

PLACES TO VISIT-SELF-GUIDED TOURS

You may wish to tour some areas on your own. Here are places nearby the conference center that you may want to consider visiting. Please call before visiting as this information is subject to change.









[The Glen Helen Nature Preserve](#) is the legacy of Hugh Taylor Birch, who, in 1929, donated the wooded glen to Antioch College in memory of his daughter Helen. With this gift, the College accepted the responsibility of preserving the land in perpetuity. Today, that mission is carried forward by the Glen Helen Ecology Institute, which manages the land and coordinates the educational programs of “The Glen.”

Additional gifts expanded the preserve, which now encompasses 1000 acres, all accessible from a 25-mile network of footpaths. On even a short walk, visitors can view spectacular wildflowers, 400 year-old trees, limestone cliffs with waterfalls and overhangs, and the beautiful yellow spring for which the town is named.

Visitors are also welcome at the [Raptor Center](#) off SR 343 (**Raptor Center is closed Sundays**). This nationally recognized facility rehabilitates injured hawks, owls, and related birds of prey, each year providing 200 birds a second chance at life in the wild. Resident birds, used for educational programs, can be viewed on site.

Glen Helen is also home to one of the Midwest’s first residential environmental education facilities. Established in 1956, the [Outdoor Education Center](#) has served as a model for many such facilities that now shape the ecological literacy of students around the country. Still thriving after 50 years, the Center welcomes over 3,000 schoolchildren each year, who stay for a week they will remember for the rest of their lives.

Directions: Cincinnati, Dayton, and Points Southwest. Glen Helen is about 22 miles East of Dayton. It is located at the eastern edge of the campus of Antioch College in Yellow Springs.

-  Take **I-75 North** from Cincinnati toward Dayton
-  Take **I-675 North** to **Dayton-Yellow Springs Rd.** (Exit #20).
-  Turn **RIGHT** on **Dayton-Yellow Springs Rd.** Continue for roughly **7** miles into the town of Yellow Springs.
-  Pass through the stoplight at Walnut St.
-  At the 3-way stop sign turn **right** onto **Corry Street**.
-  Cross stoplight at Xenia Ave (SR 68).
-  The entrance to the parking lot – **405/505 Corry Street**, – is marked on the **LEFT** near the far side of the driveway by a low wooden sign with a tulip tree logo.
-  Trailside Science Museum can be found near the front end of the parking lot. The Glen Helen Building, with the gift shop, auditorium, and administrative offices is at the far end of the lot. Phone 937-769-1902.

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Cox Arboretum & Gardens MetroPark is a hands-on landscaping arboretum, bringing gardening, nature and horticulture to visitors of all ages and backgrounds. It is a truly unique place in our community to experience, learn, see, touch, and smell the natural beauty of the land, flowering plants, shrubs and trees.

Features:

189 acres of beautiful gardens and natural areas specialty gardens such as:

Shrub Garden - over 500 different trees & shrubs

Water Garden & Rock Garden

Woodland Wildflower Garden

Rock Garden

Water Garden

Stonewall Perennial Garden

Crab Apple Allee

Ornamental Grasses

Meditation Garden Conifer Knoll

Bell Children's Maze

Edible Landscape Garden, including the Herb Garden &

Compost Kitchen

Conservation Corner (Prairie, Bird Blind)

Butterfly House and Garden (Butterfly House is a seasonal display)

3.5 miles of walking trails

April 1 - Oct 31

Grounds

8am - 10pm

Visitor Center

Monday - Friday

8 am - 6 pm

Saturday and Sunday

10 am - 4 pm

Directions: Head west from Shakertown Rd - go 0.3 mi.

Turn left at County Line Rd - go 1.4 mi.

Turn left at Indian Ripple Rd - go 0.3 mi.

Take the I-675 S ramp to Cincinnati - go 8.0 mi.

Take the OH-725 exit 2 to Miamisburg/Centerville - go 0.3 mi 0.3 mi. Continue on Leona Ln - go 0.3 mi.

Turn right at Miamisburg Centerville Rd - go 1.2 mi. Turn right at Springboro Pike. Approx travel time: 15 min.

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SunWatch Indian Village/Archaeological Park

is a partially reconstructed Fort Ancient period Native American village along the Great Miami River in Dayton, Ohio. The Fort Ancient culture as defined by archaeologists occupied the Middle Ohio River Valley between about AD 1000 and AD 1650 from what is now southeastern Indiana east to modern day West Virginia. The Fort Ancient peoples who lived in this area were the first intensive farmers of the area, and the last prehistoric group to occupy it prior to the arrival of European settlers. Unfortunately we do not know exactly who their modern descendants are.



