

A Paddler's Guide to

OHIO BRUSH CREEK



Illustration by Elijah Wickerham

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Note to the Reader

This guide is designed to help guide new and experienced paddlers alike through the exciting waters of Ohio Brush Creek. This guide includes general instructions on paddling, as well as more specific information about Ohio Brush Creek.

The information in the beginning may be old news to more experienced paddlers. If you are already well versed in paddling, you may want to start on page 9.

In this guide when I mention canoe, I am referring to a C2 (two person canoe), and when I mention kayak, I am referring to a K1 (one person kayak). The rules are more or less the same for a C1 or a K2. Just use your head.

It is recommended that you do not paddle Ohio Brush Creek unless you are experienced in paddling or have an experienced paddler with you. If you are interested in learning more about paddling, many state parks have programs that will teach you the basics.

The water of Ohio Brush Creek is property of the state of Ohio, but the land under and around it is not. If you venture onto the shoreline, you may encounter private property. Be careful not to trespass. Plan your trip so that you do not have to cut across private land to get in and out of Ohio Brush Creek.

Note that this guide is only a reference, and should be used in conjunction with common sense.

For any questions call Bill Wickerham of Adams Soil and Water Conservation District at (937)544-1010 or email him at wickerham.adams.swcd@live.com Monday through Friday from 8am to 4:30pm.

Safety

Safety is very important to keep in mind while paddling. One should always wear a PFD, personal floatation device, when he or she or is on the water. PFDs make sure that if you lose consciousness, you can stay afloat and not meet a watery end. Be sure to find a life jacket that fits you well, and put it on correctly. You legally must have a PFD for each person with you on the boat. Anyone under 10 years old must be wearing a PFD. Regardless of the law, you should be wearing one if you value your life.

Strainers are obstructions in the creek that allow water to pass through, while stopping the paddler. The force of the water passing through can pin a paddler underwater, even if they have a lifejacket on. Although strainers are uncommon and usually easy to avoid, they can still be dangerous, so watch out for them.

Temperature is a big factor. Even if the air temperature feels fairly warm, the water could be a different story. A rule of thumb is, if the air temperature and water temperature added together are less than 100°F, you are at risk for hypothermia. It is a good idea to bring a fire starting kit in case you fall in and are in danger of hypothermia. Appropriate clothing such as neoprene or polyester is extremely valuable for keeping yourself dry and warm.

Water Level is another factor. When the water level is too high, the creek is totally different from low levels. High water paddling is dangerous. If you want to stay dry at any water level, your best bet is good balance. Keeping your weight low in the vessel lowers the center of gravity, making your boat less tippy. For an online reading of the water level gauge, click [here](#).

Motor boats should also be noted. Below the Beasley Fork access, you run the risk of encountering the wake from motor boats. It is important to be aware of your visibility to other boats, especially if you decide to venture out into the Ohio River.

Remember that many areas of the creek might not have cell phone reception. It is important to plan out your trip beforehand and make the necessary communications. Tell someone before you set out to paddle so they know to look for you if you don't come back. It is a good idea to paddle with at least one other person in case any issues arise. You should also bring a whistle with you. It can help you signal to other boats or people on land in case of emergency.

Several dangers of canoeing come from outside of the water. Be sure to avoid any and all poison ivy. If you aren't sure, then just stay away from it. Stinging nettles are another possibility. As you can tell by their name, they don't feel very nice. Be sure to wear proper shoes, as it is all too easy to stab, smash, sting, or slice your toes with trash, rocks, plants, or bugs.



Poison Ivy

Note the sets of three leaves and jagged margins.



Stinging Nettle

Note the small stinging hairs on the leaves and stem.

Not all threats come from underneath and to your sides. Look up, and you'll see the cause of the most common injury on Ohio Brush Creek. Sunburn is an often ignored danger, but it is arguably the danger you are most likely to encounter. You should apply a generous helping of sunscreen to all areas that are susceptible to being burned.

After crawling out of the creek at the end of your float, it is important to be sure your vessel is properly secured. The last

thing you need is your canoe or kayak flying through the cab of your truck when you stop at the next deer crossing.

Packing

As you paddle, you will quickly learn what you need and what you do not. Phones, keys, wallets, and other valuable items take up residence in the bottom of the creek far too often. Even if an item is waterproof, when it sinks to the bottom, you will not be finding it. Dry bags are important to keep your items dry, and off the creekbed. Stash your loot in the bag and only take it out when you need it. Bug spray is a must for anyone who doesn't like being bitten by bugs. A wide brimmed hat and sunglasses are essential for retaining unburned skin and 20/20 vision.

How to Paddle

In order to traverse the twists and turns of Ohio Brush Creek, one must be able to, well, twist and turn. Steering is the most engaging part of paddling, due in part to the fact that you need to steer the whole time. In a canoe, the person in front is in charge of power, while the person in the back is in charge of steering the boat. Use this information when deciding who sits where. Think about the placement like a ship rudder. The back

has more steering power. Steering is controlled through a variety of strokes.

- A draw stroke can pull your boat straight to the side.
- A pry stroke pushes your boat away.
- A “J” stroke is more difficult to use, but it provides power without changing the trajectory. It is more useful when kayaking. Speaking of kayaking...

In a kayak, the responsibility of power and steering are in the hands of one person. This means that a kayaker will be doing a little more work, but won't have to deal with another person.

While getting in and out of the boat, it is important to maintain three points of contact with the boat. This practice ensures that you stay dry and safe. Additionally, you should wait until the boat is in the water to board it. The additional weight pushing against the ground could damage the bottom of your boat. Before entering the water, it is good practice to tie a painter to each end of the boat. Painters are short ropes used to handle the boat when it gets into sticky situations, like when the water is too shallow to float or if it gets pushed up against a strainer.

Locations and Destinations

Swirl Hole

The swirl hole is located on the sharp bend of the stretch between Fawcett Rd. bridge and the SR 348 bridge. The topography of the river bed in conjunction with the curvature of the creek's flow creates a slow-moving swirl where the water is constantly spinning. The current is slow enough on most days that, unless the water is high, you won't notice the swirling from a boat.

Serpent Mound

Serpent Mound is a historical Native American Effigy Mound in the shape of a snake. It is 1348 feet long and stands as a monument to human artistry across time. Serpent Mound is world-famous and well worth the short trip if you are planning on paddling Ohio Brush Creek. Admission is free, but there is a parking fee. The entrance can be found just down the road from where SR 73 crosses Brush Creek. The address is 3850 OH-73, Peebles, OH 45660. For more information visit arcofappalachia.org.

