

newton county photovoice project 2011



our community through the eyes of our youth



Newton County is home to the Buffalo National River, the nation's first federally protected river and one of the last free-flowing streams in mid-America.



At the time of the 2000 census, the population of Newton County was 8,608. It is considered one of approximately 812 frontier counties in the United States.*

* National Center for Frontier Communities. (2009). Frontier Counties in the United States.

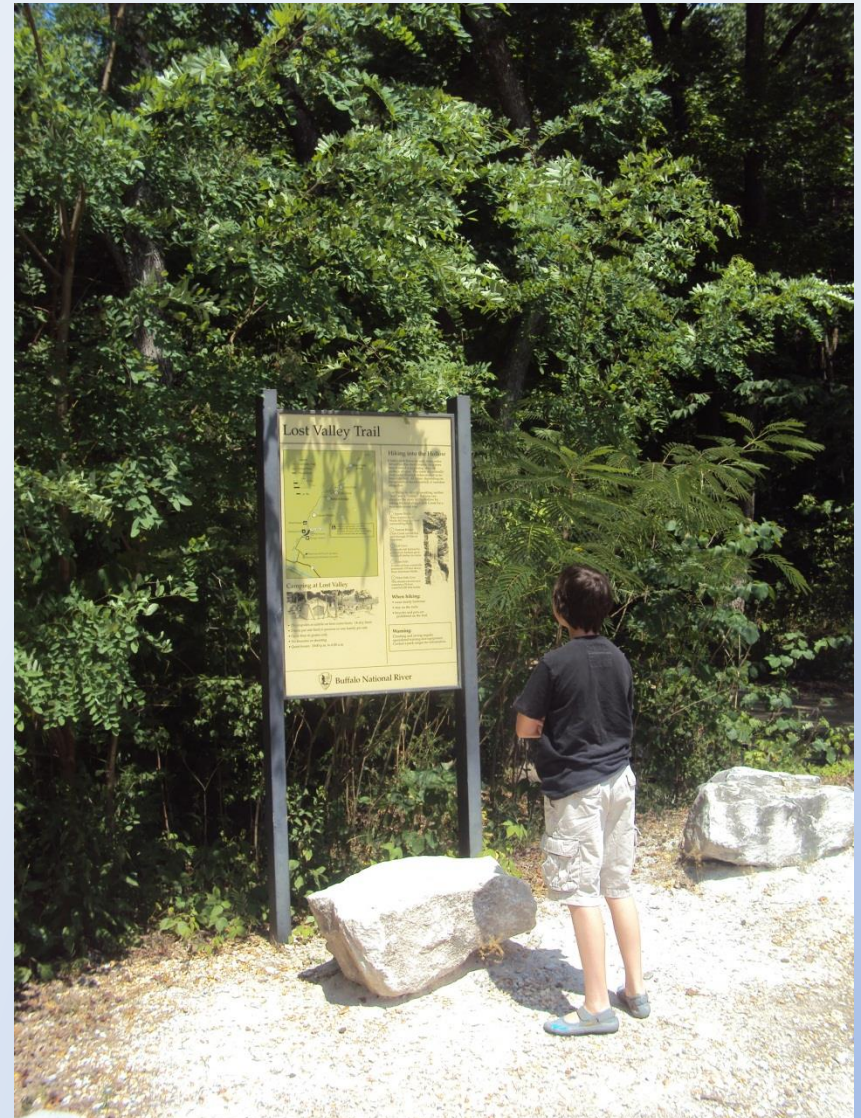
There are opportunities throughout the county to hike, canoe and swim at the Buffalo National River along it's many trailheads and access points.



Lost Valley, one of the most popular hiking and camping sites in Newton County, has a permanently reserved handicapped campsite available.



There are hikes to accommodate everyone, regardless of age or fitness level.



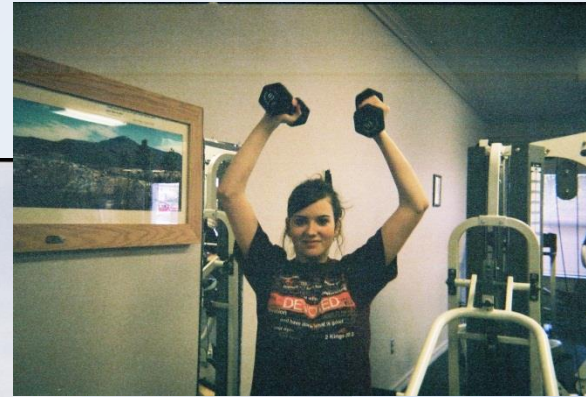
Many of the opportunities for physical activity in the county are found at school parks, playgrounds and gymnasiums. However, limited open gym times and distance most people live away from these facilities create access barriers to these resources.





Western Grove School facilities include a playground, baseball diamond, tennis court and basketball gym.

Opportunities for physical activity include the Western Grove Fitness Center, one of two fitness centers in the county.





The beautiful Bradley Park overlooks the Buffalo National River and is within walking distance from the Jasper School.





Deer High School students take advantage of the playground equipment at the Deer/Mount Judea Public School.

