

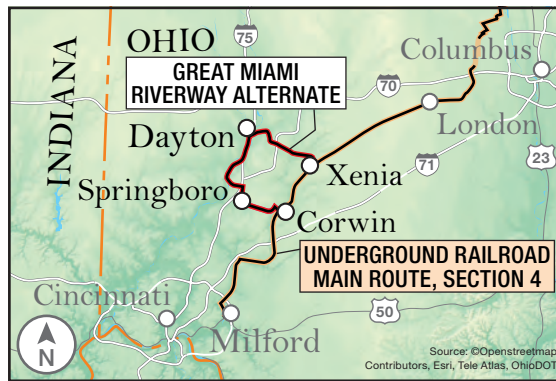


# UNDERGROUND RAILROAD

Bicycle Route

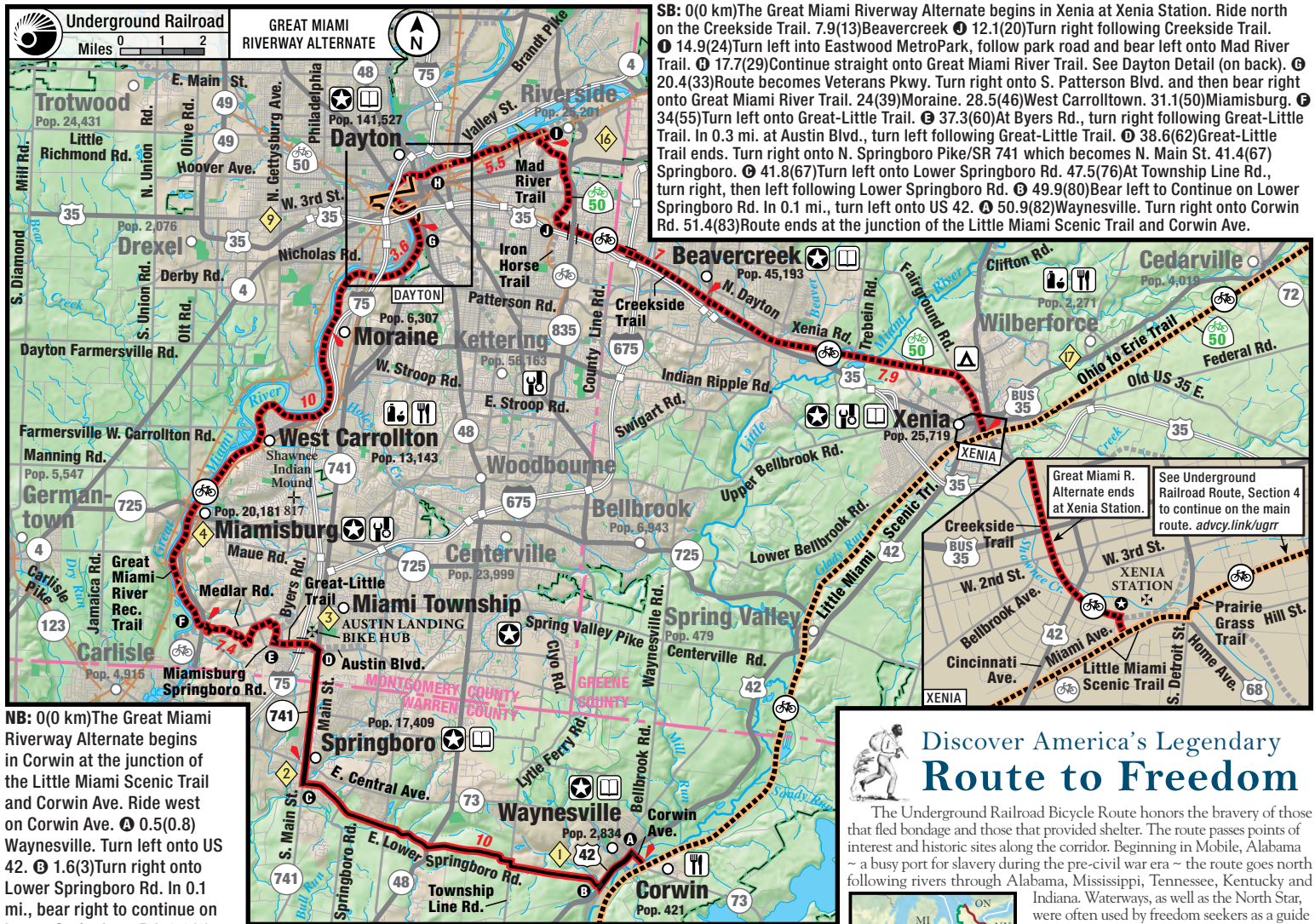
## GREAT MIAMI Riverway Alternate

Corwin, OH to Xenia, OH  
51.4 Miles



- |                   |             |                   |
|-------------------|-------------|-------------------|
| Restaurant        | Motel/Hotel | Summit            |
| Grocery           | Bike Shop   | Point of Interest |
| Convenience Store | Library     | Contour           |
| Post Office       | Campground  | State Border      |
| All Service       | Railroad    | County Border     |
- Towns with this symbol include a Restaurant, Post Office, Lodging, Grocery and/or Convenience Store. Lodging may be a hotel/motel or B&B.
- Urban Gov./Edu

- On Route**
- Interstate 15
  - Limited Access
  - Federal Highway 10
  - Primary Road
  - State Highway 19
  - Secondary Road
  - County or Forest Road 20
  - Gravel Road
  - Bike Path
  - Other Road (Surface/Ownership Unknown)
  - U.S. Bicycle Route 76
  - City Center
  - Route Change
  - Miles Btwn. Points
  - Matchline
  - River
  - Small River
  - Lake
  - Creek
  - Stream



## Discover America's Legendary Route to Freedom

The Underground Railroad Bicycle Route honors the bravery of those that fled bondage and those that provided shelter. The route passes points of interest and historic sites along the corridor. Beginning in Mobile, Alabama ~ a busy port for slavery during the pre-civil war era ~ the route goes north following rivers through Alabama, Mississippi, Tennessee, Kentucky and Indiana. Waterways, as well as the North Star, were often used by freedom seekers as a guide in their journeys to freedom. Upon crossing into Ohio, the route leaves the river to head inland toward Lake Erie and enters Canada at the Peace Bridge near Buffalo. In Ontario, the route circumvents the shores of Lake Ontario. Both the main route and Detroit Alternate terminate in Owen Sound, Ontario, known for its Annual Emancipation Day Festival held the first weekend of August since 1843

Learn more about the Underground Railroad Bicycle Route and Adventure Cycling Association at [advcy.link/ugrr](http://advcy.link/ugrr)





- 1 Museum at the Friends Home 513-897-1607, 115 S. 4th St., Waynesville. Quaker village founded in 1796 includes large historic district including buildings associated with the UGRR.
- 2 Springboro Area Historical Society Museum 937-748-0916, 110 S. Main St., Springboro. Historic District includes a number of structures associated with UGRR conductors and holds more documented safe houses than any other place in Ohio including the Jonathan Wright House, now a B&B, 937-748-0801.
- 3 Wright B Flyer Museum 937-885-2327, 10550 N. Springboro Pike (SR 741), Miami Township. Museum houses flying replica of 1910 Wright "B" Flyer, the world's first production aircraft.
