



2024

TrailLink Unlimited



Guides



**Wabash
Cannonball
Trail**
Ohio



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The Wabash Cannonball Trail in northwest Ohio is actually two trails in one: its North Fork runs east–west for 46 miles and its South Fork makes up the balance of this nearly 63-mile trail. The forks converge in the eastern city of Maumee and then jackknife away on their separate routes.

The Wabash Cannonball, one of the state’s longest rail-trails, traverses four counties along the former corridor of two rail lines established by the Wabash Railroad. The South Fork was built in 1855 and the North Fork circa 1900. See vestiges of the Wabash as you travel through the small towns that were once bustling with railroad activity. Spot an original depot, travel over railroad bridges, and browse railroad memorabilia at the historical museum in nearby downtown Montpelier.

Also enjoy spectacular wildlife-viewing opportunities. Portions of the trail are segments of the North Country National Scenic Trail, a 4,600-mile-long hiking trail that will eventually connect the Lewis & Clark National Historic Trail in western North Dakota with the Appalachian Trail in Vermont.

Begin in Maumee on the east end of the trail, where both sections of the route begin at Jerome Road within sight of The Shops at Fallen Timbers. Don’t be confused by the sign labeled Wabash Cannonball Trail—North Fork; just 0.25 mile west, the South Fork breaks off to the left while the North Fork continues straight.

It’s worth noting that a side excursion to the Fallen Timbers Battlefield and Fallen Timbers State Memorial (recognizing the 1794 battle that helped open the Northwest Territory) is within easy reach; simply take a paved trail spur south along Jerome Road for 1.6 miles, passing over US 24 on a bicycle and pedestrian bridge. Side Cut Metropark is also accessible on the south side of the US 24 bridge. The park gets its name from an offshoot of the Miami and Erie Canal and provides a great place to learn about Ohio’s canal history or enjoy beautiful views of the Maumee River.

Traveling west from Jerome Road, the first 15.7 miles of the North Fork are nicely paved (up to SR 109). Travel across several bridges over small creeks, marshy wetlands, and deeper ravines before the pavement ends and the smooth paved trail gives way to crushed stone, grass, and dirt for the remainder of its length, with the exception of 2 paved miles in the town of Wauseon.

Along this first paved stretch, you’ll traverse the scenic Oak Openings Preserve Metropark. More than 50 miles of trail, a few of which intersect with the Wabash Cannonball Trail, exist within the park, so you’ll have the option to take one of these into the park to explore the range of habitats found within its almost 5,000 acres.



Wabash Cannonball Trail

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States: Ohio

Counties: Fulton, Henry, Lucas, Williams

Length: 62.9 miles

Trail end points: Jerome Rd., 0.1 mile south of Monclova Rd. (Maumee) to Airport Rd./ CR 13 and Magda Dr. (Montpelier) and the historical depot (Liberty Center)

Trail surfaces: Asphalt, Crushed Stone

Trail category: Rail-Trail

Trail activities: Bike, Inline

Skating, Wheelchair Accessible, Horseback

Parking & Trail Access

The main trailhead is at Jerome Road in Maumee. From I-475 on Toledo's west side, take Exit 4 or 4A for US 24, and head east 0.75 mile to Monclova Road. Turn left onto Monclova, and travel 1.3 miles before turning left onto Jerome Road. The trailhead and parking are on the right in 0.1 mile.

To reach the North Fork's Montpelier trailhead: From I-80/I-90, take Exit 13 to merge onto OH 15 S/US 20 Alt. S. Find the parking lot on your right in 2 miles, just past the trail and near Magda Dr.

The best trailhead for the South Fork is in Whitehouse. From I-475, take Exit 4, and head west on US 24. In 5.4 miles, take Exit 63. Turn right onto OH 64, and go 2.5 miles. Turn right onto Gilead St. or Providence St., and park at Whitehouse Village Park, which is adjacent to the trail on St. Louis Ave.



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