

Mountain biking is a short ride away

By Bob Downing

Beacon Journal staff writer

EDINBURG TWP.: At the bottom of what's nicknamed The Gorge, it's hard to believe you're in Northeast Ohio.

Watch your socks as you pedal into the heart of the 70-foot-deep mini-canyon of sandstone at West Branch State Park because they're going to be knocked off.

The single-track trail dips down to the stream in a series of switchbacks, crosses the stream and then heads back uphill into the woods in a postcard-like tree-shaded setting.

The Gorge looks and feels like big-time, big-name mountain-bike trails in West

Virginia, North Carolina or Pennsylvania. But the two-year-old trail is only 40 minutes from Akron.

The nearly 10 miles of mountain-bike trails at the park were created by the 160-member Cleveland Area Mountain Bike Association working in cooperation with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the Ohio Department of Natural Resources.

West Branch offers some of the best and only legal mountain biking in Northeast Ohio.

The 8,029-acre park east of Ravenna offers 5½ miles of double-track trails on the park's snowmobile trails and 4¼ miles of single-track trails

Please see **Wild, G2**