- 4 Heritage Village 937-859-5000, 147 Lock St., Miamisburg. A collection of historic buildings including the Daniel Gebhart Tavern which opened in 1811 to support boatman and pioneers and the Jacob Kercher home from 1809.
- 5 Carillon Historical Park 937-293-2841, 1000 Carillon Blvd., Dayton. Original 1905 Wright Flyer, the only plane designated a National Historic Landmark and much more.
- 6 Woodland Cemetery and Arboretum 937-228-3221, 118 Woodland Ave. (access off Brown St.), Dayton. Site of Civil War Memorial and abolitionist Marcus Junius Parrot and John Harries gravesites.
- 7 Dayton Aviation Heritage National Historical Park 937-225-7705, 16 S. Williams St., Dayton. Includes Wright Bike Shop, Paul Laurence Dunbar house and the Hoover Block which published the Dayton Tattler written by Dunbar and published by the Wright Brothers.
- 8 Paul Laurence Dunbar House 937-224-7061, 219 N. Paul Laurence Dunbar St., Dayton. Parents' were freed slaves with folklore that Paul Laurence Dunbar's Father used the UGRR and was a member of the 55th Massachusetts' Infantry.
- 9 Dayton National Cemetery 937-268-2221, 4400 W. Third St., Dayton. Established in 1867, site of Civil War Memorial and three Civil War Medal of Honor recipients.
- 10 Dayton International Peace Museum 937-227-3223, 208 W. Monument, Dayton. Exhibits related to trafficking of humans in modern times.
- 11 Old Courthouse 937-333-4300, 301 W. Third St., Dayton. Where Abraham Lincoln made one of his speeches condemning slavery in fall 1859 that helped lead to his nomination for President.
- 12 Oldest Building in Dayton 120 N. St. Clair St., Dayton. The sixth property owner was Samuel Brady, an abolitionist many years before the American Civil War and an active worker on the Underground Railroad. Building denotes a high water mark from the Great Flood of 1913.
- 13 Great Miami River and Miami & Erie Canal 937-275-7275, RiverScape MetroPark 237 E. Monument Ave., Dayton. Used as a "corridor of flight" leading freedom seekers north.
- 14 Dayton Inventors River Walk 937-275-7275, RiverScape MetroPark, 237 E. Monument Ave., Dayton. Highlights inventions and innovations of Dayton at seven outdoor stations.
- 15 Dayton Peace Accord Monument 937-275-7275, Home to the Peace Pole Monument recognizing the 1995 Dayton Peace Accords that brought peace to Bosnia-Herzegovina.
- 16 National Museum of the US Air Force 937-255-3286, 1100 Spaatz St., Wright-Patterson AFB. Highlights US Aviation history with over 360 aircraft on display on 17 acres of indoor space.
- 17 Charles Young Buffalo Soldiers National Monument 937-503-5614, 1120 US 42, Xenia. Honoring the African American colonel who served as a commissioned career officer in the U.S. Army and the African American soldiers who served in numerous U.S. conflicts.

