

Empties into: Lake Erie

Mouth: Lorain, OH

Length of Main Branch: 15 miles

Length of East Branch: 45 miles

Length of West Branch: 52 miles

Elevation at source: 1,138 feet above sea level (includes East Branch)

Elevation at mouth: 573 feet above sea level

Average fall: 7.6 feet per mile

8-digit HUC: 04110001

8-digit HUC name: Black-Rocky

Number of Access Sites: 11

Black River

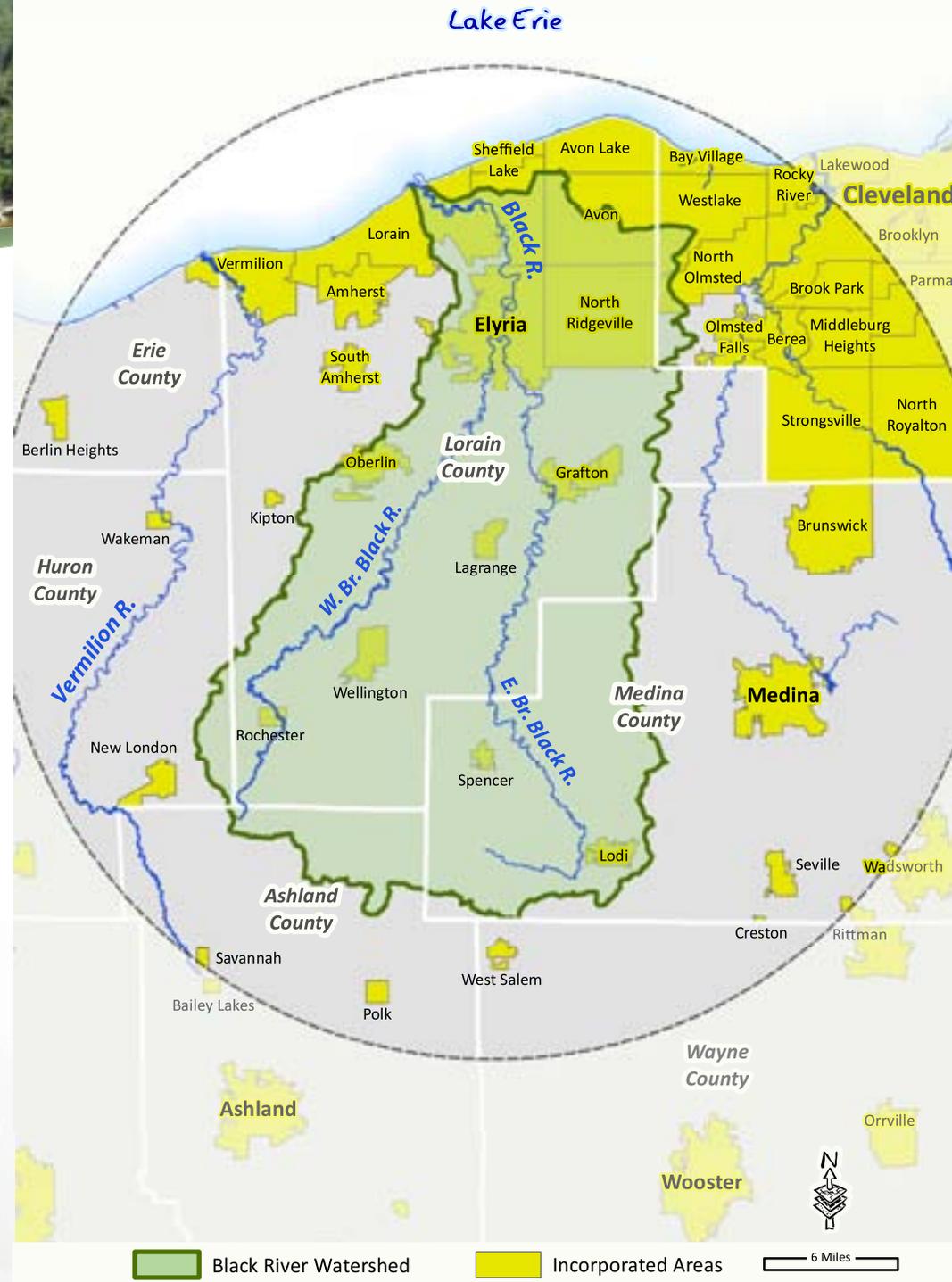
including the East Branch and West Branch

