

Visit Ohio's Historic Bridges

Historic and unique bridges have a way of sticking in our collective memories. Many of us remember the bridge we crossed walking to school, a landmark on the way to visit relatives, the gateway out of town or a welcoming indication that you are back in familiar territory.

The Ohio Department of Transportation, in collaboration with the Ohio Historic Bridge Association, Ohio History Connection's State Historic Preservation Office, TourismOhio and historicbridges.org, has assembled a list of stunning bridges across the state that are well worth a journey.

Ohio has over 500 National Register-listed and historic bridges, including over 150 wooden covered bridges. The following map features iron, steel and concrete structures, and even a stone bridge built when canals were still helping to grow Ohio's economy. Some were built for transporting grain to market. Other bridges were specifically designed to blend into the scenic landscape of a state or municipal park.

Many of these featured bridges are Ohio Historic Bridge Award recipients. The annual award is given to bridge owners and engineers that rehabilitate, preserve or reuse historic structures. The awards are sponsored by the Federal Highway Administration, ODOT and Ohio History Connection's State Historic Preservation Office.

*Anthony Wayne Bridge -
Toledo, OH*



Ohio Department of Transportation



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SOUTHEAST REGION

1. Blaine Hill Viaduct (Arches of Memory Bridge) (40.06671, -80.82031)

The 1932 open spandrel arch bridge is one of Ohio's Signature Bridges designed by D. H. Overman and the Ohio Department of Highways Bridge Bureau staff, who were nationally recognized for their innovative and aesthetic bridges. The adjacent 1826 stone arch "S" bridge carried the original alignment of the National Road and provides excellent views of the viaduct. Both structures are located on the Historic National Road, an Ohio Scenic Byway, and federally designated as an All American Road.

2. Great Stone Viaduct in Bellaire (40.012767, -80.742500)

A noteworthy massive structure in Belmont County is the Great Stone Viaduct in downtown Bellaire. The 1870 railroad structure features 43 arches running from the river into the city. The bridge was used in a train scene during the filming of "Unstoppable" starring Denzel Washington. Plans are underway to create a park and elevated walkway where it crosses over Guernsey Street. It is a featured stop along the Ohio River Scenic Byway and the Drovers Trail Scenic Byway.

3. Zoarville (40.57732, -81.39141)

One of the only three known surviving examples of its type in the U.S., the 1868 iron Fink-style Truss was originally located in Dover. It was listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1996. Thankfully for us, one of the most historically significant bridges in the nation has been restored and preserved on the Camp Tuscazoar Trail. There are only about 52 surviving early thru trusses in the state that are made of iron.

4. Zoar (40.60872, -81.42820)

A few miles west of the bridge at Camp Tuscazoar, on the Zoar Valley Trail, is a rare continuous Pratt metal truss bridge that was built in 1883 by the Wrought Iron Bridge Company of Canton. It has also been preserved as a pedestrian and bike crossing. Also worth checking out

in eastern Ohio, Columbiana County has several rehabilitated 1880's through truss bridges that are open to traffic.

NORTHEAST REGION

5. Ashtabula County-Conneaut (41.93768, -80.56347)

The Mill Road Concrete Rainbow Arch is an excellent representation of a style of concrete arch made popular in Ohio in the early 20th century. Crossing Conneaut Creek south of Conneaut, it was built around 1925 and was designed for two lanes of traffic.

6. The Center Road Bridge (41.89440, -80.57440)

Located several miles south of the Mill Road Bridge. It was built in 1925 and considered one of the longer examples of the concrete rainbow arch. The bridge is located in a scenic setting on the West Branch of Conneaut Creek. The concrete rainbow arch design was first used in Hamilton County on Benson Street in 1909. In 1912, James B. Marsh of Iowa patented the design. The Ohio Department of Highways established a standard design for rainbow arches in 1923. However, in Hamilton County near Cincinnati, there are two very early examples of rainbow arches which date to 1909 and 1911 on Wiley Road and Benson Street.

7. The Chippewa Creek Bridge (41.320256, -81.621752)

A single-span, concrete arch bridge located along SR 82 in Cuyahoga County. Brecksville's town center is to the west and Cleveland Metropark's Brecksville Reservation is adjacent to the bridge to the south. The bridge features rusticated, sandstone veneer walls and crenellated parapets. This bridge was designed and constructed by the Ohio Department of Highways in 1932.

8. The Porter Creek Bridge (41.489460, -81.932076)

Constructed in 1937, is a 5-span concrete arch bridge with stone veneer. D. H. Overman of the Ohio State Highway Department was the principle design engineer. The bridge is located within the Cleveland

Metropark's Huntington Reservation on the shore of Lake Erie along US 6/Park Drive.