## SERVICE DIRECTORY

### OHIO (Area Code 513)

State Highway Patrol #677

**Corwin** (pop. 421; R(open weekends in summer).

**Waynesville** (45068): pop. 2,834; all services.

Emergency: 911; Police 897-8010; Sheriff 695-1280.

Lodging: Creekwood Motel, 401 S. Main St., 897-1000.

Library: Mary L. Cook Public, 381 Old Stage Rd., 897-4826.

### (Area Code 937)

**Springboro** (45066): pop. 17,409; all services.

Emergency: 911; Police 748-0611; Hospital 748-4211.

Lodging: (1)Hampton Inn, 25 Greenwood Ln., 743-2121; (2)Econo Lodge, 251 Conover Dr., 746-3627; (3)Wright House B&B, 80 W. State St., 748-0801.

Library: Springboro City, 125 Park Ln., 748-3200. Service Stop: Fix-it station and bike supply vending machine, 320 S. Main St. Fix-it station 510 N. Main St.

**Miami Township** (45342): pop. 50,735; all services.

Emergency: 911; Police 433-2301.

Lodging: (1)Hilton Garden Inn, 12000 Innovation Dr., 247-5850; (2)Staybridge Suites, 10110 Landing Way, 535-2222.

Service Stop: Austin Landing Bike Hub, 10400 Innovation Dr. fix-it station, covered bike parking, lockers.

**Miamisburg** (45342): pop. 20,181; all services.

Emergency: 911; Police 866-6600; Sheriff 376-5111; Hospital 702-4000.

Bike Shop: The Bike Way Bike Shop, 21 S. Main St., 384-0337.

Library: Dayton Metro, 545 E. Linden Ave., 463-2665.

Lodging: English Manor B&B, 505 E. Linden Ave., 866-2288.

**West Carrollton** (45449): pop. 13,143; CS,R.

**Moraine** (45439): pop. 6,307; no services.

**Dayton** (45401): pop. 141,527; all services.

Emergency: 911; Police 333-2677; Hospital 208-8000.

Bike Shops: (1)Wright Stop Bike Shop, 12 S. Main St., 425-8136; (2)Kettering Bike Shop, 3120 Wilmington Pike, Kettering, 293-5413; (3) K&G Bike Center, 4090 Marshall Rd., Kettering, 294-6895.

Library: Main Branch, 215 E. 3rd St., 463-2665.

Lodging: (1)Dayton Grand Hotel, 11 S. Ludlow St., 461-4700; (2)Inn Port Guesthouse B&B, 139 Brown St., 224-7678.

**Beavercreek** (45432): pop. 45,193; all services.

Emergency: 911; Police 426-1225; Sheriff 376-5111; Hospital 702-4000.

Bike Shop: Faast Cycles, 3888 Dayton-Xenia Rd., 306-8666.

Library: Beavercreek Community, 3618 Dayton-Xenia Rd., 352-4001.

Lodging: (1)Microtel Inn & Suites by Wyndham Riverside, 4500 Linden Ave., 252-9700; (2)Springhill Suites Dayton Beavercreek, 2663 Fairfield Commons Dr., 429-9090.

