

Cleveland Metroparks® Trail Challenge

Presented by



2020: Trails

Trail Surface: Paved (APT) Natural Surface Water

Acacia Reservation

1.85 miles: Clubhouse

Start at the Acacia Reservation parking lot off Cedar Road. Walk, hike, bike, or handcycle the paved loop making sure to stay right at each turn. Enjoy the old golf cart paths as you imagine what this multi-year natural restoration project will look like in 100 years.

Bedford Reservation

4.2 miles: APT

Start at the parking area just off Richmond Road at the NE corner of Bedford Reservation and enjoy this quiet out and back section.

(Hint: If you are feeling adventurous, hit up the Forbes Woods trail near the middle of this route to knock off two trails in one day)

1.8 miles: Forbes Woods

Start at the Forbes Woods Picnic Area and enjoy this wooded oasis that was once a dairy farm. Anticipate several boardwalks as you hike through the ravine crossing over many wetlands.

Big Creek Reservation

4.8 miles: Lake to Lake Trail

Start at either Lake Isaac or the Eastland Rd. Trailhead and enjoy this out-and-back trail as you enjoy boardwalks, marshes and wonderful interpretive information along the way.

1.2 miles: Lake Issac Trail

Start at Lake Isaac and enjoy this loop trail as you discover waterfowl, birds, and a scenic overlook of Baldwin Creek.

Bradley Woods Reservation

1.3 miles: Quarry Loop

Head off from Codrington Picnic Area off Bradley Road and head north to get on the Quarry Loop Trail. As the name suggests, you'll see remnants of old sandstone quarries as well as many maples, pin oak and birch trees.

Brecksville Reservation

3.3 miles: Nature Center

Start at the Nature Center. Take the APT east down the hill to the CVNP Brecksville Station Train Depot and enjoy looking over the Cuyahoga River prior to turning around as you grind back up the hill. While this route is paved, there is significant elevation change.

2.5 miles: Hemlock Loop

Start at the Nature Center. Take the green Hemlock Loop. Enjoy views of Chippewa Creek Gorge as you loop back to where you started.

Brookside Reservation

1.4 miles: Brookside Overlook

Enter the park on John Nagy Blvd. and start on the APT at the roundabout. Head South past the baseball fields and head up to the Brookside Overlook before turning around and heading back.

Euclid Creek Reservation

2.6 miles: Welsh Woods Picnic Area

Start at Welsh Woods Picnic Area and cross the road to get on the Squirrel Run Trail. It will soon intersect with the Glenridge Loop. Follow the Glenridge Loop for 1.2 miles until it meets back up with Squirrel Run Trail. Head south (right) and follow this beautiful trail back to Welsh Woods Picnic Area.

Garfield Park Reservation

3.0 miles: Mill Creek Falls

Start at Trolley Turn Parking Area and move northwest on the Mill Creek Trail along E. 104th Street in this beautiful park as you head to Mill Creek Falls. Turn around when you reach the falls, but not before you enjoy the 48 foot tall falls, the highest waterfall in Cuyahoga County!

1.2 miles: Iron Springs Loop

Head out from near Garfield Park Center and hike over the bridge to get on the Iron Springs Loop. You'll want to take your time on this trail as you enjoy gorgeous, intricate stonework nearly 100 years old. Stick to the Iron Springs Loop trail and you'll end up back where you started!

Hinckley Reservation

3.3 miles: APT

Bike the APT that circles around Hinckley Lake, starting at the Boathouse or the Spillway.

0.95 miles: Whipp's Ledges

Park at Top O' Ledges Picnic Area and hike the Whipp's Ledges loop trail. Enjoy watching people rock climb and be careful around cliff edges.

1.5 miles: Paddling Loop

Launch from the ramp at Hinckley Lake Boathouse and take a lap skirting the edge of this inland, flatwater lake. You can even rent a kayak or SUP if you don't own your own, making this a great opportunity if you are new to paddling.

Huntington Reservation

0.6 miles: Porter Creek

Start at the parking lot on the south side of Lake Road, and follow the APT to the Porter Creek Trail on your left. Follow along the Porter Creek Trail before joining the connector trail that follows the road back to the parking area.

1.0 mile: Paddle Lake Erie

Set off from the kayak launch area and paddle west alongside but outside the swimming area and back to enjoy the views of Cleveland. Be prepared for wind and waves during this advanced open water paddle on Lake Erie.

