Established: March 16, 1838
County Seat: City of Sandusky
2010 Population: 77,079*
2020 Projection: 72,900*
Land Area and Rank: 254.5 square miles*, 87 of 88
Miles of Coast: 68 miles*
Number of Primary Access Sites: 39†
Number of Right-of-Way Sites: 1†
Miles of Publicly Accessible Coast: 9.1 miles†

Erie County

Erie County has 68 miles of combined Lake Erie, Sandusky Bay and East Sandusky Bay shore. It is adjacent to Ottawa, Sandusky, Huron and Lorain counties. Ohio's largest Lake Erie island, Kelleys Island (2,837 acres), is part of Erie County. The island is located about three and a half miles north of Marblehead (Ottawa County) and about ten miles north of the Erie County seat, Sandusky. Erie County's most prominent coastal feature is the Cedar Point Peninsula, a sand spit that juts northwest toward Marblehead Peninsula. It separates Lake Erie (north) and the Sandusky and East Sandusky bays (southwest). Erie County also features the southernmost point of shore in the entire Great Lakes basin, which is located near the intersection of US Route 6 and State Route 61 in Berlin Township. From west to east, the county's lakeshore transitions from barrier beaches along the Cedar Point Peninsula to shale bluffs that gradually increase in height toward Vermilion.

In 1792, the Connecticut Legislature established the "Fire Lands" (commonly condensed to one word, "Firelands") in the westernmost portion of the Connecticut Western Reserve. The Fire Lands consisted of most of present-day Erie County, as well as Huron County; Danbury and a part of Catawba Island townships in Ottawa County; and Ruggles Township in Ashland County. The Fire Lands were reserved for Connecticut citizens who suffered property losses during the American Revolutionary War in the late 1700s. Settlement of the Fire Lands did not occur until after the signing of the Treaty of Fort Industry (1805). The treaty changed the eastern boundary of the Indian lands originally defined in the Treaty of Greenville (1795) and opened the rest of the Connecticut Western Reserve west of the Cuyahoga River, including the Fire Lands, to American settlement.

Erie County was established from parts of Huron and Sandusky counties in 1838. The completion of the Mad River and Lake Erie Railroad (1835) and Milan Canal (1839) quickly established Erie County as an important transportation hub. Early industries in the county included ship building, ice cutting, commercial fishing and importing lumber. Today, Sandusky is a leading port on the Great Lakes for shipping coal. The National Aeronautic and Space Administration (NASA) John H. Glenn Research Center's Plum Brook Station is located in Erie County. The 6,400-acre remote test installation site, located between Sandusky and Milan, operates four world-class test facilities, including the Space Power Facility, Spacecraft Propulsion Research Facility, Hypersonic Tunnel Facility and the Cryogenic Propellant Tank Facility.

Cedar Point Amusement Park, located at the end of the Cedar Point Peninsula in Sandusky, is Erie County's most popular tourist attraction. The park first opened as a public bathing beach in 1870. Visitors were transported to the peninsula via the "Young Reindeer," a steamboat owned by Sandusky businessman Louis Zistel. In 1892, Cedar Point's first roller coaster, the 25-foot-tall, 10-mph Switchback Railway, was built. The historic Hotel Breakers was built in 1905. Today, Cedar Point is renowned for its collection of record-setting roller coasters, rides, overnight resorts and live entertainment. Among the current roller coasters that make up the amusement park's skyline include the 420-foot-tall Top Thrill Dragster, the 310-foot-tall Millennium Force, the 205-foot-tall Magnum XL-200 and the 170-foot-tall GateKeeper.

Erie County offers exceptional fishing, birding opportunities and many marinas. Glacial Grooves and Inscription Rock state memorials (both located on Kelleys Island) and Thomas A. Edison's boyhood home (located in Milan) are located in Erie County.

** Includes Kelleys Island*
† Mainland only; see also Lake Erie Islands chapter

Erie County Public Access Sites

ER1	Willow Point Wildlife Area
ER2	Sandusky Bay Bridge Access – South
ER3	Bayview Drive Scenic Access
ER4	Lions Park
ER5	Sandusky Bay Pathway – Mills Street Turnaround
ER6	Amvets Park
ER7	Shelby Street Public Boat Launch
ER8	Paper District Marina
ER9	Chesapeake Walkway
ER10	Jackson Street Pier
ER11	Schade-Mylander Plaza
ER12	Wayne Street Access
ER13	Facer Park
ER14	Shoreline Park
ER15	Sandusky Bay Pavilion
ER16	Meigs Street Pier
ER17	Battery Park
ER18	Springer's Wharf
ER19	Washington Street Pier
ER20	Pipe Creek Wildlife Area
ER21	Big Island Preserve and Canoe Launch
ER22	East Sandusky Bay MetroPark
ER23	Sheldon Marsh State Nature Preserve
ER24	Waterplant Beach
ER25	Lake Front Park
ER26	Huron Rotary Centennial Park
ER27	Lighthouse Pier
ER28	Nickel Plate Beach
ER29	Old Woman Creek State Nature Preserve and National Estuarine Research Reserve
ER30	Joppa Road Access
ER31	Risden Road Access
ER32	Coen Road Access
ER33	Sherod Park
ER34	Main Street Beach
ER35	Wakefield MetroPark
ER36	Nokomis Park

(see Lake Erie Islands chapter)

LEI21	North Shore Alvar State Nature Preserve
LEI22	Kelleys Island State Park
LEI23	North Pond State Nature Preserve
LEI24	Scheele Preserve
LEI25	Inscription Rock State Memorial
LEI26	Hancock-Wood Electric Scenic Overlook

Erie County Right-of-Way Sites

(see page 41)

