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### Ohio National Road Association unveils Tadmor interpretive signage

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TAYLORSVILLE - History buffs will be able to enjoy new interpretive signage along the old National Road. A new sign describing the historical significance and today's remnants of the former village of Tadmor was unveiled on Friday, Sept. 10, at 2005 US Route 40.

"This sign will stand adjacent to a parking lot and will be identified in an Ohio National Road Association brochure," said Cyndie Gerken, ONRA president. "Tourists love traveling down this historic stretch of road and visiting the charming towns and attractions it passes through. We love sharing stories and enhancing the experience of those who are looking to encounter a bit of Americana and days gone by."

Visitors to Taylorsville MetroPark can easily find the remains of Tadmor, thanks to a state historical marker and remnants of stone foundations.

The sign is made possible by a National Scenic Byways grant and Five Rivers MetroParks.

The land where Taylorsville MetroPark now sits has a robust and storied history. It was once the site of the bustling town of Tadmor, an important center of transportation in early Ohio history.

As early as 1809, keelboats were poled up river from Dayton to take on freight from Tadmor. In 1822, the construction of a canal to connect Lake Erie to the Ohio River was commissioned. By 1857, the Miami & Erie Canal stretched through Tadmor, connecting Cincinnati to Piqua and was finally connected to Lake Erie by 1845.

Just two years later the first Federally-funded road (the National Road) was constructed through Tadmor. In 1851, the Dayton & Michigan Railroad established freight and passenger service to Tadmor. This faster and more dependable mode of transportation eventually led to the demise of the Miami & Erie Canal. Nevertheless, in 1852, trains, canal boats, keelboats, wagons and stagecoaches were heading in all directions from Tadmor. With all four means of transportation of the day within yards of each other, Tadmor was truly the Crossroads of America.

The Great Flood of 1915 put an end to Tadmor. As the Great Miami River swelled out of its banks, it drowned the stretch of train tracks surrounding the town and destroyed the aqueducts of the Miami & Erie Canal. When the water retreated, the train tracks were moved to higher ground and the canal, already in decline, was abandoned.

The Miami Conservancy District took over the land and built the Taylorsville Dam in 1922. Old National Road was moved south to cross the top of the new dam. A structure or two remained in Tadmor until about 1960, when the last tenants moved out of the original grain dealer's house and it was demolished.

Learn more about Tadmor, Taylorsville MetroPark, and history in the MetroParks by visiting the website [www.metroarks.org](http://www.metroarks.org) or calling (937) 275-PARK (7275).

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