



2026

TrailLink Unlimited



Guides



# Kokosing Gap Trail

*Ohio*



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The Kokosing Gap Trail delights visitors with its rich railroad history, which is on display throughout its 13.4-mile paved route. Once the corridor of the Pennsylvania Railroad, the rail-trail now connects the towns of Mount Vernon, Gambier, Howard, and Danville, each just a few short miles apart. Trail users will enjoy a landscape of ravines and farmland as the trail crosses the Kokosing River twice along railroad bridges more than 250 feet long and appreciate a moment's respite from summer sun while traveling through the Howard Tunnel. Trail users can also stop and marvel at an old locomotive and a bright-red wood caboose, both of which were fully restored with funds raised in the local community.

The trail has a smooth asphalt surface and park benches about every 0.5 mile.

## About the Route

The northernmost 3.5 miles of the Kokosing Gap Trail, heading south from 3.5 are quiet. The trail here is open, with a view of surrounding farm fields and pastures. A bridge along the route provides views of a small tributary of the Kokosing River. Just north of US 36, there is a historic mill tower that towers over the trail. The trail then travels south under 36 via an arched stone passageway.

Shortly after, the trail meets Howard, a small town with a trailhead that offers parking, restrooms and a Rotary Club playground. At the Gambier trail, vintage-style streetlamps provide ambiance to trail users traveling in the evening hours.

South of the busy OH 229, the trail passes by Kenyon College and the Brown Family Environmental Center. The center offers a lot to do including a visitor center and butterfly garden.

As the trail approaches its southernmost trailhead, located in Mount Vernon, the trail meanders through the sunken valley of the Kokosing River. Here, several meticulously restored railroad trestle bridges overlook the valley and provide a scenic stopping point. The southern Mount Vernon Trail is located in Phillips Park.

## Connections

Just across from the trail's eastern end is the [Mohican Valley Trail](#).

At the western end of the Kokosing Gap Trail is the Downtown Connector Trail which links with the [Heart of Ohio Trail](#).

The Kokosing Gap Trail is also part of the 320-mile Ohio to Erie Trail (which includes both trail and on-road segments) that spans Ohio from the shores of Lake Erie in Cleveland to



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**States:** Ohio

**Counties:** Knox

Length: 13.4miles

**Trail end points:** Trail Dr. (Danville) to Phillips Park at Liberty St (Mount Vernon)

**Trail surfaces:** Asphalt

**Trail category:** Rail-Trail

**Trail activities:** Bike, Inline Skating, Walking, Wheelchair Accessible, Cross Country Skiing

## Parking & Trail Access

The Kokosing Gap Trail runs between Trail Dr. (Danville) and Phillips Park at Liberty St (Mount Vernon), with parking available at either end.

Parking is also available at:

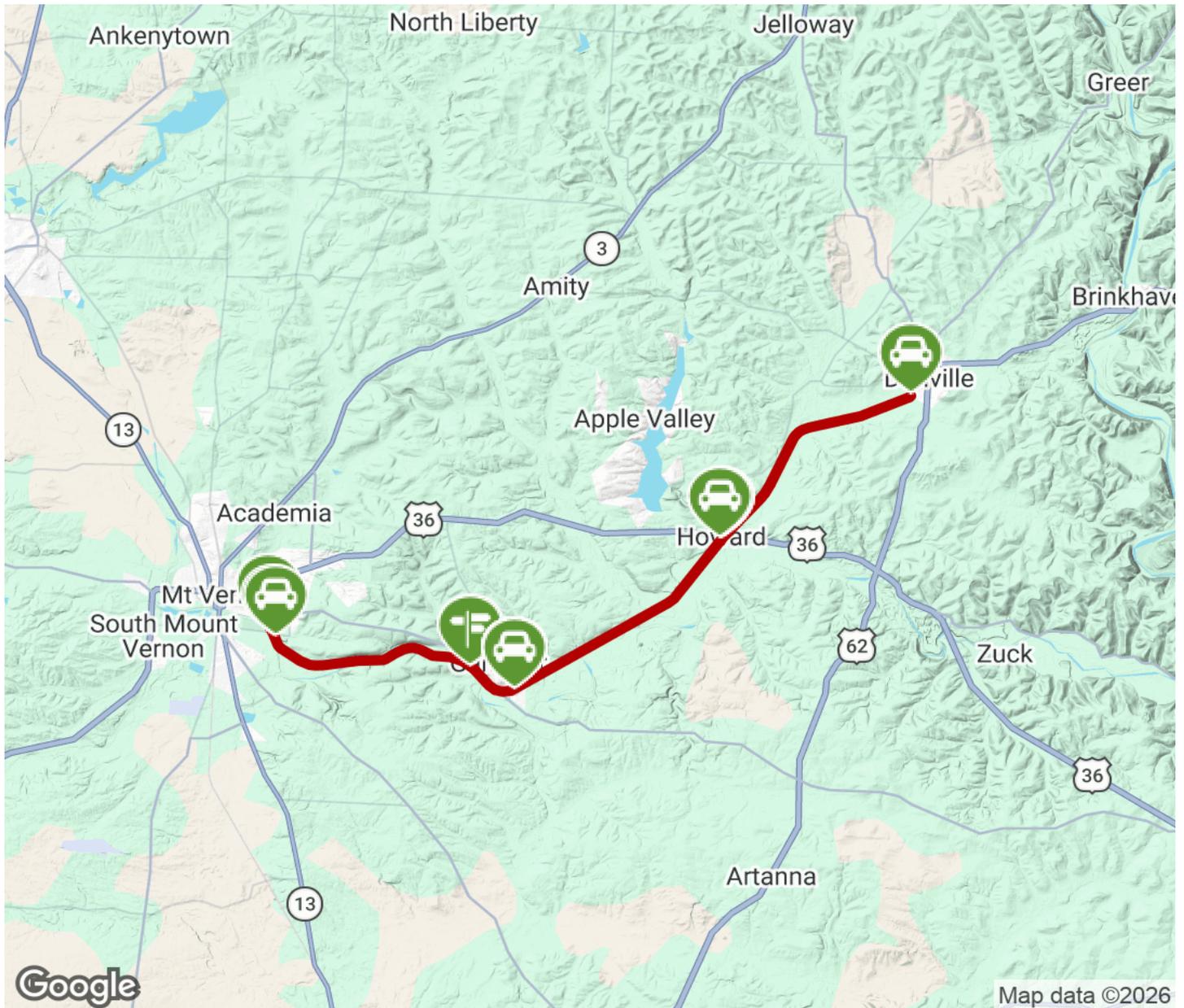
- 106 College Park Dr (Gambier)
- 9781 Laymon Rd (Gambier)

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



# Kokosing Gap Trail

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Trailhead



Restroom



Parking



Water Fountain



Tunnel



**TrailLink**  
by Rails-to-Trails Conservancy

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