



2026

TrailLink Unlimited



Guides



Heart of Ohio Trail

Ohio



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True to its name, the Heart of Ohio Trail lies in the central part of the state, extending between Mount Vernon and the Knox-Delaware County line southwest of Centerburg. Along its nearly 17 miles, the trail highlights picturesque landscapes of woodlands, farm fields, and wetlands.

About the Route

In Mount Vernon, the Heart of Ohio Trail leaves off from its northern endpoint at the beautifully restored Cleveland, Akron & Columbus (CA&C) Railroad Depot, which dates back to 1907. The trail is built on the railbed that once carried trains in and out of the station.

A worthwhile excursion along the route in Mount Vernon is the Ariel-Foundation Park. Like many sites along the

trail, the park has an industrial past. Once the site of a glass manufacturing plant, the 250-acre park houses unique sculptures (including a glass “stream”) and a labyrinth, in addition to a towering smokestack with a staircase spiraling around the outside that you can climb for a breathtaking view of the countryside.

Heading southwest from Mount Vernon along the route, the trail loosely parallels Dry Creek, which gets quite close to the path at some points. Several bridges on the route take trail users over the creek. From spring through fall, wildflowers add to the trail’s beauty.

Where the Heart of Ohio Trail crosses US 36—about 2 miles northeast of Centerburg—the trail passes a monument denoting the highest point on the Heart of Ohio Trail at 1285 ft. This is also the highest point along the entire Ohio to Erie Trail.

At the southern endpoint along N County Line Rd (Hwy 51) in the outskirts of Centerburg, the trail is situated in the Newell Recreation Preserve, which features 40 acres of wetlands and prairies.

Connections

At the trail’s eastern endpoint, the Heart of Ohio connects to the short [Downtown Connector Trail](#) which leads to the longer [Kokosing Gap Trail](#) just a short distance away.

At the trail’s western end, it continues past N County Line Rd. as the [Meredith State Road Trail](#).

The Heart of Ohio Trail is part of the [Ohio to Erie Trail](#), a trail network that spans Ohio from the shores of Lake Erie in Cleveland to the Ohio River in Cincinnati.

The Heart of Ohio Trail is part of the Great American Rail Trail, a 3,700-mile route from Washington to Washington



Heart of Ohio Trail

Ohio

States: Ohio

Counties: Knox

Length: 16.9miles

Trail end points: 5875 Township Hwy 51 (Centerburg) to 501 S Main St (Mt Vernon)

Trail surfaces: Asphalt

Trail category: Rail-Trail

Trail activities: Bike, Inline

Skating, Walking, Wheelchair Accessible

Parking & Trail Access

The Heart of Ohio Trail runs between 501 S Main St (Mt Vernon) and 5875 Township Hwy 51 (Centerburg), with parking available at either end.

Parking is also available at:

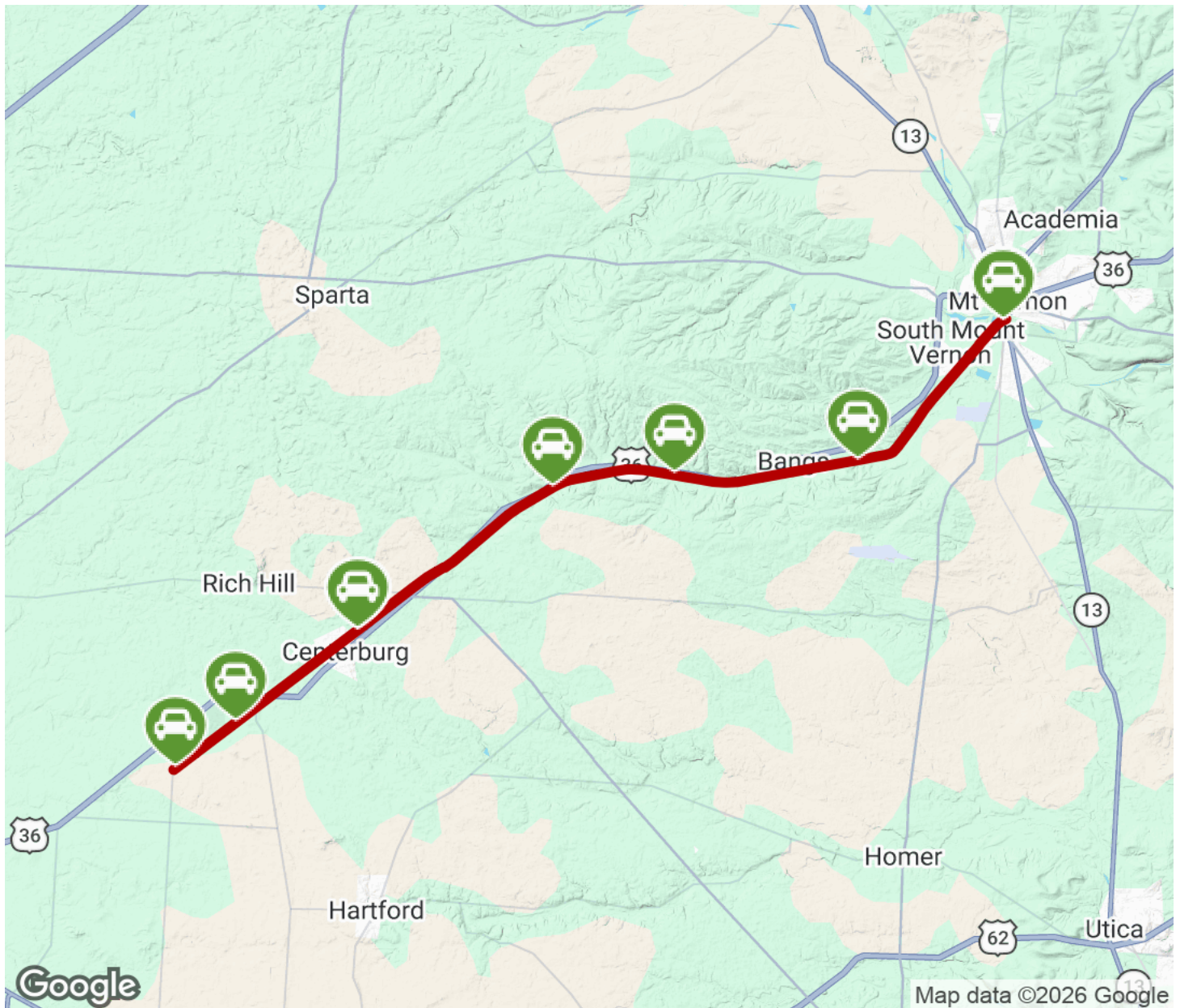
- 16999 Township Hwy 104 (Centerburg)
- Hiliar Township Memorial Park, 21 OH-314 (Centerburg)

See [TrailLink Map](#) for all parking options and detailed directions



Heart of Ohio Trail

Ohio



Trailhead



Restroom



Parking



Water Fountain



Tunnel



TrailLink
by Rails-to-Trails Conservancy

TrailLink.com