



Loudonville-Mohican Convention & Visitors Bureau

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Bob Yun, Executive Director

Loudonville-Mohican Backgrounder

Ashland County, Ohio

About the Area

Located in the rolling hills of northeast Ohio, Loudonville is midway between Cleveland and Columbus, about 30 minutes southeast of Mansfield. It has been highly regarded for its spectacular natural beauty and countless recreational opportunities. Nestled in Appalachian foothills, Loudonville is in the heart of Mohican Country. Named after the scenic Mohican River, area tourism largely occurs in southern Ashland County as well as parts of adjoining Knox and Holmes Counties. The river is home to seven canoe liveries, the first started in 1961. Loudonville is regarded as the Canoe Capital of Ohio. Throughout the summer the river draws visitors from across the country for its family friendly lazy stream and scenery. Much of this scenery also follows Wally Road, billed as the largest outdoor recreational complex in Ohio.

Near the 6,000-acre Mohican State Park and Forest is another hub of activity. With miles of hiking, mountain biking and bridle trails, Clear Fork Gorge is home to the deepest gorge in Ohio and a National Natural Landmark. Park guests can also enjoy Big and Little Lyon Falls, the covered bridge and the Memorial Shrine, dedicated to our fallen soldiers. With a campground, rustic cabins and a deluxe resort and conference center, the Mohican State Park is popular with overnight guests throughout the year. Nearby Malabar Farm State Park is a working farm that offers tours of the farm and beautiful main house built by author Lewis Bromfield.

Downtown Loudonville, literally Main Street, greets visitors with a streetscape of colorful awnings and flower-filled baskets. The Victorian shopping district tempts visitors with a variety of eclectic shopping choices. Main Street also offers art galleries, numerous gift and curio shops, finely crafted keepsake Amish furniture and Native American jewelry and crafts. Many long-time, family-owned stores including Raby Hardware and Buzzard's Family Shoes line Main Street. Don't miss browsing one of Ohio's only Avon Retail Beauty Centers. Many eateries are located downtown where visitors can get everything from a hot dog to prime rib, a Reuben, sub, omelet, ice cream at a soda fountain and incredible, homemade brownies.

With almost 3,000 residents, Loudonville offers small-town charm yet "big city" amenities to help make anyone's stay enjoyable. Though the area is most popular during the warm weather months, Loudonville is also a great year-round destination because of its incredible scenery and recreation.

Story Ideas

- Camp and Canoe Capital of Ohio – 2,500 campsites and seven canoe liveries within minutes of downtown (*largest number of canoe liveries in one area anywhere in Ohio*)
- Ohio mountain bike mecca - Mohican State Park and Forest - 24.5 miles of challenging mountain bike trails, noted as one of top 50 U.S. mountain bike trails by Bike Magazine and National Geographic Adventure Magazine indicated the area as mountain bike hot spot in large part thanks to the Mohican Mountain Bike 100 (miles) bicycle race held every June and the 24-hour mountain bike rely race in September
- Mohican State Park has 45 miles of scenic hiking trails and nine miles of bridle trails (*soon to connect with nine additional miles at Malabar Farm State Park*)
- Clear Fork Gorge - deepest gorge in Ohio and a National Natural Treasure, five miles long!
- Ohio's only dual Scenic Byway - Wally Road Scenic Byway which follows the Mohican River Scenic Byway
- Wally Road Scenic Byway is regarded as Ohio's largest outdoor recreational complex

- Classic Car Show rated in 2008 as No. 1 downtown event by Cruisin' Times magazine
- Unique overnight horse camp at Malabar Farm State Park
- Ohio Magazine named Landoll's Mohican Caste as one of the "10 most interesting places to sleep in Ohio"
- Country Living Magazine readers voted Mohican State Park as "Best place for a picnic in Ohio"
- Quaint Victorian downtown with stores owned for generations by the same family - Raby Hardware, Buzzard's Family Shoes, Lingenfelter Jewelers (90 years in 2009); McClain's Appliance
- Additional multi-generational businesses include: Richardson's Greenhouse, Radar's Restaurant, Mohican Adventures (camping/cabins, canoe livery, go-carts and miniature golf)
- Unique downtown shopping - Copper Top Gallery, Amish Oak Furniture, Creative Outlet (native American jeweler and crafts), Four Seasons; Rhodes Jeweler, which sells Fenton Art Glass; one of Ohio's only retail Avon Beauty Center's; Stonewall Studio and Gallery and Annette's Clay Creations

