecological resources, and the appearance of its gateways.



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CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Since 1933 the Ohio Roadside Council, now Scenic Ohio, has collaborated with ODOT staff to improve Ohio's highway corridors. This collaboration includes recommendations related to context sensitive transportation planning solutions, safety considerations, natural barriers for sound attenuation, pollinator plantings, vegetative management, natural storm water treatment and native plant selection along Ohio's highways and Scenic Byways.

The 2020 Ohio Rest Areas Landscape Design Manual continues that long tradition of collaboration. The manual emphasizes the use of native plantings to create "more parklike rest stops" and provides information for landscape architects and design teams to enable a new standard for the site landscape within Ohio's Interstate Rest Areas.

ODOT's goals for the manual include creating rest area landscape environments that are safe for travelers, respect Ohio's native landscapes, are parklike, easily maintained and inviting to the many tourists passing through on their way to Ohio's many attractions.



OHIO REST AREAS

Landscape Design Manual



THE OHIO REST AREAS LANDSCAPE DESIGN MANUAL provides information for landscape architects and design teams to enable a new standard for the site landscape within Ohio's Interstate Rest Areas. It emphasizes the use of native plantings to create "more parklike rest stops".



Rest Area Design Standards Benefit ODOT and Ohio Travelers

by Gary W. Meisner, Scenic Ohio Chairman

The American highway movement responded to many issues: commerce, travel needs, automobile technology advances and yes, the romance of the highway and exploring the great American landscape.

In the late 1920s, roadside rest stops emerged in Connecticut and Michigan as a place to take a picnic break on a trip, view a scenic place, add water to an overheated engine and enhance safety to state and federal highways.

Roadside park development grew with the movement of highway development and beautification. From the 1930s through the mid-1950s, state highway departments constructed and maintained an extensive system of roadside parks. Although minimal in facilities, design and complexity, these parks were gladly appreciated by the driving public.

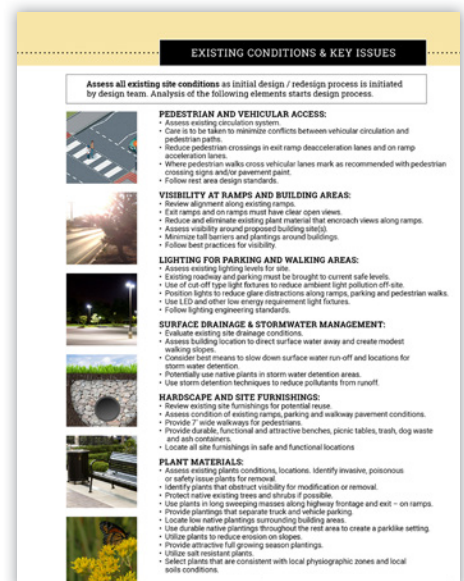
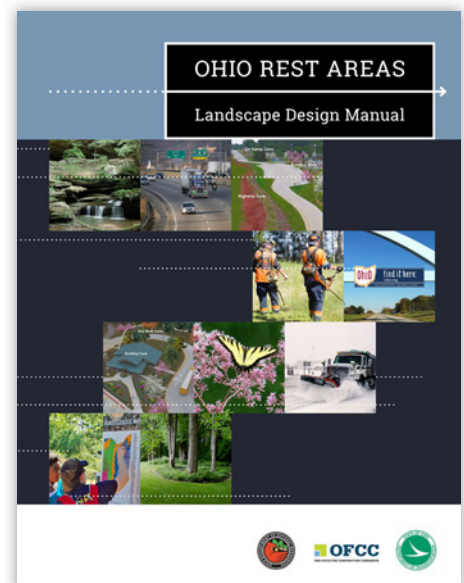
The Interstate Highway System was created in 1956 with passage of the Federal Aid Highway Act. This was conceived as a system linking all major cities to facilitate commerce, safe travel and American growth and prosperity. Travel became faster and more feasible, and interstate highways transformed how we live. The quaint roadside parks on state highways were joined by a next generation of Safety Rest Areas with the creation of a "Policy on Design and Construction" in 1958.

