

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. The Moseley Trail beginning at Secor Metropark and extending to Oak Openings Preserve connects Wiregrass Lake to other parklands within The Oak Openings Corridor.

Three primitive public campsites are available by reserva-



Wiregrass Lake



Purple false foxglove
(*Gerardia*)



Swamp thistle



Riddell's goldenrod



Wiregrass sedge

tion at Wiregrass Lake. Wiregrass Lake offers excellent kayaking and canoeing with a 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	Riddell's goldenrod
Mayapple	Heath aster
Great white trillium	New England aster
Purple false foxglove (Gerardia)	American pokeweed
Wiregrass (sedge)	Common sneezeweed
Pale spiked lobelia	Prairie rattlesnake root*
Common dogbane	Fringed gentian*
Dense blazing star	Variegated horsetail*
Swamp milkweed	Black willow
Swamp thistle	Pin oak



Great white trillium



Fringed gentian

Wildlife

Select Odonata include:

Western slender bluet	Eastern amberwing
Eastern forktail	Prince baskettail
Violet (variable) dancer	Blue dasher
Swamp spreadwing	Widow skimmer
Dusky and Pronghorn clubtails	Black saddlebags
Calico, Banded and Halloween pennants	Green and Comet darners
	Ruby meadowhawk



Eastern cottontail



Yellow warbler

Other Notable Insects:

Common ringlet	Silver-spotted skipper
Pearl crescent	Eastern bumble bee
Monarch	Water scorpion (lake)
Viceroy	



Rough-winged swallow



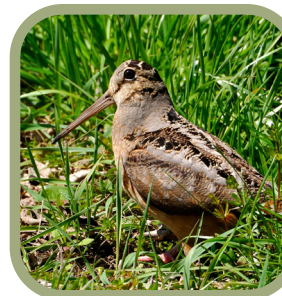
Spotted turtle

Amphibians/Reptiles include:

Spring peeper	Spotted turtle
Western chorus frog	Midland painted turtle
Gray treefrog	Snapping turtle
Green frog	

Birds include:

Cedar waxwing	Belted kingfisher
White-eyed vireo	Rough-winged swallow
Yellow warbler	American woodcock
Indigo bunting	Wilson's snipe
Field sparrow	Red-tailed hawk
Song sparrow	



American woodcock



Western slender bluet

Mammals include:

Mink	Eastern cottontail
White-tailed deer	

Fish include:

(Wiregrass Creek & Surrounding Ditches)	Grass pickerel
Northern pike	
Mud minnows	
(Wiregrass Lake)	Largemouth bass
Bluegill	
Channel catfish	



Calico pennant



Grass pickerel

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.)