Lakefront Reservation

1.5 miles: Edgewater

Start at Edgewater Park in the lower parking area and make your way up to the Cleveland script sign by moving up the hill behind the Beach House. Enjoy the breathtaking overlook of the city. Stop in for a drink or some ice cream on your way back.

2.0 miles: Paddle Lake Erie

Launch on the beach at Wendy Park and paddle towards the Historic Coast Guard Station as you loop around the inner harbor paddling counter-clockwise staying close to the breakwall, before heading back to the beach.

North Chagrin Reservation

3.25 miles: Nature Center

Start at the Nature Center. Ride north on the APT to Strawberry Picnic Area looking for birds and other wildlife as you enjoy the newly enhanced Strawberry Pond area.

2.0 miles: Museum Trail

Start at the Nature Center. From the SE corner of the parking lot of the Nature Center - enjoy the Museum Trail as you head out to the Sylvan Loop.

Mill Stream Run Reservation

5.0 miles: Royalview

Start at the lower Royalview Trailhead parking lot. Go out to Valley Parkway and head North crossing over Route 82 up to the Chalet. Return back to where you started by heading back south.

5.7 miles: Royalview, Yellow Loop

Start at the lower Royalview Trailhead parking lot. Run, hike, or bike the Yellow Loop through young forests and enjoy interacting with other trail users. Pay special attention to trail direction as it varies from day to day on this shared use mountain bike trail.

1.0 mile: Wallace Lake

Start at Wallace Lake and paddle the perimeter of the lake in either direction for a fun way to enjoy the water and get a little exercise.

Ohio & Erie Canal Reservation

8.0 miles: APT

Start at CanalWay Center. Make your way down the hill on the APT and turn left to head south towards Rockside Road. Enjoy the views of the canals, various bridges and aqueducts as you ride to Rockside Road. Turn around and make your way back to Canalway Center when you hit gravel at the Lock 39 Trailhead.

2.0 miles: Mountain Bike Trail

Start at CanalWay Center. Enjoy the hilly mountain bike loop by bike or by boot, but be careful if hiking as this is primarily used as a mountain bike trail.

Rocky River Reservation

10.0 miles: Nature Center

Go south on the APT from the Nature Center the whole way turning around when you get to Wallace Lake.

5.8 miles: Cottonwood Shelter

Start at Cottonwood Shelter and walk towards the Rocky River on the bridle trail. Go right (*South*) when you get to the river and stay on the bridle trail as you walk towards Rocky River Nature Center. Turn around when the trail crosses Rocky River near the nature center.

1.8 miles: Paddling

Launch from Rocky River Marina and paddle towards Lake Erie paying special attention to boat traffic, folks fishing, and others out enjoying the water. Once the river turns into the openness of Lake Erie turn around.

South Chagrin Reservation

8.0 miles: Shadow Lake

Starting at Shadow Lake, head right (*North*) out from the parking lot and enjoy the APT as you progress slightly uphill most of the way until you turn around before you cross Route 91/SOM Center Rd. Enjoy the relaxing ride back if you chose to bike!

0.9 miles: Look About Lodge Loop

Start at Look About Lodge. Celebrate the beauty of Look About Lodge by taking a stroll on the short Look About Lodge Loop trail that follows the Buckeye Trail for a majority of the loop.

Washington Reservation

1.2 miles: Arborview

Start at Washington Arborview Picnic Area. From the North side of the parking lot cross over Washington Park Blvd. and enjoy the APT as you head south (*right*) before turning around at Harvard Avenue.

West Creek Reservation

2.1 miles: APT

Jump on the APT anywhere in the park but head towards Blue Bird Point Overlook. Start here and move yourself 3 laps around the television towers as you enjoy wildlife and listen to the many birds in this varied upland terrain. Each lap is only 0.7 miles, so do three laps to complete this trail challenge!

1.75 miles: Gorge Loop Trail

Start at the Watershed Stewardship Center. Take the paved All-Purpose Trail (APT) from Monarch Bluff Picnic Area and stay right at any junction until you cross a bridge to ride up the Gateway Trail. Turn right onto the natural surface Gorge Loop Trail and make sure to stay alert for all trail users on this shared use mountain bike trail.

Guest Choice!

In addition to the trails listed above, you have the ability to count an additional activity by choosing one of your favorite trails and record it for one of your activities.

