



## **Metroparks Backpacking and Camping Club: Towpath Backpacking (7 Miles, Ages 18+)**

*Saturday, May 10th at 4PM through Sunday, May 11th at 11AM*

INTRODUCING METROPARKS BACKPACKING AND CAMPING CLUB! This opportunity is only for those who have previous experience backpacking.

Follow the footsteps of history as you backpack 7 miles over two days on the Towpath Trail along the banks of the mighty Maumee River. Trek through Bend View and Farnsworth Metroparks before enjoying the Maumee River at the Farnsworth Group Campsite. Along the way, you will be treated to scenic river views, colorful signs of spring, and watch for wildlife, such as eagles, turtles, and herons.

All three campsites are reserved at Farnsworth Campground for 5/10/25.

Participants must feel comfortable doing this trip **without** Metroparks staff. This is not a program and will not be staffed. Metroparks hike leader volunteers will meet the group at the beginning of the trip and hike with the group to the campground on Saturday, but will not stay in camp Saturday evening or hike with the group on Sunday.

Fee: \$15 each to cover campsite permits. Backpacks, tents, sleeping pads, sleeping bags, stoves and cook sets available to rent\* for a separate nominal \$5 fee.

\*If you are renting equipment, you will need to meet staff at **the Bend View Parking Lot on 5/10/25 at 3PM** to pick up and pack your gear.

To register for this trip, go to [www.MetroparksToledo.com](http://www.MetroparksToledo.com) or call (419) 407-9700. Please contact Alissa Caple at 419-280-9235 or [Alissa.Caple@MetroparksToledo.com](mailto:Alissa.Caple@MetroparksToledo.com) with any questions.

### **Extra Info:**

1. Save the ranger number in your phone: 419-407-9718, Press 2 for the Farnsworth Ranger.  
**Call 911 for an emergency.**
2. Please review the camping rules and regulations towards the end of this packet.

The following packet contains information and resources you may choose to use.

## Recommended Schedule and Route

Saturday	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 3PM: Meet staff to pick up any rented supplies and get organized (Optional)</li> <li>• 4PM: Arrive at Bend View Parking Lot and fill out overnight vehicle permit with staff (if leaving a vehicle.)</li> <li>• Hike east on Towpath Trail towards Bend View Shelter (1.5 miles)</li> <li>• Continue east to Farnsworth Campsites (2 miles)</li> <li>• Set up camp at group site</li> <li>• Prepare dinner, eat, sleep</li> <li>• Additional hike to Roche de Bout area before or after dinner (optional)</li> </ul>
Sunday	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Wake, break camp</li> <li>• Hike west on Towpath Trail</li> <li>• Arrive back at vehicles at Bend View</li> <li>• Return rental gear (if applicable)</li> </ul>

Towpath Map: <https://metroparkstoledo.com/qrmaps/RiverParks.pdf>

### Meal Planning

<https://www.rei.com/learn/expert-advice/planning-menu.html>

Resources for purchasing backpacking food:

<https://www.alpineaire.com/us/us>

<https://www.backcountry.com/backpacking-food>

<https://www.mountainhouse.com/>

<https://www.backpackerspantry.com/>

<https://goodto-go.com/>

<https://www.rei.com/>

**Water:** Plan to carry 2-3L of water a day. There will be potable water available in camp.

<https://www.rei.com/learn/expert-advice/water-treatment-howto.html?series=intro-to-backpacking>

## Frequently Asked Questions

1. What do I do with my trash on the trail? Will there be garbage cans?
  - a. We will pack in and pack out all trash and practice Leave No Trace on the trail. For an overview of Leave No Trace (LNT) outdoor ethics: <https://lnt.org/>
2. What if I am a beginner?
  - a. This opportunity is not a program and will not be staffed. This is only for those who have previous backpacking experience and are comfortable doing this on their own.
3. What will camping be like?
  - a. We will be camping at established campgrounds at Farnsworth Metropark. We will have stops to use the restroom at flushing toilets before we leave and have a variety of pit toilets and flushing restrooms along the trail. In between these, we will use a trowel/cat-hole system for bathroom purposes on the trail.

4. Not to get into the dirty details, but what does trowel/cat-hole system mean? How do we go #1 and #2 on the trail?
  - a. #1 should be aimed at rocks if possible. Animals are often attracted to the salts and minerals in urine will chew on bark – damaging trees. Using the rock also prevents eroding loose soils.
    - i. Used TP for drying purposes should be packed out.
    - ii. A “pee-dana” or bandana used for wiping #1 only is an excellent option. Keep on the outside of backpack for drying and UV sunlight sanitizing.
  - b. #2 needs to be buried in a cat-hole. We have trowels, but the waste does not touch this tool. Use a stick to push the waste in the hole if your aim is not true.
5. Ok, now that I know that, what if I am on my period?
  - a. Similarly, all products, before and after use, will need to go in your bear bag. You cannot bury any products. Multiple zip-top bags are recommended for this.
  - b. Please be prepared as several factors like tenting with others, altitude, or exertion can bring on a menstrual period even if it is not scheduled.
6. Why all the info? This is overwhelming.
  - a. None of this information is intended to scare off potential hikers, but it is very important to make sure you have a full understanding of this trek. Our hope is that you either have all the information you need or feel comfortable asking us the hard questions!

