





Turn In a Poacher

Ohio's **TIP, "Turn In a Poacher,"** program is helping to curtail poaching throughout the state.

TIP is designed to involve the public in reporting wildlife violations. Citizens who observe wildlife violations should call the TIP toll-free hotline

You don't have to give your name... just give the facts.

1-800-POACHER.



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Sport fishing is one of the most popular outdoor recreational activities available in Cleveland Metroparks. In a recent visitor survey, one in five households in the Park District service area enjoy fishing locally.

W STY

Greater Clevelanders make over 509,000 trips to fish in the waters of Cleveland Metroparks each year. The Park District currently has fourteen major fishing areas located within convenient reach of area anglers. A wide variety of fishing opportunities and a surprising amount of fishing diversity await you in the waters of Cleveland Metroparks.

There are opportunities to access Lake Erie, the area's largest fishery resource, which gives anglers the chance to tackle "big waters."

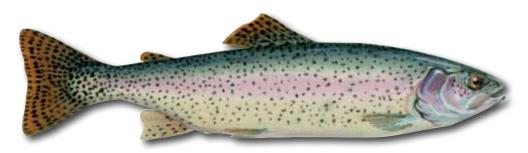
Cleveland Metroparks also holds ownership to 31 miles of the Rocky River which represents the largest single public stream ownership in Ohio. Rocky River currently supports a regionally significant steelhead trout fishery as well as native stream fisheries for a diversity of fish species. The year-round fishability of the Rocky River has also been enhanced by a stocked put and take trout fishery in upstream segments of the East Branch of the river. Cleveland Metroparks also holds significant ownership to portions of the Chagrin River (9.5 miles) and the Cuyahoga River (5.3 miles) which support local stream fisheries for steelhead trout, smallmouth bass, catfish, and other species.

Local lakes and ponds dot the various reservations of the Park District. These areas are also productive year round for a variety of species, including rainbow trout which are stocked during the winter months.

Cleveland Metroparks conducts an active fisheries management program to enhance the various fishing opportunities at local water areas. Active management of water areas include fish populations surveys, water quality analysis, fish stocking, fish habitat improvement projects and cooperation with other resource agencies to best manage area waters. Cleveland Metroparks has been recognized nationally for its management of the area's high-use urban waters for both fisheries enhancement and for fishing recreational use.

Cleveland Metroparks conducts public fishing programs to teach fishing skills and to teach fisheries resource conservation. Learn-to-fish programs for all age groups can be scheduled in your community or at a Cleveland Metroparks water area. Cleveland Metroparks can even loan fishing equipment to community groups. All scheduled fishing program events are announced in the monthly park newsletter the *Emerald Necklace*. For more information on program offerings call the natural resource office at 440-331-8017.

Greater Cleveland has diverse water resources. Many of these resources lie within the "Emerald Necklace" of Cleveland Metroparks. Enjoy the experience - you may be surprised by the opportunity so close at hand!



rainbow trout

Fishing Hours and Prohibited Fishing Equipment

Fishing is permitted daily in Cleveland Metroparks from 6 a.m. to 11 p.m. Cleveland Metroparks may close waters to fishing as deemed advisable. Closed signs will be posted if an area is not available for fishing. In all other Park District waters fishing is permitted subject to the statutes of the state of Ohio, except for the following: hooks left unattended, trot lines, traps, spears and gigs, and bows and arrows. Cleveland Metroparks prohibits the removal of reptiles or amphibians.

Fishing License Requirements

Anglers are reminded that an Ohio fishing license is required for all persons, age 16 and older, who fish in the public waters of the state. These waters include Lake Erie, all streams and all inland lakes and ponds. Seniors, age 66 and older, can receive a reduced fee annual fishing license from the state of Ohio. Be aware of the contents of the annual fishing regulations. Regulations are changed annually to meet resource needs.

Motor Boats Prohibited

No boats*, driven or propelled by gasoline motors, can be operated upon any lakes, rivers, ponds or other bodies of water owned by, or under the control of, Cleveland Metroparks, except in the Rocky River from Scenic Park to Lake Erie. (The speed limit is not to exceed six miles per hour.) Scenic Park is located in Rocky River Reservation on Valley Parkway, off Detroit Road in Lakewood. Electric-powered trolling motors are allowed on Hinckley Lake. Hinckley Lake is located in Hinckley Reservation off West and East Drives, off Bellus Road in Hinckley. Rental boats are available at Hinckley Lake Boathouse 330-278-2160. No boats are allowed on Ledge Lake, Beyers Pond and Ohio & Erie Canal.

