

ODMH Cemetery Reclamation Project

“To Recognize the Courage of Past State Hospital Residents Who
Lived with Mental Illness and Inspired
Future Understanding”

In celebration of Mental Health Month 2009,
The Ohio Department of Mental Health
provided NAMI groups in Athens, Franklin,
Hamilton, and Lucas Counties with \$5,000
each to repair, restore, and improve the
state hospital cemeteries.

As projects are completed, updates will be posted on our website.

Goals of the Cemetery Reclamation Project:

- Beautify the area to dignify those with mental illness
- Acknowledge the advancements in understanding and treating mental and physical disorders.
- Give family, friends, and the community a place to grieve, remember, and memorialize those with mental illness.
- Provide proper identification of the cemeteries and honor them as consecrated grounds.

State Hospital Cemeteries

ODMH currently owns and maintains cemeteries in Athens, Cincinnati, and Columbus.

Previously, state hospital cemeteries in Dayton, Lima, Tiffin, and Toledo were owned by ODMH but were transferred to new owners during land sales.

There are active cemetery reclamation groups in Athens, Cincinnati, Columbus, and Toledo. These groups include consumers, civic organizations, community members and hospital staff.

An Overview of State Hospital Cemeteries

Athens

Appalachia Behavioral Healthcare in Athens maintains 3 cemeteries with assistance from Ohio University. Collectively, these graveyards are referred to as “The Ridges Cemeteries”.



The Ridges Cemeteries Project

- The Ridges Cemeteries Project Committee was formed in 2000 with the purpose of restoring the cemeteries. Before long, the Committee also decided to build a 1.3 mile Nature Walk in the beautiful hills between them in order to make the whole complex a place of healthy, respectful recreation.
- The committee and volunteers restored the cemeteries by clearing brush, landscaping, repairing and resetting headstones, building a nature walk, and rebuilding a pond.
- The committee received over \$75,000 in monetary and in-kind support from an array of public and private entities and individuals in the region.
- To learn more about The Ridges Cemetery Project, please visit

<http://www.namiathensohio.org/ridges.html>

Athens Photos

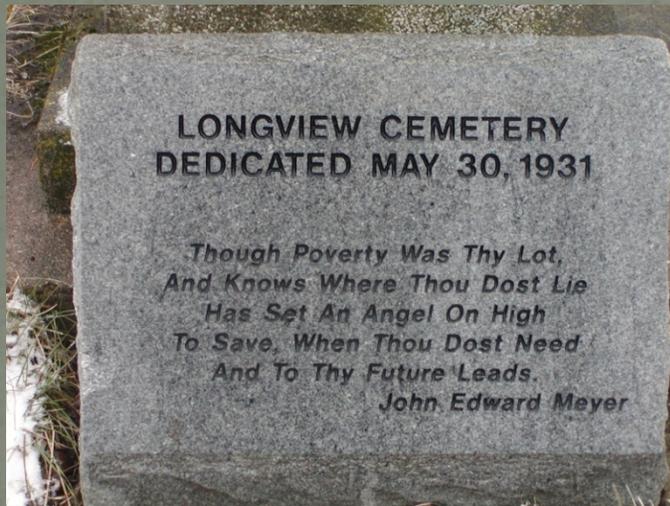


Cincinnati

- Summit Behavioral Healthcare, previously named Longview State Hospital and the Pauline Warfield Lewis Center, maintains one cemetery.
- The cemetery is located behind an apartment complex at 7076 Glenmeadow Lane.
- The Cincinnati Cemetery Reclamation Project includes members from NAMI of Hamilton County, staff from Summit Behavioral Healthcare, and local community members .
- Admission to the cemetery is permitted with the approval of the CEO of Summit Behavioral Healthcare. To request permission to visit the cemetery, please contact:

Liz Banks, CEO
Summit Behavioral Healthcare
1101 Summit Road
Cincinnati, Ohio 43257
513-948-3600

Cincinnati Photos



Columbus

- Twin Valley Behavioral Healthcare maintains 3 cemeteries. They are located on Harper-McKinley Avenue, and Broad Street (2 cemeteries) on hospital grounds.
- The Columbus Cemetery Reclamation group includes members from TVBH, NAMI of Franklin County, Kenton Council Boy Scouts, Hilltop Kiwanis Club, and the West Columbus Civitan Club.
- The group has been working with an Architect to create drawings for new entrances to the cemeteries and perimeter fencing.
- On July 7, 2009, the Columbus Cemetery Reclamation group held a memorial stone dedication ceremony to honor those buried in the Columbus state hospital cemeteries.

Columbus Photos



Toledo

- There are two cemeteries in Toledo that were formerly owned by the Ohio Department of Mental Health. They are located on the North side of Arlington Avenue near Detroit Avenue and on Arlington Avenue at the entrance to East Campus Drive.
- The University of Toledo currently owns the cemeteries and is active in cemetery reclamation efforts.
- The Toledo Cemetery Reclamation group was formed under the leadership of NAMI of Greater Toledo and consists of representatives from Northcoast Behavioral Healthcare, Neighborhood Properties Inc., Abele Funeral Home, The University of Toledo Medical Center, The Ability Center, WGTE, Thomas M. Wernert Center, and community mental health advocates.

