

Empties into: Lake Erie
Mouth: Ashtabula, OH
Length: 28 miles
Elevation at source: 1,033 feet above sea level
Elevation at mouth: 573 feet above sea level
Average fall: 11.6 feet per mile
8-digit HUC: 04110003
8-digit name: Chagrin-Ashtabula
Number of Access Sites: 3

Ashtabula River

The main branch of the Ashtabula River is a 28-mile long tributary that begins at the confluence of the East Branch Ashtabula and West Branch Ashtabula rivers in Monroe Township (Ashtabula County). Its course flows entirely within Ashtabula County. Headwaters for the East Branch rise in Richmond Township (Ashtabula County) and the West Branch begins in Pennsylvania just east of the state line. The Ashtabula River drainage basin covers 137 square miles (87,680 acres), 8.9 square miles (5,696 acres) of which are in Pennsylvania.

The Ashtabula River once served as the boundary between the Algonquin Indian and Iroquois Indian tribes. In fact, the name "Ashtabula" is an anglicized spelling of the Iroquois word "Hash-tah-buh-lah," meaning 'river of many fish.' The river has also been called the Riviere Auscubalu and Riviere Oscubolu.

In 1985, the lower one-and-a-half miles of the Ashtabula were federally designated an Area of Concern (as were the Black, Cuyahoga and Maumee rivers), prompting the formation of the Ashtabula River Remedial Action Plan (RAP) in 1988 and the Ashtabula River Partnership in 1994. After the successful removal of nearly 630,000 cubic yards of contaminated sediment and safe disposal in a consolidation facility, the Ashtabula River was celebrated as a clean river in 2008, culminating one of the largest river cleanup efforts on the Great Lakes.

In Ashtabula County, three covered bridges cross over the Ashtabula River, including the Benetka Road Bridge, the Olin Bridge and the Smolen-Gulf Bridge. Two other covered bridges, the Caine Road Bridge and the Root Road Bridge, span the West Branch. The 613-foot long Smolen-Gulf Bridge is the longest covered bridge in the United States and was dedicated in 2008. The upper Ashtabula River is not affected by industrial run-off and exhibits pristine natural qualities. In 2008, the upper reaches of the river system, including portions of both the East and West branches, were designated as a State Scenic River.

Eighty-eight species of fish have been documented in the river. Its steelhead population attracts many anglers.



Empties into: Lake Erie
Mouth: Conneaut, OH
Length: 57 miles (24 miles in Ohio)
Elevation at source: 1,215 feet above sea level
Elevation at mouth: 573 feet above sea level
Average fall: 11.3 feet per mile
8-digit HUC: 04120101
8-digit name: Chautauqua-Conneaut
Number of Access Sites: 5

Conneaut Creek

The nearly 57-mile long Conneaut Creek rises in Summit Township (Crawford County, PA) and initially flows northward to Conneaut Township (Erie County, PA) before sharply turning west toward the state line. The creek enters Ohio in the southeastern corner of the city of Conneaut (Ashtabula County). The creek's westward orientation nearly parallels the Lake Erie shore for roughly 20 miles. In Kingsville Township, just west of Conneaut, the creek completes a 180-degree U-turn to the north and east, thus beginning an eastward flow for its final 13-mile approach toward Lake Erie. The Conneaut Creek Watershed drains only 38 square miles (24,128 acres) in extreme northeast Ohio.

The banks of the Conneaut were once home to the Erie Indians, who inhabited the area from about 900 A.D. to the 1650s. Between 1653 and 1657, the Eries were attacked and destroyed by a westward moving Iroquois tribe. Even though the Erie have not occupied the area in over 350 years, remnant vestiges of their culture remain. The Conneaut Works is an earthwork fortification, Erie village and burial ground located on a high bluff above the Conneaut Creek south of the city of Conneaut. It is located on a two-acre plot of private property and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Despite strong Erie ties to the area, the name "Conneaut" is from the Seneca Indians, who called the river "Konyiat," meaning either "place of many fish" or "where snow lays in spring."

The Conneaut Creek ranges in width from 15 feet to 40 feet. The creek navigates well-defined bedrock shale banks. The majority of the watershed's topography consists of glacially-derived features such as ground moraines, end moraines and former beach ridges. The creek is generally shallow, but does afford canoeing and kayaking through May and after heavy rain. The bottom of the Conneaut Creek is composed of Chagrin shale and gravel, which provides minimal suspended sediment resulting in a high quality and clear stream. The Conneaut is recognized nationally for its steelhead fishing (stocked from both Ohio and Pennsylvania).

