

# Wiregrass Lake Metropark Highlights



**METROPARKS  
TOLEDO**

## Messages for Interpretation

A place for passive recreation surrounded by ecological riches, Wiregrass Lake Metropark harbors globally rare wet prairies and unique combinations of plants and animals.

- As a part of the Ottawa River watershed, Wiregrass Creek offers exceptional travel routes for turtles, fish, and other aquatic species on the move.
- Stewardship of the man-made Wiregrass Lake requires managing it for not only canoeing and fishing but also for the best dragonfly diversity in Ohio.
- Situated in the center of the Oak Openings Region corridor, this Metropark is a link in the effort to preserve local sites of high biodiversity.
- Balancing popular recreational pursuits with preservation is critical for success at this park.

## What's In A Name?

Wiregrass Lake was named after Wiregrass Creek which passes through the northern portion of the park and is part of the Ottawa River watershed. Wiregrass is also a common name for the sedge, *Carex lasiocarpa*, which grows here.

## Natural and Human History

Wiregrass Lake Metropark features a man-made lake that was developed prior to the site being purchased by Metroparks. Today the lake is a popular spot for sport-fishing for bluegill and bass. Some of the best examples of the Oak Openings Region's globally rare wet prairie community exist at this park, and it has been a site of extensive restoration by Metroparks land management crews. This small Metropark harbors numerous state-listed rare species that are monitored by volunteers, staff and research associates each year, such as Fringed gentian, Variegated scouring rush and Spotted turtle. There are more species of dragonflies and damselflies known to Wiregrass Lake than anywhere else in Ohio, and songbird diversity is exceptional.

Wiregrass Lake was purchased in 2006 as part of the Oak Openings Corridor between Secor Metropark and Oak Openings Preserve. Much of the cost of Oak Openings Corridor sites came from a successful and unprecedented Metroparks Land Levy passed in 2002. Grants such as Clean Ohio also provided substantial purchasing costs for these sites. A future trail beginning at Secor Metropark and extending to Oak Openings Preserve will connect this Wiregrass Lake to other parklands within The Oak Openings Corridor.

Wiregrass Lake is a seasonal park, generally opened April to mid-November. Three primitive public campsites are available by reservation at Wiregrass Lake. Wiregrass Lake offers excellent kayaking and canoeing with a



Wiregrass Lake



Purple false foxglove  
(*Gerardia*)



Swamp thistle



Riddell's goldenrod



Wiregrass sedge

state-of-the-art accessible launching dock. Fishing is also popular at the man-made pond. To protect the diversity of the dragonfly population there, Metroparks asks that any bank-fishing be done only from the dock or stone ledges accessible off of the Blue Dasher Trail, and that the protected beach area at the south end of the lake remain off limits to any fishing.

## Plant Life

(\* = State-listed as rare)

Spring beauty  
May apple  
Great white trillium  
Purple false foxglove  
(Gerardia)  
Wiregrass (sedge)  
Pale spiked lobelia  
Common dogbane  
Dense blazing star  
Swamp milkweed  
Swamp thistle

Ridell's goldenrod  
Heath aster  
New England aster  
American Pokeweed  
Common sneezeweed  
\*Prairie Rattlesnake root  
\*Fringed gentian  
\*Variegated horsetail  
Black willow  
Pin oak



*Great white trillium*



*Fringed gentian*

## Wildlife

### Select Odonata include:

Western slender bluet  
Eastern forktail  
Violet (variable) dancer  
Swamp spreadwing  
Dusky and Pronghorn  
clubtails  
Calico, Banded and  
Halloween Pennants

Eastern Amberwing  
Prince baskettail  
Blue dasher  
Widow Skimmer  
Black saddlebags  
Green and Comet Darners  
Ruby meadowhawk



*Eastern cottontail*



*Yellow warbler*

### Other Notable Insects:

Common ringlet  
Pearl crescent  
Monarch  
Viceroy

Silver-spotted skipper  
Eastern bumble bee  
Water scorpion (lake)



*Rough-winged swallow*



*Spotted turtle*

### Amphibians/Reptiles include:

Spring peeper  
Western chorus frog  
Gray treefrog  
Green frog

Spotted turtle  
Mid-land painted turtle  
Snapping turtle

### Birds include:

Cedar waxwing  
White-eyed vireo  
Yellow warbler  
Indigo bunting  
Field Sparrow  
Song sparrow

Belted kingfisher  
Rough-winged swallow  
American woodcock  
Wilson's snipe  
Red-tailed hawk



*American woodcock*



*Western slender bluet*

### Mammals include:

Mink  
Eastern cottontail  
White-tailed deer

### Fish include:

(Wiregrass Creek & Surrounding Ditches)  
Northern pike  
Mud minnows

Grass pickerel

(Wiregrass Lake)  
Bluegill  
Channel catfish

Largemouth bass

Stay on trails and use protective clothing and insecticide to avoid poison ivy, American dog ticks and mosquitoes.

(Note: There is no poison oak in Northwest Ohio.)



*Calico pennant*



*Grass pickerel*