Ohio created the first interstate rest area following new criteria in 1959.

Funding for amenities at rest areas was initially limited, with the burden of cost relying upon state funds. However, the Highway Beautification Act of 1965 increased funds to add landscape, picnic areas, tourism information and enhanced shelters, including restroom facilities.

The opportunity to project images of each state, including sites to visit and destinations, opened with safety rest stops becoming opportunities for "Placemaking". Welcoming landscapes became once again more parklike.

Ohio's role in this evolution was legendary. Ohio's Department of Highways and Ohio State University's engineering and landscape architecture staffs brought highway departments from across the country to Ohio to share lectures on best practices, facility tours and advances in structures, materials, highway design and standards emerging for rest areas and highway landscape management.



SCENIC OHIO BOARD MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

Scenic Ohio Board member Rick Record has been named to the Transportation Research Board (TRB) Standing Committee on Landscape and Environmental Design.



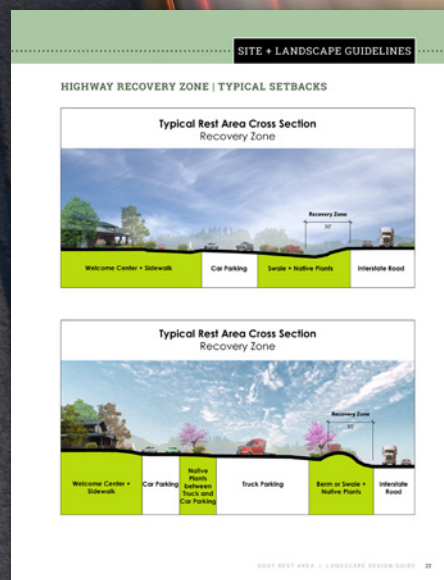
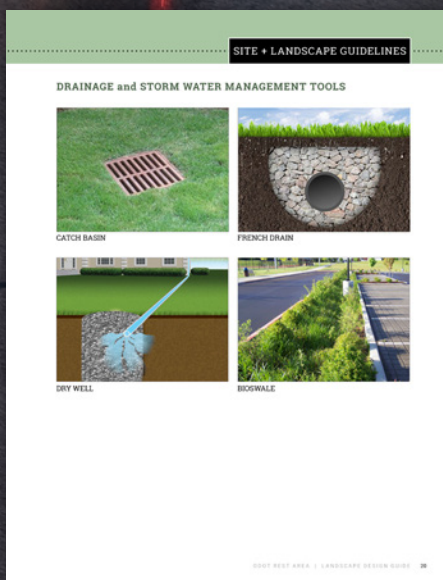
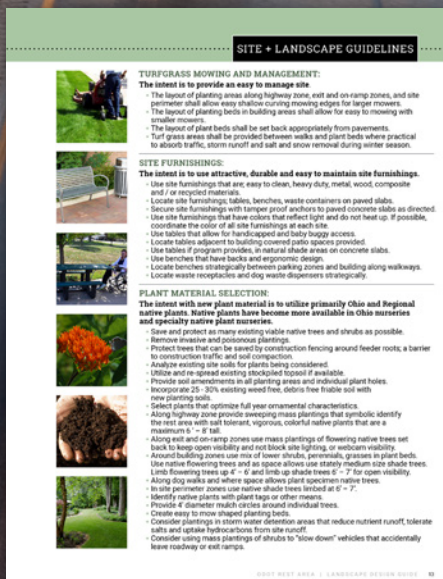
Other committee members include academics, agency and policy leaders, researchers and practitioners focused on conservation and preservation of resources, aesthetic and scenic quality, and scenic opportunities associated with transportation corridors.

As part of the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine, the TRB provides leadership in transportation improvements and innovation through trusted, timely, impartial and evidence-based information exchange, research and advice regarding all modes of transportation.

The TRB's research journals are among the most cited worldwide in transportation, and its annual meeting attracts more than 15,000 from 70 countries to consider research, policy and practice on a wide range of transportation subjects, from funding and finance to snow and ice removal.

