

Lower Muskingum Conservancy

is a local non-profit land trust dedicated to protecting and conserving natural areas in the lower Muskingum watershed. We have properties in Morgan and Washington Counties; if you enjoyed your visit to Luke Chute Conservation area, consider visiting another of our properties.

Barbara A. Beiser Field Station: located approximately 6 miles east of Marietta on the Little Muskingum River, Beiser Field Station has 3 miles of hiking trails. Parking is available in a small lot off County Road 333 (Kelsey Lane).

Dana Island Preserve: located on Gravel Pit Road outside of Waterford, the preserve has a short flat hike back to a pond surrounded in summer by a field of wildflowers.

Walnut Hills: located close to the heart of Marietta, adjacent to the Marietta Middle School, the trails tie in with ones owned by the city and are popular with hikers and mountain bikers alike.

In addition to the properties above, LMC hold conservation easements on properties as well. If you are interested in protecting your land from future development or subdivision, contact us to learn more about conservation easements.

For more information, visit the Lower Muskingum Conservancy website: www.muskingumriver.org or look for us on Facebook.



Luke Chute Conservation Area

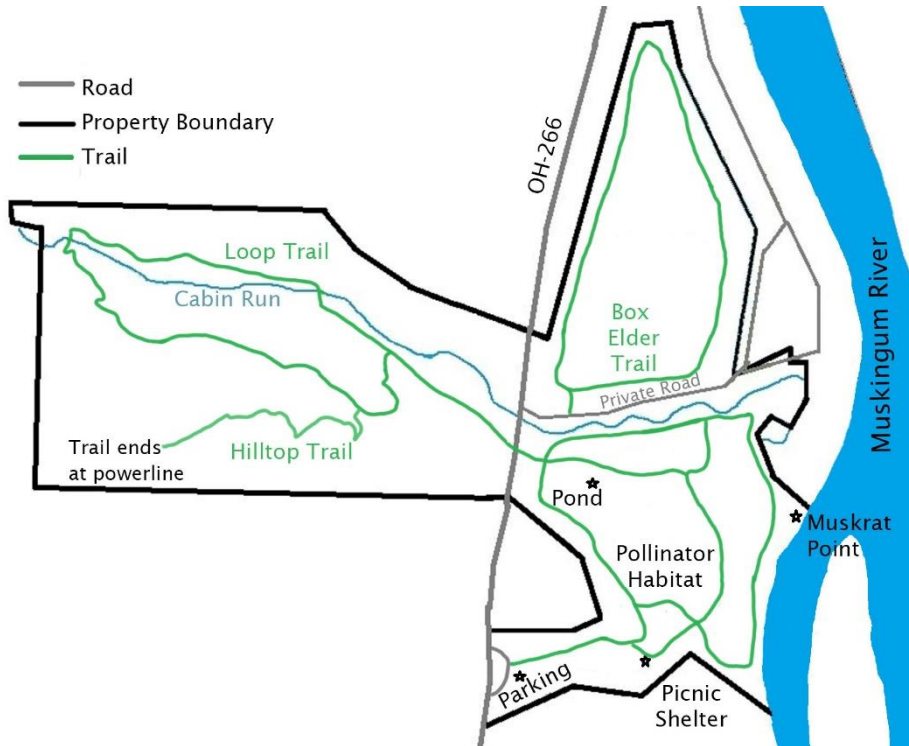
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This 60 acre tract was acquired with funding from the
Clean Ohio Conservation Fund
(31 acres in 2006; 29-acre Cabin Run addition in 2010)

Improvements and amenities provided by American Chestnut Foundation, Ohio Division of Natural Resources, Pheasants Forever, American Electric Power, and LMC members and volunteers.

Lower Muskingum Conservancy Luke Chute Conservation Area



The Luke Chute Conservation Area is open to the public. The walking trails are for foot travel only. Please leave only footprints!

Please be careful when crossing or walking along the road.

Walking distances:

- Parking area to Muskrat Point (one way) – 0.4 mile
- Entire perimeter pollinator loop trail – 1.4 miles
- Cabin Run loop trail – 1 mile, steep in places
- Hilltop trail – 0.5 miles to powerline and back to Loop Trail
- Box elder trail is currently planned but not completed

Luke Chute Conservation Area Special Features

Picnic shelter:

From May to September, Lower Muskingum Conservancy has a potluck picnic on the fourth Thursday of each month at 6pm. The public is invited. Please bring your own tableware and a dish to share.

Pollinator habitat:

In 2017, with help from the Ohio Pollinator Habitat Initiative, roughly 7 acres in the middle of the Conservation Area was planted with warm season grasses and wildflowers to provide food and shelter for bees, wasps, butterflies, and other insects that are important pollinators for many plants, including commercial crops. Enjoy a stroll through the pollinator habitat or along the perimeter following the river and Cabin Run. Benches are placed along the perimeter trail so you can sit and enjoy nature.

Spadefoot Toads:

The eastern spadefoot toad is listed as an endangered species in Ohio. We have constructed a small pond for the re-introduction of these toads in the Conservation Area.

Turtles:

At Muskrat Point and south along the river bank, a large population of softshell turtles, snapping turtles, and other species frequently can be seen basking in the sun. They lay their eggs in holes they dig in the sandy bank, then carefully cover them.

Volunteers:

LMC depends on volunteers. No one gets paid. We are doing something we truly believe in – protecting undeveloped land for the sake of the environment and for future generations to enjoy. We need more volunteers in many different capacities, including making and maintain the trails, building bridges and benches, and much more.

For more information about the Conservation Area or to find out how you can help, please call Doug Albaugh at 740-984-8201.