9. Main Avenue Bridge (41.498725, -81.705038)

Cleveland's Main Avenue Bridge, was constructed in 1939 by the WPA, and designed by Wilbur Watson and Associates of Cleveland. The 40-span bridge features 10 cantilevered deck trusses. The bridge spans the Cuyahoga River and the Cleveland Flats.

10. The West Main Street Bridge (41.153779, -81.359477)

Constructed circa 1876, is a 3-span, stone arch, located in the City of Kent within the Kent Industrial Historic District. The bridge spans the Cuyahoga River, Riversedge Park, and the Ohio & Erie Canal.

11. Lanterman Falls Bridge (41.066886, -80.682750)

Located along SR 62 in Youngstown, Ohio. This bridge spans Mill Creek in the Mill Creek Park Historic District, the first park district in the state of Ohio, and was created two years before the founding of the Ohio state park system. The open spandrel concrete arch was constructed in 1920.

12. The Silver Bridge (41.07327, -80.68898)

Located on Valley Drive over Mill Creek within the Mill Creek Park Historic District, Youngstown. This historic district was the first park district in the state of Ohio and was created two years before the founding of the Ohio state park system. The rare and highly decorative metal eye-bar suspension bridge was built by the Youngstown Bridge Company in 1895.

CENTRAL REGION

13. Glen Echo Bridge (40.018975, -83.001957)

The Glen Echo Bridge is part of the Glen Echo Historic District, which is a district characterized by an early 20th century planned residential subdivision that achieved such status by its community planning and high style architecture. This bridge was constructed to match the aesthetic architecture of its surrounding

community. A project that will rehabilitate and preserve this bridge, and the unique bird mural underneath it, is underway.

14. Suspension Bridge (40.12058, -81.99918)

Located in the Village of Dresden, north of Zanesville, the 1914 Suspension Bridge Company. The bridge is located adjacent to and viewable from Dresden River Park and the Muskingum Recreational Trail, on East Muskingum Avenue. The bridge is one of two eye-bar chain suspension bridges in the state. The other one is located in Mill Creek Park in Youngstown. The bridge was listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1976. It was bypassed in 2000 when a new State Route 208 bridge was built over the Muskingum River. Another notable bridge in this area is the Y-Bridge on Main St. in Zanesville.

15. Dublin Bridge (40.09948, -83.11103)

Three and a half miles south of the Columbus Zoo and O'Shaughnessy Reservoir, carrying US Route 33 over the Scioto River, historically known as the "Dublin Bridge," is a 552-foot concrete 3-rib deck arch. It was built in 1935 and designed by the Ohio Department of Highways' Bridge Engineer, D. H. Overman. The bridge was highlighted in Civil Engineering Magazine, August 1936, and features locally quarried limestone and a mortar mix intended to harmonize with its setting.

16. John Bright Iron Bridge (39.73646, -82.58468)

Located on the landscaped Ohio University Campus in Lancaster, the John Bright Iron Bridge is a highly unusual truss bridge designed as a suspension bridge. It was built by the Hocking Valley Bridge Works of Lancaster around 1884.

17. The Roderick Bridge (40.068139, -82.440528)

Previously located in Coshocton County, it was constructed in 1872 by Coshocton Iron Works. It follows the first iron bowstring design patented in 1841 by the famed Squire Whipple. It was moved to the T.J.



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Evans Trail running through the OSU Newark Campus in 1998.

18. The Gallman Road Bridge (40.05029, -82.47398)

Located southeast of the Ohio State Newark Campus, on the T. J. Evans Trail, next to Cherry Valley Lodge and CoCo Key Water Resort. The 1887 Whipple Thru Truss was built by the Columbia Bridge Works of Dayton Ohio. It formerly carried Gallman Road in Mercer County. In 2002 it was refurbished and preserved on the trail.

19. The Beach Road Bridge (40.116898, -82.939355)

The Beach Road Bridge is a Whipple Truss that serves as part of the Alum Creek Multi-Use Trail in Westerville, Ohio, and was relocated from Beach Road over Big Darby Creek in 1999. This Whipple Truss was constructed in 1888 by the Columbus Bridge Company of Columbus and is a rare surviving example of this company's work.

20. The Orient Bridge (39.80223, -83.16933)

Built in 1885 by the Cleveland Bridge and Iron Company, this stunningly ornate 255-foot Whipple truss bridge was preserved in place by the Ohio Department of Transportation in the late 1980's and is open to pedestrians.

21. New Holland (39.55788, -83.25951)

Located in New Holland, this modest, 31-foot bridge is a rare example of the type of bowstring developed by the Champion Bridge Company of Wilmington using short sections of gas pipe. Paralleling Egypt Pike and crossing Mud Run, it was built in 1876 and is one of only three known examples in the state.

NORTHWEST REGION

22. Allen County-Lima (40.71775, -84.11421)

This bridge carries Metcalf Street, part of the Dixie Highway, over the Norfolk Southern railroad in Lima. Constructed in 1923 by the American Bridge Company of New York, the bridge is a late example of a pin-connected through truss with a unique, and skewed Baltimore design.



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23. Auglaize County-New Bremen (40.43552, -84.38081)

Crossing the Miami and Erie Canal as a converted pedestrian bridge, this is an early example of the work of David H. Morrison of the Columbia Bridge Works of Dayton. With arches and verticals of cast iron, the 1864 bridge is among the oldest of its type in the country. It's located in the Lock One Park in New Bremen along the Miami & Erie Canal Scenic Byway.

24. Ottawa (40.97848, -83.99077)

This bridge, southwest of Ottawa, is an early example of the bowstring truss bridges built by David H. Morrison of the Columbia Bridge Works of Dayton, Ohio. Constructed over the Riley Creek in 1876 this bridge is located on Road 7L, less than ten miles west of the Gilboa Bridge.

25. Port Clinton-Bascule Bridge (41.51518, -82.94300)

Where Lakeshore Drive crosses the Portage River in Port Clinton, a 1933 bascule bridge can raise the roadway to accommodate river traffic. The Art-Deco details on this bridge were drawn by Josephine E. Powers, a pioneering female architect, who also worked for the Ohio Department of Highways Bridge Bureau during the 1930's. A. Bentley and Sons of Toledo was the original contractor.

26. Putnam County-Gilboa (41.01622, -83.92219)

This 1886 bridge crosses the Blanchard River in Gilboa. It's within walking distance of Gilboa's Main Street Historic District. Constructed by the Wrought Iron Bridge Company of Canton, the former County Route 13 bridge is now open to pedestrians.

27. Shelby County-Sydney (40.27385, -84.15396)

This historic bridge sits in the shadow of the Big Four Bridge historic railroad bridge in Sidney Ohio. Likely built in the early twentieth century, it crosses the Great Miami River on the old alignment of Gearhart Road. This bridge has been bypassed for traffic but can still be seen from nearby Roadside Park. The adjacent arch of the



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Big Four Bridge was the inspiration for the Ohio Historic Bridge logo.

28. Anthony Wayne Suspension Bridge-Toledo (41.64107, -83.53368)

This iconic fixture of the Toledo skyline was constructed in 1931 by the McClintic-Marshall Company of Pittsburgh. This suspension bridge spans the Maumee River carrying OH-2 and OH-5. Pedestrians can get a view of the bridge from the nearby International Park or walk across its 3215 ft. span via open walkways.

29. Indian Mill Bridge (40.86327, -83.25370)

A winner of the 2015 Ohio Historic Bridge Awards. The bridge was installed here in 1913 where County Route 47 crosses the Sandusky River. The structure was built by Modern Construction Company of Fremont, and has ornate features commonly used on earlier trusses. Situated adjacent to the historic Indian Mill, an Ohio History Connection museum site, this location offers a vivid 19th-century setting.

SOUTHWEST REGION

30. Clark County-Springfield (39.93360, -83.83703)

An unusual three-hinged metal arch built in 1897, the Snyder Memorial Bridge in Springfield is typical of the special design consideration given park structures. Today, it provides access to a golf course and recreational fields.

31. Hamilton County-Cincinnati (The Cliff Drive Bridge) (39.105288, -84.506149)

Constructed in 1895, spans Eden Park Drive located within Cincinnati's Eden Park near the Cincinnati Art Museum and an Ohio River overlook. The bridge is among the oldest of the four Melan Arches in Ohio. The Melan design features steel beam arch supports embedded in the concrete.

32. Suspension Bridge-Cincinnati (39.09290, -84.50988)

Work on this iconic piece of Cincinnati's skyline began in 1856 by the John A. Roebling Sons Company of Trenton, New

Jersey, to cross the Ohio River but was not completed until 1866. This suspension bridge, often referred to as the prototype for the Brooklyn Bridge, is important for its aesthetic qualities and age, earning it a spot on the National Register of Historic places. It serves multiple routes over the Ohio River in Hamilton County, Ohio, and Kenton County, Kentucky.

33. Miami County-Troy (40.07114, -84.21746)

A 2012 Ohio Historic Bridge Award recipient, this bridge was moved via truck from its original location on Fairview Snodgrass Road. It now acts as a pedestrian crossing on the Great Miami River Recreation Trail over Beedle Ditch. Originally built by the Smith Bridge Company of Toledo, it likely dates to about 1880. Its 2011 restoration is a good example of sustainable planning and adaptive reuse of a historic bridge. ODOT maintains a website with a list of bridges that are currently available for reuse. The bridge is south of the Eldean Covered Bridge, between Piqua and Troy.