Boating Safety Regulations

No boats can be operated upon any lakes, rivers, ponds, or other bodies of water owned by, or under the control of, Cleveland Metroparks that do not meet the safety standards or carry safety equipment as described in the provisions of Sections 1547.01 to 1547.99 of the Ohio Revised Code relating to watercraft and regulations of the Ohio Division of Watercraft. Boats can not be operated without the appropriate lighting, as determined by the Ohio Revised Code. Boat trailers must be parked in the designated areas.

Prohibited Boating Hours

No boats can be operated in Cleveland Metroparks after 10:30 p.m. except in Rocky River from Scenic Park to Lake Erie. Scenic Park is located in Rocky River Reservation on Valley Parkway, off Detroit Road in Lakewood.

*Rubber rafts and kayaks are considered "boats."

Creel Limits

Size limits are in effect to ensure an equitable distribution of harvest.

Daily bag limit:

Hinckley Lake 5 trout

2 bass, minimum size 12"

Ohio & Erie Canal 5 trout

5 bass, minimum size 15"

Shadow Lake 5 trout

2 bass, minimum size 12"

All other lakes and ponds

3 trout

2 bass, minimum size 12"

Lake Erie and its tributaries

Trout and salmon
5 (May 16 - Aug. 31),

size 12"

2 (Sept. 1 - May 15)

(singles or in combination)

To report poachers, call 1-800-762-2437.

Stocking

To enhance fishing opportunities, a number of Cleveland Metroparks fishing areas are seasonally stocked by Cleveland Metroparks and the Ohio Division of Wildlife.

Protect our Wildlife

To protect our native fish species, do not release live exotic species into any body of water. It is illegal to transport live fish from one body of water to another.

To protect our wildlife, remove fishing line, hooks, bait containers and all other litter. Do not break tree branches for pole props.

Catch-and-release

Take only the fish you will utilize and exercise catch-andrelease on the remainder. To achieve a high survival rate among released fish, proper handling techniques are essential.

- 1. Land the fish as quickly as possible to minimize exhaustion.
- 2. Handle the fish as little as possible, using wet hands. Do not squeeze the fish and minimize its time out of water.
- 3. Keep any fish which is bleeding from the gills or throat or shows air bladder damage.
- 4. Release fish gently, do not throw them into the water.
- Do not release fish which have been held in a cooler or in the bottom of the boat.





Passing on My Love of Fishing

My love of fishing started at an early age thanks to my parents. It's an activity that gets you outdoors, offers a challenge, teaches patience, relieves stress, brings people together and most of all, it's fun!

Joyce S., Parma

For more stories log onto clevelandmetroparks.com

Beyer's Pond is located in Big Creek Reservation on Main Street between the Big Creek Parkway and Eastland Road. The pond is 2 acres.

A mulched walking trail leads to the lake which is open to shoreline fishing only. The lake has been stocked with largemouth bass and channel catfish to enhance the present fishery which also includes bluegill/sunfish and crappie.

Fishing Tip - Most fish are low light feeders. Plan your trips for early and late in the day and avoid midday fishing.

Water Depth

Shallows

5' ___

10'

15'

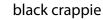
Fishing is my Life

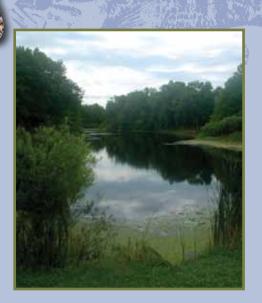
I am nine years old...and
FISHING IS MY LIFE!!
My Dad's been taking me
fishing since I was 4 years old.
We've gone to several different
fishing spots but our
favorite is the Rocky River in
Cleveland Metroparks where
I caught my first big steelhead.

David D., Independence









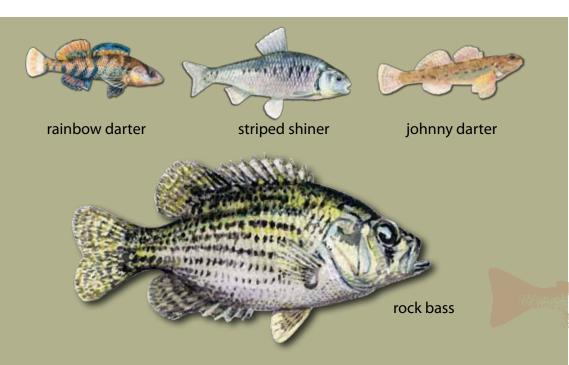
Chagrin River West Branch

South Chagrin Reservation

The west branch of the Chagrin River is the best example of a minimally disturbed native stream fishery on the fringe of the Cleveland Metropolitan area. The native stream fish fauna is diverse and includes species of darters, sculpins, catfishes, minnows and sport fish not found in most other streams in the urbanized area.

