

Bendview Metropark Highlights

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

Messages for Interpretation

Bendview tops the charts as one of the most scenic places in Metroparks Toledo.

- Fascinating geologic features make opportune settings for excellent wildlife viewing.
- 19th and 20th century history is reflected throughout this Metropark.
- Bendview's remote setting draws hikers, bicyclists and blue-way travelers looking for a serene experience.

What's In A Name?

A panoramic turn in the Maumee River gives Bendview Metropark its name.

Natural and Human History

Bendview Metropark's geologic history and scenery are shaped by its bedrock. Look along the river for flat, gray, sedimentary limestone (Dolomite) – hundreds of millions of years old – stemming from a time when this region was covered by a warm, shallow sea and substantially closer to the equator. Also look for the 'bend' in the river near the Bendview Shelter House, where the mighty Maumee makes a turn of nearly 90 degrees. As the Maumee River cut through geologic strata over time, it encountered varied bedrock types and resistances that changed its course and direction. Here, the result of that process is this stunning river panorama. Other showy river vistas seen from Bendview's Towpath Trail feature numerous islands. One island quite visible downstream from Bendview parking lot is the privately owned Woodcock Island. The larger, state-owned Indian Island looms behind it to the south. Further downstream, Butler and Grave Islands flank the largest of islands – Missionary Island – all also owned by Ohio Department of Natural Resources. Several small, unnamed islands that often flood can sometimes be seen as well.

Watchable wildlife abound at Bendview. A healthy population of Bald eagles nests in the area and represents a success story in both national and local conservation. They can often be seen soaring for up to about five miles from their nests as they hunt for fish, frogs and other prey along the river. Great blue herons and Great egrets are also common to see, standing motionless and patient in the water, their sharp eyes watching for any movement until they detect some unsuspecting prey and spring into action to target and spear it with a splash! Common water snakes often bask on the rocks at the Bendview Shelter House – an excellent location for not only these but many kinds of river wildlife.



Bend in the Maumee River



Shelterhouse



Pale jewelweed



American germander



Green-headed coneflower

The primary trail through Bendview Metropark is a remnant of the 19th century Miami-Erie Canal Towpath, reflecting a time in history when the most common footsteps along it were those of mules and hoagies. Decades later, the impressive Bendview Shelter was built, completed in 1941. This era was the height of the national WPA or Works Progress Administration – a federal initiative that created projects to put Americans affected by the Great Depression back to work. In 1938, 1,200 men were working in Metroparks under this initiative for \$6 a month, per man. Bendview Shelter's architecture is distinctive of those built by the CCC, or Civilian Conservation Corps, for projects specifically for the beautification and revitalization of public spaces. It is an architectural attraction worth the walk. Accessed only

by foot or bicycle 1.4 miles east of Bendview Metropark Parking Area, it is reservable for groups desiring a rustic setting. An access service road for supply drop off/pick up only can be used with Metroparks approval.

In addition to visitors enjoying shelter house rentals, hikers, bicyclists, canoers and kayakers alike can all find recreational opportunities at Bendview Metropark. The Towpath here is a part of the North Coast Hiking Trail, and the waters part of the Maumee River Water Trail. A primitive Metroparks Treehouse with tent platforms is also available for rental near Otsego Road.

Plant life (For more detailed lists, please refer to Providence and Farnsworth Metropark Highlights.)

Spring wildflowers include:

Bloodroot
Wild ginger
Wild geranium
Jack-in-the-pulpit
Trout lily

Common trees include:

Eastern redbud
Silver maple
Honey locust
Eastern cottonwood
Northern hackberry
Burr oak

Summer blooms include:

Green-headed coneflower
Pale jewelweed
American germander

Notable wildlife include:

adult and immature Bald eagle
Belted kingfisher
Baltimore oriole
Red-eyed vireo
Great blue heron
Great egret
Mallard duck
Wood duck
Great horned owl
White-tailed deer
American beaver
Groundhog
Snapping turtle
Mid-land painted turtle
Common water snake

Please stay on trails to protect plant and wildlife and stay out of poison ivy, ticks and other insects.



Northern hackberry



Witches broom fungus in a Northern hackberry tree



American beaver



Immature bald eagle



Warbling vireo



Cut-leaf toadwort



Wild geranium



Red-eyed vireo