

MANHATTAN MARSH

Site History

- The port town of Manhattan was established in the early 1800s near the current location of Bay View Golf Course. At that time, Swan Creek (previously known as Mud Creek) flowed through what is now Manhattan Marsh emptying into Maumee Bay.
- During the early 1840s the Miami and Erie Canal was constructed through what is now Manhattan Marsh to reach its terminus at the port town of Manhattan north of the Maumee River.
- In 1843, construction of the Toledo Side Cut canal was completed, rerouting Swan Creek to its current location (north of present day Collingwood Boulevard). Because the Toledo Side Cut was larger than the official terminus of the Miami and Erie Canal at the port of Manhattan, the new City of Toledo flourished while the town of Manhattan was abandoned.
- Over the next 150 years, most of the marshlands now occupied by the City of Toledo were drained and filled.
- In 1996, the non-profit organization Citizens for Buckeye Basin Parks was established to protect Manhattan Marsh, the last, best example of Toledo's "Frogtown" heritage.
- In 2014, Metroparks Toledo began working with Citizens for Buckeye Basin Parks and the Lucas County Land Bank to acquire what will soon become our newest Metropark.

Natural Features

- The site is one of the last remnants of a much larger marshland that once surrounded Maumee Bay prior to establishment of the City of Toledo.
- The site provides critical stopover habitat for over 100 species of migratory songbirds and waterfowl within one North America's most significant migratory flyways.
- The site is home to dozens of native plant and animal species including swamp mallow, Joe Pye weed, prairie dock, lobelia, great blue herons, great egrets, American bitterns, yellow warblers, and soft shelled turtles.

Park Development "Givens"

- The site's existing marsh habitat will be preserved and enhanced.
- The site will continue to capture and filter stormwater from surrounding streets and neighborhoods, improving downstream water quality in Detwiler Creek.
- Metroparks will provide public access to the site by developing a perimeter trail and boardwalks.
- Students from Chase STEM Academy will be given direct access to the marsh for use as a "land lab".