ROW22 Washington Street, Vermilion

Coastal Cities

Huron
Sandusky
Vermilion

Coastal Villages

Bay View
Kelleys Island

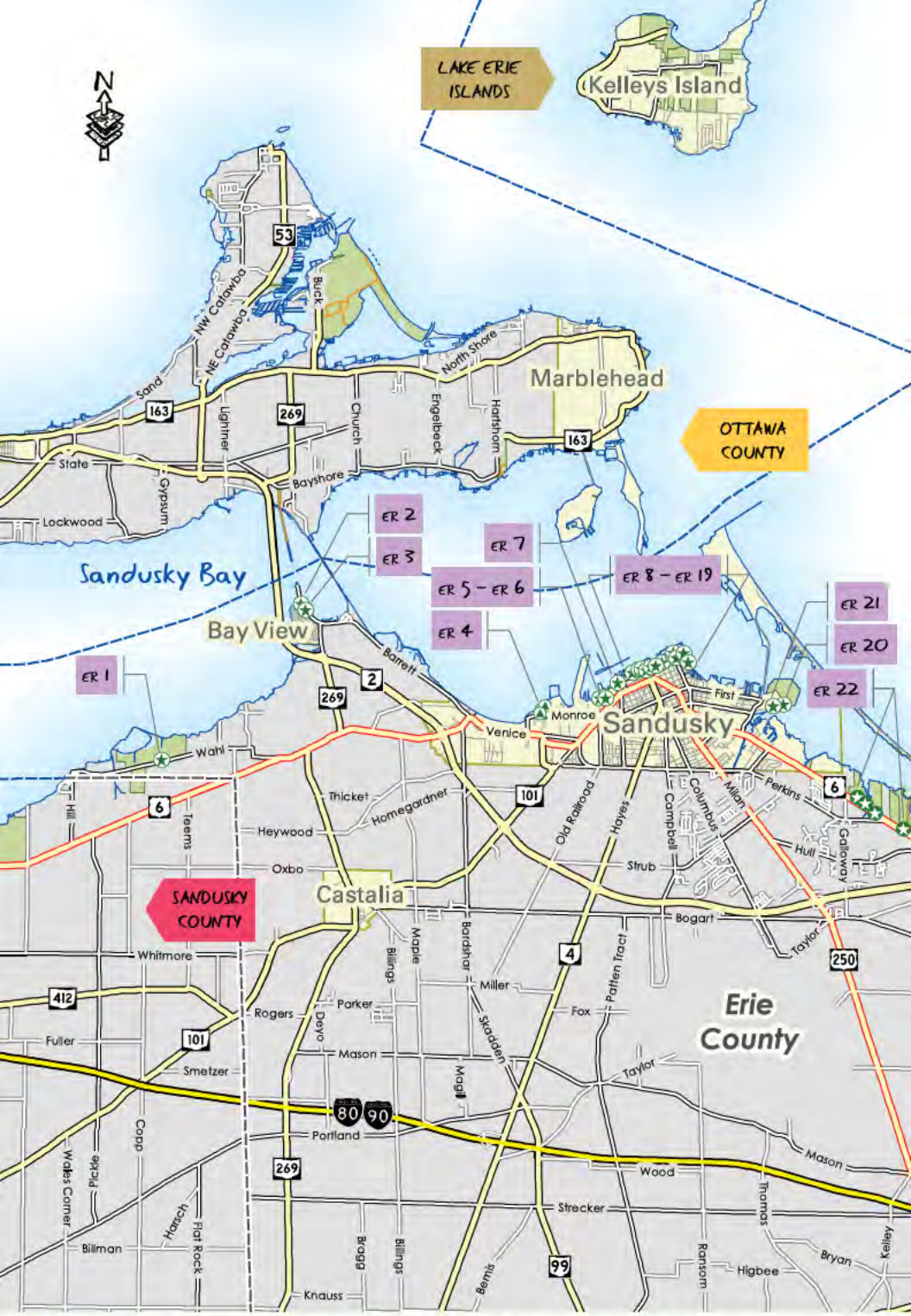
Coastal Townships

Margaretta Township
Huron Township
Berlin Township
Vermilion Township

Public Access Management

Local	30
Metropark	5
State	4

Top: Old Woman Creek State Nature Preserve and National Estuarine Research Reserve (ER29), Berlin Township


N
LAKE ERIE ISLANDS
Kelleys Island
Marblehead
OTTAWA COUNTY
Sandusky Bay
Bay View
ER 1
ER 2
ER 3
ER 4
ER 5 – ER 6
ER 7
ER 8 – ER 19
ER 20
ER 21
ER 22
Sandusky
Monroe
Venice
Wahl
Castalia
SANDUSKY COUNTY
Erie County
Portland
Public Access Site
Public Access Entrance
Alternate Entrance

Lake Erie
LORAIN COUNTY
ER 22
ER 24
ER 23
ER 25
ER 26 – ER 27
ER 28
ER 29
ER 30
ER 31
ER 32 – ER 33
ROW22
ER 34 – ER 35
ER 36
Huron
Vermilion
Berlin Heights
Boos
Camp
Fox
Rye Beach
Huron Avery
Scheid
River
Berlin
Wikel
Barrows
Deehr
Knight
Smokey
Church
Mason
Main
Hahn
Fraley
Joppa
Poorman
Barnes
Risden
Cemetery
Cherry
Angling
Harrison
Thompson
Trinter
Sperry
Coen
Kneisel
Hoover
Jeffries
Arlington
Chapin
Andress
Wright
Garfield
West
Harmon
Gore Orphanage
2
6
13
61
60
113
80
90
Interior Access Site
Right-of-Way Access Site
3 Miles

Willow Point Wildlife Area

Location:
Wahl Road, between Whites Landing and Brunner Road

Jurisdiction:
Margaretta Township (Erie County)
Townsend Township (Sandusky County)

Latitude:
N 41° 26.09'

Longitude:
W 082° 52.32'

Waterbody:
Sandusky Bay

Site Type:
Outdoors

Shore Access:
Yes
Path to Shore

Location Map:

Amenities:

The greater part of the 645-acre Willow Point Wildlife Area is located in Margaretta Township in Erie County. A portion of the wildlife area extends south into Sandusky County (Townsend Township). The land that borders Sandusky Bay is located entirely in Erie County and is accessible from Wahl Road. About two-thirds of the wildlife area is open water and marshland; woodlands and open meadows comprise the remaining acreage. The area supports waterfowl, songbird and shorebird populations. Willow Point Wildlife Area is accessible for fishing, hunting, trapping and wildlife viewing. An unmarked access road leads visitors to Sandusky Bay fishing access. A parking area is located at the end of the road.

Sandusky Bay Bridge Access (South)
and Bayview Drive Scenic Access

Location (Bay Bridge):
Bayview Drive, between Seneca and Shawnee trails

Location (Bayview Drive):
Bayview Drive, between Menominee and Cherokee trails

Jurisdiction:
Bay View

Bay Bridge:
Lat: N 41° 28.42′
Long: W 082° 49.57′

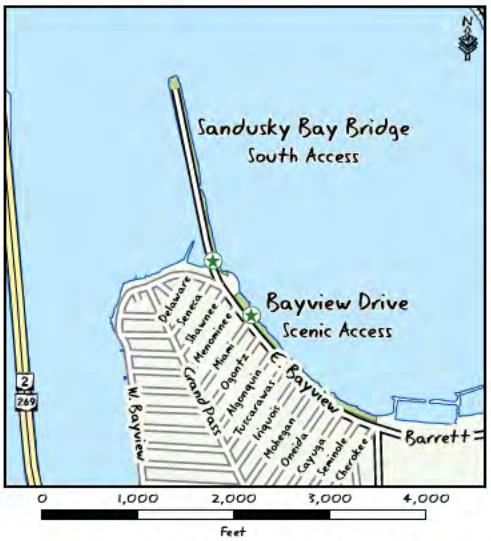
Bayview Drive:
Lat: N 41° 28.33′
Long: W 082° 49.48′

