

# Oxford as a Place to Live



Oxford, Ohio, founded in 1810 to be the location of [Miami University](#) (chartered in 1809), is the quintessential university community, with the cultural resources of a larger city, yet the size and population (21,000 residents) of a small town with a distinctive local character.

Nestled in the lush rolling hills of the Miami Valley in southwest Ohio, this area was inhabited by the [Myaamia](#) tribe from which the name Miami derives. Surrounded by hundreds of acres of wooded land owned by the University and open for hiking year round, Oxford is also belted by the [Oxford Area Trail System](#) (OATS), a paved perimeter path for walking and bike riding, that passes through the Black Covered Bridge (the oldest and best preserved 19th-century wooden bridge in Ohio).







**The City of Oxford** benefits from a Manager-Council government and a progressive municipal administration and Council, working for energy conservation, recycling, and affordable housing. Oxford is also concerned with its many populations and offers much needed food and other services through **TOPSS** (Talawanda Oxford Pantry and Social Services) and Thred-UP (an online consignment and thrift store).

Holy Trinity is located one block from both the Miami University campus—according to the poet Robert Frost “the most beautiful campus ever there was”--as well as from Uptown, the commercial heart of the city. Oxford boasts shops, restaurants, cafes, parks and a farmers’ market to meet the needs of its residents and its students, and is only a 50-minute drive from downtown Cincinnati or Dayton.



Although Miami University has been nicknamed the “Cradle of Coaches” due to its long history of prominent football coaches, Miami offers a full range of varsity sports, including basketball and ice hockey. In addition, Oxford’s location provides sports enthusiasts with many other opportunities. Nearby Dayton offers varsity sports at the University of Dayton and minor league baseball while Cincinnati offers major league baseball and soccer as well as NFL football and varsity sports at the University of Cincinnati and Xavier University.



Oxford is the center of the [Talawanda School District](#) and boasts all new or recently constructed facilities for K-12 education. The [McGuffey Montessori School](#) offers a private alternative.



Oxford also enjoys many parks, including the town square and a large Community Park with soccer fields and baseball diamonds, a wooded trail, and the newly constructed [Aquatic Center](#).



Only five miles north of Oxford, Hueston Woods State Park offers Acton Lake for swimming and boating as well as hiking trails and picnic areas. Hueston Woods also maintains an 18-hole championship public golf course.

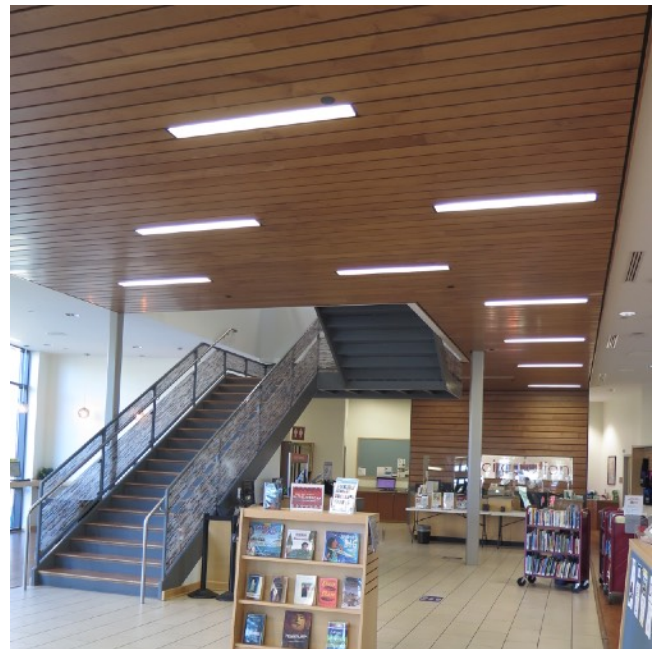


Excellent cultural resources include the [Oxford Community Arts Center](#) (with classes, exhibits, and performances), the fully accredited [Miami University Art Museum](#), the Lane Public Library and Smith Library of Regional History in addition to the Miami University Library system, and the University's lecture series. A wide variety of on- and off-campus concert and dramatic performances are promoted by [Enjoy Oxford](#) and the University through departmental and institutional calendars and announcements.



Left: an exhibit in the Miami University Art Museum

Below: views of the Lane Public Library - Smith Library of Regional History





Oxford also has played an important role in American social and cultural history because it was the location of the [“Freedom Summer” project](#). In the summer of 1964, many volunteers were trained on the Miami campus and with the support of Holy Trinity prior to traveling to the Deep South in order to help African-American citizens register to vote.

Health care in Oxford is excellent. The [McCullough-Hyde Memorial Hospital](#) is an outstanding regional facility, part of the Tri-Health network. There are many doctors’ parks along with facilities for exercise and personal fitness at Miami University and in local fitness centers.

There is also a significant retirement population. Recognized by AARP as an Age Friendly Community, Oxford is home to [the Knolls of Oxford](#), a Maple Knoll retirement complex with group activities and connections to Miami University, including Opening Minds through Art, a nationally recognized program for seniors. [Woodland Country Manor](#), like the Knolls, offers independent and assisted living as well as nursing care and a memory unit.

Retirement and aging are also the research subject of the [Miami University Gerontology Center and Scripps Foundation](#), an *Ohio Center of Excellence*.