

# Wiregrass Lake Metropark Highlights



**METROPARKS  
TOLEDO**

*Please use this as a supplement to information provided on any Metroparks maps.*

## 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. A future trail beginning at Secor Metropark and extending to Oak Openings Preserve will connect this Wiregrass Lake to other parklands within The Oak Openings Corridor.



*Wiregrass Lake*



*Purple false foxglove  
(Gerardia)*



*Swamp thistle*



*Riddell's goldenrod*



*Wiregrass sedge*

Wiregrass Lake is a seasonal park, generally opened April to mid-November. Three primitive public campsites are available by reservation 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

May apple

Great white trillium

Purple false foxglove  
(Gerardia)

Wiregrass (sedge)

Atlantic blue-eyed grass

Pale spiked lobelia

Common dogbane

Dense blazing star

Swamp milkweed

Swamp thistle

Ridell's goldenrod

Heath aster

New England aster

American Pokeweed

Common sneezeweed

Prairie Rattlesnake root (\*)

Fringed gentian (\*)

Variegated horsetail (\*)

Black willow

Pin oak



*Great white trillium*



*Atlantic blue-eyed grass*



*Eastern cottontail*



*Yellow warbler*



*Rough-winged swallow*



*Spotted turtle*

## Wildlife

*Select Odonata include:*

Western slender bluet

Eastern forktail

Violet (variable) dancer

Swamp spreadwing

Dusky and Pronghorn

clubtails

Calico, Banded and

Halloween Pennants

Eastern Amberwing

Prince baskettail

Blue dasher

Widow Skimmer

Black saddlebags

Green and Comet Darners

Ruby meadowhawk

*Other Notable Insects:*

Common ringlet

Pearl crescent

Monarch

Viceroy

Silver-spotted skipper

Eastern bumble bee

Water scorpion (lake)

*Amphibians/Reptiles include:*

Spring peeper

Western chorus frog

Gray treefrog

Green frog

Spotted turtle

Mid-land painted turtle

Snapping turtle

*Birds include:*

Cedar waxwing

White-eyed vireo

Yellow warbler

Indigo bunting

Field Sparrow

Song sparrow

Belted kingfisher

Rough-winged swallow

American woodcock

Wilson's snipe

Red-tailed hawk



*American woodcock*



*Western slender bluet*

*Mammals include:*

Mink

Eastern cottontail

White-tailed deer

*Fish include:*

(Wiregrass Creek & Surrounding Ditches)

Northern pike

Mud minnows

Grass pickerel

(Wiregrass Lake)

Bluegill

Channel catfish

Largemouth bass



*Calico pennant*



*Grass pickerel*

Stay on trails and use protective clothing and insecticide to avoid poison ivy, American dog ticks and mosquitoes. (Note: There is no poison oak in Northwest Ohio.)