Waterbody:
Sandusky Bay

Site Type:
Scenic
Recreational

Shore Access:
Yes
Terrain
Shore Structure

Location Map:



Amenities:

Bay Bridge

Bayview Drive

The Sandusky Bay Bridge Access (South) is a public fishing site located in Bay View. It is accessible from Bayview Drive. The 2,080-foot long access extends north into Sandusky Bay and was once the southern approach to the old Sandusky Bay Bridge. In 1965, the majority of the bridge's traffic was rerouted to the new four-lane Thomas A. Edison Memorial Bridge (State Route 2 and State Route 269). The old two-lane bridge, which connected to Danbury Township in Ottawa County, was removed in 1985. The northern causeway approach in Ottawa County is a state-managed fishing access (see OT14).

The Bayview Drive Scenic Access is a 2,175-foot linear strip of green space along the northeast side of East Bayview Drive in Bay View. The site stretches from Bay View Village Hall (northwest) to the Martins Point Road intersection (southeast). The scenic access is unmarked and includes benches.

Lions Park

Location:
421 LaSalle Street, north of Monroe Street

Jurisdiction:
Sandusky

Alternate Entrance:
End of Marquette Street

LaSalle Street:
Lat: N 41° 28.42'
Long: W 082° 44.74'

Winnebago Avenue:
Lat: N 41° 26.84'
Long: W 082° 44.47'

Waterbody:
Sandusky Bay

Site Type:
Recreational

Shore Access:
Yes
Terrain

Location Map:

Amenities:

The 13-acre Lions Park is located off West Monroe Street in Sandusky. The park can be accessed from Marquette Street, Winnebago Avenue and LaSalle Street. Lions Park provides traditional recreation activities, including picnic shelters and basketball courts. As part of a restoration project that began in 2010, added amenities at Lions Park include a splash pad, which opened in 2013, new playground equipment and new restroom facilities. Removal of concrete rubble and bluff re-grading has enhanced access to the water. Fishing is permitted along the shore. A one-half mile paved walking/bicycling trail was installed in 2013. It will eventually connect to the Sandusky Bay Pathway. Future plans include a new shelter, an event lawn and upgraded parking lot.

Sandusky Bay Pathway

Mills Street Turnaround

Location:
End of Mills Street

Jurisdiction:
Sandusky

Mills Street:
Lat: N 41° 27.06'
Long: W 082° 43.67'

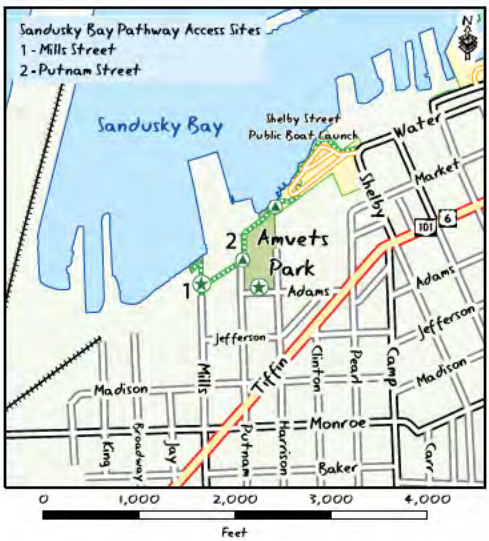
Putnam Street:
Lat: N 41° 27.07'
Long: W 082° 43.58'

Waterbody:
Sandusky Bay

Site Type:
Recreational
Scenic

Shore Access:
Yes
Path to Shore
Shore Structure

Location Map:



Amenities:

The 2.7-mile Sandusky Bay Pathway is a paved, multiple-purpose trail that connects many parks, piers and smaller nodal accesses along the Sandusky waterfront. No motorized vehicles, except wheelchairs, are permitted on the handicapped-accessible trail. The westernmost access is located at the northern end of Mills Street. A turnaround area fronting approximately 130 feet of Sandusky Bay shore is located north of the Mills Street terminus. To the east, the pathway connects to the Shelby Street Public Boat Launch via Amvets Park. There is also access at Putnam Street. From the boat ramp, the trail continues east along Water Street and Shoreline Drive, connecting the Paper District Marina, Jackson Street Pier, Shoreline Park, Battery Park and other access sites. It ends at the Washington Street Pier, located behind Sandusky City Hall and Police Station. Lighting, benches and bike racks are found along the route. The city of Sandusky will eventually continue the pathway west to Lions Park.

Amvets Park

Location:
1707 West Adams Street, between Putnam and Harrison streets

Jurisdiction:
Sandusky

Alternate Entrance:
Trail from Shelby Street Public Boat Launch

Latitude:
N 41° 27.02'

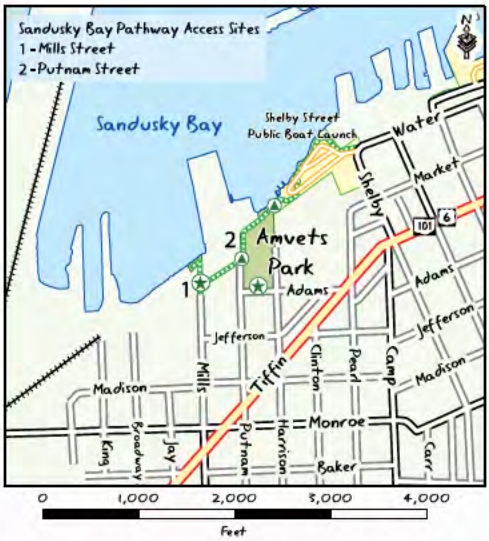
Longitude:
W 082° 43.32'

Waterbody:
Sandusky Bay

Site Type:
Recreational

Shore Access:
Yes
Terrain

Location Map:



Amenities:

Amvets Park, located on West Adams Street between Putnam and Harrison streets in Sandusky, is primarily used for baseball and softball. It has two ball diamonds, a concession stand and restroom facilities. In 2009, the Sandusky Bay Pathway was extended west from the Shelby Street Public Boat Launch to Mills Street. The pathway passes through the northernmost section of Amvets Park and also follows the park's northwest boundary along the Putnam Street right-of-way. The corridor's expansion resulted in approximately 195 feet of shore access at the park and access to the adjacent boat launch.

