

Bend View Metropark Highlights



Messages for Interpretation

Bend View tops the charts as one of the most scenic places in Metroparks Toledo.

- Fascinating geologic features made opportune settings for excellent wildlife viewing.
- 19th and 20th century history is reflected throughout this Metropark.
- Bend View's remote setting draws hikers, bicyclists and blue-way travelers looking for a serene experience.

What's In A Name?

A panoramic turn in the Maumee River gives Bend View Metropark its name.

Natural and Human History

Bend View Metropark's geologic history and scenery are shaped by its bedrock. Look along the river for flat, gray, sedimentary limestone (dolomite) – hundreds of millions of years old – stemming from a time when this region was covered by a warm, shallow sea and substantially closer to the equator. Also look for the 'bend' in the river near the Bend View Shelter House, where the mighty Maumee makes a turn of nearly 90 degrees. As the Maumee River cut through geologic strata over time, it encountered varied bedrock types and resistances that changed its course and direction. Here, the result of that process is this stunning river panorama. Other showy river vistas seen from Bend View's Towpath Trail feature numerous islands. One island quite visible downstream from Bend View parking lot is the privately owned Woodcock Island. The larger, state owned Indian Island looms behind it to the south. Further downstream, Butler and Grave Islands flank the largest of islands, Missionary Island, all also owned by Ohio Department of Natural Resources. These islands were once home to the Ottawa Tribe and potentially part of the village of Tush-qu-gan. Great Ottawa leaders such as Pontiac, Little Otter and Eugushaway likely held ceremonies on these islands. Later Missionary Island would be named for the efforts of missionaries to bring Christianity to tribal members. Several small, unnamed islands that often flood can sometimes be seen as well.

Watchable wildlife abound at Bend View. A healthy population of Bald eagle nests in the area represent a success story in both national and local conservation. They can often be seen soaring for up to about five miles from their nests as they hunt for fish, frogs and other prey along the river. Great blue herons and Great egrets are also common to see, standing motionless and patient in the water, their sharp eyes watching for any movement until they detect some unsuspecting prey and spring into action to target and spear it with a splash! Common water snakes often bask on the rocks at the Bend View Shelter House – an excellent location for not only these but many kinds of river wildlife.



Bend in Maumee River



Shelterhouse



Pale jewelweed



American germander



Green-headed coneflower

The primary trail through Bend View Metropark is a remnant of the 19th century Miami-Erie Canal Towpath, reflecting a time in history when the most common footsteps along it were those of mules and hoagies. Decades later, the impressive Bend View Shelter was built, completed in 1941. This era was the height of the national WPA or Works Progress Administration – a federal initiative that created projects to put Americans affected by the Great Depression back to work. In 1938, 1,200 men were working in Metroparks under this initiative for \$6 a month, per man. Bend View Shelter's architecture is distinctive of those built by the CCC, or Civilian Conservation Corps, for projects specifically for the beautification and revitalization of public spaces. It is an architectural attraction worth the walk. Accessed only by foot or bicycle 1.4 miles east of Bend View Metropark Parking Area, it is reservable for groups desiring a rustic setting. An access service road for supply drop off/pick up only can be used with Metroparks approval.

In addition to visitors enjoying shelter house rentals, hikers, bicyclists, canoers and kayakers alike can all find recreational opportunities at Bend View Metropark. The Towpath here is a part of the North Coast Hiking Trail, and the waters part of the Maumee River Water Trail. A primitive Metroparks Treehouse with tent platforms is also available for rental near Otsego Road.

Plant Life

Spring wildflowers include:

Bloodroot	Wild ginger
Wild geranium	Jack-in-the-pulpit
Trout lily	Cut-leaf toothwort
Sweet cicely	Spring cress

Common trees include:

Eastern redbud	Silver maple
Honey locust	Eastern cottonwood
Northern hackberry	Burr oak

Summer blooms include:

Green-headed coneflower	Pale jewelweed
American germander	

Wildlife

Belted kingfisher	Baltimore oriole
Red-eyed vireo	Great blue heron
Great egret	Mallard duck
Wood duck	Great horned owl
White-tailed deer	American beaver
Groundhog	Snapping turtle
Midland painted turtle	Common water snake
Adult and immature Bald eagle	

For more detailed lists, please refer to Providence and Farnsworth Metropark Highlights.

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.)



Northern hackberry



Witches broom gall in a Northern hackberry tree



American beaver



Immature bald eagle



Warbling vireo



Cut-leaf toothwort



Wild geranium



Red-eyed vireo