

DISTRX OBERLIN DESCRIPTION

A BIG minded small town, Oberlin was founded in 1833 and continues to be where history, art, music, dance, learning, shopping, and recreation meet to offer a host of ways to chart your enjoyment of Oberlin's sounds, beauty, food, and drink, from concert halls and art galleries to restaurants (and back again). Visitors can spend the day exploring Oberlin's rich history of culture and sense of place, on foot or on bicycle and learn how for close to 200 years, the citizens of Oberlin have renewed their determination to live, learn, and lead.

Oberlin's downtown is welcoming, walkable, and friendly. It is home to one of the few remaining Ben Franklin five and dime stores in the United States and there are a variety of stores where you can "**expect the unexpected.**" Regardless of what you're looking for — be it a winter coat, a functional end table, a bright purple wig, a Victorian bodice, or a frog-shaped vase — odds are you can find it at one of Oberlin's independently-owned secondhand stores. Even if you don't have a pre-planned shopping list, you'll likely find at least one must-buy item while perusing nooks, crannies, and whimsical displays.

Ratsy's features "weird" and unconventional items — a favorite shopping place for Oberlin College students. [RATSY'S STORE](#)

All Things Great is a consignment store featuring clothing, decor, art, furniture, & recreated goods. If you're looking for 40s-style hats or expertly restored Victorian clothing it's the place to go. [ALL THINGS GREAT](#)

The **Mad Cow Curiosity Shop** which is tucked away behind a blue door and up a flight of stairs on West College Street stocks an eclectic assortment of items, including posters, graphic t-shirts, skateboards, vintage clothing, unusual hats, records, cassette tapes, shoes, room décor, and incense. [MAD COW CURIOSITY SHOP](#)

Just slightly off the main drag of downtown Oberlin is **Main Street Antiques**, Oberlin's only antique store. Main Street Antiques is a treasure trove of furniture, collectibles, home decor, and even farming tools. "This place has so much good stuff — so many little trinkets," said a frequent Oberlin College student shopper. [MAIN STREET ANTIQUES](#)

Hanson Records has an assortment of vinyl, magazine, cassettes, DVDs, books, and even 8-tracks at great prices with an owner who is knowledgeable, friendly, and welcoming.

[HANSON RECORDS](#)

Each of these stores — Ratsy's, Mad Cow Curiosity Shop, All Things Great, and Main Street Antiques, and Hanson Records — are full of character. They offer different experiences, but all are run by people who care deeply about the work they do and the community that they are a part of.

[FIND MORE OBERLIN RETAIL AND SPECIALTY SHOPS HERE](#)

Oberlin offers an impressive selection of restaurants including **1833 at The Hotel at Oberlin, Aladdin's, The Arb at Tappan Square, Bingo Chinese Restaurant, Bistro Bella Luna, , Black River Wine Bar, The Feve, Kim's Grocery and Carryout, The Local Coffee and Tea, Lorenzo's Pizzeria, Lupita's Mexican Restaurant, The Mandarin, and Slow Train Café'.**

[FIND LOCAL RESTAURANTS HERE](#)

Oberlin is home to **Oberlin College and Conservatory**, internationally recognized as an excellent liberal arts institution. The college helps to create the cultural characteristic of Oberlin with concerts, exhibits, performances, lectures, and learning opportunities.

[OBERLIN COLLEGE AND CONSERVATORY](#)

Allen Memorial Art Museum was Founded in 1917 on the campus of Oberlin College, the Allen Memorial Art Museum is recognized as one of the best academic art museums in the nation.

[ALLEN MEMORIAL ART MUSEUM](#)

The Weltzheimer/Johnson House at Oberlin College is a Frank Lloyd Wright Usonian House situated several blocks from campus. Designed in 1947 and completed in 1949, it is the first Usonian house in Ohio. It is open to the public on the first Sunday of the month from noon to 5 p.m., April through November (except Easter and Independence Day). Presentations on the architecture and history of the house begin on the hour at 12 p.m., 1 p.m., 2 p.m., 3 p.m., and 4 p.m. Advance registration is highly recommended. [WELTZHEIMER/JOHNSON HOUSE - FRANK LLOYD WRIGHT](#)