On July 29, 1988, after 17 years of excavation and research by the Dayton Society of Natural History, SunWatch opened to the public. Seasonal excavations continued through 1989. The years of excavation at the site, combined with additional analysis and research, have resulted in a remarkable understanding of the site's original inhabitants. SunWatch currently combines experimental archaeological research, including the reconstruction of the Fort Ancient structures in their original 13th century locations, with an interpretive center that exhibits many of the artifacts that have been recovered from the site. The village reconstruction includes five lath and daub structures with grass thatch roofs, portions of a stockade, and a native garden and prairie with plants typical of the period. Inferred astronomical alignments originate from a complex of posts at the center of the village that have also been replaced. There is also a picnic shelter and picnic tables overlooking the village and are available for visitors to relax.

Because of its archaeological and historical significance the site was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1975 and became a National Historic Landmark in 1990.

Admission*: <http://www.sunwatch.org>

Adults- \$5

Seniors (60+)- \$3

Students (6 - 17)-
\$3

Under 6- Free**

Members- Free.

SunWatch is open year round, Tuesday through Saturday 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. and Sunday noon-5:00 p.m. Closed Mondays. Museum Store and Village close at 4:30 p.m., museum and video accessible until 5:00 p.m. SunWatch is closed on Mondays

Directions: SunWatch is located off I-75, a few minutes south of downtown Dayton. Take exit 51 off I-75. Go West on Edwin C. Moses Blvd., which becomes Nicholas Rd. after you cross Dryden Rd./South Broadway St. intersection. Cross South Broadway and turn left (West River Road). SunWatch is one mile south on West River Road.

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1000 Aullwood Rd., Dayton, OH 45414

Aullwood is an environmental education center in western Ohio. We are an Audubon Center of the National Audubon Society. Our goal is to promote the protection of birds, other wildlife and the habitats on which they depend. Aullwood offers both children and adults the opportunity to experience and appreciate the world through experience-based education.

Come see our woods, streams, ponds, prairies, meadows, and our education center and organic farm. Learn more about us right here! Aullwood is open Monday through Saturday from 9-5 and Sunday from 1-5. We are closed on most school holidays. You can start your visit at the Center or at the Farm . Voice (937) 890-7360 -- fax (937) 890-2382 -- email aullwood@gemair.com

Admission is \$4 for adults, \$2 for children 2-18, children under two are free. Members of Friends of Aullwood (our support group) and National Audubon Society receive free admission with membership card.

Directions: Aullwood Audubon Center & Farm is about 15.6 miles northwest of downtown Dayton. From the intersection of I-75 and U.S. 35, take I-75 north 10.0 miles to U.S.40, then go left (west) on U. S. 40 for 5.6 miles to the Center entrance on the left. (The entrance is directly across U.S.40 from the Englewood MetroPark entrance.) An entrance fee of \$4.00 for adults (over 18) and \$2.00 for children (2 to 18) is charged. (Friends of Aullwood and National Audubon Society members are admitted free).

Germantown MetroPark

This is a 1400-acre park, bisected by Twin Creek with flood plain forest along the stream. The western part of the park is open meadow. The rest of the park is made up of hills and valleys covered with mature beech and maple forest, and includes stands of evergreens and Red Cedars.

Over ten miles of trails provide access to most areas of the park. The combination of mature upland and riparian woodlands, and open fields, attract many breeding species,

including American Woodcock, Barred Owl, Pileated Woodpecker, Brown Thrasher, and a good assortment of Wood-Warblers, including Northern Parula, Yellow-throated, Prairie, Cerulean, Louisiana Waterthrush, Kentucky, and Hooded. The large number of evergreens attract Red-breasted Nuthatches, Purple Finches, Pine Siskins, and an occasional Crossbill. Germantown MetroPark is one of the best places in the area to see Summer Tanagers. Rare birds have included Northern Saw-whet Owl, Chuck-will's-widow, Loggerhead Shrike, Worm-eating Warbler, and Bobolink.



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Park roads are paved, and there are ample parking lots, picnic shelters and tables, rest rooms, and drinking fountains. The Nature Center is underground, with a window for viewing birds and other wild animals that regularly visit the feeders. Hours are 8 am to dusk daily.

Directions: Germantown MetroPark is approximately 20 miles southwest of downtown Dayton. From the intersection of US 35 and I-75 in downtown Dayton, take I-75 south 7.9 miles to SR 725. Go right (west) on SR 725 10.7 miles (through Germantown) to Conservancy Rd. Go right on Conservancy Rd. 1.1 miles to Creek Rd., then left on Creek Rd. 0.4 miles to the park entrance on the left. To go to a second entrance where the Nature Center is located, instead of turning off of SR 725 onto Conservancy Rd, continue west on SR 725 for 1.1 miles to Boomershine Rd. and turn right. Then go 1.0 miles to the park entrance and Nature Center on the right.

