



Bender Mountain Nature Preserve Trail Map & Guidelines



Bender Valley Trail – 1.09 miles

This trail follows the course of Rapid Run Creek, crossing through forest glades where spring ephemerals grow in abundance before climbing in elevation as you head east.

Darby-Lee Trail – 0.26 miles

This connector trail extends from the Bender Valley Trail, taking you uphill and ending close to the historical Darby-Lee Cemetery.

Eagle Scout Trail – 0.32 miles

This trail provides an excellent workout as it climbs the north slope of Bender Mountain in a series of switchbacks, with many sections of stone steps.

Paw Paw Gap Trail – 0.6 miles

The south section of this trail ascends a steep, rocky slope and is one of Bender Mountain's most challenging trails. The north section navigates a gentler slope, winding through lush thickets of paw paw trees and spicebush.

Ridge Trail – 0.85 miles (solid line); 0.61 (dotted line)

The oldest of Bender Mountain's trails offers spectacular views of the Ohio River as it follows the ridge along the top of Bender Mountain, ending at a lookout point with a natural stone bench. This trail continues to the Sisters of Charity Motherhouse grounds (dotted line indicates section on private property).

Sisters' Hill Trail – 0.97 miles

This trail was originally part of Delhi Road, closed in the 1970s due to erosion. Most of the trail is still paved, making this an easy hike that leads through mature trees and offers glimpses of the Ohio River. A connector trail (dotted line) leads uphill to join the Ridge Trail.

Trail Guidelines

• DOGS MUST BE KEPT ON LEASH AT ALL TIMES!

This is for your dog's safety, the safety of other hikers and their dogs, and the safety of Bender Mountain's wildlife. Be courteous to other hikers and clean up after your pets.

- Trails are open to hikers from dawn to dusk.
- Fires and overnight camping are prohibited.
- Horses, mountain bikes, and motor vehicles are not allowed on trails.
- These trails traverse steep slopes and areas of rugged terrain, and should only be used by persons in good physical condition. Trails can be slippery in wet weather.
- Be sure to carry a mobile phone in case of emergencies. Check weather conditions before hiking and dress appropriately.
- Stay on marked trails. Off-trail hiking can damage delicate plants and disturb wildlife.
- Leave wild things in the wild! Do not disturb or remove plants, fungi, or animals found in the preserve. FORAGING IS PROHIBITED. Please call (513) 921-9453 to report violations.
- Some trails continue on private property. Please respect property owners and comply with posted signage.
- Avoid crossing Rapid Run Creek during periods of heavy rain. Water can rise rapidly and create dangerous conditions.

Bender Mountain Nature Preserve is one of Western Wildlife Corridor's oldest and most biodiverse preserves. Founded in 2003, the preserve was initially purchased through funding from the Clean Ohio conservation program and the Great Parks of Hamilton County ForeverGreen fund and is managed in cooperation with Delhi Township. In 2023, a generous donation by the Sisters of Charity of Cincinnati, Ohio, expanded the preserve by 72.6 acres, bringing the total protected area to over 130 acres! Over the years, volunteers have spent countless hours in an ongoing effort to remove invasive species such as Amur honeysuckle and garlic mustard to make room for native species. Bender Mountain is home to over 400 plant species and provides valuable habitat for birds and other native wildlife.

Visit our website or call (513) 921-9453 to see how to become a member and support our efforts to keep the West Side wild!

www.WesternWildlifeCorridor.org



The accreditation seal is awarded to land trusts meeting the highest national standards for excellence and conservation permanence.