Toledo Map

Cemetery Locations

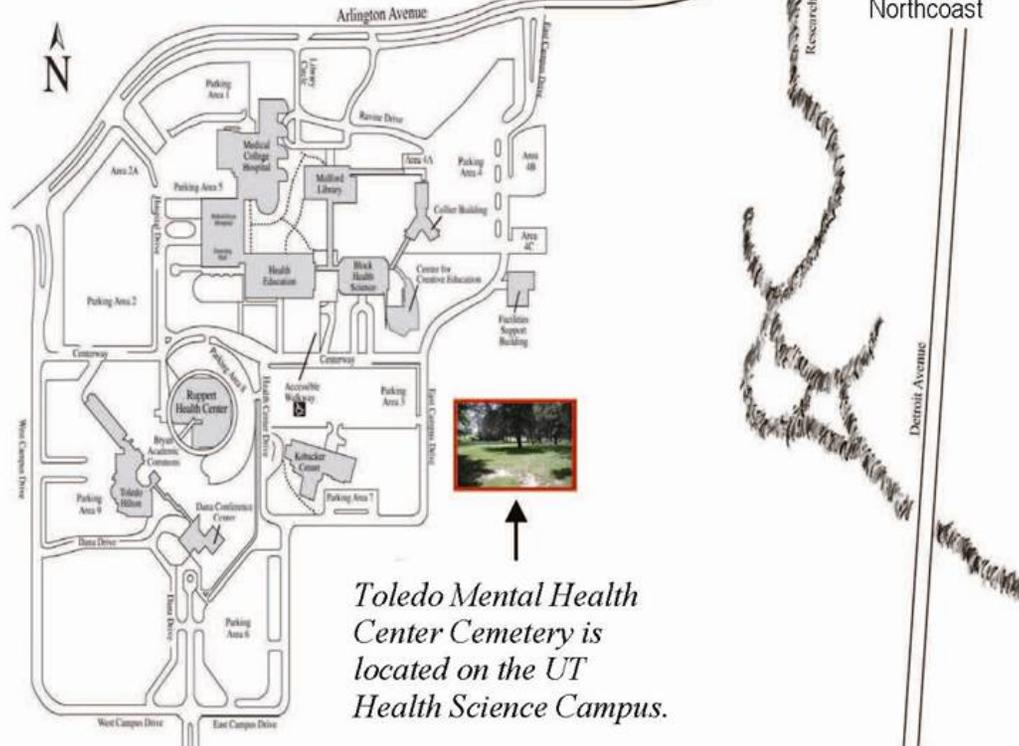
Toledo State Hospital Cemetery, the older of the two, is on UT property.



New Bowsher High School



Northcoast



Toledo Mental Health Center Cemetery is located on the UT Health Science Campus.

Toledo Photos



How to Get Involved

Please contact:

Athens

Tom Walker, Chair, Ridges Cemeteries
Project

NAMI of Athens County

740-593-7424

Kelly Markins, Chief Operating Officer
Athens Behavioral Healthcare

740-594-4142

Cincinnati

David Ranz, Executive Director
NAMI of Hamilton County

513-351-3500

Ray Menchoffer, Chaplain
Summit Behavioral Healthcare

(513) 948-3600

Columbus

Abbie Basile, Executive Director
NAMI of Franklin County

614-501-6264

David Blahnik, Chief Operating Officer
Twin Valley Behavioral Healthcare

614-752-0333

Toledo

Marci Colton Dvorak, Executive Director
NAMI of Greater Toledo

(419) 243-1119

Jane Weber, Coordinator of Volunteers
Northwest Ohio Psychiatric Hospital

419-381-1881

To Learn More

About State Hospitals:

<http://www.mh.state.oh.us/what-we-do/provide/hospital-services/regional-psychiatric-hospitals/index.shtml>

Paulson, G.W. & Sherman, M.E. (2008). Hilltop a hospital and a sanctuary for healing, its past and its future. Freemont, Ohio: Leshner Printers, Inc.

Floyd, B., Brownlee, K., Jones, T., Free, J., Chelminski, D. (2009). From institutions to independence: a history of people with disabilities in northwest ohio. Toledo, Ohio: University of Toledo.

National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI):

- NAMI Ohio: www.nami.org
- NAMI of Athens County: www.namiathensohio.org
- NAMI of Hamilton County: <http://nami-hc.org>
- NAMI of Greater Toledo: <http://namitoledo.org>

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- David Blahnik, Twin Valley Behavioral Healthcare
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- Trudy Sharp, Communications, ODMH Central Office
- Tom Walker, Chair, Ridges Cemeteries Project
- Jane Weber, Northwest Ohio Psychiatric Hospital
- Sharon Yaros, Northwest Ohio Psychiatric Hospital