Shelby Street Public Boat Launch

Location:
101 Shelby Street, at Water Street

Jurisdiction:
Sandusky

Alternate Entrance:
Trail from Amvets Park

Latitude:
N 41° 27.25'

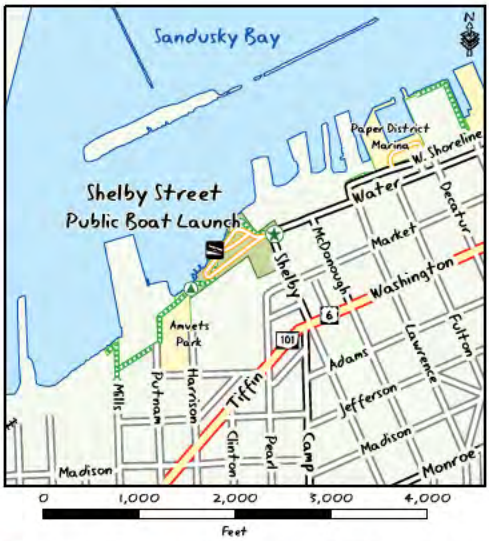
Longitude:
W 082° 43.40'

Waterbody:
Sandusky Bay

Site Type:
Recreational

Shore Access:
Yes
Path to Shore Boat Ramp

Location Map:



Amenities:

The Shelby Street Public Boat Launch is located at the corner of Water and Shelby streets in Sandusky. The site provides a four-lane boat launch, a seasonally-operated concession store, fishing access, picnic shelter and a handicapped-accessible observation deck that overlooks Sandusky Bay. The main parking lot has over 100 vehicle/trailer spaces, while an additional 58 spaces are available to the south along Shelby Street. The Sandusky Bay Pathway passes through the Shelby Street Public Boat Launch site. It connects to Putnam and Mills streets to the west and multiple points along Water Street and Shoreline Drive to the east. In 2013, the boat ramp was the starting point for eleven fishing tournaments.

Paper District Marina and Amphitheater

Location:
611 West Shoreline Drive, at Decatur Street

Jurisdiction:
Sandusky

Alternate Entrance:
Trail from Chesapeake Walkway

Latitude:
N 41° 27.41'

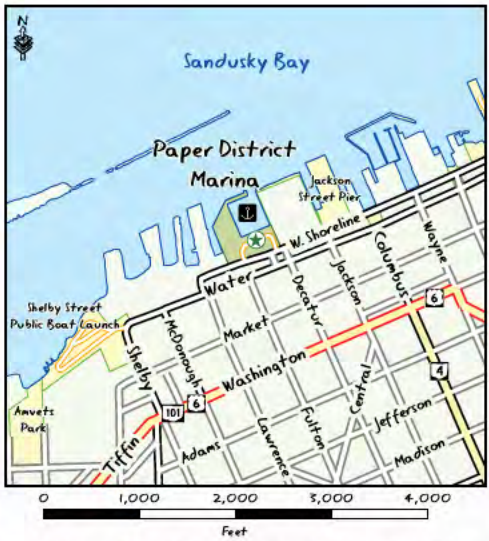
Longitude:
W 082° 43.02'

Waterbody:
Sandusky Bay

Site Type:
Recreational

Shore Access:
Yes
Shore Structure

Location Map:



Amenities:

The 7.5-acre Paper District Marina is located on West Shoreline Drive at Decatur Street in Sandusky. The marina offers daily, seasonal and overnight transient dockage and includes 62 slips that can support boats up to 45 feet long. The marina also has eight seasonal Jet Ski docks. Electric and water hook-ups and pump-out are available. Additional amenities include restrooms, handicapped-accessible showers, café and amphitheater. Paved walking paths follow the boat basin's perimeter and along a 600-foot breakwater. The walking path connects to the Chesapeake Walkway to the east and to the Sandusky Bay Pathway, which follows West Shoreline Drive. Fishing is permitted along the north side of the breakwater opposite the marina. The site opened in 2011.

Chesapeake Walkway

Location:
West Shoreline Drive at Jackson Street

Jurisdiction:
Sandusky

Alternate Entrance:
Trail from Paper District Marina

Latitude:
N 41° 27.46'

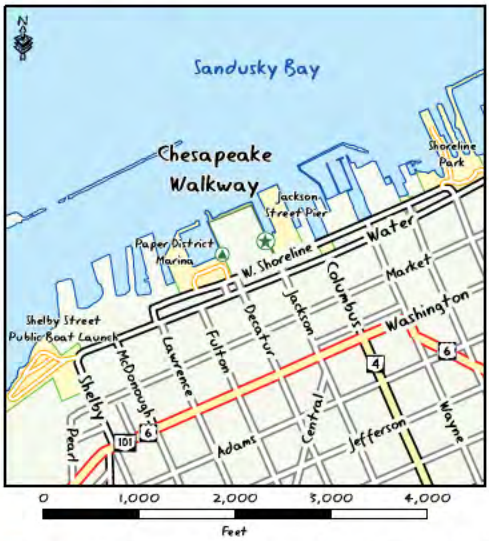
Longitude:
W 082° 42.89'

Waterbody:
Sandusky Bay

Site Type:
Recreational

Shore Access:
Yes
Shore Structure

Location Map:



Amenities:

The Chesapeake Walkway is a 950-foot long, handicapped-accessible paved walkway that wraps around the perimeter of the Chesapeake Lofts condominium complex in Sandusky. The walkway connects to the Paper District Marina (adjacent to the west) path and the Sandusky Bay Pathway, which follows West Shoreline Drive. The walkway is lighted. The building itself was constructed in the early 1920s by the Hinde & Dauch Paper Company, inventor and manufacturer of corrugated cardboard boxes and producer of other paper products. Chesapeake Display and Packaging later occupied the L-shaped building between 1981 and 1997. The building is listed on the National Register of Historic Places (1982) and was converted into a luxury condominium complex in the mid-2000s (opened in 2007).

Jackson Street Pier

Location:
233 West Shoreline Drive, at Jackson Street

Jurisdiction:
Sandusky

Latitude:
N 41° 27.53'

Longitude:
W 082° 42.88'

Waterbody:
Sandusky Bay

Site Type:
Recreational

Shore Access:
Yes
Shore Structure

Location Map:

Amenities:

Jackson Street Pier is located on West Shoreline Drive at Jackson Street in downtown Sandusky. The pier is a large impervious-surfaced parking lot that features a 1,000-foot long paved walkway around much of its perimeter. Benches and binoculars are available along the path for panoramic views of Sandusky Bay. Fishing is permitted from the pier. The Jackson Street Pier is also the docking and boarding site for the Goodtime I, Jet Express and Pelee Islander ferry boats, which seasonally transport passengers to the Lake Erie Islands. Overnight island-goers are charged a parking fee during summer months. Parking on the pier is free otherwise. The southern edge of Sandusky Harbor's 5,800-foot long by 330-foot wide Dock Channel, a federal shipping channel, is located less than 100 yards from the pier, providing extremely close views of passing Great Lakes freighters.