In 2005, twenty-one miles of the Conneaut Creek were designated a State Scenic River. Over sixteen of those miles, between Creek Road and the state line are also designated a State Wild River. The Conneaut Creek is one of only three Wild Rivers in Ohio, which is a designation for the highest quality streams.

Three covered bridges cross the Conneaut Creek, including the Creek Road, Middle Road and State Road bridges.



Ashtabula Transient Docks

Location:
Bridge Street (SR 531)
and Morton Drive

Waterbody:
Ashtabula River

River Mile Location:
Between RM 0
and RM 1

Jurisdiction:
Ashtabula, OH

County:
Ashtabula

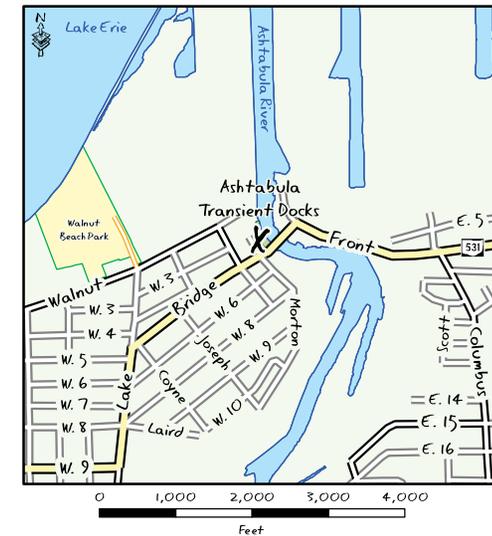
Latitude:
N 41° 54.03'

Longitude:
W 080° 47.91'

Access Site Type:
Recreation

Date Visited:

Location Map:



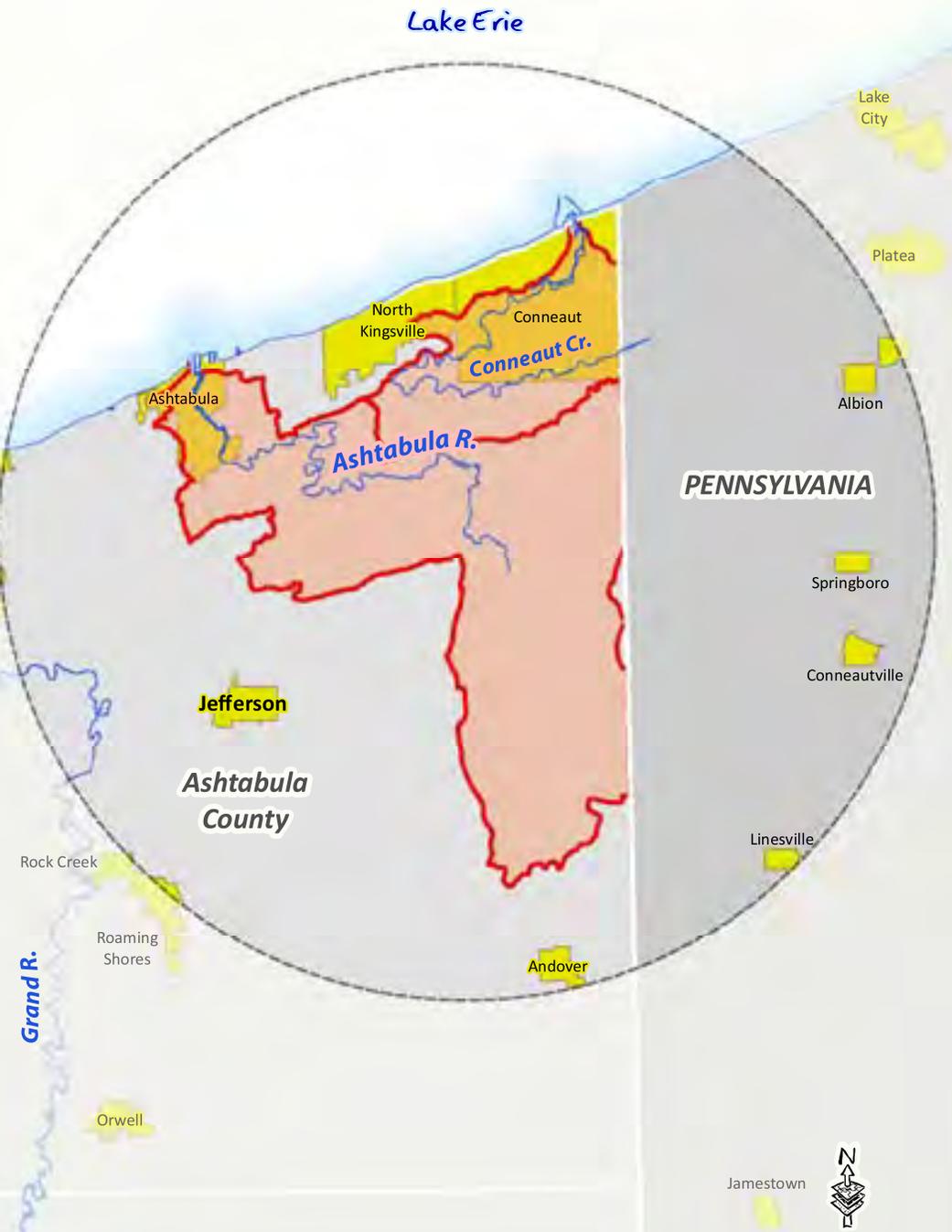
Amenities:



The Ashtabula Transient Docks are located on the west bank of the Ashtabula River next to the Ashtabula Harbor Lift Bridge. Built in 1925, this single-leaf bascule-style lift bridge is the only one of its kind in Ohio, and one of just five in the entire country.

Learn More:
Ashtabula City Port Authority
www.ashtabulacityport.com

Field Notes:



Ashtabula River & Conneaut Creek Watersheds Incorporated Areas 5 Miles



Benetka Road Covered Bridge

Woodworth Road Public Boat Ramp

Location:

Benetka Road, between Plymouth Ridge and Plymouth Gageville roads

Waterbody:

Ashtabula River

River Mile Location:

At RM 19

Jurisdiction:

Sheffield Township, OH

County:

Ashtabula

Latitude:

N 41° 50.92'

Longitude:

W 080° 41.32'

Access Site Type:

Scenic

Date Visited:

Location Map:



Amenities:



Learn More:
ODNR Division of Wildlife
www.ohiodnr.com/wildlife

Field Notes:

Location:
Woodworth Road, north of Old Main Street

Waterbody:
Conneaut Creek

River Mile Location:
Between RM 1 and RM 2

Jurisdiction:
Conneaut, OH

County:
Ashtabula

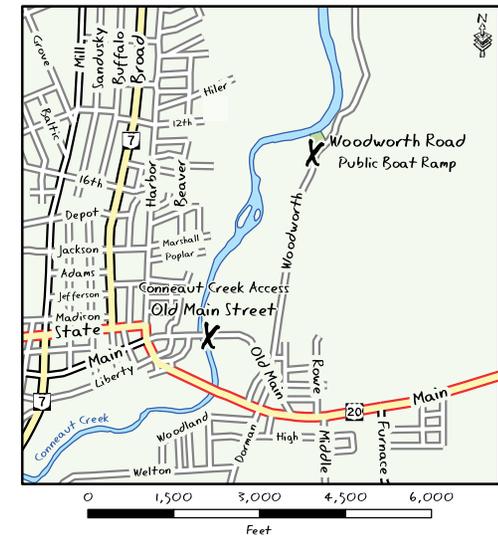
Latitude:
N 41° 57.14'

Longitude:
W 080° 32.6'

Access Site Type:
Recreation

Date Visited:

Location Map:



Amenities:



Learn More:
City of Conneaut
www.conneautohio.gov

Field Notes:



Conneaut Creek Access at Old Main Street

Location:
Old Main Street, west of Woodworth Road

Waterbody:
Conneaut Creek

River Mile Location:
Between RM 2 and RM 3

Jurisdiction:
Conneaut, OH

County:
Ashtabula

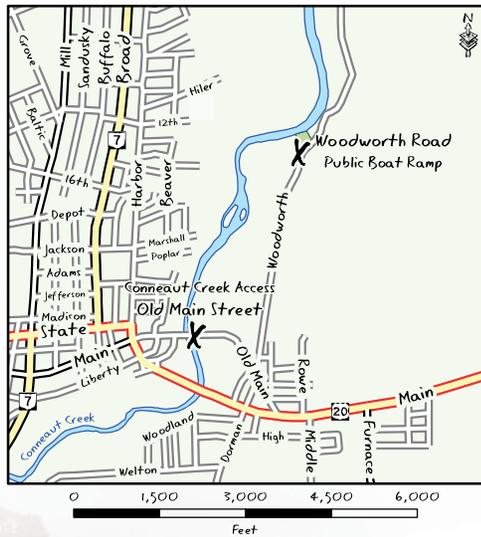
Latitude:
N 41° 56.62'