Creek's Bend

Creek's Bend is a site by the side of the creek with a deck overlooking the water, a picnic shelter, a portapotty, lots of

parking, and plenty of tables to eat lunch. A hiking trail, owned by the Edge of Appalachia, extends from the other side of the road into the woods if you are in the mood for a hike. The trail leads up to Flood's Point, a rock ledge overlooking the beautiful valley. This site also has a good put-in (pg. 40). It is located at 3223 Waggoner Riffle RD West Union, OH 45693.

Edge of Appalachia Nature Preserve

There are numerous hiking trails and public areas near Ohio Brush Creek. Many of them are part of the Edge of Appalachia Nature Preserve. Click [here](#) for more information.

Cedar Mills Grist Mill

The Cedar Mills Grist Mill is the remains of a grist mill in Cedar Mills. The remaining chimney is a smokestack from when the mill was converted to steam in 1866. It is near the SR 348 put-in (pg. 36) and worth checking out. This area has recently been revamped, with a new wooden fence, small deck, plaque, and bench.

While You're Here...

If you need food, lodging, or other similar information, check out the Adams County Travel and Visitors Bureau website for lots of information about what's what around here.

<http://adamscountytravel.org/>

Wildlife

Birds

Great Blue Heron
Eagle
Belted Kingfisher
Wood duck
Canadian Geese
Osprey

Wild Turkey
Barn Owl
Bobwhite
Eastern-
Meadowlark
Warblers

Vireos
Chuck-Will's-Widow
Blue Grosbeak
Henslow's Sparrow
Black Vulture

Fish

Smallmouth Bass
Largemouth Bass
Spotted Bass
Channel Catfish
Flathead Catfish
White Bass

Sunfish
Rock Bass
Longnose Gar
Sheepshead Sauger
Hybrid Striper
Carp

White Crappie
Bluegill
Smallmouth-
Buffalo Fish

Mammals

Beaver	Coyote	Voles
Otter	Muskrat	Shrews
Deer	Black Bear	
Bobcat	Moles	

Reptiles and Amphibians

Northern Water-Snake	Black King Snake
Queen Snake	Green Salamander
Eastern Box Turtle	Cave Salamander
	Frogs

Mollusks

Crawfish and Mussels

Due to poaching and poor water quality, some freshwater mussels are now endangered. The continued existence of freshwater mussels in Ohio Brush Creek is a testament to the creek's excellent water quality. Although it may seem tempting to bring home a shell, taking mussel shells from the Ohio Brush Creek is illegal.

Planning Your Trip

There are a few things you should take note of while planning your trip.

- Time

As a rule of thumb, you will be paddling at about 1 mph, so check the length of your stretch. Your rate could vary depending on experience, weather conditions, water level, group size, etc. Remember to allow for extra time just in case you run into anything unexpected.

- Difficulty

There is no shame in starting small. The last thing you want is to be completely exhausted with 3 miles to the next take-out. Know your own ability and plan accordingly. Also consider where you are getting in and out of the creek. Some access points are significantly better than others. The Twin Bridges and SR 125 Bridge Access both have convenient stairways down to the water. The Creek's Bend Access is also very nice, and has wonderful amenities.

- Transportation

You will need a way to get yourself and your boat to the creek, and a way to get out. The put-in and take-out point are obviously two different places, so it is useful to have an extra person to shuttle you from the take-out.

- Food

Canoe trips tend to take a while. Do you plan to eat on the water? Will you go out to eat somewhere? You should plan accordingly before it's too late.

- Time of Year

When will your trip be? The ideal window of opportunity is April through June. Before April, the water is likely too cold. After June, the water level could be too low. It is possible at any time of the year that a heavy rain could drastically change the water level overnight. It is best not to paddle if this is the case because the water will be turbid and more dangerous. You may be unable to see obstacles underneath the water.

- Leave No Trace

Ohio Brush Creek has remarkably clean water, and many people work hard to keep it that way. The problem is, with more traffic on the creek, more trash ends up in the water. Don't be part of the problem. Make sure you take all of your trash out with you. It is good to bring supplies that don't create much waste in the first place. You could even pick up after those before you. Do your part to keep Brush Creek beautiful.

Water Level

The best route to take depends on a number of things, like the current water level and your experience level. As you travel north, the water level tends to get lower and lower. Eventually, it becomes too shallow to paddle. Time of year is another huge factor in water levels. In spring the water is nice and high, but as the summer progresses, the water level lowers. Heed the water level so that you are paddling and not taking a wet hike with canoes.

There is a water level gauge on the decommissioned 348 bridge at the Twin Bridges put-in. This is a great resource for planning your trip. Just remember that it is not accurate for the entire creek, and the further upstream you travel, the lower the water level will be. It is only a general guide. For the ideal paddling trip, the gauge should read between 2.5 ft and 3.5 ft. Anything below 2.5 ft will cause you to drag your boat. Anything above 3.5 could be risky. Click [here](#) for the gauge reading.

List of Access Points

- ❖ Williamson Road Bridge
- ❖ Heron Road Bridge
- ❖ Elmville Bridge
- ❖ Serpent Mound
- ❖ Marble Furnace
- ❖ Fristoe Bridge/Rt 41 Bridge (Jacktown)
- ❖ SR 41 Fawcett Road (Sproull Bridge)
- ❖ 348/Twin Bridges
- ❖ 125 Bridge/Waggoner-Riffle
- ❖ Creek's Bend
- ❖ Beasley Fork
- ❖ Mackenzie Run*
- ❖ Brush Creek Campground and Marina

*Not shown in the map below. See page 45 for more details.



Put In Points

Put_In_Points	Names
1	Williams Rd Bridge
2	Heron Rd Bridge
3	Elmvill Rd Bridge
4	SR 73 Bridge
5	Marble Furnace Bridge
6	SR 41 Bridge (Jacktown)
7	Fawcett Rd Bridge
8	SR 348 (Twin Bridges)
9	SR 348 (SR 125 Bridge)
10	Waggoner Riffle (Creeks Bend)
11	Beasley Fork Bridge
12	Brush Creek Camp Grounds (US Rte 52)
A	Ohio Brush Creek Island (Point of Interest)

Reference Locations of Creeks

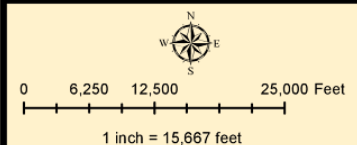
Referen	Name
C1	Baker Fork
C2	Crooked Creek
C3	Little E Fork Ohio Brush Creek
C4	Shimer Run
C4	West Fork Ohio Brush Creek
C5	Lick Fork
C6	Cedar Run
C7	Beasley Fork
C8	Blacks Run
C9	Mackenzie Run

Legend
 ▲ CreekReferences
 — RoadCenterlines
 □ PutInBrushCreek
 — Streams

NOTE: THIS APPRAISAL MAP
 IS FOR TAX PURPOSES ONLY.
 IT IS NOT INTENDED FOR
 CONVEYANCES, NOR IS IT
 A LEGAL SURVEY.

