

History

Nelsonville was settled in 1814; a classic Appalachian town relying on coal, clay and salt. It was an early birthplace of the American Labor Movement. By the mid-1900s, Nelsonville was known worldwide for the Nelsonville Block and Starbrick bricks. Considered the most impervious bricks in America, they still line the sidewalks of Nelsonville's Historic Public Square.



Nelsonville's Historic Public Square



Wayne National Forest

NELSONVILLE



The Star *of the* HOCKING HILLS

At the edge of the breathtaking Hocking Hills region, Nelsonville is steeped in history, culture and adventure



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PRODUCED BY THE ATHENS COUNTY
CONVENTION & VISITORS BUREAU
667 E. State Street | Athens, OH 45701

1.800.878.9767

explore Nelsonville

The **Wayne National Forest** is Ohio's only national forest, covering approximately a quarter million acres, with 300+ miles of trails for ATV and horseback riding, hiking and mountain biking.

The **Hocking Valley Scenic Railway** departs from the Nelsonville Depot, traveling along the historic Hocking Valley Railway. Embark on a robber, theater or wine train. Ride with Santa on the North Pole Express, or take an Easter Bunny train.

The **Rocky Outdoor Gear Store** has been a world leader in outdoor footwear for more than 70 years and is sold by 3,000+ retailers. Located in the company's former boot factory, Rocky has three floors of footwear, apparel and accessories. Stop by the Boot Factory Grill for a famous Bison Burger and check out the Nelsonville Visitors Center.

Hocking College is best known for its culinary program; showcased at Rhapsody, a fine dining restaurant downtown. Visit Robbins Crossing, a pioneer village that hosts the Nelsonville Music Festival and is a stop on the Hocking Valley Scenic Railway.

The **Hockhocking Adena Bikeway** was named one of "15 Fantastic Bike Trails" in 2014 by *USA Today*. It winds along the Hocking River through Appalachian foothills for 21 miles from the Nelsonville Depot to Athens, passing through the Hocking College and Ohio University campuses.

Nelsonville's Historic Public Square is one of Ohio's most beautiful and historic downtown districts. Unique shops, including Starbrick Clay, The Paper Circle, Nelsonville Emporium and Gifts, and the Nelsonville Quilt Company, sit in a perfect square around a landmark fountain.

Stuart's Opera House, located on the Public Square, is one of Ohio's last remaining fully-operating opera houses. Built in 1879, it presents more than 75 live music events each year and has hosted the likes of the Avett Brothers, Steve Earle, Marcia Ball and Ralph Stanley.



Hocking College



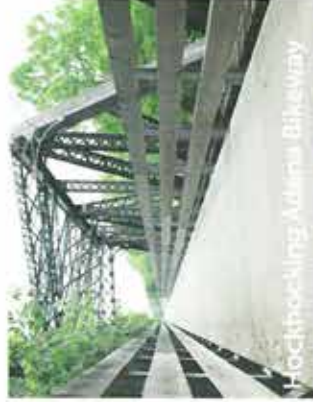
Hocking Valley Scenic Railway



Stuart's Opera House



Nelsonville Music Festival



Hockhocking Adena Bikeway



Hocking Hills



Rocky Outdoor Gear Store

Special Events

The four-day **Nelsonville Music Festival**, typically held the first weekend in June, has been named "one of the best-kept secrets of the U.S. music festival circuit" by *Billboard Magazine*.

The last Friday of every month is **Final Fridays on the Square**, and shops are open late, with music, food and demonstrations.

For more than 65 years, the **Parade of the Hills Festival** has been an annual summer tradition, with music, entertainment, rides and parades.

The **Ohio Smoked Meats and BBQ Festival** in the fall is Ohio's first official championship for smoked meat and BBQ and is a KC Barbeque Society-sanctioned event.