



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.

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

www.ScenicOhio.org



NEWS

AUTUMN 2023

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

Ohio Governor Mike DeWine and the Ohio Department of Transportation created a sustainable program to transform Ohio's 45 interstate highway visitor centers. These centers will feature native landscapes, parklike settings, new safety protocols, easy maintenance, energy-conserving buildings, and will provide native plant education to travelers and tourists passing through Ohio. The Ohio Rest Areas Landscape Design Manual is the first of its kind in the United States. It guides consultant landscape architects and A/E teams to this new vision for site design and landscape standards.

Objectives:

- Create native landscapes to exemplify Ohio's five physiographic regions
- Use sustainable and regenerative plants
- Elevate safe solutions throughout site and building areas
- Create unique, park-like arboretum settings as environmental educational places for travelers
- Design for ease of maintenance

Key Elements:

- Design manual for safe and attractive visitor centers
- Design process checklist
- Prototype visitor center site and landscape design
- Native plants reference list for trees, shrubs, perennials, and grasses
- Regional analysis for Ohio native plant characteristics: salt, shade, sun, and soils

Ohio's highway visitor centers will be transformed into safe and sustainable settings using the guidance contained in the landscape manual. This manual will set a new sustainable standard for Departments of Transportation across the United States.

Gary W. Meisner, FASLA Chairman, Scenic Ohio

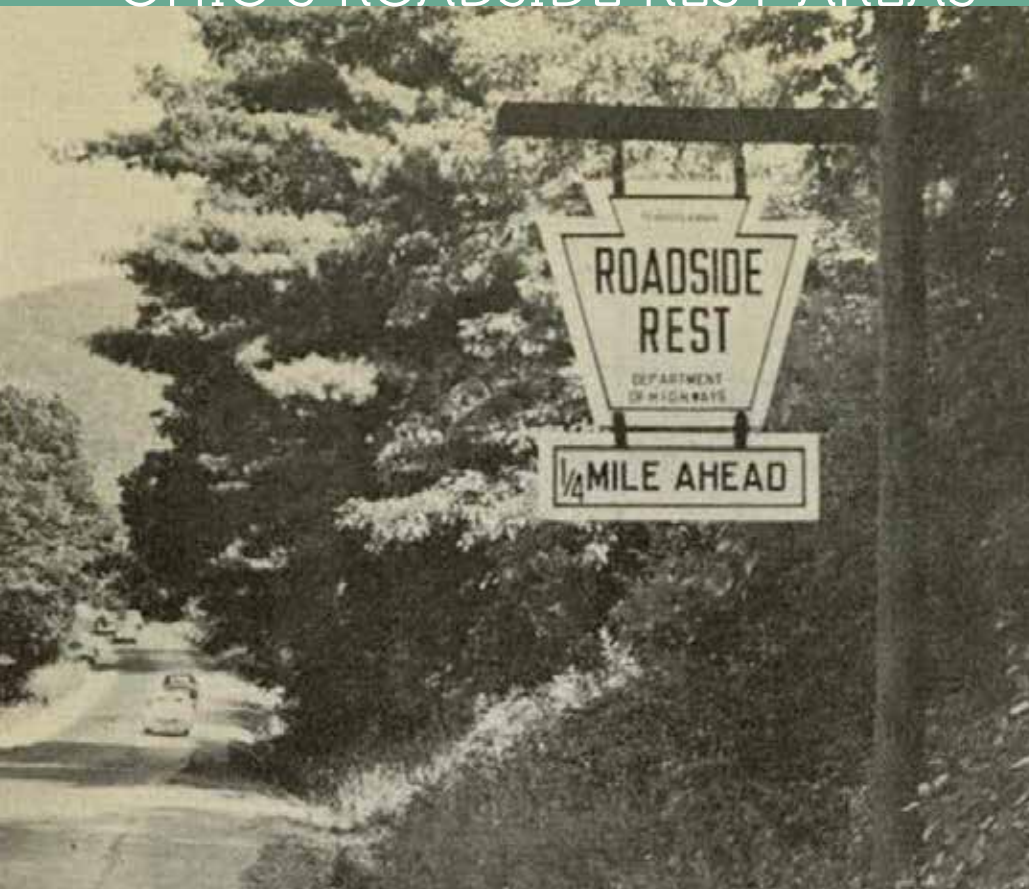


GOALS OF OHIO'S NEW VISITOR CENTERS

- A New Look for Travelers
- Utilize Ohio Native Plants
- Promote Tourism Places to See in Ohio
- Education Opportunities Inside and Outside of Building



OHIO'S ROADSIDE REST AREAS



HISTORY

The American highway movement responded to many issues: commerce, travel needs, automobile technology advances and the romance of exploring the "Great American Landscape."

The 1920s roadside rest stops were transformed into Safety Rest Areas beginning in 1956. Ohio created the first U.S. interstate rest area in 1959.



ODOT's goal is to create rest area landscape environments that are: respectful of Ohio's native landscapes, parklike, safe for travelers, easily maintained, and inviting to the many tourists passing through to Ohio's many attractions.

