

What is the Falls of the Ohio area?

*An exploration of the Falls area and the Falls of the Ohio Foundation's role in stewarding the area's natural, cultural, historical, and recreational resources.
Submitted August 18, 2022 – Revised October 27, 2022 – Approved November 15, 2022*



“Probably nowhere else in America do the lines of primeval and modern history come together so dramatically as at the Falls of the Ohio River.”

- Cliff Robertson and Ed Moss, “The Falls Befriended,” *The Courier Journal Magazine*, February 13, 1966

The mission of the Falls of the Ohio Foundation:

The Falls of the Ohio Foundation is a collaborative force focused on elevating the awareness, recognition, and legacy of the Falls of the Ohio area

Our vision:

Visionary stewards of the world famous natural, cultural, and historical resources of the Falls of the Ohio area.

Defining the Falls Area:

What is the Falls of the Ohio area? How do we as a Foundation define this area, and what are its geographic boundaries? It is well known that the cities of Jeffersonville, Clarksville, New Albany, and Louisville were all settled because of the treacherous Falls that necessitated river traffic to portage. Commerce flourished and communities sprang up because of the need to navigate the Falls. When attempting to define the Falls of the Ohio area, do we look at the entirety of all four cities, or do we look at more defined geographic areas, and how do we determine what might be included?

Purpose:

The Foundation wants to define the “Falls area” so that we can clearly communicate with our community and stakeholders who we are as an organization. The Falls of the Ohio State Park features the internationally significant fossil beds and the historically significant George Rogers Clark home site, where George Rogers Clark lived, and where Lewis and Clark formed the Corps of Discovery. The Foundation considers the Falls of the Ohio State Park to be the central hub of where our historical stories are told. Exploring other resources included in the “Falls area” can help us discover new convening partners, open joint programming or project opportunities, and identify new stories that are geologically and historically significant.

Criteria:

As articulated in our mission and vision statements, we suggest several criteria when considering what might be included within the defined boundaries of the Falls of the Ohio area:

- Recognition and elevation of the significant historical and cultural resources tied to the Falls area;
- Preservation of the significant geologic and natural resources tied to the Falls area;
- Proximity to the Ohio River; and
- Elevation of recreational resources in the Falls area.

Indiana shore of Ohio River:

Starting upriver and working downriver, we propose starting with Duffy's Landing and extending to the planned River Recreation Park in New Albany. This stretch may include but not be limited to:

1. Duffy's Landing
2. Jeffboat Shipyard
3. Jeffersonville Fisherman's Wharf
4. Van Dyke Park
5. Big Four Station
6. Ashland Park
7. Falls of the Ohio State Park
8. Ohio River Greenway
9. George Rogers Clark Homesite
10. Lewis and Clark Bicentennial Park

11. Mill Creek
12. Origin Park (in planning and development)
13. Silver Creek
14. Loop Island Wetlands
15. Second Baptist Church of New Albany (included for its historical significance as part of the Underground Railroad)
16. New Albany Riverfront Park, Riverfront Amphitheater, Flow Park, Matt Brewer Flow Skate Park
17. River Recreation Park, New Albany (in planning and development)
18. Silver Hills Historical Trail and Wildlife Sanctuary
19. Ohio River Way

Kentucky shore of Ohio River:


Starting upriver and working downriver, we propose starting at Locust Grove and extending to Chickasaw Park. This stretch may include but not be limited to:

1. Locust Grove (included for its historical significance related to George Rogers Clark and the Clark family)
2. Caperton Swamp Park
3. Carrie Gaulbert Cox Park
4. Louisville Water Tower Park
5. Louisville Champions Park
6. Beargrass Creek
7. Waterfront Botanical Gardens (included for its proximity to the river)
8. Waterfront Park
9. Riverwalk/Louisville Loop
10. West Expansion of Waterfront Park (in planning stages; 10th Street to 18th Street)
11. Falls of the Ohio National Wildlife Conservation Area, including fossil beds, Shippingport Island, Sand Island, Lewis and Clark Island
12. Lannan Park
13. Army Corps of Engineers McAlpine Lock and Dams
14. Portland Wharf Park
15. Shawnee Golf Course
16. Shawnee Park
17. Chickasaw Park
18. Ohio River Way

The Falls Area and the Foundation

This document was presented to the Board of Directors for review and input on September 20, 2022. The information was presented as a starting point for discussion among board members regarding what the Falls of the Ohio area is and what areas of significance might be included to identify new convening partners, programs, projects, and enhance the story of the Falls of the Ohio area. On November 15, 2022 the Board of Directors reviewed and approved using this document, and the attached map, as a guide (but not a final declaration) of who we are, what we do, or what the Falls area is. We understand that much like the river, our boundaries may ebb and flow as the needs of our community and this area evolve, our stories are told, and as future developments and discoveries may necessitate.

APPROVED November 15, 2022



Nicole Yates, Secretary

Falls of the Ohio Area

- 1. Duffy's Landing
- 2. Jeffboat Shipyard
- 3. Fisherman's Wharf
- 4. Big Four Station
- 5. Van Dyke Park
- 6. Ashland Park
- 7. Falls of the Ohio State Park
- 8. Ohio River Greenway
- 9. George Rogers Clark Homesite
- 10. Mill Creek
- 11. Lewis and Clark Bicentennial Park

- 12. Origin Park
- 13. Silver Creek
- 14. Loop Island Wetlands
- 15. Second Baptist Church
- 16. New Albany Riverfront Park, Riverfront Amphitheater, Flow Park, Matt Brewer Flow Skate Park
- 17. River Recreation Park
- 18. Silver Hills Historical Trail and Wildlife Sanctuary

- 1. Locust Grove
- 2. Caperton Swamp Park
- 3. Cox Park
- 4. Water Tower Park
- 5. Champions Park
- 6. Beargrass Creek
- 7. Waterfront Botanical Gardens
- 8. Waterfront Park
- 9. Riverwalk/Louisville Loop
- 10. West Expansion of Waterfront Park

- 11. Falls of the Ohio National Wildlife Conservation Area - including fossil beds, Shippingport Island, Sand Island, Lewis and Clark Island
- 12. Lannan Park
- 13. Army Corps of Engineers McAlpine Lock and Dams
- 14. Portland Wharf Park
- 15. Shawnee Golf Course
- 16. Shawnee Park
- 17. Chickasaw Park