PREPARED FOR:
 COUNTY AUDITOR'S OFFICE
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 ADAMS COUNTY ENGINEER



Recommended Floats

Below are a few segments from experienced Brush Creek paddlers detailing their recommended floats. If you are having trouble figuring out which stretch is right for you, this section should help.

Bob and Sylvia Lieb

Our favorite trip on Ohio Brush Creek begins at the public put-in at Serpent Mound on State Route 73 and takes out at Turners, right under the Marble Furnace bridge. Enjoy the float but use caution and do not attempt a high water run as strainers (downed trees that block the stream) are common.

Despite your desire to get underway and head on downstream, be sure to go upstream just a bit to take in the glory of the limestone boulders and cliffs under Serpent Mound. The Columbine wildflowers cling to the boulders if your float occurs during the Spring.

Continue to head downstream under the RT 73 bridge. After about three miles you will come to a red cabin that's on Stoney Rd. At that point you will swing north and actually head back north for about a half mile. This is the start of Brush Creek Bend which has two loops and is about two miles long before you head south again. There is an old pick up truck on the right bank which washed into the creek in the '97 flood.

After the creek turns south again, there's a stretch where the bank is collapsing and strainers are likely. Portaging on the right bank is usually not too difficult but boaters have had trouble there, so take care. I spoke with one group that feared they'd lose people from their party when one of their canoes got

tangled in the branches of a strainer. They were so affected by the event that they carved a memorial into the trunk of the tree there to mark the spot. After that, the float is generally mostly clear of blockages.

The creek is really beautiful here - rock ledges with banks of wild phlox and wild trillium flowers. You will find lots of ducks, great blue herons, and if you're lucky, an occasional eagle sitting.

The creek has several good stretches of fast running water, and at certain levels, I would even say the wildest points could be classified as level-one rapids, which are always fun but a bit risky.

The take-out is on the right bank just above the Marble Furnace Bridge. This trip can take anywhere from 2 1/2 hours to 6 hours depending on flow. Happy boating!

Dan Wickerham

My favorite trip on the Ohio Brush Creek starts at the Fristoe Bridge public access on State Route 41 and goes to the State Route 348 access. It is about 11 miles in length. This is a good trip if you have most of the day to paddle. This is the middle section of the creek and is mostly remote. You will only pass under one bridge nearer the beginning of the trip, so you need to make sure you are up for a lot of paddling. It takes you under a Great Blue Heron Rookery. Great Blue Herons are impressive birds that nest in a common area known as a Rookery. They make their nests high in trees overlooking water. If you approach quietly, you can drift through the Rookery and see the Herons sitting on their nests. This trip also takes you through an area known as the swirl hole. When Brush Creek was formed, it was eroding a channel through softer rock when it struck a harder material. You will notice the type of rock is different at this point and an abrupt change in direction in the flow of the creek. You will also notice a shallow rock bottom just before the swirl hole, and a sudden dropoff to an unknown depth. At normal levels, the water makes a large and lazy eddy at this point. Check out the parallel

cracks in the rock bottom of the creek leading into the swirl. There are several nice gravel bars to eat lunch or to explore, including a really nice one on river right at the swirl hole.

The put-in has ample parking but the trail down to the creek is rather steep. For this reason, it works better as a put-in than a take-out. Parking at the Route 348 take-out is less defined, but adequate due to a lightly traveled and unusually wide township road. From the creek, the take-out is unmistakable because of the “double bridges”. The first bridge is the current route 348 bridge and the second bridge is the original decommissioned steel truss bridge built in the 1800’s. There is a concrete and railroad tie path between the bridges on the river left that leads to the parking area at the take-out. Although it is a bit steep, it is short and well designed. Incidentally, the pool of water under the bridges is an excellent place to work on paddling skills if you do not have time for a trip and a shuttle. The single USGS gauge for the Ohio Brush Creek is on the second bridge, and therefore is very relevant to the water level in this section. In general, this trip is best in the early spring when water levels are above 2.5 feet. Lower levels will require getting out of your craft at several riffles and will greatly increase the length of time necessary to complete this trip, perhaps beyond one day. Outside of finding yourself behind schedule, the greatest safety concern in this section is a few outside bends that tend to erode and drop strainers across the creek. These of course can be portaged around as long as you recognize the danger.

Martin McAllister

State Route 348 (“Twin Bridges”) to Creek’s Bend Overlook

River miles: 5.5

Shuttle miles: 5 (via SR 348 and Waggoner Riffle Road)

Paddle time: 2.5 – 3 hours

This section of Ohio Brush Creek is one of the most popular due to ease of access. Ample roadside parking and concrete steps down the creekbank make

launching at the State Route 348 crossing (or at the mid-way point at State Route 125) easy and safe. This is also the location of the only river gauge on Ohio Brush Creek. Ideal water levels for novice and intermediate paddlers is 2.5' at the gauge or about 100 cubic feet per second. This information can be accessed online at waterdata.usgs.gov.

This stretch of Ohio Brush Creek follows the western flank of the Edge of Appalachia Preserve System, a 20,000-acre nature preserve owned and jointly managed by The Nature Conservancy and the Cincinnati Museum Center. It is characterized by long pools from a few to several feet deep, interspersed with occasional shallow riffles. Even at times of low water in summer, these riffles are easily passable with short drags of lightly laden canoes or kayaks. The hydromorphology here is heavily influenced by the fact that the lower valley of Ohio Brush Creek contains a great deal of glacial outwash consisting of sand, gravel and cobble washing south from the glacial boundary a few miles north. Highly erodible soils and active agriculture results in turbid water conditions at times of high-flow, but during normal flow, the water conditions are often quite clear. Another interesting feature will slip by unseen as a paddlers drift past Buzzardroost Rock, a high, rocky promontory about a mile south of State Route 125. Obscured by trees, this feature is accessible only by a trailhead located near the village of Lynx, just east on State Route 125.

The loss of tree cover in some areas combined with unconsolidated substrate results in some slumping of the creek banks which can produce sweepers and strainers even when there has been no recent flood event. Use caution when rounding a bend and "expect the unexpected." One upside to this slumping is the presence of nesting bank swallows and belted kingfishers. Both species excavate earthen nests in these bare, nearly vertical embankments. At the State Route 348 and 125 bridge crossings, also watch for the very interesting mud nests of cliff swallows carefully plastered to the undersides of the bridges, safe from nearly all predators. About a mile below State Route 125 watch for nesting great blue herons in the tall sycamore trees along the banks. These tall wading birds nest communally and build large nests of twigs and small branches high in the tree-tops.

Ohio Brush Creek has a wide diversity of freshwater mussels consisting of 27 different species, some of which are listed as rare or endangered in Ohio, including the yellow sandshell. Freshwater mussels, including the shells of dead specimens, are protected by law and may not be collected. Enjoy them in their natural setting and leave them for others to discover.

Tom Cross, author of “Fishing Ohio: An Angler’s Guide to Over 200 Fishing Spots in the Buckeye State” has fished Ohio Brush Creek often. When asked about this section of the stream, Tom said “Anglers will find a variety of game fish species in the stretch of water from SR348 Bridge to The Nature Conservancy’s Creek’s Bend take-out on Waggoner Riffle Rd. Smallmouth bass, while they dominate species in the upper watershed, begin to give away to more spotted bass and largemouth bass. Channel Catfish are still prevalent but a few more flathead catfish will start to show up as you float closer to the river. South of the SR 125 Bridge to the Beasley Fork Bridge is some of the best white bass fishing you’ll ever encounter come late April.”

As paddlers approach the Creek’s Bend access point, a sign high on the left bank reminds paddlers of the take-out, a brushy gravel bar on river-left. If this point is missed, the next crossing is Beasley Fork Road two miles further down; however, the banks there are very steep and muddy, making access there much more difficult. At Creek’s Bend, visitors will find parking, a picnic shelter, preserve information, a port-a-jon and potable water available. Cell service is nearly non-existent on this stretch except for occasional spotty service north of State Route 125.

Williamson Road Bridge

Description: The road leading up to the put-in is only gravel and is full of very large potholes. If you start up-stream from this, watch out for this bridge. You don't want to ram into it. There is also a bridge at the next access point so watch out for that. This is not a thru road. The bridge is far too dilapidated to cross with a vehicle. Boat launch is a short walk to the right of the road. This is a popular swimming and fishing spot so you may be sharing the parking at times. The road runs parallel to the creek, so make sure you drive to the bridge. You don't want to cut across private property.

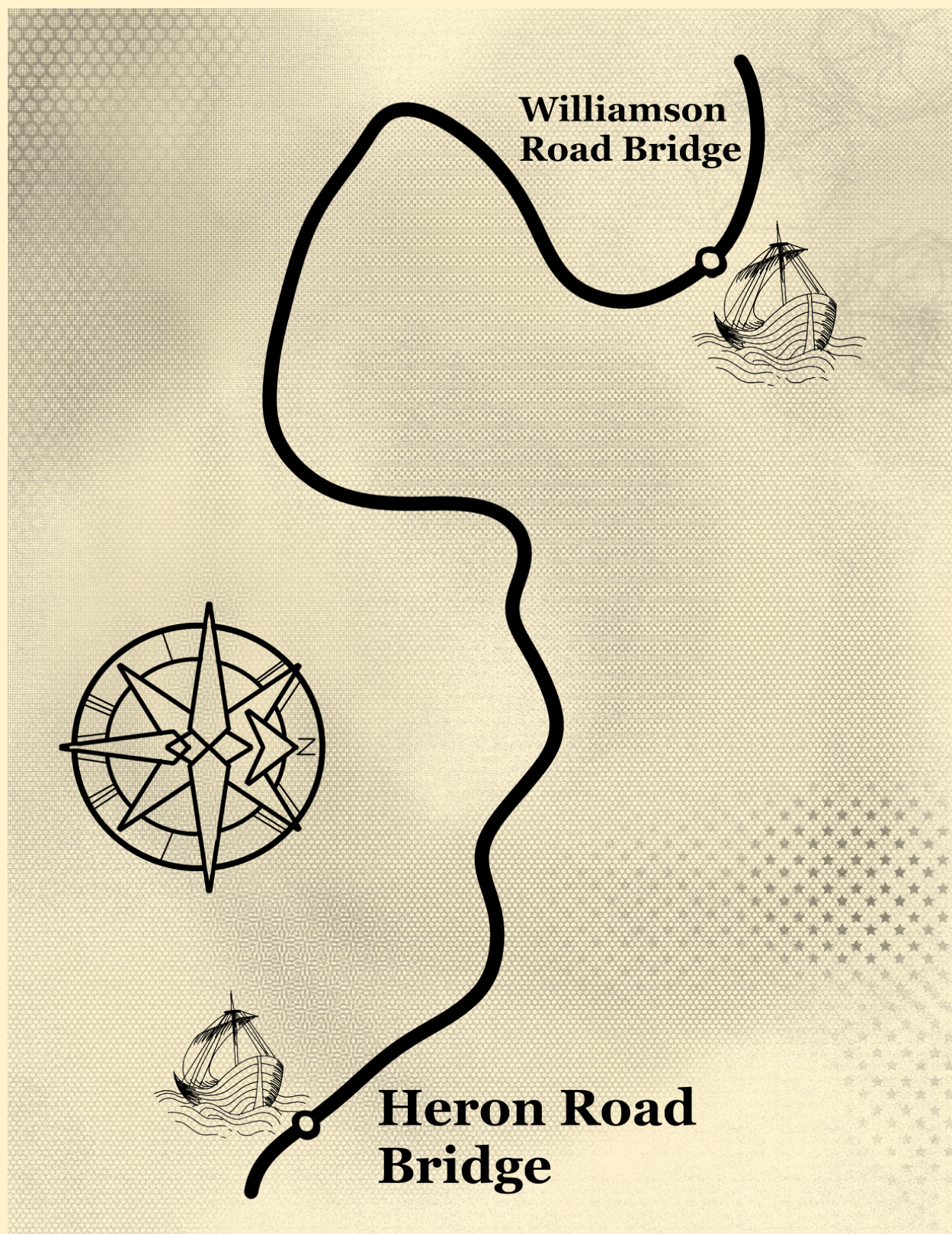


Depth: Very Shallow

Distance to next Access Point:
2.75 miles

Parking: Roadside. There is room for a few cars. Trailers may have difficulty turning around.

Coordinates: 39.038 -83.476



Heron Road Bridge

Description: Watch out for this bridge if you are coming from upstream. Launching is easy because of a large gravel bar.



Depth: Very Shallow

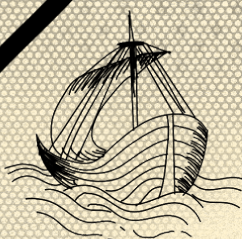
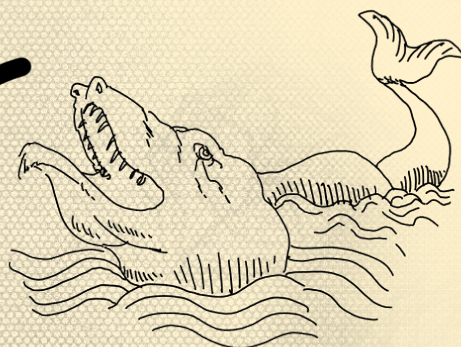
Distance to next Access Point:

1 mile

Parking: Very limited, tight turnaround

Coordinates: 39.030 -83.455

Heron Road Bridge



Elmville Bridge

Elmville Bridge

Description: This is a functional put-in, but it is not your best option. The way down is pretty steep and it is fairly inconvenient. If you traveled from upstream and are really tired of paddling, this could work as a take-out. However, it serves as a better put-in because of its incline. The best use for this put-in is seeing the rock walls just upstream from Serpent Mound, as this places you right upstream from them.



Depth: Shallow

Distance to next Access Point: 1.1 miles

Parking: Roadside, extremely tight. The southwest corner has the best parking. You can fit two cars at most. Watch the steep drop-off obscured by weeds. If you aren't careful you could drive off the ledge into the creek!

Coordinates: 39.032 -83.441

Attractions: The Serpent Mound Rock Walls. This stretch features a stunning view of rock walls right beside the creek. They are one of my favorite sights on the creek.



Serpent Mound

Description: When you travel further north of Brush Creek, you encounter some beautiful rock faces and gorgeous trees. The serpent mound stretch of Brush Creek is a great stretch for nature lovers. The main issue with the northern stretches is water level. You have to hit it at just the right time of year or else you might be carrying your canoe down the creek. At this point the water begins to get deeper and the creek also becomes more interesting. A short paddle upstream will bring you to the rock faces. The path from parking to creek is a steep gully, which is difficult to use if muddy, so be careful. The area near this put-in has large pools of water, so it is good to use if you want to paddle around instead of paddling a full stretch. This is a better put-in than take-out, but it will work for either fine.



Depth: Shallow

Distance to next Access Point:

6.5 miles

Parking: A bit past the northwestern corner of the bridge there is a small road leading into a field. Turn right into the grass before the field. Parking may be muddy when wet. Try to leave room for other paddlers to get by your vehicle.

Coordinates: 39.024 -83.436

Attractions: Serpent Mound.

Serpent Mound is right next to this access point. It is a major landmark of Ohio and an important historical sight.

Serpent Mound



Marble Furnace



Marble Furnace

Description: The path down on the northwestern corner is a bit sketchy. It drops off a fair bit, but it could be used. This would be a much better put-in than take-out, but it would work for emergency takeouts. This is not a great access but it is functional. This access point is not recommended for any use other than emergencies because it is so inconvenient.



Depth: Shallow

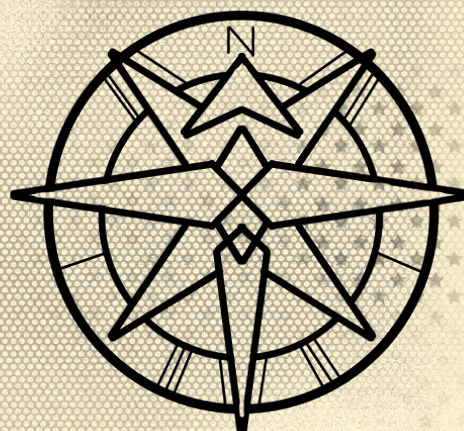
Distance to next Access Point:

10.3 miles

Parking: Very tight roadside parking on the northern and southern corners.

Coordinates: 38.974 -83.428

Marble Furnace



Fristoe Bridge

Fristoe Bridge/Rt 41

Description: This is an excellent access point. The path down is a little tricky, but it leads to a really interesting pool under the bridge. If you look to the bank near the bridge, you will find the remains of an old stone abutment. Watch the creek during high water. Although the creek may appear to go right, the actual path is left. Here is where the water really starts to get deeper. This is approaching the slack water portion of the creek, but it is not quite there yet.



Depth: Medium

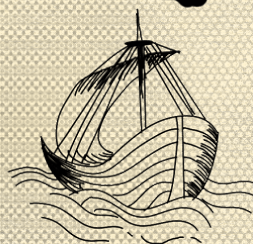
Distance to next Access Point:
2.6 miles

Parking: Ample parking. Features a parking lot

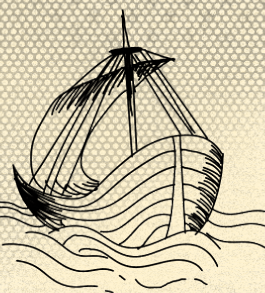
Coordinates: 38.894 -83.453

Attractions: Cliff swallow nests on the underside of the bridge

Fristoe Bridge



Fawcett O



Fawcett Road Bridge

Description: The trail goes down from the southeastern corner of the bridge. The bank is steep, but the trail isn't too long. The creek splits in two directions. Make sure you go left or else you will end up on Lick Fork. This makes a convenient access point with a nice path down to the water. This is the stretch of the creek that contains the famous swirl hole.



Depth: Medium

Distance to next Access Point:
8.5 miles

Parking: Roadside. You can fit two cars on each side of the northeastern and southeastern corners of the bridge.

Coordinates: 38.869 -83.460

Attractions: Swirl Hole



348 Bridge/Twin-Bridge

Description: This put-in is very nice. This and the 125 access point were totally overhauled in 2017. They feature wonderful sets of stairs down to the water for easy access. These put-ins were made with the help of a \$15,000 grant from ODNR.

This is a great beginner stretch, with simple paddling and a short run. For additional time on the water, you can paddle past the 125 bridge and go down to Creek's Bend. The full stretch is a bit more of a challenge, so just be sure you know your limit.



