



Edge of Appalachia Preserve  
The Joan Jones Portman Trail  
TRAIL MAP & GUIDE

### Site Overview

The Creek’s Bend Public Information Pavilion and the nearby Joan Jones Portman Trail, provide the visitor with an excellent opportunity to learn about the Edge of Appalachia Preserve System and the ecology of the Ohio Brush Creek Valley. A picnic pavilion and overlook with ADA access orients visitors to the preserve and provides an excellent view of Ohio Brush Creek. At nearly 60 miles in length, this stream drains over 435 square miles and empties into the Ohio River just six miles south of this point. In pre-glacial times, most of this watershed drained to the north but the southward moving ice sheet dammed northward flowing streams and eventually resulted in the flow being reversed as these basins filled with meltwater and then cut through drainage divides. The Joan Jones Portman Trail leads the hiker up the east flank of this large valley, through small prairie openings and a diverse mixed mesophytic forest. The Nature Conservancy has been working to protect the Edge of Appalachia Preserve with our collaborative partner Cincinnati Museum Center more than 50 years.



Red Cedar



American Redstart



Blood Root



Persimmon

### Trail Access

- The Portman Trail is the newest of the four hiking trails at the Edge of Appalachia Preserve System. A one-way trail of .8 miles climbs gradually up to the crest of the ridge where a natural overlook provides an excellent view of the Ohio Brush Creek Valley below. From this point, hikers must retrace their steps back to the trailhead for a total hiking distance of 1.6 miles. Portions of this trail are steep and may be considered strenuous and moderately difficult. The 1,400 mile Buckeye Trail does continue eastward from the overlook but is designed for long-distance and through-hikers only. *It does not return to the parking area.* The Joan Jones Portman trailhead is across the road from the Creek’s Bend Public Information Pavilion, located at 3223 Waggoner Riffle Road, West Union. (Coordinates: N38.74839 W083.46402)

### Hours and Use

- **Trails are open dawn to dusk**
- **For your safety, please be aware of any posted rules & notices**

### Travel Directions

#### From West Union:

- **Proceed east on State Route 125 for 5.8 miles.**
- **Turn right (south) on Waggoner Riffle Road for 2.3 miles to the gravel parking area on the right behind the board fence.**
- **Visitor information for this site and others is available in the pavilion.**

**The Nature Conservancy is the leading conservation organization in the world. We are an international, non-profit organization, and our mission is to preserve the lands and waters on which all life depends. The Nature Conservancy in Ohio was established in 1958 and has helped protect more than 60,000 acres of ecologically significant land and waters. For more information about us and our preserves, please visit [nature.org/ohio](http://nature.org/ohio) or contact us:**

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# Portman Trail - 1.6 miles

## Legend

- Portman Trail
- Preserve Property
- Preserve Buildings
- Stream
- Information
- Picnic Area
- Parking area
- Trail sign
- Restroom
- Viewing area
- Bridge
- Handicapped trail

Office Hillside  
Barren

Waggoner Riffle Rd.

Ohio Brush Creek