Longitude:
W 080° 33.01'

Access Site Type:
Recreation

Date Visited:

Location Map:



Amenities:



Learn More:
City of Conneaut
www.conneautohio.gov

Field Notes:



Conneaut Creek Access at Center Road

Location:
Center Road, south of East Main Street (US 20)

Waterbody:
Conneaut Creek

River Mile Location:
Between RM 4 and RM 5

Jurisdiction:
Conneaut, OH

County:
Ashtabula

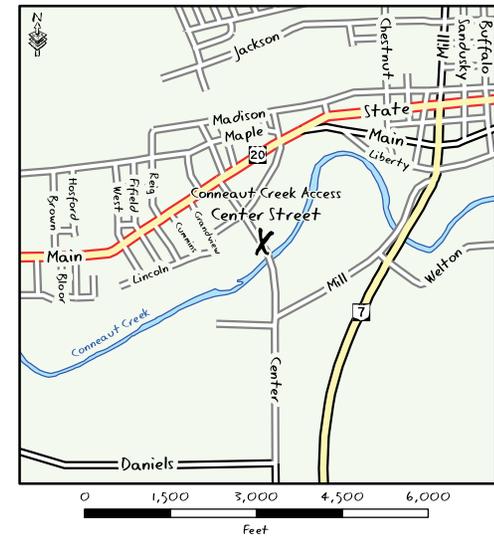
Latitude:
N 41° 56.23'

Longitude:
W 080° 34.33'

Access Site Type:
Recreation

Date Visited:

Location Map:



Amenities:



Learn More:
City of Conneaut
www.conneautohio.gov

Field Notes:



Creek Road Covered Bridge

Location:
Creek Road, west of
Keefus Road

Waterbody:
Conneaut Creek

**River Mile
Location:**
Between RM 7
and RM 8

Jurisdiction:
Conneaut, OH

County:
Ashtabula

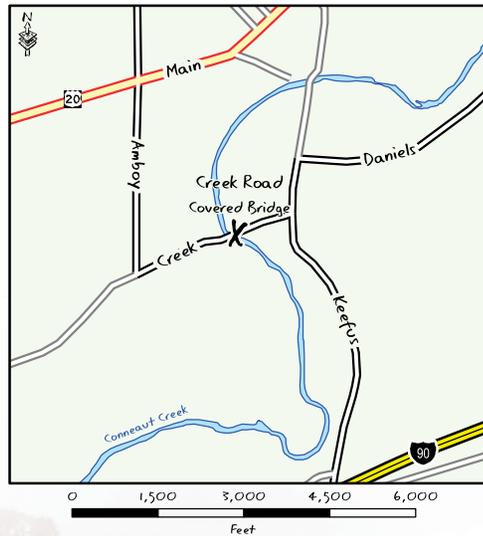
Latitude:
N 41° 55.17'

Longitude:
W 080° 36.56'

**Access
Site Type:**
Scenic

Date Visited:

Location Map:



Amenities:



Learn More:

City of Conneaut
www.conneautohio.gov

Field Notes:



State Road Covered Bridge

Location:
State Road, north of
Hatches Corners Road

Waterbody:
Conneaut Creek

**River Mile
Location:**
Between RM 17 and
RM 18

Jurisdiction:
Monroe Township, OH

County:
Ashtabula

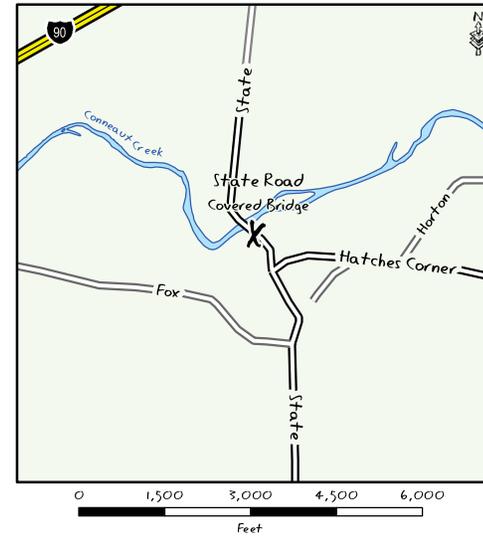
Latitude:
N 41° 53.18'

Longitude:
W 080° 37.22'

**Access
Site Type:**
Scenic

Date Visited:

Location Map:



Amenities:



Learn More:

City of Conneaut
www.conneautohio.gov

Field Notes:
