

# Westwinds Metropark Highlights

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

## Messages for Interpretation

Westwinds Metropark offers unique recreational opportunities where visitors can be immersed in Oak Openings nature experiences.

- As part of the Oak Openings Corridor Westwinds Metropark supports mature oak woodlands, rare oak savannas, wet meadows and remnant sand prairies. Savanna and prairie restoration efforts help maintain high quality natural areas at Westwinds.
- Here visitors can experience the unique opportunities of static and 3-D archery courses.
- Community partnerships with recreation and natural resource agencies came together to create Westwinds Metropark.

## What's In A Name?

Westwinds Metropark is near an area known as Westwinds Industrial Park.

## Natural and Human History

Opened in 2015, this small park features some excellent examples of Oak Openings Region natural communities. Mature oak woodlands and prairie remnants stand out at Westwinds. Very large individuals of sassafras, cherry and a notable variety of oaks tower in the woodland, and fine examples of Pin and Burr Oak can even be seen from Turkeyfoot Shelter. The extensive prairie restoration at this park has resulted in excellent grassland bird habitat.

Part of the Oak Openings Corridor – land between Secor Metropark and Oak Openings Preserve – Westwinds was one of the first sites purchased by Metroparks following their successful and unprecedented Metroparks Land Levy of 2002. Grants such as Clean Ohio also provided substantial funds for this and other Corridor sites. A trail between Secor Metropark and Oak Openings Preserve will connect Westwinds to other Metroparks sites and partnering properties.

For many years prior to its opening as a Metropark, the Flying Tiger Radio Control Model Club has leased a portion of this property as a flying site for their model airplanes. The club continues to use the site today, maintaining the mowed areas and helping with trash removal.

In fall of 2016, Girl Scouts of Western Ohio were instrumental in bringing the Juliette Gordon Low Trail to this Metropark. Low was the founder of Girl Scouts, and our local chapters put many hours into clearing and cleaning the area for this nationally known trail.



*Burr oak*



*Sassafras*



*Dwarf dandelion*



*Pennsylvania sedge*



*Western chorus frog*



*Twelve spotted skimmer*

Today, Westwinds is home to two public, archery courses. The static range course allows beginners safe and efficient target practice. The 3-D course lets more advanced archers try their aim at statues of not only local wildlife but also mountain goats and alligators! These archery courses were made possible thanks to support from the Ohio Department of Natural Resources, Bass Pro Shops, and the National Wild Turkey Federation.

**Plant Life** (\* = State-listed as rare)

*Trees vines and shrubs include:*

Burr oak	Pin oak
Black oak	Sassafras
Black cherry	Catalpa
Red mulberry	Black walnut
Eastern cottonwood	Gray dogwood
Virginia Creeper	Greenbrier

*Grasses, wildflowers and small plants include:*

Pennsylvania sedge	Common path rush
Big bluestem	Little bluestem
Indian grass	Deer tongue grass
Dwarf dandelion*	Butterfly milkweed
Wild strawberry	Yellow goatsbeard
Royal fern	Sensitive fern
Swamp milkweed	Tall ironweed

**Wildlife** (\* = State-listed as rare)

*Insects include:*

Eastern-tailed blue	Monarch
Viceroy	Spring/Summer azure
American Copper	Great-spangled fritillary
Green darner	12-spotted Skimmer
Black saddlebags	Spittle bug
Silver-spotted skipper	Dusted skipper*

*Amphibians/reptiles include:*

Western chorus frog	Spring peeper
Red-backed salamander	Eastern box turtle*
Eastern hognose snake*	

*Mammals include:*

Fox squirrel	Southern flying squirrel
Eastern mole	Coyote
White-tailed deer	Eastern cottontail
Chipmunk	White-footed mouse

*Birds include:*

Orchard oriole	Baltimore oriole
Scarlet tanager	Gray catbird
Wild turkey	Wood thrush
Red-tailed hawk	Eastern bluebird
Eastern wood peewee	Indigo bunting
Blue-gray gnatcatcher	Yellow warbler
American robin	Cooper's hawk

The open grasslands at Westwinds are prime breeding habitat for many groundnesting birds, including Common yellowthroat, Eastern towhee, and these sparrows: Field, Song, Grasshopper, Henslow's and Lark(\*).

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.)



Great spangled fritillary  
on Butterfly weed



Cooper's hawk



Wild turkey



Scarlet tanager



Gray catbird



Field sparrow



Flying Tigers



3D Course