

Established: February 10, 1807
County Seat: Village of Jefferson
2010 Population: 101,497
2020 Projection: 101,230
Land Area and Rank: 702.7 square miles, 1 of 88
Miles of Coast: 28 miles
Number of Primary Access Sites: 11
Number of Right-of-Way Sites: 1
Miles of Publicly Accessible Coast: 3.9 miles

Ashtabula County

Ashtabula County, located in the extreme northeast corner of Ohio, is the state's largest county by land area. It is adjacent to Lake, Geauga and Trumbull counties. Erie and Crawford counties in Pennsylvania are to the east. Ashtabula County has 28 miles of Lake Erie shore. The bluffs are composed of glacial till, known as Ashtabula till, with portions covered with layers of laminated clay and/or sand. Ashtabula till is silty and clayey, and contains siltstone and shale fragments. Bluff height generally increases west to east, ranging from 15 feet to 60 feet. Lower relief also occurs at the Ashtabula River and Conneaut Creek mouths.

The name "Ashtabula" is an anglicized spelling of the Iroquois Indian word "Hash-tah-buh-lah," meaning "river of many fish." The Ashtabula River once served as the boundary between the Algonquin and Iroquois tribes. Ashtabula County was originally part of the Connecticut Western Reserve. On July 4, 1796, Moses Cleaveland and his Connecticut Land Company survey party first landed in the Western Reserve and established a base camp at the mouth of the Conneaut Creek in the present-day city of Conneaut. They named the site Port Independence. From the camp, principal surveyor Augustus Porter, surveyors Seth Pease and Milton Holley and crew set forth to survey the southern boundary of the Western Reserve along the 41st parallel, approximately 67 miles south of Lake Erie. The team plotted the eastern boundary of the Western Reserve in order to reach the southeastern point of the territory. Cleaveland, with a separate survey party, travelled west along the lakeshore to the mouth of the Cuyahoga River and established the first settlement in the Western Reserve, Cleaveland (present-day Cleveland).

Ashtabula County boasts more covered bridges (18) than any other county in Ohio. The 613-foot long Smolen-Gulf Bridge, spanning the Ashtabula River in Ashtabula, is the longest covered bridge in the United States. It was dedicated in 2008. The 18-foot long West Liberty Street Covered Bridge (opened in 2011), spanning Cowles Creek in Geneva, is the shortest covered bridge in the country. Nine of Ashtabula County's current covered bridges were built in the 19th century. The two-span, 228-foot long Harpersfield Bridge in Harpersfield Township was built in 1868. It is the county's second longest covered bridge and Ohio's third longest. It is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The Mechanicsville Road Bridge, built in 1867, is the oldest covered bridge in Ashtabula County. The Windsor Mills Covered Bridge was also built in 1867. It too is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Owing to an amenable microclimate, the Grand River Valley region (Lake, Ashtabula and Geauga counties) is suitable for grape growing and wine production. The valley's proximity to Lake Erie allows for the effective circulation of warmer air, which as a result reduces the threat of frost in the spring and extends the growing season. Additionally, the gently sloping topography of the valley efficiently prevents water from oversaturating the grapevines. Approximately 65% of all grapes grown in Ohio are grown in Ashtabula County. There are 20 wineries in the county.

Ashtabula County offers many recreational opportunities and cultural attractions. Geneva-on-the-Lake, located on Lake Erie in northwest Ashtabula County, was developed in 1869 as a resort community. It is recognized as Ohio's first summer resort. Geneva-on-the-Lake's "Strip" includes restaurants, wineries, arcades, amusement rides and many other attractions. The city of Ashtabula features the Ashtabula Harbor Life Bridge, a bascule-style lift bridge built in 1925. The bridge is the only one of its kind in Ohio, and one of just five in the entire country.