OBJECTIVES OF THE OHIO REST AREAS LANDSCAPE DESIGN MANUAL:

- Design rest area landscapes to fit effortlessly within Ohio's natural regions
- Design landscapes for moderate maintenance and regenerative plantings
- Design landscapes that ensure safe ramps and building areas
- Create parklike stops to rest and learn more about Ohio's tourist places





EXPLORE OHIO: Travel The Ohio Literary Trail

By David Weaver, Executive Director of the Ohioana Library Association

Some of world's great literary figures were either born or lived in Ohio. You can now visit places associated with them thanks to the Ohioana Library Association and its new Ohio Literary Trail, a program that shines the spotlight on Ohio's unique role in shaping culture and literature worldwide.

Ohioana has compiled an interactive trail map with more than 70 sites across Ohio, paying tribute to the authors, poets, illustrators, libraries and creative influencers of the written word who have called Ohio home. Hosted online by the Ohioana Library Association, the Ohio Literary Trail is organized by the state's five geographic regions. The downloadable map provides links to every destination, with background information, details and directions.

A FEW HIGHLIGHTS ALONG THE OHIO LITERARY TRAIL

NORTHWEST OHIO



The Jennifer Fisher / Nancy Drew Collection resides at the Toledo Lucas County Public Library. The celebrated teen sleuth was created by Toledo writer Mildred Wirt Benson, the original "Carolyn Keene." Benson wrote under the pen name Carolyn Keene 1929-1947, and contributed 23 of 30 bestselling Nancy Drew mysteries.

SOUTHEAST OHIO



The National Road and Zane Grey Museum in Norwich honors the author who wrote more than 80 western novels, including, "Riders of the Purple Sage". The museum includes a re-creation of Grey's study and many of his manuscripts and other memorabilia.

CENTRAL OHIO



Thurber House is among many literary sites in central Ohio. It is the Columbus home of writer and cartoonist James Thurber, America's most celebrated humorist of the 20th century. Thurber's home and the adjacent center host literary programs year-round. Thurber was best known for his cartoons and short stories published mainly in "The New Yorker" and collected in his numerous books.

NORTHEAST OHIO



Malabar Farm State Park in Lucas was home of Pulitzer Prize-winning writer and conservationist Louis Bromfield. Bromfield's famed "Big House," a 32-room country mansion, was the site of the wedding of Hollywood icons Humphrey Bogart and Lauren Bacall in 1945.

SOUTHWEST OHIO



The Paul Laurence Dunbar House and Museum in Dayton was home to one of the most influential Black writers in American history. Dunbar lived there from 1904 until his death in 1906 at age 33. He was one of the first Black writers to establish an international reputation, writing lyrics for the first all-Black musical produced on Broadway.

The Ohio Literary Trail was made possible thanks to the Ohio History Connection, TourismOhio, and Betty Weibel, Ohioana board member.

THE OHIO LITERARY TRAIL MAP

The Ohio Literary Trail shines a spotlight on Ohio's role in shaping culture and literature worldwide. Visitors will discover the state's rich literary landscape through landmark destinations, historical markers that recognize literary achievements, and book festivals dedicated to readers and writers.

NORTHWEST OHIO

1. Clyde Historical Museum and Sherwood Anderson
2. Toledo-Lucas County Public Library - Nancy Drew Collection with Toledo's First High School and Toledo Lucas County Public Library
3. The Mazza Museum
4. The Brumback Library
5. House of Four Pillars
6. Lois Lenski
7. Paulding County Carnegie Library
8. Sandusky Library