Camping: Greene County Fairgrounds, from junction of route and Little Miami Scenic Trail, off route 0.1 mi. N. on Little Miami Scenic Trail, then 0.1 mi. E. on Fairground Rd., 372-8621.

**Xenia** (45385): pop. 25,719; all services.

Emergency: 911; Police 372-9901; Hospital 352-2000.

Bike Shops: (1)Surf N Cycle, 150 S. Detroit St., 376-7873; (2)K&G Bike Center, 594 N. Detroit St., 372-2555.

Library: Xenia Community, 76 E. Market St., 352-4000.

Lodging: (1)Ramada Xenia, 300 Xenia Towne Square, 372-9921; (2)Deerfield Inn, 600 Little Main St., 347-1333; (3)Victoria's B&B, 209 E. 2nd St., 374-1202.

**Wilberforce** (45384): pop. 2,271; CS,R; off route 0.9 mi. on the Wilberforce Switch bike trail.

## Thank you for your support



## Adventure Cycling Association

Adventure Cycling Association is a national, member-supported, non-profit bicycling organization. Our mission is to inspire and empower people to travel by bicycle.

The Adventure Cycling Route Network encompasses almost 47,000 miles of bicycle route maps. These easy-to-read maps provide information on riding conditions, services, weather, and local history. For a full listing of all the routes, visit our website: [www.adventurecycling.org/routes](http://www.adventurecycling.org/routes).

Adventure Cycling member benefits include: 9 issues of *Adventure Cyclist* magazine and many online resources, guided tours, and discounts on maps. Member support also enables us to advocate for better bike-travel conditions throughout North America.

For more information visit [www.adventurecycling.org](http://www.adventurecycling.org), call 1-800-755-2453, or email: [info@adventurecycling.org](mailto:info@adventurecycling.org).

# FIELD NOTES

## Route Overview

The Great Miami Riverway Alternate (GMRA) provides travelers the opportunity to experience the rich history of Warren, Montgomery, and Greene Counties by traveling through quaint communities and along the urban riverfront of Dayton, an *Outside Magazine* Best Town. You'll discover hidden nuggets of fascinating facts around every bend. You'll travel from Corwin and Waynesville through Springboro on road before transitioning to off-street paved trails for the remainder of the route through Miamisburg, Dayton and on to Xenia. Miamisburg is also proud to be the Sister City to Owen Sound, Ontario; the northern terminus of the Underground Railroad Bicycle Route (UGRR).

The GMRA will lead you over rolling hills and through river valleys while traveling predominantly on dedicated paved trails. The Miami Valley is the home of the Nation's Largest Paved Trail Network where you can experience over 340 miles of connected trails ([miamivalleytrails.org](http://miamivalleytrails.org)). Dayton is among several bicycle friendly communities and is steeped in tradition with a solid outdoor recreation scene including paddling hot spots such as the RiverScape River Run and the Mad River which are both along the route tucked among several of Five Rivers MetroParks and other public land.

This growing scene has earned Dayton the title of "*The Outdoor Adventure Capital of the Midwest!*". Check it out at [outdoordayton.com](http://outdoordayton.com), more on the Great Miami Riverway at [greatmiamiriverway.com](http://greatmiamiriverway.com).

While long distance cyclists on the UGRR have a 51 mile alternate route to experience the rich history along the GMRA; local cyclists can experience a weekend tour by choosing to loop back to their starting point using the Little Miami Scenic Trail to create a 65 mile mini-tour with B&B and camping opportunities at several places along the route.

In addition to the UGRR and GMRA, the region is at the crossroads of several long distance cycling options including the Ohio to Erie Trail and Adventure Cycling's Chicago to New York City (CNYC) route along with U.S. Bicycle Route 50 and 25.

## The Waterways Leading to Freedom

The Great Miami River and the Miami Erie Canal transported goods supporting the farming, mining, and other industries developing in Southwest Ohio in the 19th century but it also carried more than supplies and traveling passengers on their way to see family and friends; it is believed vessels traveling these routes also carried slaves traveling to freedom via the Underground Railroad.

Both the Great Miami River and remnant of the Miami Erie Canal lead into Dayton, Ohio; a town known for many inventions including the first plane, the first cash register, and the soda can pop tab, as well as some local history tied to the Underground Railroad. One such runaway slave that may have used the Underground Railroad to reach Dayton is Paul Laurence Dunbar's father, who also served in the famous Massachusetts's 55th Infantry during the Civil War. The emancipation of slaves after the Civil War paved the way for Dunbar to become the first nationally-recognized African American Poet. During his short lifetime, Dunbar would write poems for esteemed magazines like *The New York Times* and *Harper's Weekly*, as well as publish twelve books of poetry, four novels, four books of short stories, and lyrics to popular songs. The house he bought for his mother still stands and is part of the Dayton Aviation Heritage National Historical Park.