Schade-Mylander Plaza

Location:
Between Shoreline Drive and Water Street at Columbus Avenue

Jurisdiction:
Sandusky

Latitude:
N 41° 27.44'

Longitude:
W 082° 42.74'

Waterbody:
Sandusky Bay

Site Type:
Scenic

Shore Access:
Yes
Shore Structure

Location Map:

Amenities:

The Schade-Mylander Plaza is a passive-use pocket park that occupies the Columbus Avenue right-of-way between Shoreline Drive (north) and Water Street (south). The publicly accessible space continues north of Shoreline Drive and provides scenic waterfront access. Fishing is permitted. Amenities and features at the plaza include benches, a handicapped-accessible sidewalk, flower arrangements and a fountain. The Sandusky Bay Pathway parallels Shoreline Drive and passes through plaza grounds.

Facer Park
and Wayne Street Access

Location (Facer Park):
255 East Water Street, at Hancock Street

Location (Wayne Street):
East Shoreline Drive at Wayne Street

Jurisdiction:
Sandusky

Facer Park:
Lat: N 41° 27.51'
Long: W 082° 42.55'

Wayne Street:
Lat: N 41° 27.50'
Long: W 082° 42.65'

Waterbody:
Sandusky Bay

Site Type:
Scenic
Cultural

Shore Access:
Yes
Shore Structure

Location Map:

Amenities:

Facer Park

Wayne Street Access

Facer Park is a passive-use pocket park that occupies the western portion of the Hancock Street right-of-way between East Shoreline Drive (north) and Water Street (south). The publicly accessible space also includes approximately 100 feet of waterfront green space north of East Shoreline Drive. Picnic tables are available. Facer Park includes benches, a gazebo and the "Path to Freedom" statue. The statue is a life-sized representation of an African American man, woman and child escaping the bondage of slavery to freedom in Canada. Accompanying interpretive signage depicts Sandusky's role in the Underground Railroad. The Sandusky Bay Pathway parallels Shoreline Drive and passes through park grounds.

The Wayne Street Access is a nodal site along the Sandusky Bay Pathway. It is located on East Shoreline Drive at Wayne Street. Amenities include benches and a bike rack. Fishing is permitted.

Shoreline Park

Location:
411 East Water Street

Jurisdiction:
Sandusky

Latitude:
N 41° 27.56'

Longitude:
W 082° 42.43'

Waterbody:
Sandusky Bay

Site Type:
Recreational

Shore Access:
Yes

Terrain
Shore Structure

Location Map:

Amenities:

The 8-acre Shoreline Park is located at the intersection of East Shoreline Drive and Water Street in Sandusky. The park occupies three former commercial piers that were originally built by the Baltimore and Ohio Railway. Many goods, including crushed stone, grain, iron ore, lumber and sand, were shipped from this once busy port. The port was last utilized for commercial purposes in 1973. Shoreline Park was dedicated in 1990. The park offers many recreational amenities including handicapped-accessible walking paths and observation deck, playground equipment, picnic shelter, concession stand, bike rentals and restrooms. Fishing access and scenic views are available along nearly 5,000 feet of waterline. In 2013, a 550-foot "living shoreline demonstration" was installed at Shoreline Park, which provided soil amendments, erosion control and planting of native grasses and sedges.

ER15

Sandusky Bay Pavilion

Location:
605 East Water Street, at Meigs Street

Jurisdiction:
Sandusky

Latitude:
N 41° 27.67'

Longitude:
W 082° 42.22'

Waterbody:
Sandusky Bay

Site Type:
Recreational

Shore Access:
Yes
Shore Structure

Erie County

Location Map:

Amenities:

The Sandusky Bay Pavilion is an outdoor entertainment complex used primarily to host special events. The 5.3-acre site is located at the northwest corner of Meigs and Water streets. It is the former site of the Surf's Up Wave Action Pool, which closed in 2004. Amenities include a picnic shelter and tables, playground equipment and restrooms. Fishing is permitted. The Sandusky Bay Pavilion entrance is located at the foot of the Meigs Street Pier, a publicly-accessible pedestrian walking pier. Parking is available at Battery Park, another nearby access site.

Meigs Street Pier

Location:
End of Meigs Street, north of Water Street

Jurisdiction:
Sandusky

Latitude:
N 41° 27.71'

Longitude:
W 082° 42.21'

Waterbody:
Sandusky Bay

Site Type:
Recreational
Scenic

Shore Access:
Yes

Shore Structure

Location Map:

Amenities:

Meigs Street Pier is located at the northern terminus of Meigs Street, just north of Water Street in Sandusky. It is a 585-foot long handicapped-accessible pedestrian pier that extends into Sandusky Bay. The end of the pier connects to Battery Park Marina's North Wall, a 1,065-foot long breakwater that provides an additional 950 feet of pedestrian access. A shorter (250 feet) publicly accessible breakwater also connects to the pier. Meigs Street Pier offers benches, binoculars, fishing access and scenic views of the bay, Marblehead Peninsula and Cedar Point Amusement Park. A historic marker near the foot of the pier commemorates the location of where General William Henry Harrison helped break ground for Ohio's first railroad (the first railroad west of the Allegheny Mountains), the Mad River and Lake Erie Railroad, in 1835. Harrison was elected ninth President of the United States in 1840.

Battery Park
and Springer's Wharf

Location (Battery Park):
701 East Water Street, at Meigs Street

Location (Wharf):
East of Battery Park

Jurisdiction:
Sandusky

Battery Park:
Lat: N 41° 27.69'
Long: W 082° 42.09'

Wharf:
Lat: N 41° 27.70'
Long: W 082° 42.01'

Waterbody:
Sandusky Bay

Site Type:
Recreational

Shore Access (Battery Park):
No Fence

Shore Access (Wharf):
Yes Shore Structure

Location Map:

Amenities:

Battery Park

Springer's Wharf

The 4.5-acre Battery Park is located at the northeast corner of Meigs and Water streets in Sandusky. The park offers shaded green space, a picnic shelter and tables, playground equipment and a one-quarter mile paved path. Battery Park Marina is located north and east of the park. The marina is enclosed by the Meigs Street Pier and two breakwaters, the North and East walls. These structures are publicly accessible from or near Battery Park and afford pedestrian and fishing access. The North Wall is accessible from the Meigs Street Pier, located west of the park. The East Wall, part of Springer's Wharf, is accessible east of the park. Tennis courts, a skate park and the Sandusky Bay Pathway are also located at Battery Park.

