



The Land of Swinging Bridges

Though Clay County is bent on looking forward and progressing toward a bright new future, Clay Countians everywhere keep in their heart romantic images of their past.

Nothing evokes such notions as do the county's numerous swinging bridges across Goose Creek, Red Bird and the South Fork rivers. The brooding colors of the old bridges are the very stuff of soulful memories, and are worth seeking out as you drive around the county.

A suspension bridge is an early type of bridge that is supported entirely from anchors at either end, suspended from two high locations over a river or canyon. This type of bridge is also known as a rope bridge due to its historical construction based on the ancient Inca rope bridge.

A good many of Clay County's historic bridges remain, but many have succumbed to aging and are continuing to do so year after year. Keep your camera handy as you pass these reminders of a simpler time. It may be your last chance.

RULES: Always be mindful of all private property at the end of the bridges on both sides. Do not litter, do not bounce or jump on the bridges. The bridges restrictions are; no more than 4 people or a total weight of 800 lbs. are allowed on the bridges at one time.

Visitor's Center – Take the Manchester Exit 21 on Hal Rogers Parkway. Turn left if traveling East and turn right if traveling West. Make the first left turn into the Manchester Square Shopping Center. Continue straight and look for Visitor's Center sign on the building above its entrance.

- **Goose Creek Swinging Bridge** – From the Visitor's Center, exit parking lot at McDonalds and get in the left turning lane at 1st light then turn right at 2nd light (go across big concrete bridge.) At end of bridge turn left onto Hwy 2432. Take first drive to the left onto Riverside Trail.
- **Frazier Road Swinging Bridge** – From the Visitor's Center, exit parking lot at McDonalds, get in left turning lane at light - travel on Hwy 421N. Stay on Hwy 421 thru town which will take you thru the next 3 lights, then travel 6 miles to the intersection of Hwy 11 & 421. Turn North(right) on Hwy 11 for 4 miles to Frazier Road on the right. (if you see mile marker 13 – YOU JUST PASSED IT!!) Go 4/10 of a mile stay right to continue Frazier Rd. Bridge is on the left.

- **Old Homeplace Swinging Bridge** – From the Visitor’s Center, exit parking lot at McDonalds, get in left turning lane at light - travel on Hwy 421N. Stay on Hwy 421 thru town which will take you thru the next 3 lights, then travel 6 miles to the intersection of Hwy 11 & 421. Travel 5 miles to Old Homeplace Swinging Bridge on your right(across from Vinland Gas Co).
- **OBI Swinging Bridge** – From the Visitor’s Center, exit parking lot at McDonalds, get in left turning lane at light - travel on Hwy 421N. Stay on Hwy 421 thru town which will take you thru the next 3 lights, then travel 6 miles to the intersection of Hwy 11 & 421. Travel 11 miles to the intersection of Hwy 11 & 66 when you see the US Post Office turn right. You are on the campus of Oneida Baptist Institute. Ask someone where the Swinging Bridge is located.
- **Rocky Branch Swinging Bridge** – From the Visitor’s Center, exit parking lot at McDonalds, get in left turning lane at light - travel on Hwy 421N. Stay on Hwy 421 thru town which will take you thru the next 3 lights, then travel 6 miles to the intersection of Hwy 11 & 421. Turn right travel 11 miles(watch for Booneville sign) then turn left , take Hwy 11 North, travel approximately 5 miles to Rocky Branch Rd on the right. Travel approx. 2 miles to the Rocky Branch Swinging Bridge which crosses the South Fork of the KY River.
- **Sexton’s Creek Swinging Bridge** – From the Visitor’s Center, exit parking lot at McDonalds, get in left turning lane at light - travel on Hwy 421N. Stay on Hwy 421 thru town which will take you thru the next 3 lights, then travel 6 miles to the intersection of Hwy 11 & 421. Proceed thru the intersection travel Hwy 421N for 10 miles to Hwy 577. Travel on Hwy 577 for 9.5 miles to the swinging bridge. The bridge is on the right.
- **Farmer Road (Red Bird) Swinging Bridge** – From the Visitor’s Center, exit parking lot at Rite Aide /Walgreens (turning right) take the Hal Rogers Parkway East toward Hazard, take Big Creek exit. Turn right onto Hwy 66, travel .6 miles then turn right onto Hwy 80, travel .8 miles then turn left on Hwy 66, travel 4 miles, bridge on the left.
- **Bar (Bear) Creek Swinging Bridge** – From the Visitor’s Center, exit parking lot at RiteAide/Walgreens (turning right) take the Hal Rogers Parkway East toward Hazard, take Big Creek Exit, turn left onto Hwy 66, travel approx. 6.9 miles, the bridge is on the left. **DO NOT TRY TO CROSS THIS BRIDGE -UNDER CONSTRUCTION– ENJOY THE VIEW.**
- **Laurel Branch Rd Swinging Bridge** – From the Visitor’s Center, exit parking lot at RiteAide/Walgreens (turning right) take the Hal Rogers Parkway East toward Hazard, take Big Creek exit. Turn left onto Hwy 66, travel approx. 7.8 miles, turn left onto Laurel Branch Rd, when you cross the bridge, you will see the swinging bridge is on the left **DO NOT TRY TO CROSS THIS BRIDGE – UNDER CONSTRUCTION – ENJOY THE VIEW.**
- **Antepast Swinging Bridge** – From the Visitor’s Center, exit parking lot at Rite Aide/Walgreens (turning right) take the Hal Rogers Parkway East toward Hazard, take Big Creek Exit, turn left onto Hwy 66, travel 8.4 miles, church is on the left side of the road – look for Antepast Church sign. Bridge is located next to church. **NOTE: Please be respectful and quiet if Church services are in session.**
- **Martin Cemetery Rd Swinging Bridge** – From the Visitor’s Center, exit parking lot at Riteaide/Walgreens (turning right) take the Hal Rogers Parkway E toward Hazard, take Big Creek exit. Turn left onto Hwy 66, travel approx. 9 miles, the bridge is on the left. **DO NOT TRY TO CROSS THIS BRIDGE – UNDER CONSTRUCTION - ENJOY THE VIEW.**
- **Antioch Church Swinging Bridge** – From the Visitor’s Center, exit parking lot at McDonalds, get in straight thru lane. Travel Hwy 421 until you see over pass, turn right at the light onto Hwy 11, travel 8.3 miles, bridge is on the left side of the road. **DO NOT TRY TO CROSS THIS BRIDGE – UNDER CONSTRUCTION – ENJOY THE VIEW.**