

Secor Metropark Highlights

Please use this as a supplement to information provided on the Secor Metropark map.

Messages for Interpretation

Secor Metropark introduces the story of the unique Oak Openings Region and its fragile place in the preservation of our natural world.

- On the edge of the Oak Openings Region lies Secor Metropark with its wet woodlands, prairies and educational opportunities for enhancing local biodiversity.
- From homestead to arboretum to current restoration efforts, Secor reflects changing land use choices in the Oak Openings Region.
- The National Center for Nature Photography (NCNP) inspires reverence for flora, fauna and their habitats through photography and visual media.

What's In A Name?

The money used to purchase the 550-acre Secor Metropark came from revenue generated by a downtown Toledo parking lot gifted to Metroparks by Arthur Secor. Metroparks sold the parking lot in 1985.

Natural and Human History

Secor Metropark is part of the globally significant Oak Openings Region. The park is located at the northern trailhead for 10,000+ acres of publicly held open space through the Oak Openings Corridor – land which contains more rare plants and animals than anywhere else in Ohio. A post-glacial beach ridge is visible just south of the NCNP.

Two creeks, Prairie and Wiregrass, run through Secor Metropark and are part of the Ottawa River watershed.

The woodlands at Secor are some of the best for tree and spring wildflower diversity.

Notable spreading bases (buttresses) on mature trees in Secor's woods indicate that they originally grew in very wet soil where stabilization was necessary.

Wolfinger Road and Cemetery are named after the first family of settlers who lived and farmed here as early as the 1830's. Today, Richfield Township maintains the cemetery.

In its early years, the park operated an impressive arboretum, and several unusual tree varieties still can be found near the NCNP and the Shepherst Memorial. Max Shepherst was the Metroparks Director at the time of Secor's inception and during the park's early decades.

In the former arboretum area, visitors might also notice several glacial erratics, or large boulders. These



Tulip tree flower



Witch hazel



Red baneberry



Jack-in-the-pulpit

Precambrian granite rocks were initially pushed from Canada into our area by glaciers. During the arboretum era, they were hauled from nearby fields and used to mark horticultural groves.

Formerly a more conventional nature center, the NCNP became a gallery showcasing nature photography in 2003, and underwent more structural and ground renovations in 2013-2014. Today, it uses mixed media to inspire conservation of our natural resources.

The small pond near the NCNP was man-made and very ornamental in early years of park history. Today, it is monitored by Metroparks Volunteers as a semi-permanent vernal pool. Tannic acid from oak tree leaves causes its very dark color. The tiny plant on the pond's surface is Duckweed—our smallest vascular plant (with roots, leaves and flower).

Plant Life (* = state-listed rare)

Plants of the planted prairie include:

Big blue stem	Indian grass
Cord grass	Switch grass
Prairie dock	Tall coreopsis
Virginia mountain mint	
*Fringed gentian	*Rattlesnake master

Woodland wild flowers include:

Bloodroot	Wild ginger
Spring beauty	Sessile trillium
Great white trillium	Cut-leaved toothwort
Wild geranium	Jack-in-the-pulpit
Sarsparilla	Spotted touch-me-not
May-apple	Turtlehead
Cardinal Flower	True & False Solomon's seal
Spotted touch-me-not	
Indian cucumber-root	
*Red baneberry	

Notable trees and shrubs include:

Tulip trees	Sassafras
Black gum	Red oak
White oak	American beech
Bitternut hickory	Paw Paw
Flowering dogwood	Red bud

In spring, the understory shrub, Spicebush, brightens the woods with small yellow blossoms. In fall, Witch hazel does the same, and fills the woods with a very fresh aroma.

Wildlife

Mammals include:

Red fox	White-tailed deer
Coyote	Eastern mole
Virginia opossum	Raccoon
Red squirrel	Southern flying squirrel

Reptiles and amphibians include:

Western chorus frog	Spring peeper
Northern leopard frog	Gray tree frog
Midland painted turtle	Snapping turtle
Northern brown snake	Eastern hognose snake

Birds include:

Pileated woodpecker	American tree sparrow
Eastern towhee	Ruby-throated hummingbird
American Woodcock	White-breasted nuthatch
Tufted titmouse	Black-capped chickadee
American Crow	American goldfinch
Cooper's hawk	Sharp-shinned hawk
Barred owl	Eastern screech owl

Cavity nest boxes used by Eastern bluebirds, Tree swallows and House wrens are monitored by volunteers at the park.

Insects and spiders include:

Great spangled fritillary	Spring and Summer azure
Praying mantis	Black and Yellow Argiope
Silver-spotted skipper	Harvestman species
Velvet mite	6-spotted tiger beetle
Green darner	Cicada killer wasp
Harvestman species (Daddy-long legs)	

Stay on trails and use protective clothing and insecticide to avoid poison ivy, American dog ticks and mosquitos.

(Note: There is no poison oak in Northwest Ohio.)



Sassafras



Duckweed



Black and yellow argiope



Pileated woodpecker



Eastern mole



Daddy-long legs



Cicada killer wasp



Coyote



Southern flying squirrel



Ruby-throated hummingbird on Cardinal flower