

COMMUNITY PROFILE

If you really want to be in “The Heart of it All,” come to Belmont County, Ohio. Become part of an area rich in American History, country music, river cruises, fun-filled fairs and festivals, beautiful parks, dedicated bike paths, lakes and breathtaking scenery. Experience for yourself the relaxed lifestyle of Belmont County, the “Gateway to the Upper Ohio Valley.”

GATEWAY to the UPPER OHIO VALLEY

Belmont County was established by proclamation in 1801. It is named from the French phrase meaning “Beautiful Mountain.” Belmont County encompasses 537 square miles of land along the Ohio River in eastern Ohio. St. Clairsville, the county seat, lies 65 miles west of Pittsburgh and 120 miles east of Columbus. Belmont County is almost equidistant from New York and Chicago and approximately 300 miles away from Washington, D.C. All of these areas are easily accessible by modern interstate highways.

Belmont County is centrally located in the market and supply linkages associated within overnight reach of over 70 million people in the most powerful industrial economic base in the U.S. Within a 300 mile radius of Belmont County are approximately 50% of the nation’s population and more than 60% of its manufacturing plants - all within overnight travel to Belmont County.

Belmont County’s steep hills and narrow valleys offer dramatic scenery as well an abundant supply of coal, a plentiful water supply, deposits of limestone and clay and a number of recreational facilities. Elevation ranges from 610 to 1,300 feet above sea level.

The majority of population and industrialization is located in the residential centers of St. Clairsville, Bethesda, Belmont, Barnesville and the riverfront communities of Martins Ferry, Bridgeport, Bellaire and Powhatan Point.

The Soil Conservation Service provides detailed soil data, which indicates two broad categories of local soils. The first is found along the alluvial plains and lower elevations. This soil is generally well suited for development. The second type, found on slopes and higher elevations, is generally suitable for residential and other light urban development.

The area enjoys an annual growing season of 170-180 days. The last frost occurs in April with the first frost occurring in late October. Snowfall starts in late November with the last spring snow in March.

Belmont County has an average annual temperature of 52° F and an average annual precipitation of 32 inches. Average annual snowfall is 25 inches.

Belmont County has a very low crime rate of 4%. Law enforcement services are provided within the local communities by city and village police forces and by the Belmont County Sheriff’s Department, for areas outside local jurisdiction. The Ohio State Patrol maintains a post in St. Clairsville, OH. Belmont County operates a 911 emergency response system.

Natural resources available in Belmont County include: coal, limestone, sand, gravel, salt, oil, gas, timber, and an abundance of water.

Every major branch of organized religion is represented in Belmont County or nearby. Roman Catholic, Christian, Lutheran, Episcopal, Presbyterian, Baptist, Methodist, Eastern Orthodox, Apostolic, Assembly of God, Eastern Rite Catholic, Church of Christ, Church of God, Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, Jehovah’s Witnesses, Evangelical, Unitarian Universalist, Protestant denominations and Jewish Synagogues provide spiritual guidance and worship services.

Ohio Travel Market . . .

- Ohio is ranked as the 8th most visited state in the country (by the Travel Industry Association of America).
- Americans took 152.6 million trips to or in Ohio during the 2004 travel year.
- 79% of overnight trips to Ohio were pleasure trips and 21% were business trips.

Visitor Demographics based on overnight, leisure visitors . . .

- Average Age: 43.1
- Gender: Male: 50%, Female 50%
- Marital Status: 64% married
- Average Party Size: 3.6
- Household Income: 32% - \$75,000+ and 25% - \$50,000 to \$74,000