OHIO REST AREAS LANDSCAPE DESIGN

OBJECTIVES

- Create native landscapes to exemplify Ohio's five physiographic regions
- Use sustainable and regenerative plants
- Elevate safe solutions throughout site and building areas
- Create unique, parklike, arboretum settings as environmental educational places for travelers
- Design for ease of maintenance



Prototype Site Design / Entrance: Buffer zones separate highway and parking zones from pedestrian areas








KEY ELEMENTS

- Design recommendations that promote safe and attractive visitor centers
- Design process checklist
- Prototype visitor center site and landscape design
- Native plant reference list for: trees, shrubs, perennials, and grasses
- Regional analysis for Ohio native plant characteristics: salt, shade, sun, and soils

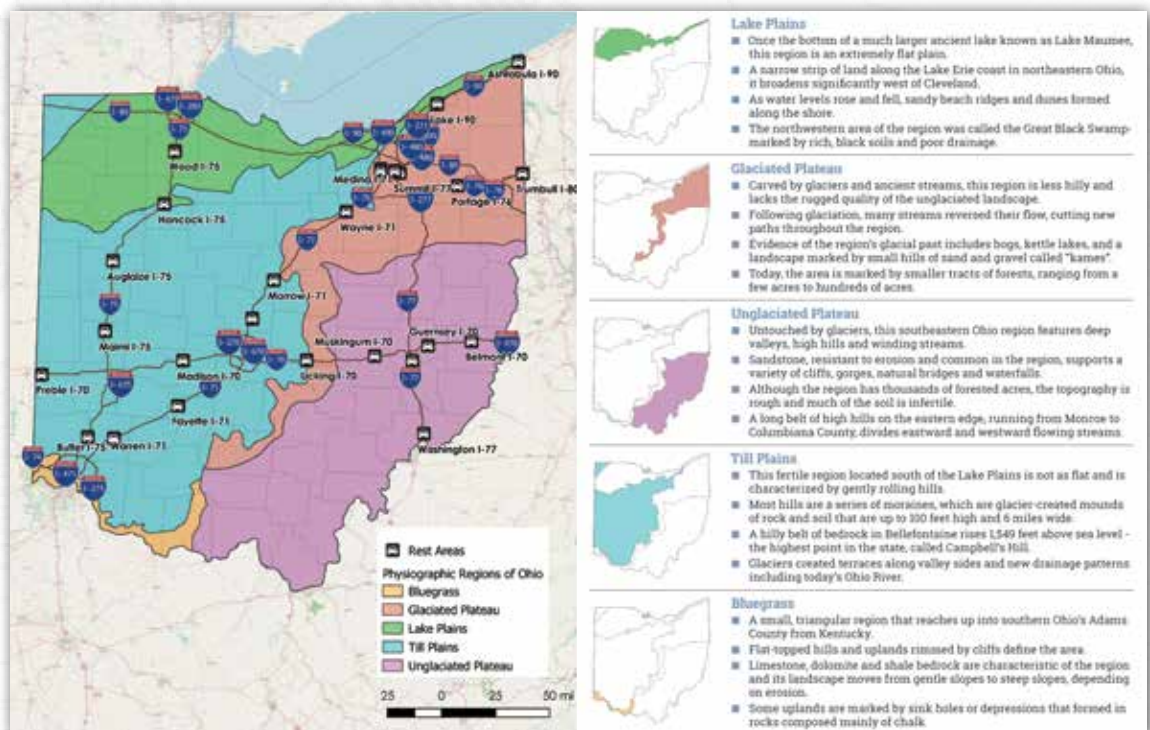


Prototype Site Design / Building Areas: Sites feature native plant beds and trees surrounding facilities

"Design is not just what it looks like and feels like. Design is how it works."
 -- Steve Jobs, Co-founder of Apple, Inc.