Springer's Wharf is a T-shaped, handicapped-accessible pedestrian walkway that provides Sandusky Bay fishing access and scenic views of Cedar Point Amusement Park. The 875-foot northern extension of Springer's Wharf forms Battery Park Marina's East Wall. The 500-foot southern portion forms a marina wall for the Sadler Sailing Basin, a private marina. The area offshore Springer's Wharf is popular for ice boating during winter months. The site is unmarked.

Washington Street Pier

Location:
222 Meigs Street

Jurisdiction:
Sandusky

Latitude:
N 41° 27.56'

Longitude:
W 082° 41.91'

Waterbody:
Sandusky Bay

Site Type:
Recreational

Shore Access:
Yes
Shore Structure

Location Map:

Amenities:

The Washington Street Pier is a 915-foot handicapped-accessible pedestrian pier that affords fishing access to Sandusky Bay and scenic vistas of Cedar Point Amusement Park. The pier is located behind Sandusky City Hall and Police Station. It forms the southern marina wall for the Sadler Sailing Basin. The Washington Street Pier is partially shaded by deciduous trees and has few amenities. The Sandusky Bay Pathway's easternmost terminus is at the pier. The area offshore Washington Street Pier is popular for ice boating during winter months.

Pipe Creek Wildlife Area
and Big Island Preserve and Canoe Launch

Location:
F Street and
River Avenue

Jurisdiction:
Sandusky

Pipe Creek:
Lat: N 41° 26.94′
Long: W 082° 40.03′

Big Island:
Lat: N 41° 26.92′
Long: W 082° 40.24′

Waterbody:
East Sandusky Bay

Site Type:
Outdoors
Recreational

Shore Access:
Yes
Path to Shore
Shore Structure

Erie County

Location Map:

Amenities:

Pipe Creek

Big Island

Pipe Creek Wildlife Area is a manmade marsh originally known as the Big Island Wetlands. The 97-acre facility was built to mitigate the loss of adjacent wetlands to development. The wildlife area is diked and divided into four, shallow-water basins to help manage wetland habitat and wildlife. The outer dikes provide wildlife viewing opportunities and fishing access to East Sandusky Bay. Waterfowl hunting is permitted via special permit only. Trapping is not permitted during waterfowl hunting season, but is allowed otherwise during open furbearing season.

Big Island Preserve and Canoe Launch is a canoe and kayak launch site that provides access to the 15.3-mile East Sandusky Bay Water Trail. The water trail was designated in 2007. The landing site at Big Island is one of two livery points along the East Sandusky Bay Water Trail. The other is located at Eagle Point, which is part of the East Sandusky Bay MetroPark. Big Island Preserve features a picnic table, bench and fishing access.

The parking lot serves both sites.

East Sandusky Bay MetroPark

Location:
4011 Cleveland Road (US Route 6)

Jurisdiction:
Huron Township

Waterbody:
East Sandusky Bay

Site Type:
Recreational
Natural
Outdoors

Shore Access:
Yes
Path to Shore
Terrain

Location Map:

Amenities:

East Sandusky Bay MetroPark is the umbrella name for a collection of neighboring parks and preserves located on the East Sandusky Bay. The facilities include, from west to east, Eagle Point, Joseph Steinen Wildlife Area, Putnam Marsh Nature Preserve, Wyandot Wetland Meadows Preserve and the Barnes Addition. East Sandusky Bay MetroPark is managed by Erie MetroParks and collectively encompasses 1,400 acres. All are passive-use sites and offer hiking trails, wildlife viewing opportunities, fishing and seasonal hunting by special permit only.

East Sandusky Bay MetroPark

Erie County

ER22.1 Eagle Point

Location:
3819 Cleveland Road West
(US Route 6)

Lat/Long:
N 41° 25.56'
W 082° 38.56'

Site Type:
Recreational
Natural

Shore Access: Yes
Path to Shore

Amenities:

The 92-acre Eagle Point is located on US Route 6 (Cleveland Road) in Huron Township. The Plum Brook, Bogert Marsh and Pete Weiland Wetland cover much of the preserve. The one-mile, natural-surfaced Meadows Trail leads from the parking area, through woods, meadows and to marshlands. The one-half-mile East Bay Trail leads to an observation deck that overlooks the East Sandusky Bay. An access point for the East Sandusky Bay Water Trail is located next to the overlook. It is necessary to carry canoes or kayaks the length of the trail to the access area. The preserve also includes the Stockdale Arboretum and a picnic area. Eagle Point provides critical habitat for breeding and migrating birds and ducks. The site has had 13 successful eagle nests over the last 16 years. Access to the preserve may be limited during eagle nesting season.

ER22.2 Joseph Steinen Wildlife Area

Location:
4501 Cleveland Road West
(US Route 6), west of
Perkins Avenue

Lat/Long:
N 41° 25.33'
W 082° 38.21'

Site Type:
Outdoors

Shore Access: Yes
Path to Shore

Amenities:

The 144-acre Joseph Steinen Wildlife Area is comprised of three separate tracts of land in Huron Township. The east and west sections are located along US Route 6 and border East Sandusky Bay. The southern parcel is located south of US 6 and features Erie County's Ohio Bicentennial Barn. The western portion of the wildlife area is publicly accessible and features a gravel parking area and a one-half mile network of trails. The trails may be closed seasonally during bald eagle nesting. Fishing, seasonal hunting and trapping are allowed by permit only. Both the east and west tracts feature meadows, wooded areas and marshes. Access to the east and south sections require prior permission.

East Sandusky Bay MetroPark

ER22.3

Putnam Marsh Nature Preserve

Location:
4519 Cleveland Road West (US Route 6), west of Cedar Point Road

Lat/Long:
N 41° 25.09'
W 082° 37.65'

Site Type:
Natural

Shore Access: Yes
Terrain

Amenities:

The 966-acre Putnam Marsh Nature Preserve is protected as one of the last remaining undeveloped and naturally-functioning marshes along the southern Lake Erie shore. Much of the acreage is in East Sandusky Bay. Putnam Marsh provides habitat for waterfowl and is an important stopping site for migrating shorebirds and songbirds. Fishing, seasonal hunting and trapping are allowed by permit only. The nature preserve is located on US Route 6 (Cleveland Road), just west of Cedar Point Road. There is no parking lot available.