Cleveland Metroparks holds ownership to a five-mile stretch of the west bank of the Chagrin River from South Woodland Road (S.R. 87) to Cannon Road/Solon Road. This stretch is accessible by walking the bridle trail and access trails along the west bank of the river. Stream anglers must be sure they remain on Park District property and not stray onto private property.

Significant stream fisheries are present in this area for smallmouth bass, steelhead trout, rock bass, crappie, bluegill/sunfish, bullhead, carp and suckers. The stream offers a challenge for light/ultra light spin tackle and fly fishing enthusiasts.









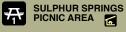






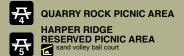








SQUAW ROCK PICNIC AREA ₹





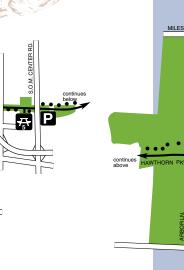


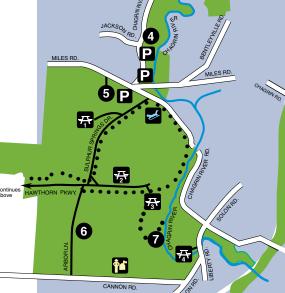
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Fishing Tip -Smallmouth bass respond to a variety of natural baits including crayfish, minnows and leeches.







Hinckley Lake Hinckley Reservation

Hinckley Lake, located in Hinckley Reservation, is bounded by Bellus Road to the north, State Road to the south and sits in the Rocky River Valley between East and West drives. The lake impounds 87 surface acres of water on the east branch of the Rocky River which makes it the largest inland lake in Cleveland Metroparks.

bass, channel catfish, black crappie, common carp, white crappie, bluegill and rainbow trout. The state of Ohio stocks put and take rainbow trout in the lake every spring. Furthermore, the lake also ranks as a very good bass lake and several "Fish Ohio"

largemouth bass are registered annually.

The Hinckley Lake boathouse is open year-round. The

boathouse features boat rentals, fishing tackle, bait

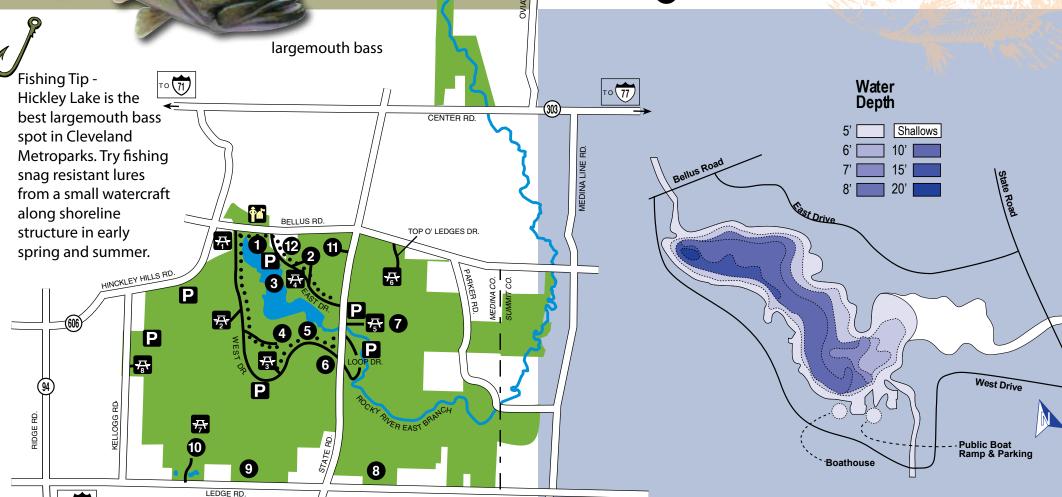
and snacks. For information, call 330-278-2160.

Fish species important to anglers include largemouth

- HINCKLEY LAKE SWIMMING AREA
- NORTH AND SOUTH BALL FIELDS 👬 🖊 🖚 🧈
- HINCKLEY LAKE
- HINCKLEY LAKE BOATHOUSE
- WEST DRIVE SCENIC OVERLOOK
- **BUZZARD ROOST**
- WHIPP'S LEDGES
- JUDGE'S LAKE
- WORDEN HERITAGE HOMESTEAD AND WORDEN'S LEDGES
- **LEDGE LAKE** bathhouse, basketball, pool entry fee (during swimming season)
- COASTING HILL
- **EAST BALLFIELD**

- **SPILLWAY PICNIC AREA**
- REDWING RESERVED PICNIC AREA ₹ **/**. ₩
- JOHNSON'S PICNIC AREA 73€ Œ
- INDIAN POINT PICNIC AREA 4
- ₹ WHIPP'S LEDGES PICNIC AREA
- **TOP O' LEDGES PICNIC AREA** ₹
- LEDGE LAKE RESERVED SHELTERHOUSES 🚮 🔤
- KIWANIS RESERVED PICNIC AREA ₹ Œ
- RISING VALLEY PICNIC AREA

All numbered picnic areas include grills, parking and restrooms unless otherwise noted.