	<p>SITE PROGRAM REVIEW: Rest Area programming shall examine primary uses and importance; parklike setting of roadside parks and considerations for future uses should be examined for landscape designs.</p>		<p>PRELIMINARY SITE MAINTENANCE ANALYSIS: Maintenance zones are established to accurately care for landscaping after construction. Maintenance considerations include highway zone and building zone mowing or building area landscaping.</p>
	<p>SITE VISIT AND EXISTING CONDITIONS ANALYSIS: General review of the existing conditions at Rest Area is required to create a meaningful design. Include site photographs and surveys.</p>		<p>PLANTING DESIGN PLANTINGS REVIEW: Review of the planting designs allow for a check to ensure plant selection is within budget and available at a time of construction. Plant material shall emphasize natives and be easy to maintain.</p>
	<p>SITE SOILS AND PHYSIOGRAPHIC ZONE ASSESSMENT: Determine existing soils and site setting/context of the Rest Area being designed. Research physiographic region, site microclimate and native plants.</p>		<p>SUBSURFACE SITE DRAINAGE DESIGN: Provide supplemental subsurface drainage lines in locations that may have excess water. Drainage lines shall connect with existing catch basins whenever possible.</p>
	<p>PRELIMINARY SITE LAYOUT PLAN/REVIEWS: Site design shall consider these general zones: highway deceleration zone, exit ramp zone, on-ramp zone, building area, dogwalk zone, perimeter zone</p>		<p>FINAL SAFETY REVIEW: Safety considerations shall be in accordance with ODOT's Roadway Design Manual, including clear zones and security elements.</p>
	<p>RECOVERY AND CLEAR ZONE ANALYSIS: The recovery and clear zone areas are designated for errant vehicles. These areas shall be free of obstructions and large trees.</p>		<p>FINAL SITE MAINTENANCE ANALYSIS: Final site maintenance review includes clear graphic maintenance plan for Rest Area. Plant material shall not block security cameras. Ease of mowing assessment shall be reviewed.</p>
	<p>SITE VIEWSHED ANALYSIS: View sheds should be evaluated and be maintained free from dense plant material and other obstructions for roadways exiting or entering the highway.</p>		<p>SCHEMATIC TEAM - ODOT REVIEW: Coordinate with team members and reviews on key issues.</p>
	<p>SITE LIGHTING AND WEBCAMS LOCATION REVIEW: Area lights and security webcams will be located on site for the safety of highway travelers and accessibility. The webcams allow for view of individuals and vehicle details.</p>		<p>DESIGN DEVELOPMENT TEAM - ODOT REVIEW: Coordinate with team members and reviews on key issues.</p>
	<p>SITE DRAINAGE ANALYSIS: Drainage problems occur in Rest Areas due to shallow surface grading and plant beds. Adequate fine grading and supplemental subsurface drainage shall address these issues.</p>		<p>CONTRACT DRAWING TEAM - ODOT REVIEW: Coordinate with team members and reviews on key issues.</p>
	<p>PLANTING PALETTE PREPARATION: Plant selection shall be appropriate for the physiographic region and site specific conditions. Plant palette shall include full year, visually interesting native plants that require minimum maintenance.</p>		<p>SITE CONSTRUCTION OBSERVATION REVIEWS: Landscape architect shall be available throughout construction period to respond to requests for information and/or clarification on site.</p>

Design Process Checklist



Ohio Physiographic Zones

- **SAFETY** is key to the design of our rest areas and highway corridors.
- **TOURISM** is a key consideration for the local and distant traveler.
- **CREATIVE USE OF NATIVE PLANT MATERIAL** enhances the rest stop setting and provides education of local plant communities and their relation to natural resources in Ohio.

OHIO REST AREAS LANDSCAPE DESIGN

SITE ANALYSIS

As design teams launch an initial design or a redesign process for Ohio Visitor Centers, it will be important to analyze existing site conditions including:

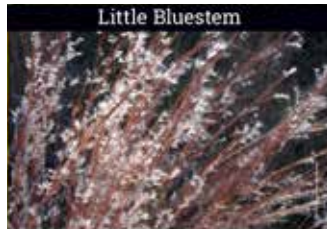
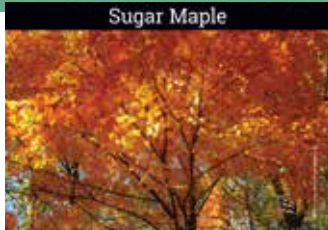
- Pedestrian & Vehicular Access
- Visibility at Ramps & Building Areas
- Lighting for Parking & Walking Areas
- Surface Drainage & Stormwater Management
- Hardscape & Site Furnishings
- Plant Materials



VISITOR CENTER SITE FURNISHINGS

The intent for Ohio Visitor Centers is to use attractive, durable and easy-to-maintain site furnishings.

- Use site furnishings that are: easy to clean, heavy duty, metal, wood, composite and/or recycled materials.
- Locate site furnishings: tables, benches, waste containers on paved slabs.
- Secure site furnishings with tamper proof anchors to paved concrete slabs.
- Use site furnishings that have colors that reflect light and do not heat up. If possible, coordinate the color of all site furnishings at each site.
- Use tables that allow for handicapped and baby buggy access.
- Locate tables adjacent to building covered patio spaces provided.
- Use tables if program provides, in natural shade areas on concrete slabs.
- Use benches that have backs and ergonomic design.
- Locate benches strategically between parking zones and building along walkways.
- Locate waste receptacles and dog waste dispensers strategically.



OHIO NATIVE PLANTS & EDUCATIONAL SIGNS

Utilizing Ohio native plants at its Visitor Centers benefits people and wildlife.

Ohio Native Plants:

- Are best adapted to the local climate, geography, and soil conditions
- Require fewer pesticides and fertilizers
- Use less water and help prevent erosion
- Reduce water runoff and minimize flooding
- Help reduce air pollution, and provide shelter and food for wildlife
- Promote biodiversity and stewardship of Ohio's natural heritage while providing beauty and increasing scenic values





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.

www.ScenicOhio.org

Scenic Ohio
P.O. Box 09816
Columbus, OH 43209



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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.