

Wildwood Preserve Highlights



**METROPARKS
TOLEDO**

Messages for Interpretation

A Park for and by the people, Wildwood Preserve balances respect for ecologically rich natural areas with historical, cultural and recreational opportunities.

- Mostly surrounded by suburban development, Wildwood Preserve is an oasis for native natural communities and rare species that need protection.
- From estate to preserve, Wildwood's history is steeped in education, community involvement, grass-roots citizen action and devoted volunteerism.
- Wildwood's extreme popularity requires everyone's understanding and cooperation to support, restore, and preserve its sensitive natural and cultural integrity.

What's in the Name?

Following a public naming contest for this new park in May of 1975, a committee selected Wildwood Preserve – a choice made by Eleanor Maddy and Jennifer Winslow – from over 360 suggestions.

Natural and Human History

Ottawa River floodplain, upland woods, ravines and prairies are all significant natural features of the popular Wildwood Preserve.

Sand and a variable water table help define Wildwood's prairie/savanna communities that support high biodiversity as part of the globally rare Oak Openings Region.

The sand along the Purple, Orange and Yellow trails was deposited about 12-13,000 years ago as a result of glaciation.

The large, forested section of Wildwood is one of the most significant contiguous woodlands in Lucas County and critical habitat for interior dwelling species such as wood thrush, wild turkey and red-backed salamanders.

The Ottawa River begins at the confluence of the Ten Mile and North Ten Mile creeks in Sylvania. The Ottawa River Watershed is about 220 square miles.

Wildwood Preserve became a Metropark as the result of a 1974 citizens campaign and levy to save property formerly owned by Robert A. Stranahan from development.

The Manor House, Metz Stables, Metroparks Hall, and the Ellen Biddle Shipman Garden are all remaining features from the property formerly called Stranleigh. The Manor House and restored gardens are free and open to the public for tours.

The oldest building on Wildwood Preserve's property is the 1880 Farm House originally built and owned by Josiah Albon.



Bloodroot



Fringed gentian



*American goldfinch on
Rough blazing star*



Maidenhair fern

The one room, Oak Grove School was built in 1897 and moved in 1998 to Wildwood from its original location ¼ mile north on Corey Road.

Volunteer opportunities at Wildwood Preserve include rare species monitoring as well as gardening and stewardship projects and programming assistance.

Resource management to maintain healthy habitats at Wildwood includes mowing, stream bank stabilization through plantings, and invasive plant/thicket removal.

In recent years extensive management also has been implemented to control oak wilt, a fungus that quickly kills red and black oaks and threatens Wildwood's uninterrupted woodlands.

Plant Life

Spring wildflowers include:

Round-lobed hepatica
Trout lily
Spring beauty
Wild ginger

Bloodroot
Purple cress
Wild blue phlox
Swamp buttercup

Floodplain Trees/shrubs include:

American sycamore
Eastern cottonwood
Ohio buckeye
Spicebush

Red oak
Silver maple
Burr oak
Paw paw

Upland woods trees/shrubs include:

White oak	Black oak
Sassafras	Black cherry
Witch hazel	American hazelnut

Native prairie species include:

Little blue stem (grass)	Big blue stem (grass)
Indian grass	Common milkweed
Black-eyed Susan	Wild bergamot
Tall coreopsis	Tall ironweed
Dense and Rough blazing star	

Wildwood is home to about three dozen plants that are state-listed as rare in Ohio, including Wild lupine, Virginia meadow beauty, Fringed gentian and Round-leaved dogwood.

Not in many other Metroparks, Maidenhair fern grows on Wildwood's blue trail.

Wildlife (* = State-listed as rare)**Year round resident birds include:**

Mourning dove	Red-bellied woodpecker
Black-capped chickadee	Northern cardinal
Tufted titmouse	American goldfinch
White-breasted nuthatch	Wild turkey
Red-tailed hawk	Cooper's hawk
Eastern screech owl	Northern barred owl
Great horned owl	

Nesting migrants include:

Blue-gray gnatcatcher	Red-eyed vireo
Baltimore oriole	American robin
Red-winged blackbird	Indigo bunting
Wood thrush	Turkey vulture
Broad-winged hawk	

Wildwood prairie areas are critical habitat for ground nesting song birds such as Eastern towhees, Field sparrows, Common yellowthroats and American woodcock.

Notable insects include:

Bald-faced hornet	Ebony jewelwing
Cicada species	Cicada killer wasps
True katydid	Oakworm moth and caterpillar
Blister beetles	
American copper*	
Dusted skipper (state threatened)	
Unexpected Cynia (state endangered)	

Notable reptiles and amphibians include:

Green frog	Northern leopard frog
American toad	Red-backed salamander
Gray tree frog	Eastern garter snake and melanistic form
Eastern fox snake	Northern ring-necked snake
Eastern hognose snake	
Snapping turtle	
Midland painted turtle	
Blanding's turtle*	

Some mammals include:

Fox squirrel	Ground hog
Red squirrel	Eastern chipmunk
Southern flying squirrel	Mink
Eastern mole	Raccoon
Eastern cottontail rabbit	White-tailed deer
Coyote	Red fox

All bat species are now listed as rare. The Northern long-eared bat is now federally endangered.

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

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



Barred owl



Eastern box turtle



Dusted skipper



Ebony jewelwing



Blister beetle



Eastern hognose