NEWTON RD.

то 271

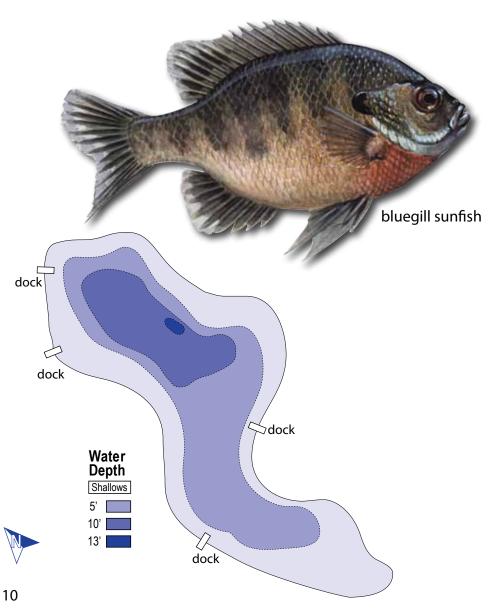
constructed in 1973.

Judge's Lake is a two-acre impoundment located in Hinckley Reservation, off Ledge Road (east of State Road) in Hinckley Township. The lake was

Fish species of importance at the lake include: largemouth bass, bluegill, crappie, bullhead catfish, and rainbow trout.

Cleveland Metroparks Natural Resources Division conducts a management program which includes periodic fish stocking and fish habitat improvement.

Fishing Tip - Small lakes offer fun fishing for both youngsters and seniors.
Remember that fish are easier to find in small lakes so move around and cover the lake to search for active fish.



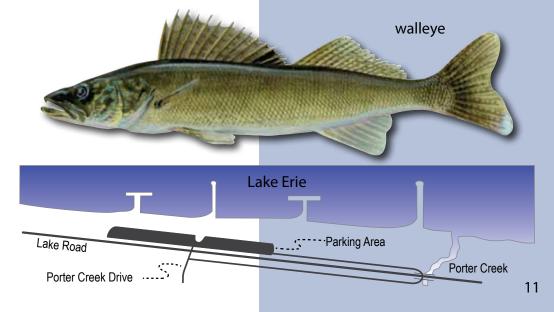
Huntington Reservation is located along the Lake Erie shoreline approximately six miles west of the Rocky River. The reservation is located off Lake Road (Routes 2 and 6) in Bay Village. Four fishing piers extend out into Lake Erie and adjoin the swimming beach. During the swimming season (Memorial Day through Labor Day), fishing is permitted from the outer two piers only. All the piers are open to fishing during the remainder of the year.

Shore fishing opportunities are available for many fish species in Lake Erie. Popular fish species caught include: yellow perch, white perch, white bass, channel catfish, bullheads, freshwater drum, walleye, and steelhead.

Most fishermen will still fish live bait such as lake shiners, red worms or night crawlers at or near the bottom to catch fish. Casting small jigs and weighted white bass rigs is popular during July and August for surface feeding white bass. In recent years, anglers have been successful with spinners, spoons, and diving plugs casting the pier heads for larger game fish such as walleye and steelhead. For walleye, in May and again in late fall, try pier or surf casting minnow-type plugs in late evening or after dark. For spring and fall steelhead, try casting spinners and spoons, or try drifting large spawn bags around the piers during October, November, April and May.



Fishing Tip- Shoreline fishing piers can be very productive at times. In May and November cast big minnow plugs for walleye and in spring and fall cast spinners and spoons for steelhead.



Ranger Lake

Mill Stream Run Reservation



Ledge Lake is located in Hinckley Reservation off Ledge Road (east of Route 94) in Hinckley Township. Ledge Lake was constructed in 1964 to impound 4.5 acres of water.

Fish species of importance to anglers include: largemouth bass, bluegill, crappie, rainbow trout, and channel catfish.

Cleveland Metroparks Natural Resources Division maintains an active management program at the lake which includes periodic fish stocking and fish habitat improvement. Rainbow trout are stocked in the winter for ice fishing.