Book Festival: Claire's Day

NORTHEAST OHIO

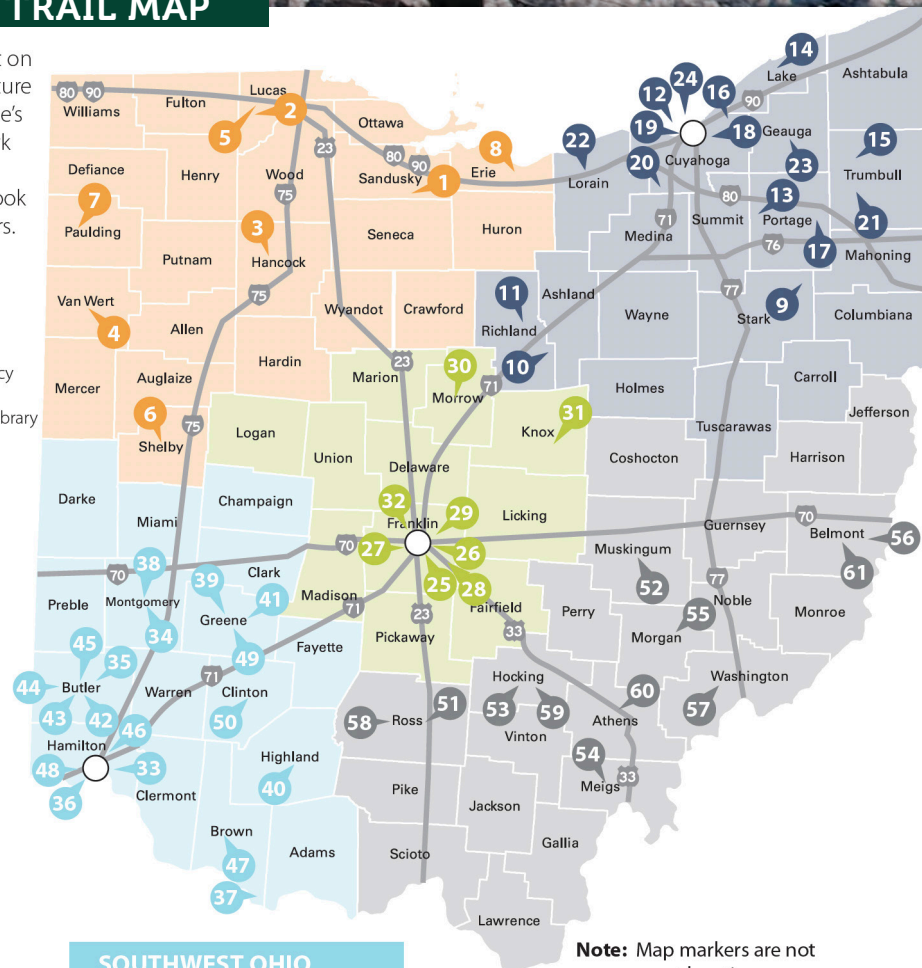
9. Haines House
10. Malabar Farm and Louis Bromfield
11. Oak Hill Cottage
12. Ohio Center for the Book /Cleveland Public Library
13. Wick Poetry Center and Reinberger Children's Library Center
14. Daniel Carter Beard
15. Bristol Public Library
16. Cleveland Hts. Library - Harvey Pekar
17. Hart Crane
18. East Cleveland Public Library
19. James Mercer Langston Hughes
20. The Oxcart Library
21. Kenneth Patchen
22. Helen Steiner Rice
23. The Second High School - Burton Public Library
24. Home of Superman

Book Festival: Buckeye Book Fair

CENTRAL OHIO

25. Thurber House Museum and Thurber Center and James Thurber
26. The Billy Ireland Cartoon Library & Museum and Jerome Lawrence and Robert E. Lee Theatre Research Institute
27. Ohioana Library Association
28. Wagnalls Memorial Library
29. Columbus Metropolitan Main Library
30. Dawn Powell
31. John Crowe Ransom and The Kenyon Review
32. Wilbur H. Siebert Collection

Book Festival: Ohioana Book Festival



SOUTHWEST OHIO

33. Harriet Beecher Stowe House and Harriet Beecher Stowe
34. Paul Laurence Dunbar House and State Memorial and Paul Laurence Dunbar
35. McGuffey Museum and William Holmes McGuffey House
36. The Mercantile Library
37. The Rankin House
38. Natalie Clifford Barney
39. Hallie Quinn Brown
40. Milton Caniff
41. Virginia Hamilton
42. William Dean Howells
43. Fannie Hurst
44. Lane Public Library
45. Percy MacKaye-"The Poet's Shack"
46. The Jacob Rader Marcus Center of the American Jewish Archives
47. Albert Nelson Marquis/Who's Who
48. Public Library of Cincinnati and Hamilton County
49. Helen Hooven Santmyer
50. Wilmington Library

Book Festival: Books by the Banks

Note: Map markers are not exact locations. Click the listing name for a link to details.