## Going in the Woods

Please follow these simple steps when nature calls:

1. Find a spot at least 200 steps from any water source
2. Dig a hole 6-8 inches deep and bury human waste
3. Pack out used toilet paper



When people are not responsible going in the woods they contaminate the water you swim in, fish from, and drink. Bacteria and viruses found in human feces are known to cause hepatitis, blue baby syndrome, salmonella, giardia, and other gastro-intestinal diseases. Remember, the water in the rivers and lakes you visit may flow into your own drinking water supply.

### Metroparks Toledo Campsite and Park Use Permit Rules and Regulations

Thank you for selecting the Metroparks Toledo for your overnight experience. As part of your Rental Agreement, we would like to provide you with some information regarding your reservation. Use of your Metroparks facilities and grounds is subject to the following rules and regulations. By making a rental reservation, you agree to abide by the Rules and Regulations set forth below as well as all Rules and Regulations of the Metroparks Toledo.

Metroparks Phone Numbers: Metroparks Office: 419-407-9700 Ranger on Duty 419-407-9718

Age - Campsites must be reserved by individuals 18 years or older. Individuals under 18 yrs. of age need to return to their sites by 10:00 pm unless accompanied by an adult.

Alcoholic Beverages - Alcoholic beverages are prohibited in the campground area. Alcoholic beverages are permitted at indoor overnight facilities.



Arrival and Departure Time - Tent Sites: Check-in time is 3 p.m. on the day of arrival. Check-out time is 12 p.m. of the day of departure. Indoor overnight facilities vary. Please check your rental receipt for arrival and departure times

Campfires - Campfires must not exceed 2'x2'x3' in size with some type of extinguishment plan (water). Keep campfires confined to the fire rings.

Charcoal Disposal - Used charcoal from the grills can be deposited into the fire pits.

Damages - Campers are responsible for any damage caused to Metroparks property.

Firewood - Campsites will receive two bundles of firewood for each night of stay. Please deposit empty bags in designated location. Firewood is available at Wiregrass Lake and Farnsworth in designated firewood locations. Please do not bring firewood into the campground. The use of found wood in the Metroparks, with the exception of Granger Island, is prohibited. Reservations made for the same evening do not receive wood.

Generators - Generators of any type are prohibited

Gray Water - Waste water is not permitted on the ground.

Grills - To prevent damage, please do not use grills on picnic tables.

Indemnification - Individuals and groups staying overnight in the Metroparks do so at their own risk. Metroparks does not provide security outside of normal park operating hours. An individual or group staying at the campground or indoor overnight facility does so on the condition that the individual or group assumes full responsibility and liability for any injury or damage to members of the group or their property.

It is understood that the individual or group shall indemnify, defend, and hold harmless Metroparks and its officers, employees, and volunteers from any and all liability.

Length of Stay - Campers and overnight rental guests can stay in the campground up to 7 consecutive days during a 30- day period

Number of tents per site - Please see individual site allowances at [Metroparkstoledo.com](http://Metroparkstoledo.com).

Number of people - Please see individual site allowances at [Metroparkstoledo.com](http://Metroparkstoledo.com).

Parking - Parking lots / areas are provided in designated spots within the campground area. Vehicles are not permitted to park at / in the campsites. Please contact the ranger at 419-407-9718 and select the park option if you plan to leave your vehicle in one spot and hike to another.

Personal Property - Items left at the campground after the agreed upon departure time will be disposed of by Park Staff. Metroparks is not responsible for lost, stolen or misplaced property/items.

Pets - Pets allowed in the campground if they are registered (name, sex, breed), on a leash at all times and no more than 2 pets per campsite. Pets are prohibited in the restroom facility. You must



clean-up after your pet using provided dog clean-up bags. Pets shall not be left unattended at campsite. Pets are not permitted at Granger Island, The Treehouse Village or at Indoor Overnight facilities.

Quiet Time - Campground observes designated quiet time of 11:00 pm to 7:00 am.

Recreation - Volleyball, badminton, Frisbee tossing and ball playing are permitted. Inflatable bouncing moonwalks, dunk tanks, water balloons, horseshoes or golf of any kind is not permitted.

Reservations - Reservations can be made up to 1 year in advance. Camping reservations are required prior to arrival.

Site Amenities - Most campsites include a picnic table, fire ring w/grill and tent area.

Tents Only - All campsites are TENT ONLY sites. Camping and sleeping is not permitted in Vehicles

Trash and Recycling - Campground area, sites etc. need to be clean and litter free. Please use trash receptacles provided

Please respect the privacy of other campers. Do not walk through other campsites or allow your pet to enter other campsites. Please do not move picnic tables from other areas to your site.