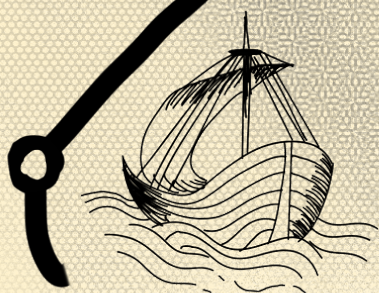
Depth: Medium

Distance to next Access Point:
3.3 miles

Parking: Ample parking at bridge

Coordinates: 38.804 -83.421

SR 348 Bridge



SR 125 Bridge

125 Bridge/Waggoner-Riffle

Description: This is another excellent stretch for beginner paddlers. It isn't too long, but it gives you a great taste of what Brushcreek is all about. Also, it takes you right to Creek's Bend, where you can have a picnic and look out over the creek. Just be sure you don't overshoot your take-out, since it can be easy to miss. Keep an eye out on your left for railing at the top of the bank with a sign. The take-out is on the shoreline on a rockbank. The wall of the creek should have a large eroded area before you arrive.



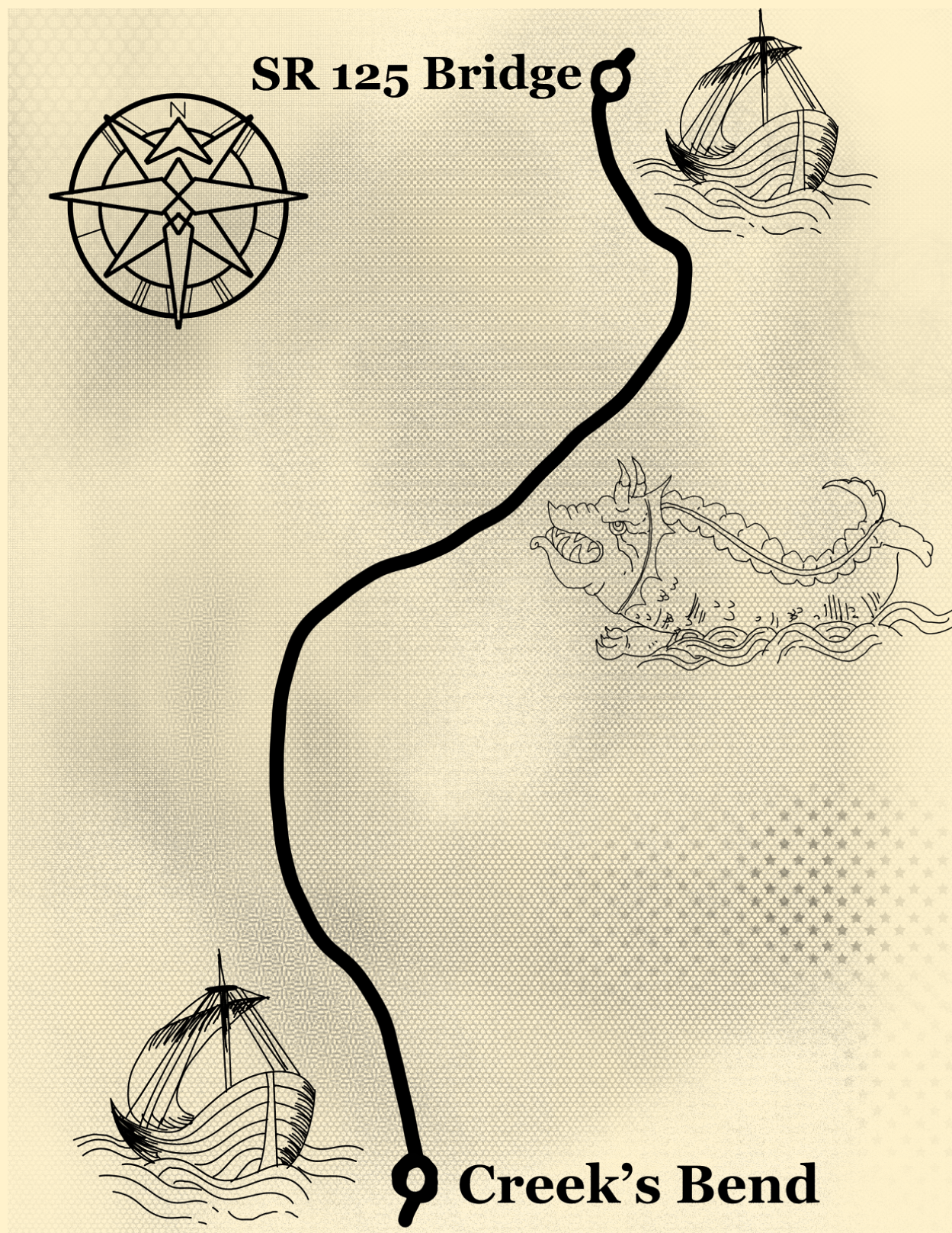
Depth: Medium

Distance to next Access Point:
2.8 miles

Parking: Good parking. Enough for several vehicles, should serve your needs.

Coordinates: 38.780 -83.453

Attractions: Several large boulders sticking up from the water that fell from the ridgeline sometime in the distant past. The dichotomy of the environment the boulder came from and the one it is currently in creates an entirely unique miniature ecosystem.



Creek's Bend

Description: This access has interesting stonework and a sheltered area perfect for picnics. Amenities include picnic tables and a porta potty. There is a small garden area showing off the unique range of plants that are able to grow in the area. There is a wooden deck that overlooks the water, so you can watch the creek roll by. If you aren't afraid to tire yourself out before paddling, there is a nature trail going up the hill just across the road. To the side of the building there is a small botanical garden showing off some of the plants of Adams County.