SOUTHEAST OHIO

51. Dard Hunter Studios and Mountain House Press and Dard Hunter
52. National Road and Zane Grey Museum and Zane Grey
53. Grandma Gatewood Trail
54. James Edwin Campbell
55. Frances Dana Gage
56. William Dean Howells
57. Putnam Family Library - Belpre Farmers Library
58. Burton Egbert Stevenson
59. Tessa Sweazy Webb
60. Western Library Association - The Coonskin Library
61. James Arlington Wright

Book Festival: Spring Literary Festival

Thank you Ohio History Connection and TourismOhio. For more information visit Ohioana.org.

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SCENIC OHIO

Scenic Ohio is an affiliate of Scenic America.

Created in 1933 as the Ohio Roadside Council, Scenic Ohio is the only nonprofit in Ohio dedicated to protecting and enhancing the visual quality and scenic character of Ohio's towns and countrysides.

Scenic Ohio seeks to educate the public and elected officials about their ability to enact stricter laws to enhance and protect the visual quality of the landscape.

Scenic Ohio is an entirely volunteer nonprofit 501 (c) 3 organization.

JOIN US and help protect your scenery.



Scenic Ohio's mission is to serve as a leading advocate for the development and preservation of Ohio's scenic corridors and landscapes

OUR MISSION AND GOALS

Serve as a leading advocate for the development and preservation of Ohio's scenic corridors and landscapes

Preserve and expand Scenic Byways. Conserve Ohio's scenic, historic, cultural and ecological resources.

Educate the importance of scenic values in relationship to cultural / historic tourism and the economic growth and well-being of small villages and cities.

Elevate the importance of scenic values in relationship to Ohio's gateways, portals and "views from the road" for millions of travelers in Ohio.

Advance context sensitive design. Work with local jurisdictions, villages, cities, counties and townships to knit transportation improvements with land use, gateways and other local needs.

Reduce proliferation of off-site signage and billboards that degrade property values and create unsafe distractions and public welfare issues along state and federal highway systems.

Advance "Green" solutions like vegetative sound walls and storm water bio-retention to modernize and make highway corridors more sustainable.

Educate ODOT Districts on how to better manage the "greensward" of our highway corridors.

Give back to local jurisdictions in our Home Rule State the ability to control their visual resources by providing amortization legislation.

Work with local jurisdictions and state agencies, including ODOT, Ohio History Connection, Ohio Humanities, TourismOhio, Ohio Department of Commerce, ODNR, garden clubs and historical societies, to preserve and conserve scenic resources.

CURRENT PROGRAMS

Working with ODOT to improve roadways, including promotion of living sound walls and improving vegetative management practices. Continue Scenic Ohio "Green Highways" educational workshops with each of the 12 ODOT District offices.

Working with the Ohio Humanities, Ohio History Connection, Ohio Department of Natural Resources, ODOT, and TourismOhio to advance a unified online Scenic Resource map and improved Ohio tourism website.

Meeting with Ohio Garden Clubs of America to coordinate advocacy of issues of mutual interest.

Recognizing agencies, organizations and individuals who have significantly contributed to preserving, conserving and enhancing the visual resources of Ohio with the annual Scenic Ohio Awards program. Conducting the awards program to maximize public education on the importance of scenic resources.

Continuing to advocate for safe and beautiful highway corridors that minimize distractions that reduce safety to the driving public. This includes distracting lighting, on-premise signs, off-premise signs, billboards and digital billboards.

www.ScenicOH.org