

# Membership Form

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_

State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Annual Dues: \_\_\_ New \_\_\_ Renewal

\_\_\_ Student \$ 5.00

\_\_\_ Individual \$ 10.00

\_\_\_ Family \$ 15.00

\_\_\_ Club or Organization \$ 30.00

\_\_\_ Supporting \$ 50.00

\_\_\_ Sustaining \$100.00

\_\_\_ Benefactor \$250.00

\_\_\_ Donation \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_ Depot restoration fund! \_\_\_\_\_

TOTAL \_\_\_\_\_

I would also like to donate:

\_\_\_ Labor \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_ Equipment \_\_\_\_\_

Detach and Mail this section.

Please make your check payable to:

**Firelands Rails To Trails, Inc.**

**44 East Main St. Norwalk, OH 44857**

Membership fees and donations to Firelands Rails to Trails are tax-deductible as allowed by law.

## DONALD E. MORROW

Long time Huron County resident Don Morrow was a successful businessman, husband, father, and a Korean War Veteran. Don enjoyed the outdoors, wildlife, and nature. Don is pictured here with his wife, Pamela.



## ABOUT FIRELANDS RAILS TO TRAILS

Firelands Rails to Trails, Inc. is a nonprofit, 501(c)3 all volunteer organization dedicated to completing the rail trail across Huron County. This will become part of the North Coast Inland Trail, large portions of which are already enjoyed by families in adjacent counties across Northern Ohio. When complete, the trail will stretch from Lorain to Toledo, in most areas using the almost level grade of the scenic former New York Central Railroad's "Norwalk Branch".

Firelands Rails to Trails, Inc. (FRTTI) acts on behalf of The Northwest Ohio Rail Trail Association and park districts in five nearby counties which currently own approximately 14.8 miles of former Penn Central railroad property stretching through the northern part of Huron County.

Your support of this trail system will provide a safe, clean, and picturesque route for bike riders, walkers, joggers and skiers. The NCIT is also the only public equestrian trail in Huron County.

The primary mission of FRTTI is the design, construction, and maintenance of the NCIT in Huron County, with funding made possible by memberships, donations, grants, and park district owner contributions. A separate depot fund has been set up for the rehabilitation of the depot and the park.

## NORTH COAST INLAND TRAIL

Donald E. Morrow Park will serve as a starting or ending point for many of these healthy activities: Walking, hiking, running, bicycling, cross-country skiing, bird watching, horseback riding, and nature walks. NCIT signage and mileposts will soon appear in Huron, Lorain, Sandusky and Ottawa Counties.



## HISTORY OF THE NORWALK BRANCH



The Toledo, Norwalk and Cleveland Railroad was built in 1851 as a route connecting Toledo, Norwalk & Grafton. In 1853 the railroad merged with the Junction Railroad to become the Cleveland & Toledo Railroad. The line served the rich agricultural regions of Northern Ohio and later became the east-west main line of the Lake Shore and Michigan Southern which formed the original transcontinental route between New York and Chicago.

In the 1860's, the original route to Grafton was abandoned in favor of a connection to the new main line at Elyria which proceeded west through Sandusky.

After 1869, our route through Norwalk was reduced to a secondary line by the Lake Shore & Michigan Southern with the newer line through Sandusky becoming the current main line. The New York Central merged the LS&MS in 1914. Unprofitability, poor track, and a washout near Norwalk led to abandonment in 1976 by Penn Central, successor to the NYC System.

## HISTORY OF THE DEPOT

Our depot was constructed in 1863 by the Cleveland and Toledo Railroad as a passenger station serving this railroad and the adjacent B&O line through Monroeville. A freight depot was located several hundred yards west. The depot served over 29,000 passengers a year in the 1870's!

Over the years the depot has undergone some cosmetic changes, the freight depot closed and was integrated into the old baggage room, but the original ticket windows and other ornaments remain.

Passenger service ended in the late 1950's and a freight agent remained until the late 1960's or 1970's.

Don Morrow, Archie Leis, Dean Jones, Richard Rosswurm, and Otto Bores purchased the depot in 1979. Over the next couple decades Don leased the building to several businesses all the while preserving this historical gem.