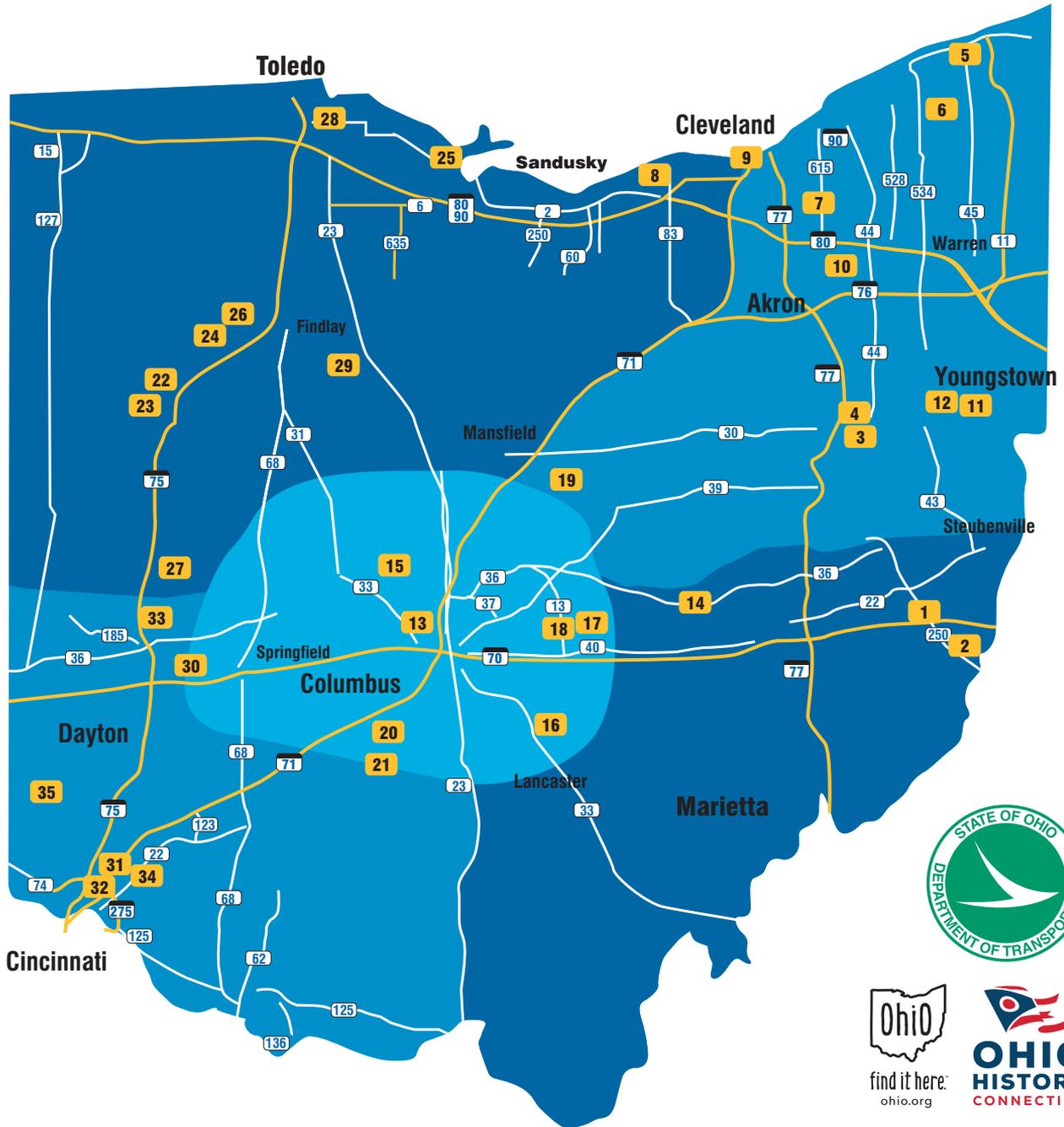
34. Purple People Bridge (39.09764, -84.49735)

The former Louisville and Nashville Railroad Bridge is a 500-foot span Pennsylvania Truss connected to smaller Parker trusses. It was constructed in 1896. This bridge now serves exclusively pedestrian traffic over the Ohio River. Known locally as the Purple People Bridge, it connects downtown Cincinnati and Newport Kentucky and a number of historic districts on both sides of the river.

35. Preble County- Seven Mile Road Bridge (39.67390, -84.62230)

Built over Seven Mile Creek, south of Eaton, in Rural Preble County, this bridge rehabilitation received a 2015 Ohio Historic Bridge Award, which are presented annually by the Federal Highway Administration, ODOT, and the Ohio History Connection's State Historic Preservation Office. The 1906 Indiana Bridge Company-built structure is the only surviving example of a Pegram truss in Ohio.

This map is just a starting point to help you find many of the innovative and rare bridges that only Ohio has to offer. For more information visit www.buckeyeassets.org



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