Wiregrass Lake Metropark Highlights



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.

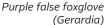
Wiregrass Lake was purchased in 2006 as part of the Oak Openings Corridor between Secor Metropark and Oak Openings Preserve. Much of the cost of Oak Openings Corridor sites came from a successful and unprecedented Metroparks Land Levy passed in 2002. Grants such as Clean Ohio also provided substantial 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







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 Ridell's goldenrod May apple Heath aster Great white trillium New England aster Purple false foxglove American Pokeweed (Gerardia) Common sneezeweed Wiregrass (sedge) *Prairie Rattlesnake root Pale spiked lobelia *Fringed gentian Common dogbane *Variegated horsetail Dense blazing star Black willow Swamp milkweed Pin oak Swamp thistle



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



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 Grass pickerel Mud minnows

(Wiregrass Lake)

Bluegill Largemouth bass

Channel catfish

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