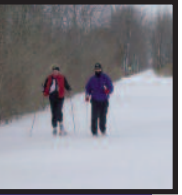
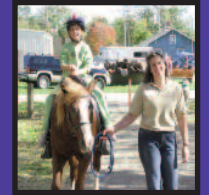
In 2006, Firelands Rails to Trails Trustees and Don Morrow began discussions regarding the depot. In 2008, Don passed away and his widow, Pam, re-opened discussions with FRTTI. Thanks to the generosity of Pam, FRTTI now has a building to call their home headquarters and to use for trail activities. The depot and adjacent park will provide a relaxing place for trail users to stop and learn the rich history of the "Norwalk Branch" and its connecting railroad lines in Monroeville.

JPM / FRTTI 2011

Welcome to



on the scenic  
North Coast Inland Trail



Monroeville, Ohio

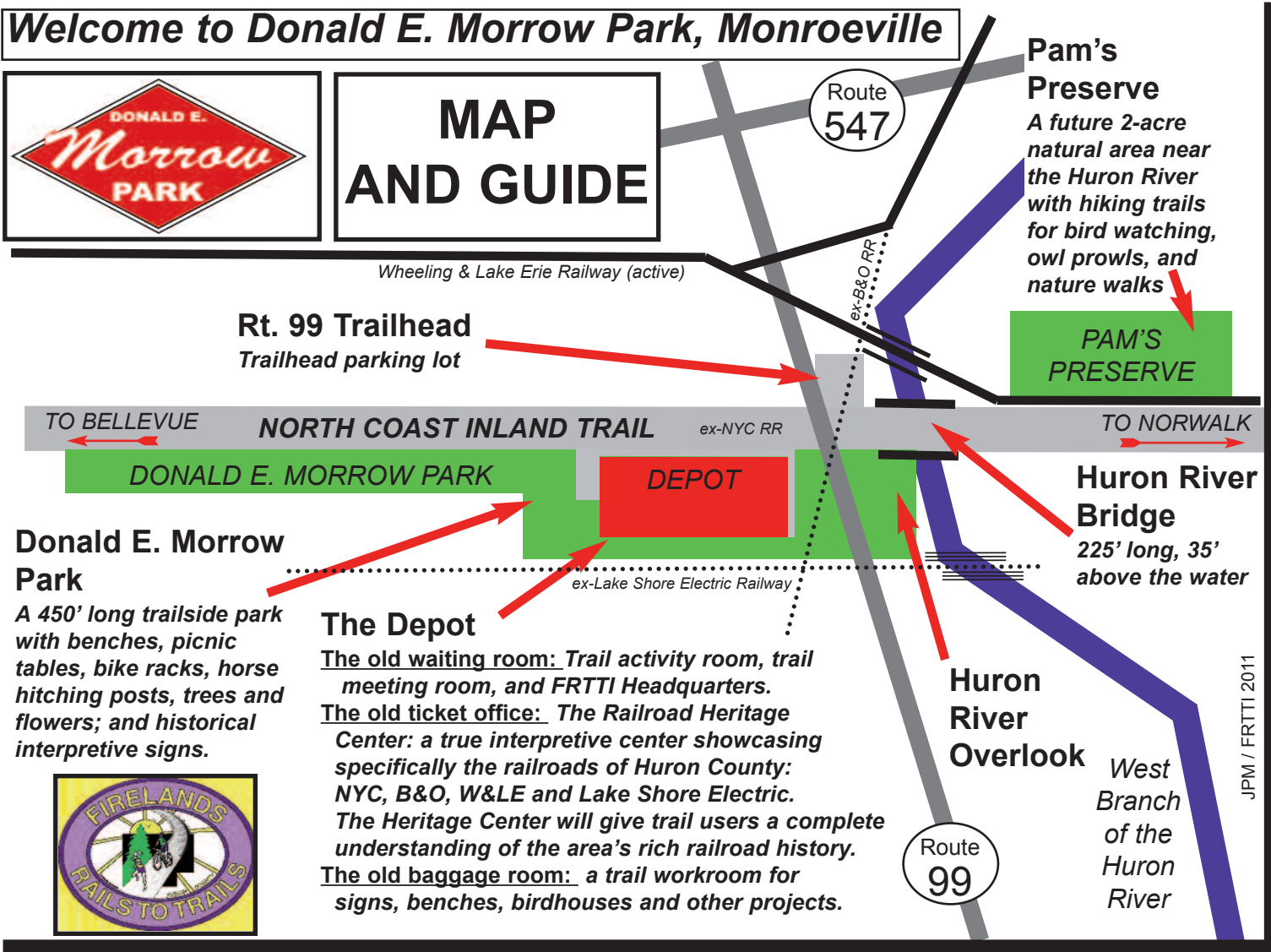


[WWW.FIRELANDSRAILSTOTRAILS.ORG](http://WWW.FIRELANDSRAILSTOTRAILS.ORG)

# Welcome to Donald E. Morrow Park, Monroeville



## MAP AND GUIDE



**Donald E. Morrow Park**  
A 450' long trailside park with benches, picnic tables, bike racks, horse hitching posts, trees and flowers; and historical interpretive signs.



**The Depot**  
**The old waiting room:** Trail activity room, trail meeting room, and FRTTI Headquarters.  
**The old ticket office:** The Railroad Heritage Center: a true interpretive center showcasing specifically the railroads of Huron County: NYC, B&O, W&LE and Lake Shore Electric.  
 The Heritage Center will give trail users a complete understanding of the area's rich railroad history.  
**The old baggage room:** a trail workroom for signs, benches, birdhouses and other projects.

## The Monroeville Depot over the years... 1863 to 2011 and beyond



As the C&T and B&O Depot in the 1870's  
Phil Moberg Collection



As the New York Central Depot in 1918  
USRA Photo, Allen Co. Collection



As the New York Central Depot in the 1950's  
Bob Lorenz Photo



As the future Donald E. Morrow Park, 2009



Official colors as seen on the Monroeville Depot, 2011



### The Restoration

Step into the Depot at Donald E. Morrow Park and you'll think it's 1914; the year the New York Central merged operations of the Lake Shore and Michigan Southern Railway. The depot is being carefully restored and painted in the correct period colors as certified by the New York Central System Historical Society.