ER22.4

Wyandot Wetland Meadows Preserve

Location:
5307 Cleveland Road West (US Route 6), between Cedar Point and Camp roads

Lat/Long:
N 41° 24.86'
W 082° 37.21'

Site Type:
Natural

Shore Access: Yes
Path to Shore

Amenities:

The Wyandot Wetland Meadows Preserve and the adjoining Barnes Addition comprise 158 acres of reclaimed agricultural land, wooded land and marshland along US Route 6 (Cleveland Road) in Huron Township. The preserve provides coastal access to a portion of East Sandusky Bay that is protected by Sheldon Marsh State Nature Preserve. Wyandot Wetland Meadows Preserve has a gravel parking area and has mowed-grass trails throughout. Around 50 percent of Wyandot's acres are being reclaimed from row-crop farmland to native prairie meadow vegetation. The original 84 acres were acquired by the MetroParks in 2006. The 74-acre Barnes Addition was later added in 2012.

Sheldon Marsh State Nature Preserve

Location:
2715 Cleveland Road West (US Route 6), west of Rye Beach Road

Jurisdiction:
Huron Township

Latitude:
N 41° 24.50'

Longitude:
W 082° 36.13'

Waterbody:
Lake Erie
East Sandusky Bay

Site Type:
Natural

Shore Access:
Yes
Path to Shore

Location Map:

Amenities:

Sheldon Marsh State Nature Preserve is located on US Route 6 (Cleveland Road) in Huron Township. The state-owned and managed preserve protects 465 acres of marshland, woodland and meadow. It also features a 7,300-foot barrier beach that separates the open waters of Lake Erie to the north from the coastal wetlands to the south. The wetlands that comprise and surround Sheldon Marsh exhibit some of the last remaining undeveloped stretches of shore in the East Sandusky Bay region. A one-mile handicap-accessible paved trail follows Cedar Point's original automobile route to the beach. The road opened in 1913 and closed in 1919 due to storm damage. Additional amenities at the preserve include dirt trails, two observation platforms and portable restrooms. The preserve is a prime location for birding, wildlife viewing and photography. Nearly 300 species of birds have been sighted at Sheldon Marsh, including shorebirds, songbirds, raptors and waterfowl.

Waterplant Beach

Location:
End of West Drive, at Sail Away Drive

Jurisdiction:
Huron

Latitude:
N 41° 23.96'

Longitude:
W 082° 33.43'

Waterbody:
Lake Erie

Site Type:
Recreational

Shore Access:
Yes
Path to Shore

Location Map:

Amenities:

Waterplant Beach is an unmarked public beach adjacently located to the north of the city of Huron's Service Complex. There is no public access via the Service Complex grounds. Access to the one half-acre beach is from the West Drive dead end. A walking bridge leads visitors across the Washburn Ditch to the beach area from West Drive. Fishing and swimming are permitted. Very limited street parking is available.

Lake Front Park

Location:
Park Street, between Ohio and Center streets

Jurisdiction:
Huron

Latitude:
N 41° 23.90'

Longitude:
W 082° 33.26'

Waterbody:
Lake Erie

Site Type:
Recreational

Shore Access:
Yes
Terrain

Location Map:

Amenities:

The 3-acre Lake Front Park is located less than 1,000 feet west of the Huron River in Huron. It is bounded by Ohio, Park and Center streets to the west, south and east, respectively. Parking spaces for the park are available on all three streets. A portion of the park, added in 2000, extends east of Center Street along Wall Street. This section was acquired in part with a grant from the Ohio Coastal Management Program. Lake Front Park offers picnic tables, grills, playground equipment, restroom facilities, a gazebo and benches that overlook Lake Erie. A 445-foot shore-parallel detached breakwater helps maintain a sand beach at the park. Swimming and paddling access is reachable at both ends of the structure. Fishing is also permitted.

Lighthouse Pier
and Huron Rotary Centennial Park

Location:
End of Main Street, north of Wall Street

Jurisdiction:
Huron

Pier:
Lat: N 41° 23.89'
Long: W 082° 33.02

Huron Rotary:
Lat: N 41° 23.86'
Long: W 082° 33.07

Waterbody:
Lake Erie
Huron River

Site Type:
Recreational
Scenic

Shore Access (Pier): Yes
Shore Structure

Shore Access (Huron Rotary): No
Vegetation

Location Map:

Amenities:

Lighthouse Pier

Huron Rotary

Lighthouse Pier, also known as the Huron Harbor West Pier, is a publicly-accessible jetty that extends two-thirds of a mile into Lake Erie and provides access to the 72-foot tall Huron Harbor Lighthouse. The entrance to the pier is located at the northern terminus of Main Street in Huron. The pier serves as the western wall for the Huron Harbor to the east and is the eastern limit of a 68-acre, partially-filled confined disposal facility to the west. The southern portion of Lighthouse Pier features a 1,800-foot, handicapped-accessible paved walkway that leads to an observation platform (added in 2012). The lighthouse is accessible to the north of the platform via nearly 1,200 feet of linearly-placed limestone blocks. Lighthouse Pier offers fishing access, birding opportunities and scenic vistas.

Huron Rotary Centennial Park is a small passive park located at the northern terminus of Main Street in Huron. The west-facing park is situated at the base of Lighthouse Pier, opposite the mouth of the Huron River. A stone marker recognizes the park's 2006 dedication. The park includes benches and affords scenic views.

Nickel Plate Beach

Location:
Nickel Plate Drive, west of Tiffin Avenue

Jurisdiction:
Huron

Alternate Entrance:
Pedestrian access from McKinley Street

Main Entrance:
Lat: N 41° 23.71'
Long: W 082° 32.41'

McKinley Street:
Lat: N 41° 23.71'
Long: W 082° 32.35'

Waterbody:
Lake Erie

Site Type:
Recreational

Shore Access:
Yes
Terrain

Location Map:

Amenities:

The 12.3-acre Nickel Plate Beach is located at the end of Nickel Plate Drive, just west of Tiffin Avenue in Huron. Alternate pedestrian access is available from the McKinley Street right-of-way, to the east. Nickel Plate Beach is the largest public swimming beach in Erie County. Amenities include a picnic shelter, grills, benches, portable restrooms, beach volleyball courts and playground equipment on the beach. Also, the 1,400-foot Huron Harbor east jetty is accessible from the park for fishing. During summer months, a parking fee is required. Seasonal parking passes are available for purchase. Parking is free during the off season. The beach and grounds are open to pedestrian and bicycle traffic free of charge.

