

Fallen Timbers Battlefield Highlights



**METROPARKS
TOLEDO**

Messages for Interpretation

The rich resources and setting of the Maumee River Valley influenced events leading up to the Battle of Fallen Timbers.

- The struggle for control of the fur trade and the Maumee River Valley between the French, British, Native Americans and American settlers led to the Battle of Fallen Timbers and the War of 1812.
- The Battle of Fallen Timbers and War of 1812 represent a key time in the development of the United States' national identity and place in international politics.
- The Fallen Timbers Battlefield and Fort Miamis National Historic Site have been protected by Metroparks to help inspire a reverence for historical and natural preservation.

What's In A Name?

Named for the historic 1794 Battle of Fallen Timbers, this site, according to journal records, was littered with downed trees caused by high winds in 1792.

Natural and Human History

Fallen Timbers Battlefield (FTB) is situated in the heart of the Maumee River Valley – part of the largest watershed in the Great Lakes system. The natural areas at FTB are mixtures of mature wet woods, succeeding fields and newly cultivated native tree plantations. The wet woods in springtime is remarkable; hickories, maples and red oaks tower over an understory of blossoming Spicebush and a ground carpeted with blooming wildflowers. Leaf color from the rich variety of tree species and a winding ravine create an exceptional autumn display in these woods as well. The open areas, in early stages of succession, support native sun-loving asters, goldenrods, milkweed and thistles as well as pioneering, young aspen, cottonwood and willow trees. A multi-year reforestation effort led by our Natural Resource staff and volunteers will result in over 80,000 native saplings being planted at this park. As at any National Historic Site, all activities and land management at FTB are carefully evaluated to protect the land's archeological integrity.

Long before European settlement, Native tribes had been living in the Maumee River Valley. Some of the earliest were Woodland groups, but by the 1600's, Algonquin Great Lake Indian Nations were also here. By August 20, 1794, the Native American alliance had formed and included Wyandotte, Delaware, Chippewa, Ottawa, Pottawatomi, Mingo, Shawnee, Miami, Kickapoo, and other smaller tribes. Leaders were Chief Little



Rough leaf dogwood



Virginia waterleaf



Shagbark hickory



Common dogbane

Turtle (Miami), War Chiefs Blue Jacket (Shawnee), and Buckongahelas (Delaware) and Chief Tarhe (Wyandotte) On August 20, 1794 this formidable alliance clashed against Anthony Wayne's Legion of the United States, in what later became known as the Battle of Fallen Timbers. Lasting 2 hours, with the majority of fighting in a brief 45 minutes, approximately 100 people lost their lives – about equal numbers from both sides. But this short battle had great ramifications. It led to the signing of the Treaty of Greenville, which granted the majority of the Maumee River Valley to the Native Americans except the 12 mile square reserve granted to American settlers.

For over 200 years the true location of the battle was misidentified. Historians believed the battle took place on the floodplain overlooking the Maumee River, the current location of Fallen Timbers Monument Park. In 1995, after years of archeological research, Dr. G Michal Pratt discovered the true location of the battlefield. An archeological dig onsite unearthed evidence of muskets and frog-legged eagle buttons—definitively proving the correct battle site. In 1999, an act of Congress declared Fallen Timbers and Fort Miamis a National Historic Site. Metroparks partners with the National Park Service in the management of the site.

Plant Life

Trees and shrubs include:

Red oak	Black cherry
Sugar maple	Slippery elm
Musclewood	Eastern cottonwood
Willow	Quaking aspen
Spicebush	Serviceberry
Red osier dogwood	Rough leaf dogwood

A highlight of the mature woods is the hickory tree variety, which includes Shagbark, Shellbark, Pignut and Bitternut.

Green and White ash have begun regenerating after the loss of mature ash trees from Emerald ash borer. They are currently common as saplings in the FTB woods.

Creeping moss (*Platygyrium repens*) can be seen growing up many of the trees in the woods at FTB.

Spring wildflowers include:

Cut-leaf toothwort	Spring beauty
Swamp buttercup	Wild geranium
Jack-in-the-pulpit	Mayapple
Jacob's ladder	Yellow violet
Virginia water leaf	Yellow and White trout lilies

Plants of grasslands and fields include:

Common dogbane	Blue vervain
New England aster	Pasture thistle
Canada goldenrod	Grass-leaved goldenrod
Wild bergamot	

A variety of small white asters such as Calico and Heath aster prefer the fields of FTB.

Teasel, Common mullein and Queen Anne's lace are some noticeable Eurasian species.

Wildlife

Mammals include:

White-tail deer	Coyote
Eastern fox squirrel	Eastern chipmunk
Eastern cottontail	Raccoon

Birds include:

Cooper's hawk	American kestrel
Red-tailed hawk	Great-horned owl
Blue jay	Black-capped chickadee
Tufted titmouse	White-breasted nuthatch
Hairy woodpecker	Downy woodpecker
Indigo bunting	American goldfinch
Wood thrush	Ovenbird
Red-eyed vireo	Common grackle
Field sparrow	Song sparrow

FTB is used as stopover habitat for Rusty blackbirds, several warbler species and other migrants.

Reptiles and amphibians include:

American toad	Eastern box turtle
Eastern garter snake	

Insects include:

Dogbane beetle	Bald-faced hornet
Green darner	Viceroy
Summer azure	Pearl crescent
Monarch	Spicebush swallowtail
Clouded sulfur	Orange sulfur

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.)



Wood thrush



Red-tailed hawk



American toad



Eastern chipmunk



Dogbane beetle



Summer azure



Eastern garter snake



Great horned owl