Fishing at Ledge Lake is restricted to shore fishing only - no boats are permitted.

dock

Water

Depth

Shallows

15'

20' | 25' | 26' | Fishing Tip - The smaller lakes of Cleveland Metroparks offer early spring action as water temperatures begin to warm. Several of these lakes offer rainbow trout this time of year.

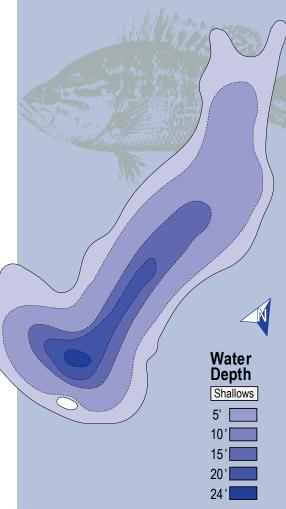
rainbow trout

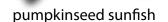
Ranger Lake is located in Mill Stream Run Reservation off Pearl Road (off the entrance ramp to the Ohio Turnpike) in Strongsville. The lake is a 1.8-acre impoundment.

The lake has been stocked to establish sport fishing populations of largemouth bass, bluegill, pumpkinseed sunfish, crappie, and rainbow trout. The lake is stocked with trout in the winter for ice fishing.

Prior to flooding the lake, the tree and brush cover along the west side of the lake was left standing to provide improved fish habitat. Anglers may find this area productive for catching fish.

Fishing Tip - During the "dog day fishing" of July and August schedule your fishing outings for early morning and late evening to find active fish.





Ohio & Erie Canal

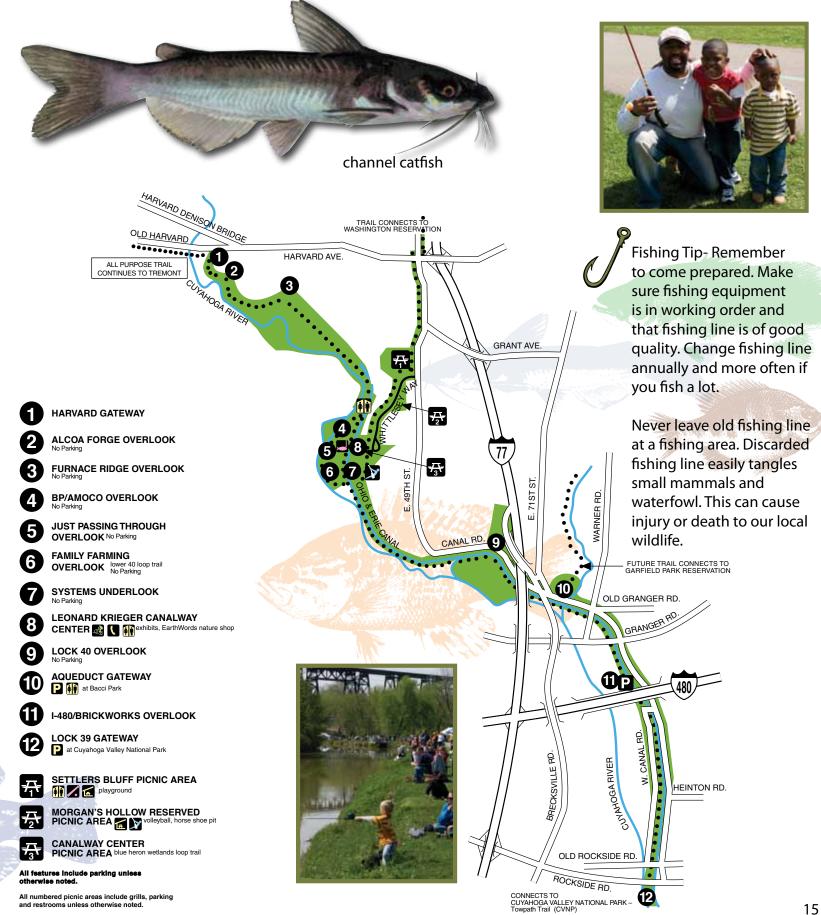
Ohio & Erie Canal Reservation



Ohio & Erie Canal Reservation stretches through the villages of Cuyahoga Heights and Valley View. The reservation follows a portion of its namesake, the historic Ohio & Erie Canal. Together with the Cuyahoga River, the northernmost remaining 5.5 miles of watered canal provides good fishing opportunities.