Old Woman Creek State Nature Preserve and National Estuarine Research Reserve

Location:
2514 Cleveland Road
East (US Route 6)

Location (Beach Access):
2005 Cleveland Road
East (US Route 6)

Jurisdiction:
Huron Township
Berlin Township

Main Entrance:
Lat: N 41° 22.77'
Long: W 082° 30.43'

Beach Access:
Lat: N 41° 23.00'
Long: W 082° 30.89'

Waterbody:
Lake Erie
Old Woman Creek

Site Type:
Natural

Shore Access:
Yes
Path to Shore

Location Map:

Amenities:

The 573-acre Old Woman Creek State Nature Preserve and National Estuarine Research Reserve is located on US Route 6 in Berlin Township, just east of the city of Huron. The site features one of Ohio's few natural Lake Erie estuaries. An estuary is a transition zone where freshwater from a river is mixed with water from a lake or ocean. Estuaries are ecologically-sensitive habitats that provide sanctuary for many native plant and animal species and filter pollutants that would otherwise impact the lake. Old Woman Creek contains a variety of habitats, including marshland, swamp, upland forest, riverine, open water and near shore. Many species of breeding and migratory birds, including songbirds, shorebirds, waterfowl and raptors can be viewed at this site. The majority of Old Woman Creek's acreage and amenities are located south of US 6, including a network of trails, an observation platform and a newly-renovated (2012) visitor center with interpretive and interactive displays. A 760-foot barrier beach, located north of US 6, provides coastal access.

Joppa Road Access

Location:
End of Joppa Road, north of US Route 6

Jurisdiction:
Vermilion Township

Latitude:
N 41° 23.49'

Longitude:
W 082° 26.78'

Waterbody:
Lake Erie

Site Type:
Scenic

Shore Access:
Yes

Terrain

Location Map:

Amenities:

The Joppa Road Access in Vermilion Township is an unimproved parkland area located within the Joppa Road right-of-way, approximately 830 feet north of US Route 6. The passive-use site affords fishing access and scenic views of Lake Erie. Parking is available at the end of Joppa Road. The shore is accessible via a 100-foot long, sloping and grass-covered area of green space. There are no amenities at the unmarked, township-maintained site. Signage denotes that the park area is open from dawn to dusk and that swimming is permitted at one's own risk. Hunting, diving, ice fishing and walking/climbing on ice are all prohibited.

Risden Road Access

Location:
End of Risden Road, north of US Route 6

Jurisdiction:
Vermilion Township

Latitude:
N 41° 24.52'

Longitude:
W 082° 24.40'

Waterbody:
Lake Erie

Site Type:
Scenic

Shore Access:
No
Edge of Bluff

Location Map:

Amenities:

P

The Risden Road Access in Vermilion Township is an unimproved parkland area located within the Risden Road right-of-way, approximately 515 feet north of US Route 6. The passive-use site affords scenic views of Lake Erie. Parking is available at the end of Risden Road. There is no designated path leading to the shore. The approximately 20-foot high bluff is heavily vegetated. There are no amenities at the unmarked, township-maintained site. Signage denotes that the park area is open from dawn to dusk and that swimming is permitted at one's own risk. Hunting, diving, ice fishing and walking/climbing on ice are all prohibited.

Sherod Park

and Coen Road Access

Location (Sherod Park):
West Lake Road (US Route 6) at Coen Road

Location (Coen Road):
End of Coen Road, north of US Route 6

Jurisdiction:
Vermilion Township

Sherod Park:
Lat: N 41° 24.92'
Long: W 082° 23.39'

Coen Road:
Lat: N 41° 24.97'
Long: W 082° 23.45'

Waterbody:
Lake Erie
Sherod Creek

Site Type:
Recreational

Shore Access:
Yes
Stairs to Shore
Path to Shore

Erie County

Location Map:

Amenities:

Sherod Park

Coen Road

The 21.2-acre Sherod Park is located at the intersection of US Route 6 (West Lake Road) and Coen Road in Vermilion Township. Two parking lots are accessible from Coen Road. Sherod Park's amenities include baseball and soccer fields, a playground, a picnic shelter, woodchip-surfaced walking trails and a Par Course Fit Center exercise trail with equipment. Sherod Creek flows through the center of the park. Trails from both sides of the creek descend the bank toward a sandbar, providing access to a swimming beach to the west and shore fishing. Groin structures also provide fishing access. West of the creek, the bluff is cleared and lined with benches, offering unobstructed views of Lake Erie. East of the creek, the bluff is not negotiable.

The Coen Road Access is located within the Coen Road right-of-way and is adjacent to Sherod Park (east). This pocket park was once used as a boat ramp. The site features a collection of flower beds, monuments, benches, water features and an ornamental lighthouse. A gravel path and staircase lead to a beach. Parking is available at Sherod Park.

Main Street Beach

Location:
480 Main Street
End of Main Street,
north of US Route 6

Jurisdiction:
Vermilion

Latitude:
N 41° 25.50'

Longitude:
W 082° 21.97'

Waterbody:
Lake Erie

Site Type:
Recreational

Shore Access:
Yes
Path to Shore
Terrain

Location Map:

Amenities:

Main Street Beach is located at the northern end of Main Street in downtown Vermilion. The nearly one-acre site features over 330 feet of accessible shore. Swimming and fishing are permitted. Main Street Beach is also a canoe and kayak access site along the 27-mile Vermilion-Lorain Water Trail. Amenities include a handicapped-accessible observation deck and benches. A wheelchair specially designed for beach accessibility is available free of charge. Parking is located just to the south on Main Street. The beach is adjacently located east of the former Inland Seas Maritime Museum and Great Lakes Historical Society building and grounds. The publicly-accessible grounds feature unobstructed views of the lake and the replica Vermilion Lighthouse. The city of Vermilion intends to develop the property into a passive park.

ER35

Wakefield MetroPark

Location:
5540 Huron Street

Jurisdiction:
Vermilion

Latitude:
N 41° 25.53'

Longitude:
W 082° 21.88'

Waterbody:
Lake Erie
Vermilion River

Site Type:
Natural
Scenic

Shore Access:
Yes
Terrain

Erie County

Location Map:

Amenities:

The 1.5-acre Wakefield MetroPark is situated between Lake Erie and the west bank of the Vermilion River. It is undeveloped (as of March 2014) and features a beach and offers passive recreational opportunities, such as fishing and wildlife viewing. A jetty at the Vermilion River mouth is accessible from the MetroPark for additional fishing access. Erie MetroParks acquired the property in 2010. The entire park parcel is under a conservation easement, which is held by the Western Reserve Land Conservancy.

Nokomis Park

Location:
End of
Minnie Wawa Street

Jurisdiction:
Vermilion

Latitude:
N 41° 25.62'

Longitude:
W 082° 21.14'

Waterbody:
Lake Erie

Site Type:
Recreational
Scenic

Shore Access:
Yes
Stairs to Shore

Location Map:

Amenities:

Nokomis Park is a small passive park located at the northern end of Minnie Wawa Street in Vermilion. The park features a narrow area of green space between the road's dead end and a 20-foot shale bluff. A wooden staircase at the park's western edge leads to a beach. The publicly-accessible beach extends to the east approximately 445 feet. The beach west of Nokomis Park is private property, and denoted with a sign. There are no amenities at the park. Fishing and swimming are permitted.