

Secor Metropark Highlights



**METROPARKS
TOLEDO**

Messages for Interpretation

Secor Metropark introduces the story of the unique Oak Openings Region and its fragile place in the preservation of our natural world.

- On the edge of the Oak Openings Region lies Secor Metropark with its wet woodlands, prairies and educational opportunities for enhancing local biodiversity.
- From homestead to arboretum to current restoration efforts, Secor reflects changing land use choices in the Oak Openings Region.

What's In A Name?

The money used to purchase the 550-acre Secor Metropark came from revenue generated by a downtown Toledo parking lot gifted to Metroparks by Arthur Secor. Metroparks sold the parking lot in 1985.

Natural and Human History

Secor Metropark is part of the globally significant Oak Openings Region. The park is located at the northern trailhead for 10,000+ acres of publicly-held open space through the Oak Openings Corridor – land that contains more rare plants and animals than anywhere else in Ohio. A post-glacial beach ridge is visible just south of the Secor Center.

The woodlands at Secor are some of the best for tree and spring wildflower diversity.

Notable spreading bases (buttresses) on mature trees in Secor's woods indicate that they originally grew in very wet soil where stabilization was necessary.

Wolfinger Road and Cemetery are named after the first family of settlers who lived and farmed here as early as the 1830's. Today, Richfield Township maintains the cemetery.

In its early years, the park operated an impressive arboretum, and several unusual tree varieties still can be found near the Secor Center and the Shepherst Memorial. Max Shepherst was the Metroparks Director at the time of Secor's inception and during the park's early decades.

The small pond near the Secor Center was man-made and very ornamental in the early years of park history. Tannic acid from oak tree leaves causes its very dark color. The tiny plant on the pond's surface is Duckweed—our smallest vascular plant (with roots, leaves and flower).

Once a nature center and the National Center for Nature Photography, the Secor Center has undergone many changes. Today it is a mixed used facility, utilized for special rentals and programs.



Tulip tree flower



Witch hazel



Red baneberry



Jack-in-the-pulpit

The park system's most extensive barrier-free playground is located between the Lone Oak and Meadowview areas, and is accessible from both.

The Oak Openings Corridor Trail, also known as the Moseley Trail, connects Secor to Wiregrass Lake Metropark. Named for noted naturalist and educator, Edwin Lincoln Moseley, who studied the unique plant communities in the Oak Openings region, this trail crosses the same ecosystems that he once studied.

Currently called the Secor Extension, the former 229- acre Spuytan Duyval and Cottonwood Creek Golf Courses were secured by the Western Reserve Land Conservancy in 2017 and purchased by Metroparks in 2020. This land acquisition makes Secor the third largest Metropark at 837 acres. This property is currently undergoing major habitat restoration including wetland, floodplain and reforestation. A 1.7 mile trail is being considered.

Plant Life (* = state-listed rare)

Plants of the planted prairie include:

Big blue stem	Indian grass
Cordgrass	Switchgrass
Prairie dock	Tall coreopsis
Virginia mountain mint	Rattlesnake master*
Fringed gentian*	Wild bergamot

Woodland wild flowers include:

Bloodroot	Wild ginger
Spring beauty	Sessile trillium
Great white trillium	Cut-leaved toothwort
Wild geranium	Jack-in-the-pulpit
Sarsaparilla	Spotted touch-me-not
Mayapple	Turtlehead
Cardinal flower	True & False Solomon's seal
Indian cucumber-root	
Red baneberry*	

Notable trees and shrubs include:

Tulip tree	Sassafras
Black gum	Red oak
White oak	American beech
Bitternut hickory	Paw paw
Flowering dogwood	Redbud

In spring, the understory shrub, Spicebush, brightens the woods with small yellow blossoms. In fall, Witch hazel does the same, and fills the woods with a very fresh aroma.

Wildlife**Mammals include:**

Red fox	White-tailed deer
Coyote	Eastern mole
Virginia opossum	Raccoon
Red squirrel	Southern flying squirrel

Reptiles and amphibians include:

Western chorus frog	Spring peeper
Northern leopard frog	Gray tree frog
Midland painted turtle	Snapping turtle
Northern brown snake	Eastern hognose snake

Birds include:

Pileated woodpecker	American tree sparrow
Eastern towhee	Ruby-throated hummingbird
American woodcock	White-breasted nuthatch
Tufted titmouse	Black-capped chickadee
American crow	American goldfinch
Cooper's hawk	Sharp-shinned hawk
Barred owl	Eastern screech owl
Sandhill crane	

Cavity nest boxes used by Eastern bluebirds and House wrens are monitored by volunteers at the park.

Insects and spiders include:

Great spangled fritillary	Spring and Summer azure
Praying mantis	Black and Yellow argiope
Silver-spotted skipper	Harvestman species
Velvet mite	6-spotted tiger beetle
Green darner (dragonfly)	Cicada killer wasp

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.)



Sassafras



Duckweed



Black and yellow argiope



Pileated woodpecker



Eastern mole



Sandhill crane



Cicada killer wasp



Coyote



Southern flying squirrel



Ruby-throated hummingbird
on Cardinal flower

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