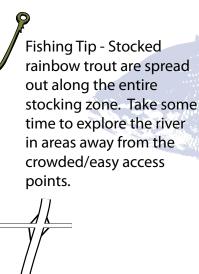
A one-mile stretch of the north portion of the canal is managed for sport fishing. Fishery management activities include periodic fish stocking and fish habitat enhancement. Popular fish species which can be caught include: bass, bluegill, crappie, channel catfish and rainbow trout.

Ohio & Erie Canal serves as the site for the annual children's spring Fishing Derby which is held mid-May. For additional event information, call 216-206-1010.



Rocky River East Branch

Mill Stream Run Reservation







STRONGSVILLE WILDLIFE AREA

The east branch of Rocky River extends southward from Cedar Point Road in North Olmsted in Rocky River Reservation. Once the stream crosses Bagley Road it continues to meander southeastward through Mill Stream Run Reservation.

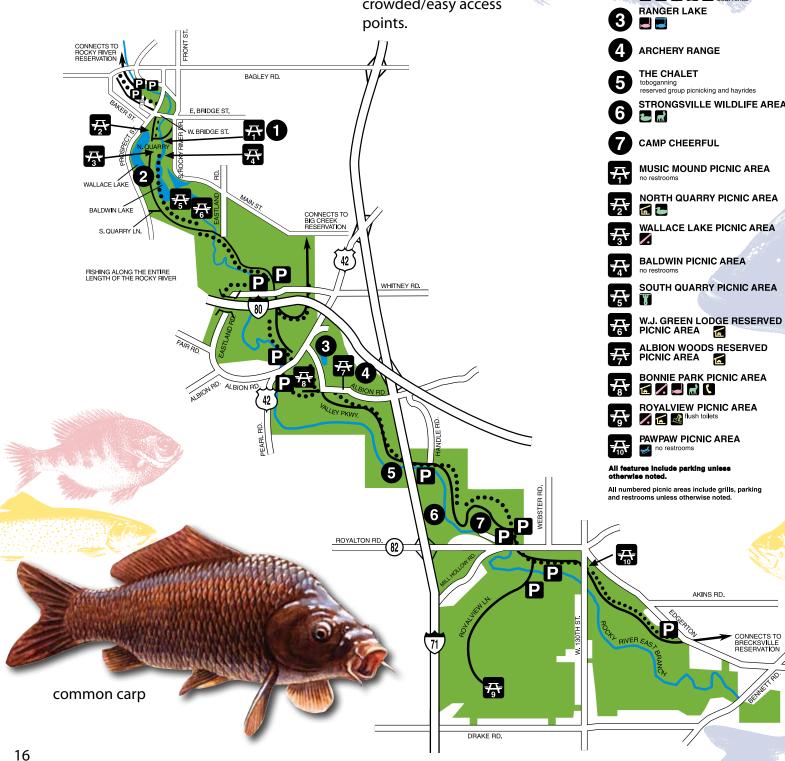
North of the sandstone falls in Berea, the river remains influenced by fish migrations from Lake Erie. Steelhead trout can be taken in this stretch of stream. Above (south) of the sandstone falls the stream supports fisheries not influenced by Lake Erie.

Fish species of importance to anglers include carp, suckers, bullhead, largemouth bass, smallmouth bass, sunfish species and stocked rainbow trout.

Cleveland Metroparks currently maintains a spring (March/April) put and catch fishery for adult rainbow trout in this zone of the river. A six-mile zone from Baldwin Lake southward to Royalton Road is used to spread out the stocked fish. The trout are stocked several times from "ice-out" in early March until the end of April. Currently, several thousand rainbow trout are stocked for this program annually. Trout stockings are announced in the Cleveland Metroparks online fishing report blog.

There is a 12-inch minimum legal length and a two trout per day bag limit for this fishery until May 15 when the daily bag limit increases to five trout per day.





Rocky River, Main Channel

Rocky River Reservation

The main channel of the Rocky River is located in Rocky River Reservation from Detroit Road in Lakewood, south to Cedar Point Road in North Olmsted. The stream is of moderate grade and is characterized by long stretches of shallow water broken by riffles and occasional deeper pools. The deeper river pools are few in number and are spaced so the productive fishing areas are well defined.

The deep-water river channel extends from the boat launch ramp at Scenic Park northward to Lake Erie. The ramps can accommodate 200 car/trailers for boat access to Lake Erie.

The Emerald Necklace Marina provides boat dockage, a gas dock, boat storage and a restaurant facility. Bait and a snack bar are also available. For information on marina services call 216-226-3030.