Extensive research was done by FRTTI Trustee Fritz Kuenzel and the FRTTI Trustees. Additional research assistance came from Jefferson Depot Inc, owners of an original LS&MS depot similar to ours in Jefferson, Ohio, which has been completely rehabilitated with donations and volunteer efforts.

Since work began in January 2010, talented FRTTI Trustees and volunteers pictured above have logged over 600 hours to overhaul and paint the interior, upgrade the electrical and mechanical systems, and make plans for the park grounds and overlooks.

Wilhelm Construction and All Seasons Climate Control have donated materials and labor. Kraus & Hanck, CPA, donated many of the interior furnishings. FRTTI has received a generous donation from Pam Morrow for windows and a roof. Paul Lindenberger, life-long friend of Don Morrow, has donated two pieces of original furniture: a freight agent's desk and the original telegraph desk!

This is the oldest depot on the line and one of the oldest in the U.S.!

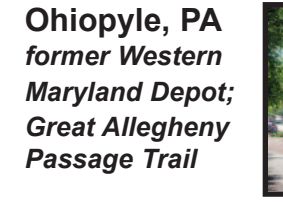
**This place matters!**

*"The nation's premier trails have restored depots. The trails with restored depots are the nation's premier trails."*

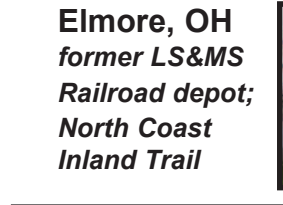
Pictured below are just a few examples of restored depots functioning in trail-related capacities: as trail-heads, as visitor centers, as historical centers, and as trail organization headquarters facilities... Restored depots provide a window into the past and provide a lesson in local history for trail users.



**Meyersdale, PA**  
former Western Maryland Depot;  
Great Allegheny Passage Trail



**Beulah, MI**  
former Ann Arbor Railroad depot;  
Betsie Valley Rail Trail



**O'Neill, NE**  
former Chicago & Northwestern Ry. Depot;  
Cowboy Trail



*The North Coast Inland Trail will become one of the nation's premier trails. The Monroeville Depot will be the crown jewel of the NCIT.*