

Friends of the Lower Muskingum River

Hulls Easement

FLMR Hulls Easement Established July 11th 2007

Status

- Trail Type: Permanent Campsite
- Buckeye Trail Miles: 0
- Acreage: 382
- County: Noble
- Preservation Tool: Conservation Easement
- BT Section: Road Fork

Natural and Cultural Resources

• Tributary of the Middle Fork of Duck Creek

Significance

- Permanent protection of the trail campsite and shelter
- Key campsite location between Wolf Run State Park and the Wayne National Forest
- Concurrent North Country National Scenic Trail and American Discovery Trail

In 2007, two Buckeye Trail Association members, Herb and Susie Hulls, worked with our land preservation partner Friends of the Lower Muskingum River (FLMR) to preserve their land by donating a conservation easement. While they were at it they added a permanent campsite and shelter location along the BT.

In an article in the Marietta Times in 2010, they stated "that they had known about conservation easements for several years, but had not thought of them as applying to [them]. In the course of their lives they had lived in enough different areas to realize that more and more of our precious green space is being eaten up by development or cut up into small acreage lots. Not that that is always a bad thing, but we need to save some larger areas for wildlife and future generations". They realized that they had to do something to preserve the 382 acres in its current state. Their main concern with the 382 acres was to keep it from being subdivided and become home building lots and a conservation easement with the FLMR solved that problem. The challenge for the Hulls' was deciding what else they wanted to prevent or permit. So along with the stipulation that there be no other houses; it will remain a one-home property, and they made sure a campsite would be protected for the BT.

Herb explains that "most of the land has either been strip mined or was at one time farm ground. With reforestation by the state and mining companies, and with the help of beaver activity, the land looks much different now than it did 32 years ago when we first moved here. They are added to the deed and stay with the property in perpetuity. Not that it was terribly difficult to do, but knowing that no matter what happens to us now, this 382 acres will remain 382 acres!"

The FLMR easement protects both the land from development and the BT campsite within 150 feet of Hoot Owl Ridge Road which the Buckeye Trail and North Country National Scenic Trail follow. Now future generation of hikers will be able to enjoy this portion of the Buckeye Trail without worrying where their next campsite will be.





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