Ashtabula County Public Access Sites

AS1	Geneva State Park
AS2	Geneva Township Park
AS3	Saybrook Township Park
AS4	Highland Beach
AS5	Walnut Beach Park
AS6	Lakeshore Park
AS7	Al Cummings Sunset Park
AS8	Conneaut Township Park
AS9	Lakeview Park
AS10	Conneaut Port Authority Access
AS11	Broad Street Extension

Ashtabula County Right-of-Way Sites

(see page 41)	
ROW27	Wheeler Creek Road, Geneva Township

Coastal Cities

Ashtabula
Conneaut

Coastal Villages

Geneva-on-the-Lake
North Kingsville

Coastal Townships

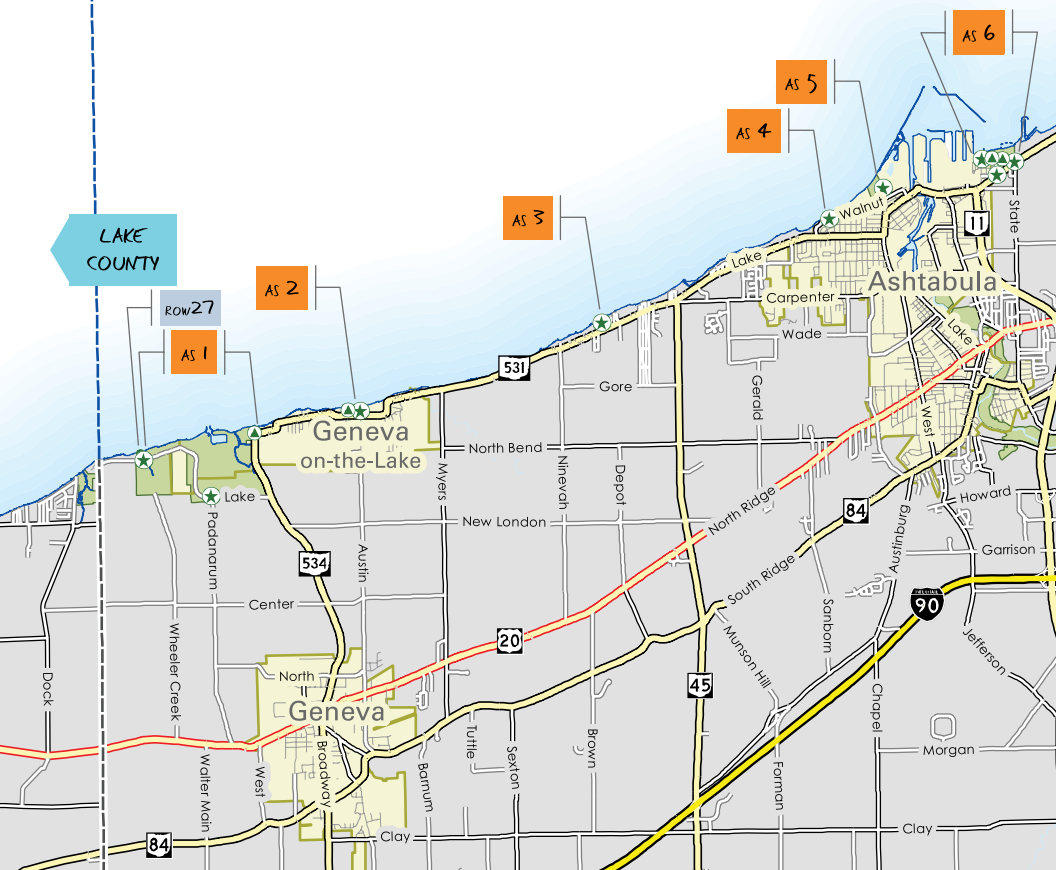
Ashtabula Township
Geneva Township
Saybrook Township

