

Fallen Timbers Battlefield Highlights

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

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?

This Metropark is named after the Battle of Fallen Timbers – a well-known 1794 conflict fought at this site that shaped the course of North American history (see details below). According to journal records from soldiers in this battle, the area at that time was littered with downed trees, or fallen timbers, caused by destructive winds from a storm two years prior.

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 called the Western



Frog-legged button



Cottonwood tree



Shagbark hickory



Common dogbane

Confederacy had formed, and included Wyandotte, Delaware, Chippewa, Ottawa, Pottawatomi, Mingo, Shawnee, Miami, Kickapoo, and other smaller tribes. Leaders were Chief Little Turtle (Miami), War Chiefs Blue Jacket (Shawnee), and Buckongahelas (Delaware) and Chief Tarhe (Wyandotte). On August 20, 1794 this formidable alliance clashed here 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 effectively removed most of the remaining Native nations from the Maumee River Valley, except those granted a 12-mile square tract of nearby reservation land.

For over 200 years following the battle, the true battlefield went unrecognized because it had been misidentified. Historians believed that the battle had taken place on the floodplain overlooking the Maumee River, which today is the location of the Fallen Timbers Monument. In 1995, after years of archeological research, Dr. G Michal Pratt discovered the true location of the battlefield. Part of his work included an archeological dig here, where he unearthed evidence of muskets and frog-legged eagle buttons used to identify Wayne's army. 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
Muscledwood	Eastern Cottonwood
Willow	Quaking aspen
Spicebush	Serviceberry
Red osier dogwood	Gray 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.

Creepers 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
Sarsparilla	Toadshade trillium
Blue cohosh	Virginia knotweed
Common blue violet	Yellow violet
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

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 brewers' 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 darter	Bronze copper
Summer azure	Pearl crescent
Monarch	Spicebush swallowtail
Clouded sulfur	Orange sulfur

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.)



Wood thrush



Red-tailed hawk



American toad



Eastern chipmunk



Dogbane beetle



Summer azure



Eastern garter snake



Great horned owl