

▶ Exploring Hendrix's Backyard

What Conway has to offer beyond campus

By Greer Veon

Beaverfork Lake

If you're dying to get away from campus, you should definitely check out Beaverfork Lake. Located off of Highway 25 in north Conway, the park is perfect for any Hendrix student that either wants a day out in the sun or a simple study spot. There are places for swimming and boating, several picnic tables with grills, bathroom areas, and a large covered pavilion that can be reserved. Sounds like the next place for a Hendrix club event, right? There are also fishing areas marked for those who want to spend an afternoon casting their line. For those that want to practice their athletic skills, this park has you covered with both a sand volleyball and basketball court, a baseball field, and a designated area for disc golf. But if you're just looking for a new spot to catch up on some reading, you can lay out a blanket on the multiple field areas that comprise Beaverfork Lake.



Photos by Jordan May

Downtown Conway

One of the best things about Conway is the reimagined downtown area, which is bustling with people, dining destinations, and quirky shops. What's even luckier for Hendrix students is that the downtown area is located just a few steps away from campus. Take an afternoon and walk around the streets because you're bound to find something that you're into. If you're looking for somewhere to grab coffee and study, places like Blue Sail, The Black Orange, and The Patio Cafe offer both relaxed atmospheres and great lattes. If you're looking for a new place to shop, stores that range from Hipsway to E. Leigh's offer great clothes and can be found along the main strip. Great restaurants like Pasta Grill, Mike's Place, U.S. Pizza, and J.J.'s are just a handful of the many different kinds of food that can be found downtown. If you're looking to listen to great music and have a night out, you should definitely check out Kings' one-of-a-kind atmosphere. But besides food, clothes and nightlife, downtown also sports hair salons, art and antique stores, and even a vintage candy store called Rocket Fizz Soda that every student would love to visit.



The Hendrix Creek Reserve

Sometimes a cool place to check out in Conway is right across the street – literally. If you want to get off campus but don't feel like going too far or being around a lot of people, you should definitely try walking around the Hendrix Creek Reserve behind the Village. Although it seems small, this little place is a great hangout spot for anyone. There are a few trails that are perfect for your next cardio workout or just a simple afternoon walk. Also along the trails are a bridge, a play area, and a little wooden sitting area that could be an outdoor study space for studying by the water. Many students have used this space not only as a park, but also as a way to appreciate the natural beauty of Conway. The reserve is actually a watershed, and the whole purpose of it is to increase biodiversity. Hendrix cell biology lab students use this reserve to study the organisms that live there, and even a few non-science students like to go bird watching.



Oak Street Cuisine

Every student loves our wonderful cafeteria, but there are times when you can't ignore the craving you have for something other than chicken fingers and mac and cheese. What's great about being in Conway is that Oak Street has numerous restaurants that offer all types of food. Here, you can find typical fast food places like Jimmy Johns, Taco Bell, and Rally's for all your late night study fuel. However, if you're looking for a place to try with your friends or with your next date, Oak Street has you covered. Tacos 4 Life has some of the best Mexican cuisine possible, and for every meal you buy, the restaurant gives one meal to a child in need. There's also a great Greek place called Taziki's, award-winning barbeque at Whole Hog, and wonderful Vietnamese at Saigon. But if you have a major sweet tooth, Shake's is also a great place for frozen custard and has both a drive-thru and indoor seating. But if you only check out one place on Oak, you've got to make it Shipley's doughnuts. After all, you're not a true Hendrix student until you've made your first 3 a.m. Shipley's run.