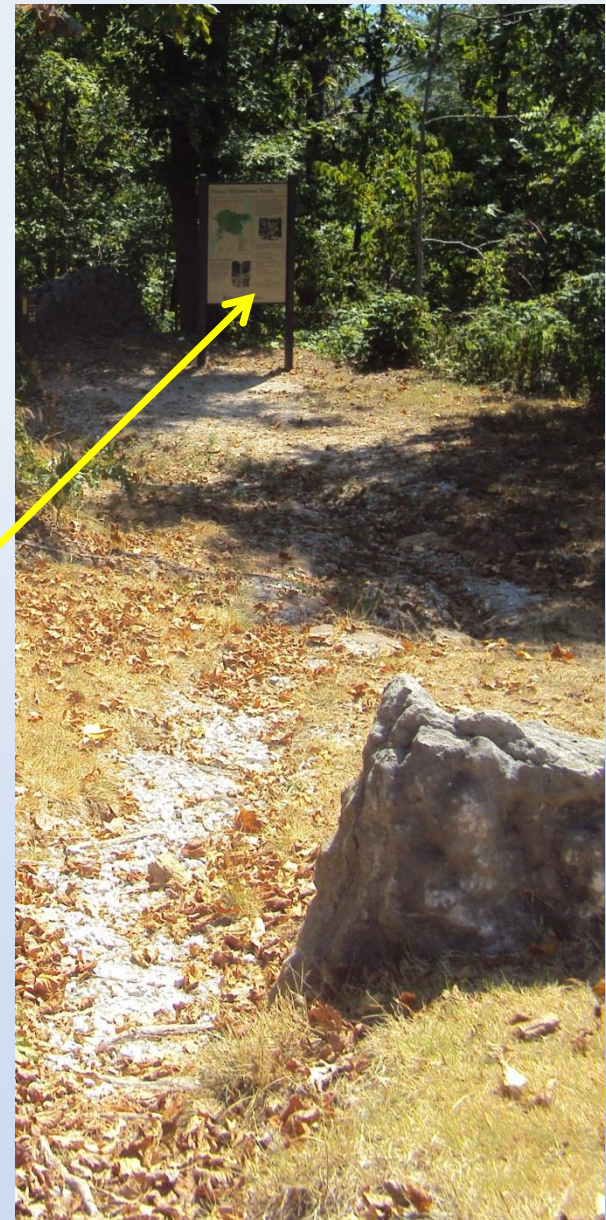
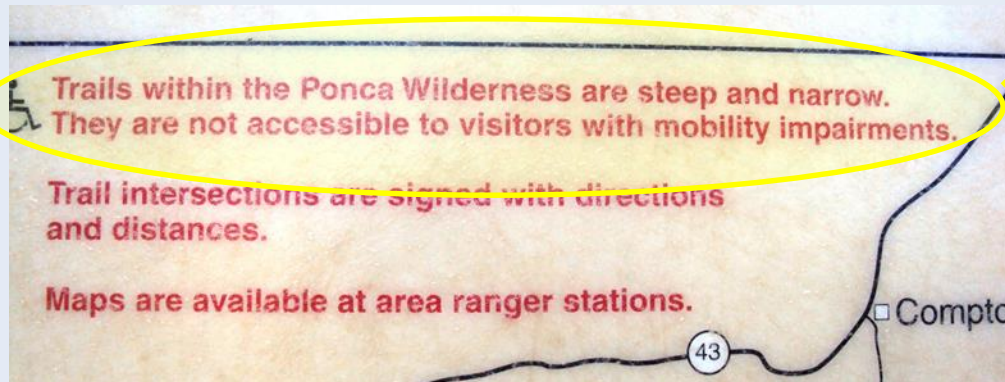


Although the vistas in Newton County are unmatched, the rugged terrain presents many barriers to having walkable communities.

Some of the opportunities for physical activity have barriers due to the unappealing appearance of facilities. The basketball court pictures below at the Mount Judea Campus is surrounded by a chain-link fenced topped with razor wire.



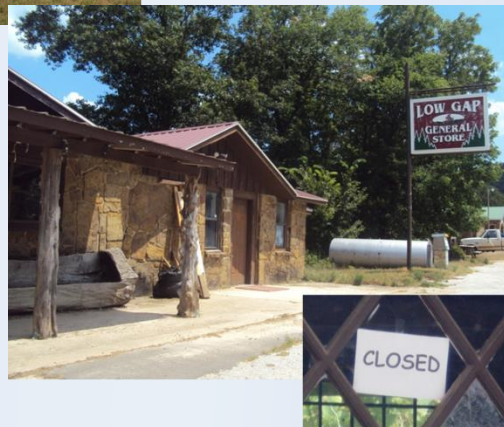
Many of the activities provided by the Buffalo National River are unavailable to those with physical impairments.



There is one permanent market stand in Newton County. However, local residents complain that it is too high priced, not much variety and much of the produce comes from outside the county.



There are only two grocery stores within the entire county. These stores do provide healthy options, but the fresh fruits and vegetables are costly and processed and packaged foods are much cheaper.



Other area grocery stores and general stores have closed down, which means local residents must travel even further to shop.

What the cooks at Jasper High School cafeteria have to say...

“Teaching kids to grow their own vegetables might make them more open to eating them. They may even find out they like them!”



“By including fresh local produce in our school lunches, we would be able to replace unhealthy options **AND** help local farmers and gardeners.”

“I love to garden and would like to see a city-wide garden. Getting people involved from all age ranges in caring about what they eat would really benefit our community. And it would be FUN!”

Thank you to those that made this project possible!

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