

The Kokosing Gap Trail



The Kokosing Gap Trail is nicely paved and provides a wonderful path for walking, jogging, biking and rollerblading. This 14-mile recreational trail was built on the former Pennsylvania Railroad bed. The Trail begins in Mount Vernon and winds itself to Danville via Gambier and Howard.

The Trail makes an ideal place for vigorous exercise. It's easy to note distances and to mark progress in physical fitness programs. On the other side of the coin, the Trail can be used for a leisurely walk. It's not uncommon to see deer, hear the gobbles of wild turkeys or see a blue heron skimming the top of the river looking for food.

In spring and summer, the wild flowers provide a beautiful border for the softly rolling hills and cultivated fields. As the seasons change, so does the scenery along the path. Summer greens give way to the bright oranges, reds and browns of autumn and then again to the dull-beauty of winter.

The Chesapeake & Ohio caboose #90776 is permanently parked at the Gambier stop. This caboose was built in November 1924 by the Standard Steel Car Company of Baltimore, Maryland and was active until 1979. In October 1997, it was donated to the Kokosing Gap Trail.

The caboose was in poor condition and required serious repairs. Volunteers from the community constructed a new sub-floor, oak floor, double-pane windows and a seamless rubber roof. It was given a fresh coat of paint and now sits proudly beside the Trail as a reminder of the past and the importance that rail travel played in U.S. history.

The basic rules to follow while using the Trail are:

- Stay to the right. When passing, pass to the left.
- Keep pets on a leash and off the trail surface.
- Be alert at intersections.
- Don't trespass (private property borders the path)
- No alcohol.
- Don't litter.
- No horses or motorized vehicles.

For more information, including a map of the trail, visit www.kokosinggaptrail.org