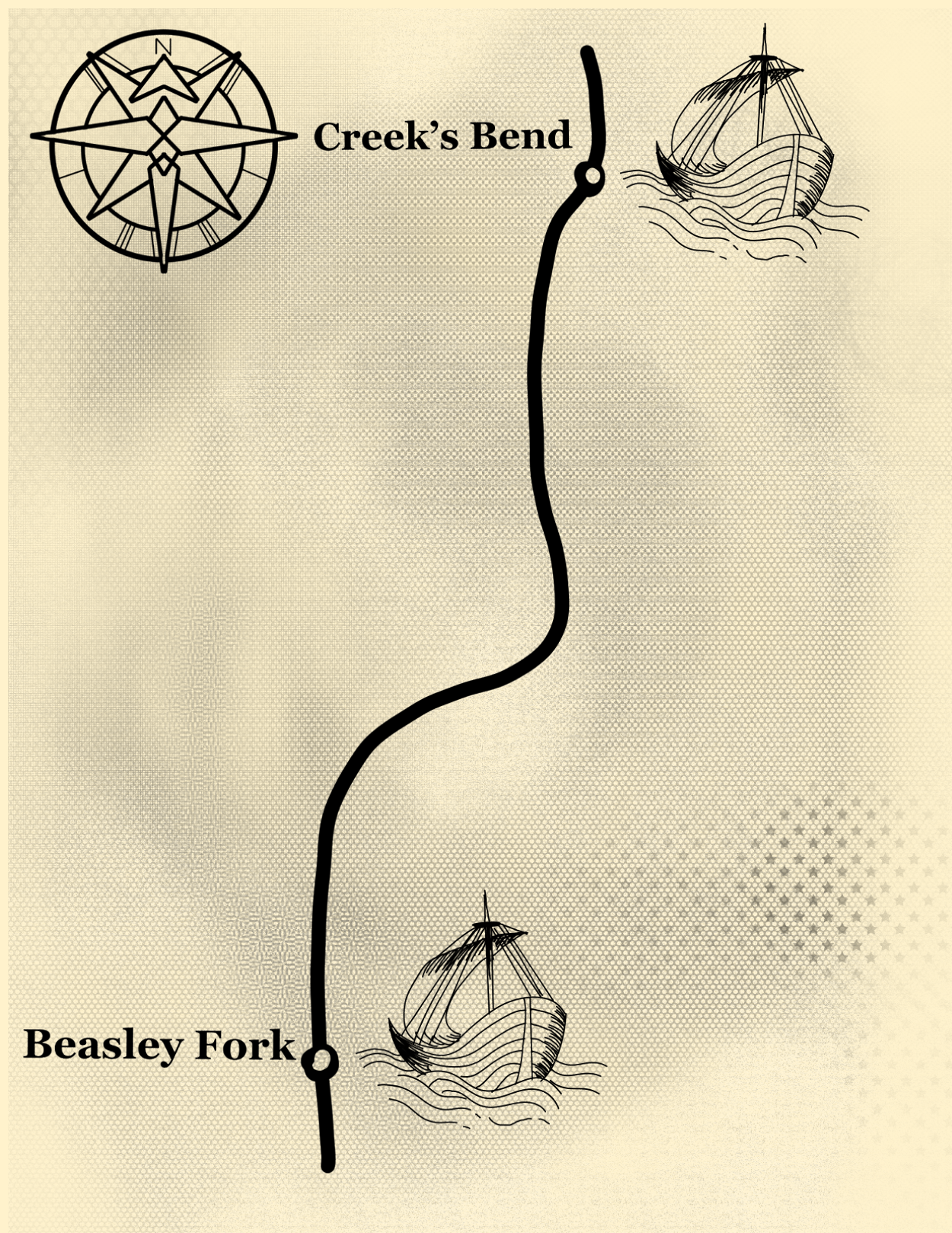
Depth: Deep

Distance to next Access Point:
0.9 miles

Parking: Great, plenty of parking and a real parking lot.

Coordinates: 38.749 -83.464

Attractions: Tables, portapotty, deck overlooking creek, and a hiking trail



Beasley Fork

Description: The trail goes down on the southwestern corner. This put-in is fairly close to the Ohio River but it is very hard to use. Lined with poison ivy, the trail is overgrown and steep. One could theoretically put in here, but practically speaking, it should only be used for emergencies.

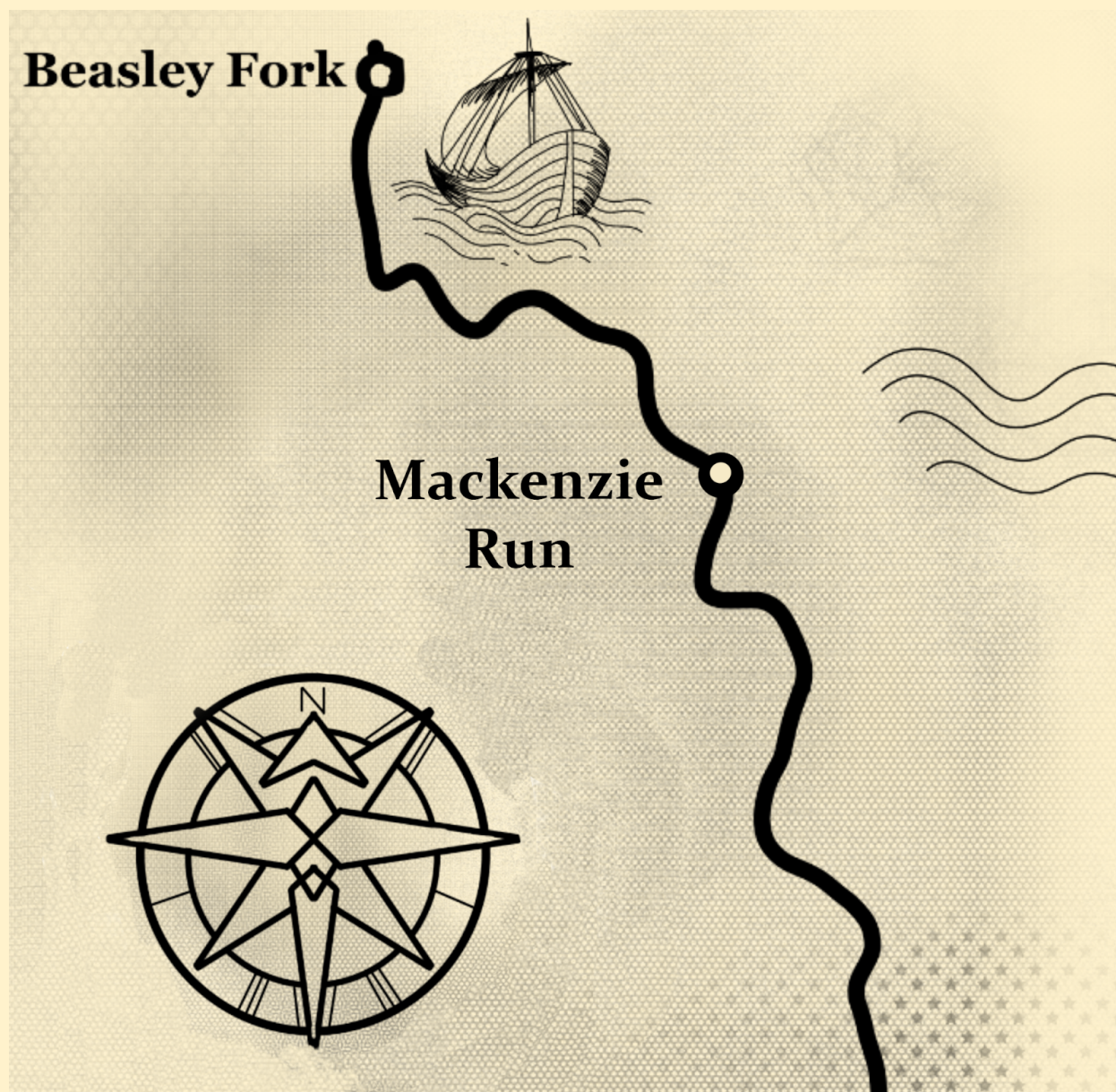


Depth: Very Deep

Distance to next Access Point: 2.43 miles

Parking: 2-3 cars in the southwestern corner.

