

## **What I Love About My Community and Oberlin**

There are few places that can make me feel as connected to both nature and the people around me as Oberlin does. As a small town, Oberlin offers a unique combination of opportunities, natural beauty, and historical significance. It's a place where everything is within walking distance, where there's a sense of involvement in the community, and where nature is not just accessible but deeply woven into the fabric of everyday life. These are just a few of the reasons why I love Oberlin and feel at home here.

One of the most captivating aspects of Oberlin is its geographical layout. The town is compact and easy to navigate, making it incredibly convenient to walk or bike everywhere. Whether it's going to the local coffee shop, visiting the Oberlin College campus, or meeting up with friends in the downtown area, everything feels close and easily accessible. This sense of proximity not only makes life here more convenient but also enhances the feeling of connectedness. Walking through the town, you're not just moving from point A to point B—you're part of a community where everyone is just a few steps away. This walkable nature fosters spontaneous encounters and a sense of belonging that is often lost in larger, sprawling cities.

The ability to embrace nature is another aspect of Oberlin that I truly appreciate. The town is nestled in a beautiful area of Ohio, surrounded by parks, trails, and green spaces that invite exploration. Whether it's the Oberlin College Arboretum, the nearby Lorain County Metro Parks, or the quiet woods that surround the town, there are endless opportunities to immerse oneself in nature. These spaces offer a peaceful respite from the hustle and bustle of daily life and allow for outdoor activities like hiking, biking, or simply enjoying the tranquility of the natural world. Nature here isn't just a backdrop—it's an integral part of life in Oberlin, and it's easy to find opportunities to get outside and enjoy its beauty.

Another reason I love my community is the variety of ways in which people can stay engaged and make a living. Oberlin is a place that fosters both creativity and hard work. There are multiple avenues for individuals to earn money while staying connected to the town's values and resources. Oberlin College, with its rich academic environment, provides many opportunities for students and residents alike to get involved in research, internships, and part-time jobs that contribute to the community. Additionally, Oberlin has a strong sense of local commerce, with farmers' markets, artisan shops, and locally-owned businesses offering both career opportunities and ways to get involved. Whether you're passionate about arts, education, or sustainable agriculture, Oberlin has something for everyone, allowing its residents to balance work, life, and community engagement in a fulfilling way.

Beyond its natural beauty and practical layout, Oberlin is a town with a deeply significant history. It's a place that has long been known for its progressive ideals, particularly its role in the abolitionist movement. In the 19th century, Oberlin was a station on the Underground Railroad, with the town actively participating in the escape of enslaved individuals from the South. The Oberlin community's commitment to freedom and equality is something that continues to define the town today. The town's role in the fight against slavery is not just a historical footnote—it's a

source of pride for many who live here, and it provides a deep sense of purpose and inspiration. This history serves as a reminder of the values that Oberlin stands for: justice, equality, and the courage to stand up for what is right.

In conclusion, what I love most about Oberlin is how it blends nature, community, and history in such a seamless way. The ability to walk through a town where everything is close by and easily accessible, the abundance of natural spaces that encourage an outdoor lifestyle, the variety of opportunities to contribute to the community, and the rich, progressive history all make Oberlin a place that feels both comfortable and inspiring. It's a town that values both its past and its future, and I'm proud to call it home.