Oberlin is also home to **Kendal at Oberlin** a vibrant life plan community, located just one mile from Oberlin College and less than 30 miles from the Cleveland international airport. Kendal at Oberlin is a community where older adults thrive. People have moved to this community in this vibrant college town from 36 different states. [KENDAL AT OBERLIN](#)

The **Oberlin Heritage Center** offers tours and exhibits featuring Oberlin's involvement in the trail to freedom - the Underground Railroad. They also promote, preserve, and provide education and tours regarding Oberlin and Lorain County's unique history, culture, arts, and natural environment. [OBERLIN HERITAGE CENTER](#)

Common Ground, the Cindy Nord Center for Renewal, provides transformational opportunities for individuals and groups to connect with nature, themselves, and others through a variety of experienced. Common Ground is home to summer day camps for youth and teens, a top-rated zipline canopy tour, team building programs and much more. [COMMON GROUND](#)

Splash Zone aquatic and fitness center provides numerous recreational opportunities year round including aquatics, fitness, youth activities, and even an outdoor water park to cool off in the summer months. Splash Zone is open to members and non-members and offers plenty of fitness programs. [SPLASH ZONE](#)

Oberlin Recreation Complex is the City's primary sports facility that includes five (5) Baseball/Softball fields, four (4) of which are lighted and eight (8) Soccer fields with adjacent green space on a 77-acre site. Amenities include a concession stand/restroom building, two (2) picnic pavilions and a lighted paved parking lot. [OBERLIN RECREATIONAL COMPLEX](#)

Oberlin Golf Club is a private club that also hosts tournaments. Whether you are planning your first corporate outing, charity event, or client appreciation tournament, our experienced tournament personnel are helpful and accessible. We are committed to providing personal assistance from the planning to the production of your event through a dedicated tournament coordinator. [OBERLIN GOLF CLUB](#)

Oberlin City Parks. A complete list of parks with addresses is available on the City of Oberlin website here: [OBERLIN CITY PARKS](#)

A 3.1 mile paved bike and walking path, cuts diagonally across the City and is part of the [North Coast Inland Trail](#), a 13.1 mile route between Kipton and Elyria owned and operated by the [Lorain County Metroparks](#) outside of City limits.

Bill Long & Scott & Olivia Carson Nature Preserve is a 22-acre Nature Preserve which includes a 13 acre reservoir maintained as a natural area. Fishing is permitted in the reservoir; swimming and boating are not allowed.

Depot Park is 4 acre park with green space, a children's playground that features some accessible features and the [Oberlin Fitness Zone](#). The "Fitness Zone" exercise stations are design to make everyday life task easier and to improve quality of life.

East College Street Courtyard had benches and a grassy area nestled between businesses and residences on East College Street. It is a great place to enjoy coffee from the Slow Train Café' after a meal at Bistro Bella Luna, or take-out from Kim's Grocery and Carryout.

The George A. Abram Memorial Pavilion was dedicated in 2019. It is adjacent to the Bike Path with views of the historic Gasholder building.

Martin Luther King Jr. Park has historic sculptures in honor of Martin Luther King Jr. and the Oberlin-Wellington Rescue along with John Brown. There is also an environmental sculpture titled "Streams" by Athena Tacha set in the banks of Plum Creek, adjacent to a walking bridge that connects the park to City Hall and the Public Library.

Park Street Park has two basketball courts, a playground, horseshoes pit and a green space.

Parsons Road Upland Reservoir is number [38](#) on the Lake [Erie Birding Trail](#). From late fall until the reservoir freezes, huge numbers of waterfowl often congregate. Their ranks can include nearly every species of regularly occurring diver, as well as many species of dabbling ducks. Hundreds of Ruddy Ducks and American Coots often gather. Fishing is permitted with a valid [Ohio fishing licenses](#). Boats with electric motors only are permitted at the Reservoir. Swimming is not permitted.

Spring Street Park is a 12-acre park with green space and woodlands adjacent to the Bike Path. Amenities include two picnic shelters, a gazebo and a large playground.

The OBP website is the place to search for local businesses. If you need additional information, please call our office at 440-774-6262 or stop by our office at 23 E. College Street.

[OBP WEBSITE - FIND BUSINESSES AND OBERLIN INFORMATION](#)