Coordinates: 38.739 -83.470



Mackenzie Run

Description: This is the latest Brush Creek access to be developed for public use. It features a boat ramp and roomy parking lot. By this point, the creek is full of slack water from the Ohio River. This means that the creek will usually be slow and very deep.



Depth: Very Deep

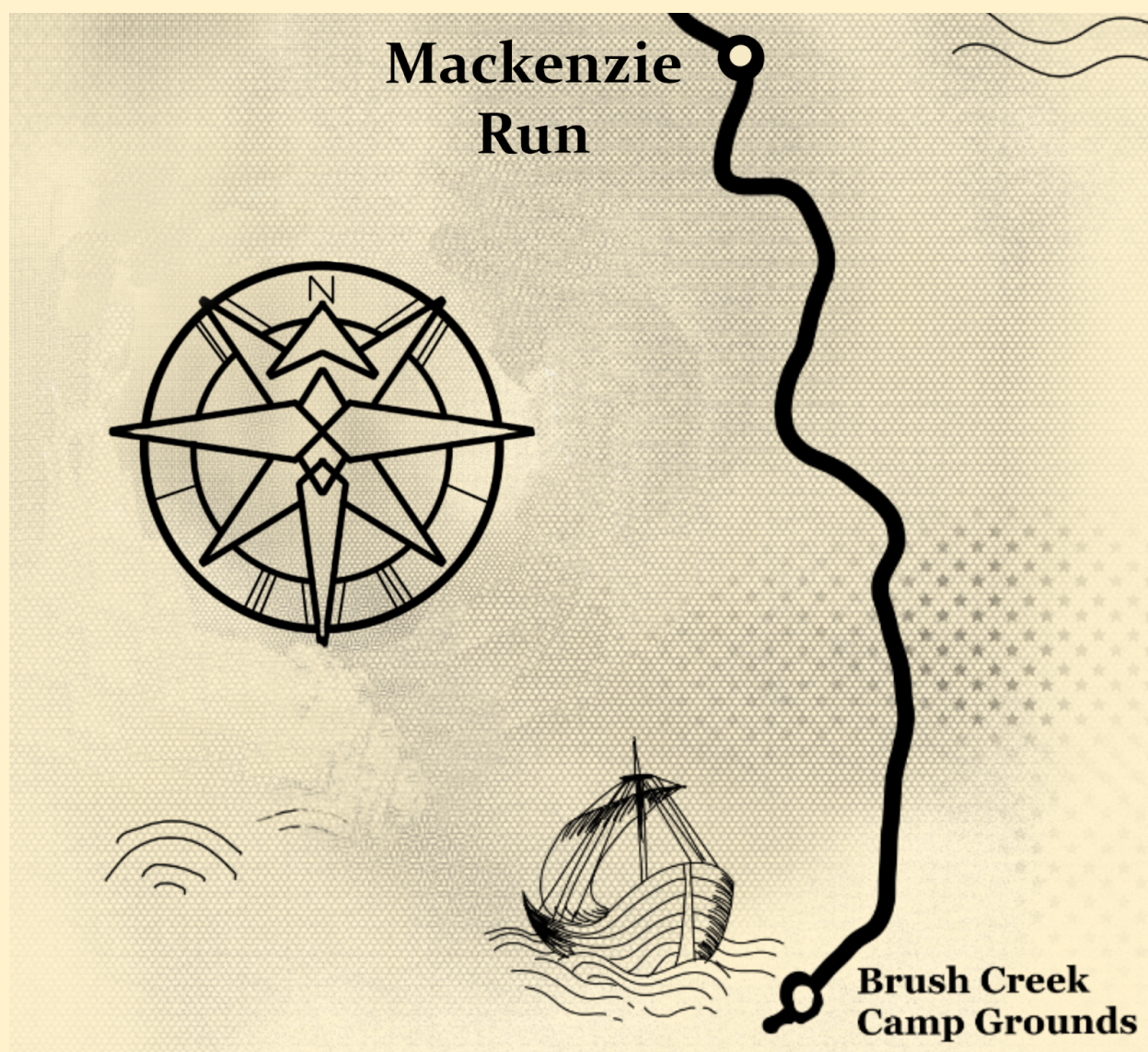
Distance to next Access Point:
3.7 miles

Parking: Great, plenty of parking and a nice gravel parking lot.

Coordinates: 38.719 -83.450

Attractions: Easy accessibility, nice parking, and boat ramp





Brush Creek Campground & Marina

Description: Pay ramp that launches at the end of Brush Creek. It is so near to the Ohio River that there is no need for a map. This put-in is right next to the Ohio River. If you want to venture into the river while you paddle Brush Creek, this is the place for you. Unlike the other access points, this one requires a small fee to use, so consider that while planning your trip. This is the last access point on the Ohio Brush Creek. There is an island in the Ohio River at the mouth of Brush Creek that is privately owned known as Brush Creek Island.



Depth: Very Deep

Distance to the Ohio River:
0.3 miles

Parking: Ample

Coordinates: 38.677 -83.450

Attractions: the Ohio River,
Brush Creek Island

Links and Information

Water Gauge

<https://waterdata.usgs.gov/usa/nwis/uv?03237500>

Adams County Travel and Visitors Bureau

<http://adamscountytravel.org/>

Questions

wickerham.adams.swcd@live.com (937)544-1010

Arc of Appalachia (Serpent Mound)

<https://arcofappalachia.org/visit/serpent-mound/>

Edge of Appalachia

<https://www.nature.org/en-us/get-involved/how-to-help/places-we-protect/edge-of-appalachia-preserve-system/>

Getting Involved

The Brush Creek Sweep is an annual event put on by Adams Soil and Water Conservation District and Adams Brown Recycling & Litter Prevention. dedicated to keeping the Ohio Brush Creek clean. Each year a group of people get together and float a section of the creek while picking up trash. Anybody is welcome, young and old. The sweep is also a great place to learn about how to paddle. Even if you are not interested in being part of the OBC Sweep, it is always a good idea to pick up trash on your own paddling trips. **If you want to learn more about the OBC Sweep or anything else in this guide,** contact Bill Wickerham of Adams Soil and Water Conservation District at (937)544-1010 or wickerham.adams.swcd@live.com Monday through Friday from 8am to 4:30 pm.