Attractions

- Mohican State Park and Forest - resort and conference center; camping/RVs/cabins; Clear Fork Gorge; trails - hiking, mountain biking, bridal; Big and Little Lyon Water Falls; Covered Bridge; picnicking (Mohican State Park has been honored with a Service Excellence Award by the Ohio Department of Natural Resources)
- Memorial Shrine
- Fire Tower
- Seven canoe liveries - trips lasting 45 minutes to seven days on canoes, kayaks, rafts and tubes
- Malabar Farm State Park - a working farm and home of Louis Bromfield, author and conservationist
- Charles Mill Lake Park and Dam (camping and marina)
- Pleasant Hill Lake Park and Dam (camping and marina)
- Wolf Creek Pine Run Grist Mill
- Cleo Redd Fisher Museum
- Ohio Theater
- Horseback riding (rent or bring your own)
- Water sports - canoeing, boating, waterskiing, jet skis
- Swimming - lake, river, pond, pool
- Fishing - river and lakes
- Paint Ball

Winter

- snowmobiling
- cross country skiing
- down hill skiing
- ice skating
- ice fishing
- hunting
- hiking
- mountain biking

Annual Events

January	WinterFest
March	Girls Night Out
May	Mohican Wildlife Weekend
June	Music and Rib Fest
	Mohican Bluegrass Festival
	Thunder in Paradise Bike Show
	Wine at the Mill Festival
July	Antiques Festival
	July 4 th Fireworks
	Classic Car Show (2008 rated as #1 downtown event by Cruisin' Times magazine)

September	Great Mohican Indian Pow-Wow Mohican Bluegrass Festival Great Mohican Indian Pow-Wow
October	121st Loudonville Free Street Fair (<i>largest free street fair in Ohio, 50,000 attendance</i>) Fall Foliage Drive-It-Yourself Tour Oktoberfest at the Mill

Location / Getting Here

Loudonville is located in north central Ohio, 30 minutes south east of Mansfield off State Route 71, in southern Ashland County.

Closest airports: Ashland County Airport, private aircraft

Commercial airports: Mansfield and Akron/Canton.

By car from Cleveland/NE Ohio: SR 71 south to Ashland exit SR 250 west to US 42 south to SR 60 south to Loudonville

By car from Columbus: SR 3 north to Loudonville

By car from Akron/Canton: SR 77 to US 30 west to Wooster to SR 3 south to Loudonville

By car from Toledo/Michigan: SR 20 south to Norwalk US 250 to Ashland to US 60 south to town

Cultural History / Diversity

Nature played the biggest role in establishing the incredible beauty and recreation opportunities in the area. The last Ice Age glacier left the area with rolling, even, steep hills; virgin forests; a multitude of wildlife; and rivers. The Delaware Indians once used Mohican State Park as a hunting ground. One of the Native American settlements was located in Greentown, west of Perrysville, which was established in 1783. These early settlers used the rich soil to raise crops and hunt. Settlement of non-Indians began at the turn of the 19th century and greatly increased after of the War of 1812, when the Indians were driven from the area. An early railroad, along what is now Wally Road, helped open the area to ship crops and markets to bring visitors along what was regarded as the most scenic railway trip in Ohio. Mohican State Park, which was merged into the Mohican State Forest in 1949, together includes almost 6,000 acres of sometimes very rugged terrain. The scenery and wide variety of activities has attracted visitors for decades.

The first canoe livery was established in 1961 by Dick Frye and became the start of what would eventually be the major canoeing destination in Ohio. At the same time, this helped spur the establishment of numerous private campgrounds, especially those along Wally Road. The deluxe Mohican State Park Resort and Conference Center opened in 1974, adding yet another opportunity for visitors to stay and enjoy the area.

In the 1930s, the Muskingum Watershed Conservancy District constructed dams on two forks of the Mohican River. These dams were designed to help flood control and provide recreational opportunities. Today, Charles Mill Lake Park and Pleasant Hill Lake Park provide camping, cabins, boating, fishing, picnicking, hiking and many great outdoor activities. The regulation of the water in the lakes has a major impact on the water levels downstream in the Mohican River. It was possible for canoeing to become so popular on the river because of predictable water levels.

Climate

During the summer, temperatures can warm to very warm with afternoon highs in the 80s and 90s with high humidity. Nights are usually warm. Spring and autumn can be very pleasant with daytime highs in the 60s and 70s, and cool, crisp evenings.

Fall is especially popular in Loudonville for watching the foliage. Clear Fork Gorge in Mohican State Park is especially vibrant with fall colors. Driving down Wally Road or canoeing the Mohican River is also great way to enjoy the season. During mid-October, a fall foliage festival is held with a self-drive fall foliage tour. The tour booklet is available free online in the Area Events section of www.Loudonville-Mohican.com.

