



## River Access on the Little Scioto Ohio Hanging Rock Expansion

1 acre    Project Cost & Current Balance: \$16,000    Check online for updates

The Arc of Appalachia's 750-acre Ohio Hanging Rock Preserve is located in northeastern Scioto County, near Minford, Ohio. The preserve's landscape is characterized by large isolated hilltops, twisting ridges, steep-sided ravines, and exposed rock outcrops. To enable visitors to experience the preserve's rugged beauty, the Arc of Appalachia has already completed the installation of trailhead parking lots, and, over this coming winter, we will be building one of the longest collection of trails in our entire preserve system.

The house-sized blocks of broken sandstone bedrock found at Ohio Hanging Rock are remnants of what was once the rocky shoreline of an ice age glacial lake named Lake Tight. This lake was created when the Teays River, which flowed northwest across Ohio, was blocked to the north by the ice shelf of a continental glacier that was one mile thick.

Lake Tight was enormous. It inundated parts of present-day Kentucky, Ohio, and West Virginia and covered an estimated 9,920 square miles. To put that in perspective, present day Lake Erie covers roughly 9,940 square miles. Eventually Lake Tight's ice and earthen dam

was breached at the western end of the lake, and waters spilled westward into new drainage channels. The Teays River ceased to exist, as did Lake Tight. Since that time countless centuries of rain, weathering, and erosion have created the Ohio River Valley that we know today.

The Ohio Hanging Rock Preserve is a premier natural area with an impressive diversity of trees, spring wildflowers, ferns, and wildlife. The deep layer of clay that was deposited on the floor of Lake Tight still clings to the lower elevations of the preserve's hills, contributing to the region's propensity to form seasonal wetlands. This in turn supports rich amphibian life. The preserve boasts many waterways, protecting over 8 miles of streams within its boundaries. The headwater streams in the preserve - Skull Creek, Chase Run, and Emmett Hollow - feed Frederick Creek which in turn drains into the Little Scioto River.

At 41.3 miles long and draining a 232.6 square mile area, the Little Scioto River is a beautiful but largely overlooked watershed. This 1-acre tract located immediately on the Little Scioto will provide the Arc's first access to the river. This entry point will enable Arc staff and volunteers



*Photo above:* Tranquil view of the Little Scioto River from the new river access property.

*Photo below:* A glimpse of the breath-taking rock formations of Ohio Hanging Rock Preserve.

to perform stream quality studies, helping the Arc to gain more familiarity with this often overlooked watershed.

The tract may be small in size, but it is memorably attractive, with its towering yellow buckeyes and a dense stand of bamboo cane at river's edge. Paired with the trail development at Ohio Hanging Rock, the preserve has the potential makings of another outstanding visitor destination!



*Photo above:* On the bluff across Bennett Schoolhouse Road, Rose-shell Azaleas, a state listed plant, look down from their lofty perch.