The Dayton Aviation Heritage National Historical Park also is home to the Wright Cycle Company Building, Hoover Block, Huffman Prairie Flying Field, the 1905 Wright Flyer III, and Hawthorn Hill. The Wright Cycle Company Building is the only building remaining of the Wright Brothers prior bicycle shop business before they invented the airplane. Hoover Block showcases the Wright & Wright, Job Printers location that published the *Dayton Tattler*, which was written in Dunbar's early days as a writer

specifically for the African American population in Dayton.

The first plane to fly, the 1905 Wright Flyer III, is located at Carillon Historical Park. It is the only plane to be recognized as a National Historical Landmark. Carillon Historical Park gets its name from the Carillon tower in the middle of the park, which has a set of bells hanging in the top of the tower and played much like a piano roll. Carillon Park is also home to Dayton History and preserves over three million artifacts and thirty historic landmarks.

One such of these landmarks is the Old Courthouse in downtown Dayton. Seven US presidents, including Abraham Lincoln, campaigned here during their bids for presidency. Another place of interest is the oldest building still standing in downtown Dayton (120 N. Clair St.). This building survived the Great 1913 Flood and still stands where it was originally built. There is a placard on the side of the building to indicate where the water crested during the Great Flood. Before the flood though, Samuel Brady, the homeowner during the Civil War, used his home to assist slaves escaping slavery from the South via the Underground Railroad. You can see the stark difference in architecture between homes built in the 1800s to the stylized condos next to the building now.

Another abolitionist that lived in the area was John Harries, an Englishman Brewery owner in downtown Dayton, was also an abolitionist and helped many escaped slaves using the Underground Railroad. Although his building does not exist anymore, his grave can be found at the Woodland Cemetery. Additionally, Marcus Junius Parrott is buried in the Woodland Cemetery. Parrott served in the Ohio State House of Representatives as an abolitionist and he was instrumental in making sure Kansas achieved statehood as a slave-free state just as the Civil War was beginning in 1861.

## Between an Ocean and a Glacier: The Geology of the Miami Valley

As you connect to the Great Miami River Trail via the Great-Little Trail, you'll see that the Miami Valley has many flat landscapes, but it also has rolling hills and steep valleys. The landscape that you will climb and descend was created by two different geologic time periods in Ohio's history.

The bedrock for most of the land between Dayton and Cincinnati was formed during the Ordovician period, 505-408 million years ago, one of the warmest time periods in Earth's history. During this time, the Miami Valley was more like a tropical sea you'd find somewhere in the Caribbean. Large hurricanes regularly swept the region, causing the sediment stirred up from the storm to settle to the bottom and capped by a layer of mud. This happened numerous times as the continent slowly drifted northward to its current location, creating over nine hundred feet of coarse, fossiliferous limestone and shale. The largest exposed Ordovician rock layer in the world is located in the Miami Valley. After the Ordovician, a big section of what is now the Midwest was uplifted, creating what is called the Cincinnati Arch. This uplifted land was subject to the forces of erosion, and over time the raised area was washed away. This resulted in much older rock being found at the surface, and a complete absence of the younger rock layers.

As the Earth entered the Ice Age about two and a half million years ago, great continental glaciers formed and spread over the region. There have been at least four continental glaciers that have covered the Miami Valley and retreated back to Canada. As the glaciers retreated they left behind piles of gravel and sand creating the hills you are biking through today. Their torrents of melting water also created gorges and filled in ancient river valleys with sand and gravel.

The Great Miami River, named after the Miami Native American Tribe that used to live in the area, winds southward to connect to the Ohio River and is a major asset for outdoor recreation enthusiasts, both in the water and on the trail you are biking on. After an incredibly harsh, cold winter in 1913 a major storm hit the Miami Valley and caused the Great Flood of 1913. As you stand at the Inventors Walk in Riverscape MetroPark in downtown Dayton, you can look across Monument Ave. to a building where a blue wave is painted, symbolic of where the water levels reached in Dayton during the flood. In the aftermath of the flood, the Miami Conservancy District was created and five earthen dams and a levee system were built around the region to prevent another catastrophic flood.