Winter months can see adequate snow fall for cross-county skiing and snowmobiling in the State Forest. Snow usually does not get deep, but with the steep, windy roads, motorists are advised to slow down on snow-covered roads. Temperatures typically do not get below freezing for many extended periods of time. January is usually the coldest month. July and August are the warmest months. The area receives about 40 inches of rain each year.

Economy

Ashland County's No. 1 industry is agriculture. A large part of our spectacular scenery includes sprawling farm fields on the hilly, winding back roads. At the same time, year-round tourism is a major source of employment and revenue. In 2007, Ashland County tourism generated almost \$116 million and more than 1,500 jobs. Tourism supports 1 in every 15 private-sector county jobs.

Loudonville was the long-time home of the Flixible Company, which manufactured motorcycle sidecars, intercity coach and city-transit coaches. The Flixible plant is now used as a parts depot and coach service facility for Motor Coach Industries (MCI.)

In 2000, the village had a population of 2,900 which was about 99 percent Caucasian with the median age 39. More than 40 percent of the residents are of German ancestry. Median household income was more than \$36,000.

Lodging

Resorts

Nestled in a scenic river valley, the **Mohican State Park Resort and Conference Center** is a unique lodging facility offering a medley of vacation options and a wide-range of amenities. The resort is surrounded by 6,000 acres of Mohican State Forest and borders Pleasant Hill Lake. With 96 rooms, the wood and stone lodge echoes great lodges common throughout the western United States. The State Park Resort features full-service restaurant and cocktail lounge, two heated swimming pools and conference center. Weddings and family reunions are a resort mainstay. Mohican State Park Resort has been honored with a Service Excellence Award by the Ohio Department of Natural Resources.

The stately majesty of times past still abound in the luxurious **Landoll's Mohican Castle**. Named one of the "10 most interesting places to sleep in Ohio" by *Ohio Magazine*, Landoll's Mohican Castle offers unsurpassed accommodation and seclusion on its 1,100 acres of scenic estate south of Loudonville. Each of its 16 rooms is individually decorated with antiques and imported materials to create a unique "castle" theme. Experience the romance of lazy afternoons, intimate fireside conversations, continental breakfasts and morning walks in perfect solitude. The Event Center is very popular for weddings. On-site dining is available for guests and the public.

Cabins

Cabins range from very basic to luxurious, with flat screen TVs, whirlpools and all the amenities, and are located throughout the area. Cabins include Charles Mill Lake Park, Kandelight Kabins, Long Lake Park Campground, Mohican State Park, Mohican Adventures and Mohican Valley.

Bed-n-Breakfasts

Black Fork Inn is a magnificently restored Victorian with eight rooms only two blocks from downtown. Dream Keepers is a beautiful contemporary structure with three guest rooms on the southern border of the State Park. Both offer mouth-watering breakfasts and ample advice on what to visit.

Hotels

The 20-room Little Brown Inn is near Mohican State Park and D and D Lodge, with nine guest rooms, located south of Loudonville and especially popular with hunters. The newly opened 50 room Mohican River Inn is located on Wally Road.

Cottages

The area's cottages are former family homes with all the amenities and include Honeycreek Hideaway north of town and Red Brush Cottage three miles south of town adjacent to the State Forest.

Camping – *2,500 campsites available within minutes of downtown!*

From primitive sites and plenty of space for the RV with full hook-up, some with "on the water" camp site, plus all the great campground amenities are offered at Mohican State Park, Mohican Adventures, Mohican Valley, River Run, Long Lake and Charles Mill. Nearby, additional camping is available on Wally Road such as Arrowpoint Family Camping, Smith's Pleasant Valley Campground, Wally World, Mohican Reservation and Mohican Wilderness.

Did You Know

- Loudonville is regarded as the **Canoe Capital of Ohio** with seven canoe liveries within minutes of downtown Loudonville (*the first canoe livery opened in 1961*)
- Clear Fork Gorge, a National Natural Landmark, at 1,000 feet deep, is the deepest gorge in Ohio
- Home to the largest free street fair in Ohio and in 2008 rated as No. 1 downtown event by Cruisin' Times magazine, annual attendance from 50,000 to 75,000
- Loudonville native Charles Kettering - invented the first electric car starter, Kettering Ohio named in his honor
- Other natives include Larry Siegfried Ohio State and Boston Celtics basketball star and Ron Zook, head football coach at the University of Illinois
- Site of the Native American village known as Greentown, established in 1783, is located west of Perrysville
- Only town in Ohio with a side-by-side designated scenic river and byway - Mohican River and Wally Road Scenic Byways (*Wally Road the only byway on a county road*)
- In the 1800s Johnny Appleseed (John Chapman) frequented the area and maintained tree nurseries here and owned land near Cool Springs, an southern Ashland County Park District park
- Is located just west of the largest settlement of Amish in the country - a great day trip!