Sugarcreek MetroPark

As metro Dayton continues to expand, this beautiful MetroPark has become increasingly important. About 600 acres in size, the park surrounds a long stretch of Sugar Creek and has preserved both riparian and upland woodlands. A tall grass prairie has been created from what was once farm land. An excellent system of trails crisscrosses the park and leads to "the Three Sisters", three giant 550-year-old oak trees. Sugarcreek MetroPark is also a favorite place for finding



wildflowers, both along the creek and in the prairie. Adjacent to the northeast side of Sugarcreek MetroPark is Spring Lakes Park (in Bellbrook), and the lake-side edge habitat there is often worth checking for birds.

Hours are 8 am to dusk daily

Directions: Sugarcreek MetroPark is about 12.7 miles southeast of downtown Dayton. From the intersection of Third and Main Streets in downtown Dayton, take SR 48 (Main St.) south 8.5 miles to SR 725. Turn left (east) on SR 725 and go 2.4 miles to Wilmington- Dayton Rd. Turn right (south) onto Wilmington-Dayton Rd. and go 1.6 miles to the first 3-way stop. Continue straight across the intersection onto Conference Rd. and go 0.2 miles to the park entrance on the left

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Huffman Prairie

Huffman Prairie is a black soil tallgrass prairie remnant of a once nearly two square mile prairie. The site, located in the North Central Tillplain Ecoregion, encompasses 109 acres, making it one of the largest tallgrass prairie remnants in Ohio. Huffman Prairie is located on the Wright-Patterson Air Force Base owned by the U.S. Department of Defense, and recognized by the Ohio Department of Natural Resources as an Ohio Natural Landmark.



The prairie is adjacent to the Dayton Aviation Heritage National Park. Both sites were used by the Wright brothers for flight tests and Huffman Prairie is still visited for its historic significance. A replica of the Wright Brothers 1905 Hangar is next to the prairie. A garden of native prairie plants was established in 1991 next to the hangar. This garden is used as a seed source for restoration projects on the degraded portions of the prairie.

Through a broad-based agreement established in 1990 between the Conservancy and the U.S. Department of Defense, Huffman Prairie is currently managed through the cooperation of Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, The Nature Conservancy, and Five Rivers Metroparks.

Rare Species and Communities Royal catchfly, Henslow's sparrow, Upland sandpiper, Sedge wren, Tallgrass prairie community

Ecological Significance The site contains at least three dozen prairie indicator species. Roughly one quarter of the area is currently dominated by native prairie plants. Prairie grasses include Big bluestem, Indian grass, little bluestem and rough dropseed. Huffman Prairie provides habitat for several endemic moth species. Some of the moths are known from the tallgrass prairies to the west, others, only on the East Coast, while a few are so rare that they have no scientific name. The prairie provides nesting habitat for grassland bird species such as bobolink, grasshopper sparrow, sedge wren, Henslow's sparrow, upland sandpiper, savannah sparrow, and dickcissel.

Visitation Guidelines

Huffman Prairie is an ecologically irreplaceable resource. Visitors can access Huffman Prairie by obtaining a visitor's pass at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base Visitor Center. All visitors should use extraordinary care to protect natural features, plant and animal life. For more information:

(937) 335-9226

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CLIFTON GORGE STATE NATURE PRESERVE - 269 ACRES

Main Feature: One of the finest examples of post-glacial canyon cutting in the state; scenic waterfalls and rapids on the headwaters of the Little Miami State and National Scenic River.

Directions: Total Est. Distance: 17.71 miles.

Start out going EAST on SHAKERTOWN RD toward WILLOW RUN DR.
Turn LEFT onto N FAIRFIELD RD / VETERAN'S MEMORIAL PKWY.

2.0 Miles

0.7 miles

Merge onto US-35 E toward XENIA.

3.5 miles

Turn LEFT onto TREBEIN RD.

0.7 miles

Turn RIGHT onto HILLTOP RD.

4.0 miles

Turn RIGHT onto OH-235.

0.5 miles

Turn LEFT onto US-68.

0.3 miles

Turn RIGHT onto CLIFTON RD.

4.2 miles

Turn LEFT onto GRINNELL RD.

0.7 miles

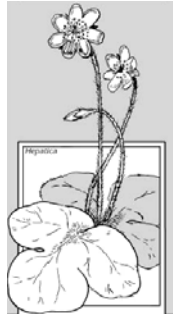
Turn RIGHT onto BRYAN PARK RD.

0.6 miles

BRYAN PARK RD becomes OH-370.

0.1 miles

End at **3790 State Route 370**
Yellow Springs, OH 45387-7724, US



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This 269-acre preserve protects one of the most spectacular dolomite and limestone gorges in the state. Registered as a National Natural Landmark in 1968, Clifton Gorge State Nature Preserve encompasses a two-mile stretch of the Little Miami State and National Scenic River, just east of [John Bryan State Park](#) in Greene County. 3790 State Route 370; Yellow Springs, OH 45387. (937) 767-1274. 1-866-644-6727 for camping & getaway rental reservations.