The Rocky River is a dynamic fishery affected seasonally by movements of many fish species between the river and Lake Erie. In the spring spawning runs of steelhead trout and suckers get fishing off to an early start in March/April. As the spring season progresses spawning runs of carp, bullhead, white bass, smallmouth bass and channel catfish occur. Other fish species which may appear in the river include stray salmon from other states, northern pike, walleye, sheepshead and yellow perch. In recent years the summer smallmouth bass fishery has improved throughout the river with improved water quality. In the fall, the steelhead trout again reappear in the river and this fishery will hold on until the stream ices in for the winter.

Currently, the steelhead fishery is supported with annual stockings of 95,000 Manistee strain steelhead by the Ohio Division of Wildlife. This stocking program has made Rocky River a major steelhead stream fishery in Ohio.

The Park District offers an online fishing report blog, updated regularly, focusing on the Rocky River fishing at clevelandmetroparks.com

Fishing Tip - When the Rocky River is high and muddy from heavy rains, give the river a few days to clear to a visibility of 6 inches before planning a fishing trip for steelhead or other sport fish. At water temperatures of 42° F and lower, fish live baits and spawn bags for steelhead trout.





18 STERESERVATION STERESERVATION 19

Shadow Lake

South Chagrin Reservation



Rocky River Lagoon is an eight-acre, old river oxbow located in Rocky River Reservation at the Lagoon Picnic Area, south of Cedar Point Road in North Olmstead.

This oxbow contains a raised outlet culvert to create additional stable water depth.

The flooded oxbow supports fish populations of largemouth bass, bluegill, pumpkinseed sunfish, white crappie, and brown bullhead. Largemouth bass and panfish are periodically restocked.

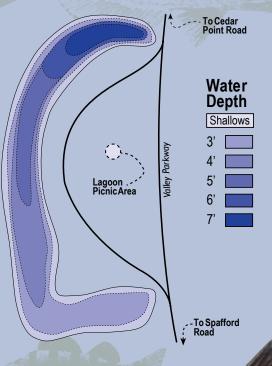
Panfishing enthusiasts will find this area a challenge for catching crappie, bluegill and sunfish. Abundant brushy shoreline cover and tree deadfalls create an outstanding panfish and bass habitat.

Shadow Lake is located in South Chagrin Reservation off Hawthorn Parkway between Richmond and Solon roads in Solon. The lake was impounded in 1968 and provides 3.7 acres for fishing.

Cleveland Metroparks Natural Resources
Division conducts an active fish management program which includes fish habitat
improvement and fish stocking. Fish species of
importance to anglers at Shadow Lake include
largemouth bass, bluegill and channel catfish.
Adult rainbow trout are stocked in winter for
ice fishing.



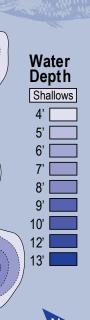
dock



Fishing Tip - Freshwater fish are a valuable food source. Always take care of your catch by placing fish on ice and keeping them moist until they can be cleaned at home. Remember to keep only what you intend to use. Carefully release your unwanted fish back into the water.

Fishing Tip-Teach yourself to fish with light tackle using small bobbers and hooks of the proper size. Size 8 hooks are good mid-range hooks to carry for lake and pond fishing.

dock



brown bullhead largemouth bass

Wallace Lake is located on Valley Parkway, one mile south of Bagley Road in Mill Stream Run Reservation. The lake was impounded to its present size of 17.6 acres through construction of a spillbox structure at the north end of the lake in 1941.

The flooding joined two formerly separate stone quarries with a shallower connecting channel which provides for a diversity of fish habitat in this lake.

Fish species of importance at Wallace Lake include the largemouth bass, bluegill, white crappie, brown bullhead, carp, channel catfish and rainbow trout.

Wallace Lake receives annual stockings of adult channel catfish and the lake receives two stockings of rainbow trout each winter for ice fishing.

Wallace Lake serves as the west side location for Cleveland Metroparks children's fishing derby, which is held in May of each year. For additional event information, call 216-206-1010.

Quarry Rock Cafe, a snack and paddle boat concession, is open at the lake from Memorial Day through Labor Day.



Fishing Tip - Explore this lake to find an abundance of fish structure from rock/rubble piles to brushy shoreline overhangs and fallen trees. This lake produces good numbers of bass with the diversity of habitat.



In addition to the fourteen major fishing areas, additional fishing opportunities exist in smaller ponds and flooded river oxbows throughout the Park District. Some of the more popular fishing spots are listed below:

Mill Stream Run Reservation - Bonnie Park area An 1/4-acre pond with bass, panfish species. Valley Parkway, just north of the Chalet - 1/3-acre fishing oxbow for bass and panfish.