Public Access Management

Local	8
Port Authority	2
State	1

Top: Conneaut Township Park (AS8), Conneaut

Lake Erie



LAKE COUNTY

ROW 27

AS 1

AS 2

AS 3

AS 5

AS 4

AS 6

Geneva on-the-Lake

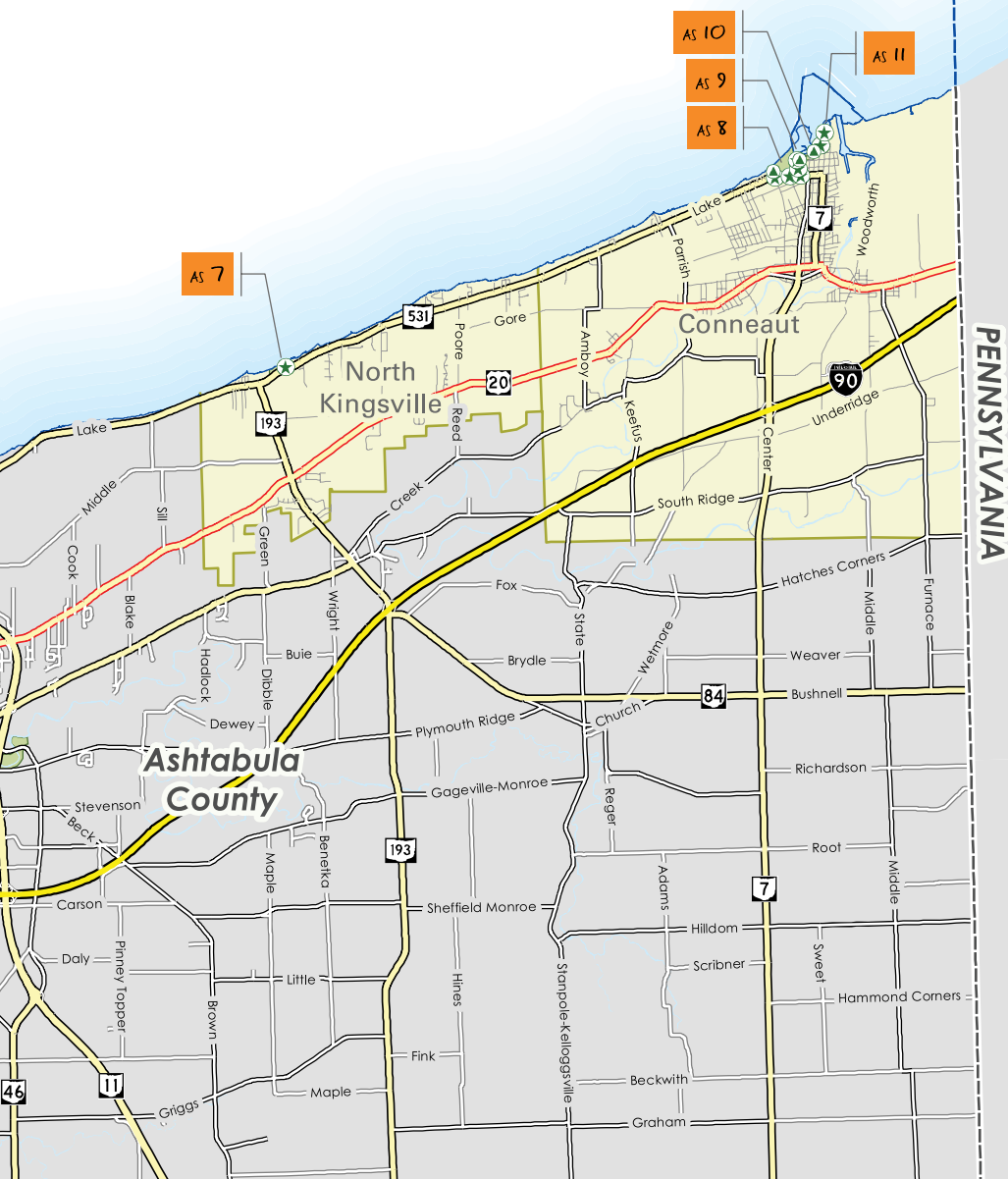
Ashtabula

Geneva

Public Access Site

Public Access Entrance

Alternate Entrance



★ Interior Access Site ● Right-of-Way Access Site

3 Miles



Geneva State Park

Location:

4499 Padanarum Road

Jurisdiction:

Geneva Township
Geneva-on-the-Lake

Alternate Entrances:

Lake Road West, east of Wheeler Creek Road

Lake Road East (State Route 534), at Lodge

Main Entrance:

Lat: N 41° 50.77'
Long: W 080° 58.46'

West Entrance:

Lat: N 41° 51.19'
Long: W 080° 59.47'

Lodge:

Lat: N 41° 51.47'
Long: W 080° 57.80'

Waterbody:

Lake Erie
Cowles Creek
Wheeler Creek

Site Type:

Recreational

Shore Access:

Yes

Path to Shore
Terrain
Boat Ramp

Location Map:



Amenities:



See right for more

Geneva State Park is the easternmost state park on Ohio's Lake Erie shore. The 698-acre park offers a multitude of recreational and passive amenities for day-use and overnight visitors. The park is situated among mature woodlands, marshlands and wetlands. Geneva State Park is located partially within the village of Geneva-on-the-Lake and partially within Geneva Township. The main entrance is at the intersection of Padanarum and Lake roads in Geneva Township, just west of State Route 534. The park can also be accessed from the west via Lake Road West and from the east near the lodge via the Orange Trail and SR 534. There are 7.5 miles of trails throughout the park. The 3.5-mile Yellow Trail is the park's longest and is available for hiking and snowmobiling. The 2-mile Orange Trail is a paved, multiple-use trail for walking and biking. It parallels the Lake Erie shore. From west to east, the Orange Trail connects the campground, beach, marina, boat ramp and Geneva Resort Lodge. Additional amenities include an archery range, reservable picnic shelters, picnic areas, grill, playground equipment and volleyball court. Hunting is seasonally permitted in designated areas.

Geneva State Park

AS1.1

Geneva State Park Campground

Amenities (for registered campers only):



Overnight visitors to Geneva State Park can stay at the 100-site campground (89 sites with electric hook-up, four sites with full hook-up and seven non-electric sites). The campground entrance is located on Lake Road West, east of Wheeler Creek Road. Geneva State Park also offers twelve deluxe lakefront cabins. The use of campground amenities is limited to overnight guests. Laundry, a fish cleaning station and camp store are also available to campers. Overnight visitors can also stay at the 109-room lodge, which offers a full-service restaurant, conference facilities, game room and indoor and outdoor pools.

AS1.2

Breakwater Beach

Amenities:



Geneva State Park's Breakwater Beach features a 300-foot swimming beach, restrooms, changing area, outdoor rinsing station and sand volleyball court.

AS1.3

Geneva State Park Marina

Amenities:



Geneva State Park features a six-lane boat ramp, transient dockage and a 363-slip marina. The marina includes a concession stand, which supplies gasoline, boating essentials and bait. The marina's 500-foot east breakwater is capped with a handicapped-accessible sidewalk and provides fishing access.



Geneva Township Park

Location:

5045 Lake Road East
(State Route 531),
at Austin Road

Jurisdiction:

Geneva-on-the-Lake

Alternate

Entrance:

Old Lake Road and
Park Drive

Main Entrance:

Lat: N 41° 51.69'
Long: W 080° 56.21'

Old Lake Road:

Lat: N 41° 51.71'
Long: W 080° 56.40'

Waterbody:

Lake Erie

Site Type:

Recreational

Shore Access:

Yes

Stairs to Shore
Path to Shore
Terrain

Location Map:



Amenities:



The 12-acre Geneva Township Park is located on Lake Road East (State Route 531) at Austin Road in Geneva-on-the-Lake. Additional roadside parking is available along Lake Road East and Park Drive. Pedestrians can access the northwestern part of the park from Park Drive across from Old Lake Road. Amenities include picnic shelters, grills, playground equipment, baseball diamond, volleyball court and a paved walking path that follows the park perimeter. Benches along the path overlook Lake Erie. The approximately 30-foot bluff is partially graded and leads to a non-swimming beach. In the northeastern portion of the park, a handicapped-accessible wooden ramp leads to a concrete-capped seawall. Fishing is permitted from the seawall and beach. Swimming, camping, biking, skateboarding and unleashed dogs are prohibited on park grounds.



