



What criteria will be used to select sites for inclusion in Ohio Hill Country Heritage Area's web site?

The focus must be on authenticity and quality to reflect the region's culture, architecture, natural resources, sense of place, people and/or traditions. The "trails" must celebrate the cultural diversity and reflect positively on the heritage of the Ohio's Appalachian Region. Museums, artists' studios, galleries, and other cultural sites must provide interpretation (through exhibits, written materials, demonstrations etc).

Retail shops must feature American-made items and priority will be given to shops that feature items handmade or homegrown in Ohio's Hill Country. Included will be specialty food shops, craft and gift shops, artists' studios, garden-related shops, shops that provide specialized craft materials (such as fabrics for quilting, Appalachian heritage woods for wood-working, pottery-making materials etc.), handmade furniture shops, and traditional country general stores.

Unique manufacturing facilities that offer tours and have an element of craftsmanship associated with them such as potteries, basket making, glassworks.

Lodging can be bed and breakfast inns, rental cabins, farm stays, park lodges, historic inns, and campgrounds. These facilities should enhance the experience of the region's special sense of place.

Restaurants should feature home cooking with at least some distinctive menu items such as old-fashioned soda fountain specialties; homemade cakes, pies and candies; recipes made with locally-grown or organic produce; special ethnic recipes; and seasonal specialties. Micro-breweries and wineries will also be included. Restaurants need not be "fancy" to be included but they must have "local color" and contribute to the experience of Ohio's Hill Country in some way.

Natural attractions can be natural wonders, lakes and rivers, community and state parks, special farms (such as those growing herbs, Christmas trees, pick-your-own orchards), wildlife sanctuaries, scenic byways and scenic vistas.

All sites must be open to the public and be available for visitation at least two days per week with specified hours. All sites must be safe, clean and tidy. All sites must be easy to access (no 4-wheel drive only access areas), and visitor-friendly with restrooms and adequate parking nearby. If the site is a private residence the entrance and signage along the road should be well-marked.

Special events/festivals and cultural events will be included. Such events must take place on a regular or annual basis and have at least a three-year track record.