South Chagrin Reservation - Arbor Lane area behind maintenance area - 1/4-acre pond with bass and panfish.

North Chagrin Reservation - Oxbow Lagoon on Chagrin River Road opposite Squires Castle and Chagrin River at Rogers Road. Fishing for bass, panfish, bullhead, steelhead and carp.

Cuyahoga River at S.R. 82 dam, accessed from River Road/Cuyahoga Valley parking lot and towpath trail, Brecksville Reservation. Stream fishing for carp, suckers, steelhead trout, smallmouth bass, catfish and panfish.





Fishing Tip- Be a good steward of Cleveland Metroparks. Please pick up your fishing litter before you leave a fishing area. If you find litter that has been left by others, pitch in and do a little extra to help keep our waters clean.



VVater
Depth Shallows
2' | 14' | 30' | 34' | 4' | 21' | 44' | 5' | 24' | 49' |



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Help Stock Our Local Waters Cleveland Metroparks Fishing Fund

Cleveland Metroparks Fishing Fund helps provide a rewarding fishing experience to Northeast Ohio anglers through the stocking of rainbow trout, channel catfish, largemouth bass, and other sport fish. The Fund also supports children's fishing derbies and creation and restoration of essential habitat in the ponds, lakes, and rivers within Cleveland Metroparks. All donations to the Fishing Fund will be recognized in Cleveland Metroparks Emerald Necklace newsletter, and the annual Gift of Nature report.

To make a gift to the Fishing fund, please visit clevelandmetroparks.com and click donate, or send a check payable to Cleveland Metroparks to:

Manager of Gift and Donor Development **Cleveland Metroparks** 4101 Fulton Parkway Cleveland, Ohio 44144

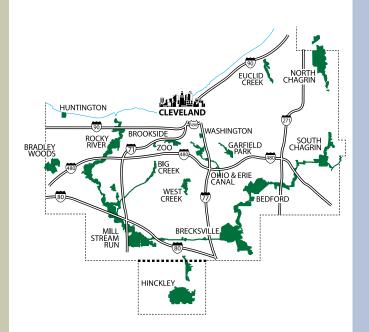
For more information, please call 216-635-3217.

Donation amount:

Online donations: www.clemetparks.com/recreation/fishing/fund.asp

Name:		
	(as it should be listed for publication)	
Address:		
City:	State:	. ZIP:
Telephone:		









Cleveland Metroparks is Cleveland's "Emerald Necklace," an open space of natural beauty and diversity. The Park District is dedicated to conservation, education and recreation. It offers an array of facilities and opportunities from picnicking, golfing and fishing to water and winter recreation areas, wildlife areas, and outdoor education and recreation programs.

Cleveland Metroparks was established on July 23, 1917 to provide open space for the people of Greater Cleveland, as well as to conserve and preserve the natural valleys of the area. Today, Cleveland Metroparks consists of over 22,000 acres of land in 16 reservations, over 100 miles of parkways, and Cleveland Metroparks Zoo.

Cleveland Metroparks events are featured in the Emerald Necklace. This free monthly publication is available to residents of Cuyahoga County and Hinckley Township in Medina County. (There is an annual \$10 subscription fee for others.) To be placed on the mailing list, send your name and address to the address below.

Cleveland Metroparks is an equal opportunity employer and does not discriminate in its employment with respect to age, class, gender, ethnicity, race, national origin, mental and physical ability, religion, sexual orientation, and veteran status. Additionally, Cleveland Metroparks respects diversity of thought and practice, including, but not exclusive to education, socio-economic background, and work experience. Special assistance for Cleveland Metroparks programs or facilities is available by calling 216-635-3264 in advance.

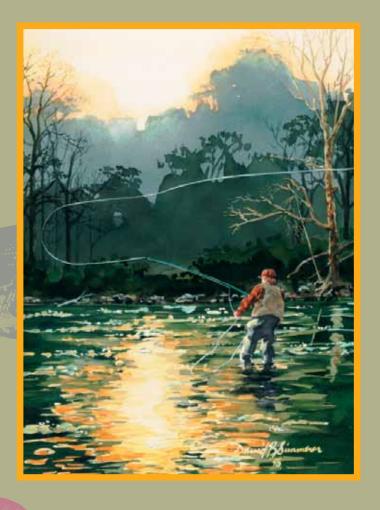
In case of accident or emergency, call Ranger Headquarters at 440-333-4911.

Administrative Offices 4101 Fulton Parkway Cleveland, Ohio 44144-1923 216-635-3200 FAX 216-635-3286 clevelandmetroparks.com



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In any season,
Cleveland Metroparks
is a great place for fishing.