Saybrook Township Park

Location:

5941 Lake Road West
(State Route 531),
east of Russell Road

Jurisdiction:

Saybrook Township

Latitude:

N 41° 52.64'

Longitude:

W 080° 52.58'

Waterbody:

Lake Erie

Site Type:

Recreational

Shore Access:

No

Fence

Location Map:



Amenities:



The 7.6-acre Saybrook Township Park is located on Lake Road West (State Route 531), east of Russell Road in Saybrook Township. Amenities at the park include two picnic shelters, concession stand, playground equipment, baseball field, basketball courts and a sand volleyball court. A fence lining the top of the bluff prohibits access to the shore.



Highland Beach

Location:

Walnut Boulevard at
Duquesne Avenue

Jurisdiction:

Ashtabula

Latitude:

N 41° 53.75'

Longitude:

W 080° 49.14'

Waterbody:

Lake Erie

Site Type:

Scenic

Shore Access:

Yes

Path to Shore

Location Map:



Amenities:



Highland Beach is located along Walnut Boulevard at Duquesne Avenue in Ashtabula. This city-maintained access is unmarked. At the east end of the site, a wooded dirt path leads down the nearly 55-foot bluff from the road to the shore. A seawall fronts the length of Highland Beach and provides a flat walking and/or seating surface. Fishing is permitted. The upper, mowed-grass portion has no amenities. Limited street parking is available.



Walnut Beach Park

Location:

Walnut Boulevard at
Lake Avenue

Jurisdiction:

Ashtabula

Latitude:

N 41° 54.08'

Longitude:

W 080° 48.32'

Waterbody:

Lake Erie

Site Type:

Recreational

Shore Access:

Yes

Path to Shore

Location Map:



Amenities:



The 28-acre Walnut Beach Park is located on Walnut Boulevard at Lake Avenue in Ashtabula. This access site features picnic shelters, grills, playground equipment, basketball courts, tennis courts, beach volleyball courts, skate park, concession stand and wildlife preserve. The park also includes a 1,112-foot swimming beach with bathhouse. A handicapped-accessible beach-level boardwalk extends onto the beach. The beach is backed by low dunes, which support a variety of rare plants, including American beach grass, seaside spurge and beach pea. Fishing access is available from the Ashtabula Harbor's west breakwater. The Ashtabula Harbor Lighthouse, located near the end of the 1.4-mile federal breakwater can be viewed from the park. Walnut Beach Park is the northern terminus of Ashtabula's North Shore Trail, which connects to the Western Reserve Greenway at the intersection of West Avenue and West 52nd Street.

Lakeshore Park

Location:

1700 East 1st Street

Jurisdiction:

Ashtabula Township
Ashtabula

Alternate

Entrances:

Minnesota Avenue

State Route 531 at

Manola Avenue

and State Road

East 1st Street:

Lat: N 41° 54.38'

Long: W 080° 46.54'

Minnesota Ave.:

Lat: N 41° 54.38'

Long: W 080° 46.84'

Manola Avenue:

Lat: N 41° 54.20'

Long: W 080° 46.61'

State Road:

Lat: N 41° 54.35'

Long: W 080° 46.35'

Waterbody:

Lake Erie

Site Type:

Recreational

Shore Access:

Yes

Stairs to Shore

Path to Shore

Boat Ramp

Location Map:



Amenities:



The 54-acre Lakeshore Park is located primarily in Ashtabula Township, just east of downtown Ashtabula. The western portion is within Ashtabula city limits. The park's access road, Lakeshore Drive, loops the grounds between Lake Road East (State Route 531) at State Road and the intersection of Minnesota Avenue and East 1st Street. Additional pedestrian and vehicle accesses are located along Manola Avenue and East 1st Street. The Ashtabula Township Park Commission-managed Lakeshore Park offers many passive and recreational amenities, including a 1,060-foot swimming beach, a 3-lane boat launch, over 55 vehicle/trailer parking spaces, playground area, waterfowl ponds, disc golf course and five picnic shelters. The 440-foot Lakeshore Park Main Pavilion is designated by the Ohio Historical Society as the oldest and longest pavilion on the Great Lakes in continuous use. Fishing access is provided along the stretch of armored shore and from a 250-foot pier.

Al Cummings Sunset Park

Location:

State Route 531,
east of
State Route 193

Jurisdiction:

North Kingsville

Latitude:

N 41° 55.63'

Longitude:

W 080° 41.48'

Waterbody:

Lake Erie

Site Type:

Recreational

Shore Access:

No

Fence

Location Map:



Amenities:



The 17.4-acre Al Cummings Sunset Park is located on State Route 531, east of State Route 193 in North Kingsville. This passive-use park includes a picnic shelter, playground and a hiking trail that circumnavigates the park's wooded western half. Additional picnic tables are dispersed throughout the park and overlook Lake Erie. A fence lining the top of the bluff prohibits access to the shore.



Terrain

[illegible]

230



Lakeview Park

Location:

Erie Avenue and
Sandusky Street

Jurisdiction:

Conneaut

Latitude:

N 41° 57.89'

Longitude:

W 080° 33.42'

Waterbody:

Lake Erie

Site Type:

Recreational

Shore Access:

No

Edge of Bluff

Location Map:



Amenities:



Lakeview Park is located at the northeast corner of Erie and Sandusky streets in Conneaut. Lakeview Park Drive loops through the park. This site features a picnic area, playground, baseball field and basketball court. Lakeview Park sits high atop a bluff. Benches provide scenic vistas of Lake Erie and Conneaut Harbor. The Conneaut Port Authority Access property is adjacently located north of Lakeview Park.



Conneaut Port Authority Access

Location:

Naylor Boulevard at
Broad Street

Jurisdiction:

Conneaut

Latitude:

N 41° 58.03'

Longitude:

W 080° 33.29'

Waterbody:

Lake Erie

Site Type:

Recreational

Shore Access:

Yes

Terrain

Shore Structure

Boat Ramp

Location Map:



Amenities:



The Conneaut Port Authority Access is located on Naylor Boulevard at Broad Street in Conneaut. It features a 3-lane boat ramp, over 70 vehicle/trailer parking spaces and a concrete-paved fishing and walking pier with benches. A wooden observation deck is located west of the boat ramp. Conneaut Harbor is a noted birding location to spot rare and common migrating songbirds, shorebirds, waterfowl and gulls. A large beach has formed east of Conneaut Harbor's west breakwater structures. The beach is accessible for fishing, swimming and wildlife viewing. The beach also supports a variety of rare plants, including American beach grass, seaside spurge and beach pea. Conneaut Township Park, Lakeview Park and Broad Street Extension are adjacently located next to the Conneaut Port Authority Access to the west, south and northeast, respectively.



Broad Street Extension

Location:

End of Broad Street,
at Mariana Drive

Jurisdiction:

Conneaut

Latitude:

N 41° 58.16'

Longitude:

W 080° 33.18'

Waterbody:

Lake Erie

Site Type:

Recreational

Shore Access:

Yes

Shore Structure

Location Map:



Amenities:



The Broad Street Extension is Ohio's easternmost public access site on Lake Erie. It is located north of the Broad Street and Naylor Boulevard intersection in Conneaut. This Conneaut Port Authority-managed site is a nearly 1,000-foot, J-shaped breakwater that extends into Conneaut Harbor. Fishing is permitted on the structure's west side, opposite the marina.