The Black River Watershed is divided into three principal sections: the Main Branch, the East Branch and the West Branch. The Main Branch of the Black is just over 15 miles long and begins where the East and West branches converge at Cascade Falls in the city of Elyria. The mouth empties into Lake Erie in the city of Lorain. The 45-mile East Branch begins at the confluence of the East and West forks northwest of Lodi (Medina County). Headwaters for the 52-mile West Branch rise in Troy Township (Ashland County). The whole watershed covers 466 square miles (298,240 acres) in portions of Ashland, Cuyahoga, Huron, Lorain and Medina counties.

Similar to the Vermilion and Rocky rivers, the Black features distinctively high and steep shale cliffs.

Due to concerns that too much industrial and waste water contaminants had been discharged into the lower portion of the river, the Black was federally designated an Area of Concern in 1985 (along with the Ashtabula, Cuyahoga and Maumee rivers), prompting the foundation of the Black River Remedial Action Plan (RAP). The RAP uses community-based, collaborative, ecosystem-based approaches to clean and restore the polluted portions of the river. As a result of the RAP's efforts, water quality in the lower Black has significantly improved over the last decade. While continuing the downstream efforts, the Black River RAP now aims to focus on agricultural impacts upriver.

The Black River Watershed is home to nearly 300,000 residents (644 people per square mile), 40 percent of whom live in the cities of Lorain and Elyria. The river meanders through large areas of protected and connected public land including the Lorain County Metro Parks' Black River and French Creek reservations. The Bridgeway Trail and Steel Mill Trail offer hikers and bicyclists a 5.5-mile, fully-accessible, paved path linking the two reservations. The Vermilion-Lorain Water Trail, dedicated in 2009, also provides paddlers a designated route down the Black from the Black River Reservation to Lake Erie, and then west to the Vermilion River.





Lorain Public Fishing Pier and Riverside Park

Location (Fishing Pier):
First Street at Hamilton Avenue

Waterbody:
Black River
Lake Erie

River Mile Location:
Between RM 0 and RM 1

Jurisdiction:
Lorain, OH

County:
Lorain

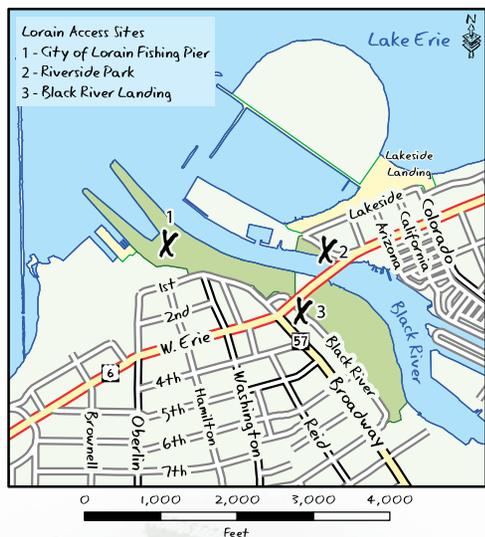
Fishing Pier:
Lat: N 41° 28.25'
Long: W 082° 11'

Riverside:
Lat: N 41° 28.24'
Long: W 082° 10.71'

Access Site Type:
Recreation

Date Visited:

Location Map:



Riverside Park Location:
Alabama Avenue at Lakeside Avenue

Learn More:

City of Lorain, www.cityoflorain.org
Lorain Port Authority, www.lorainportauthority.com

Field Notes:

Amenities:

Lorain Public Fishing Pier



Riverside Park



Black River Landing

Location:
421 Black River Lane

Waterbody:
Black River

River Mile Location:
Between RM 0 and RM 1

Jurisdiction:
Lorain, OH

County:
Lorain

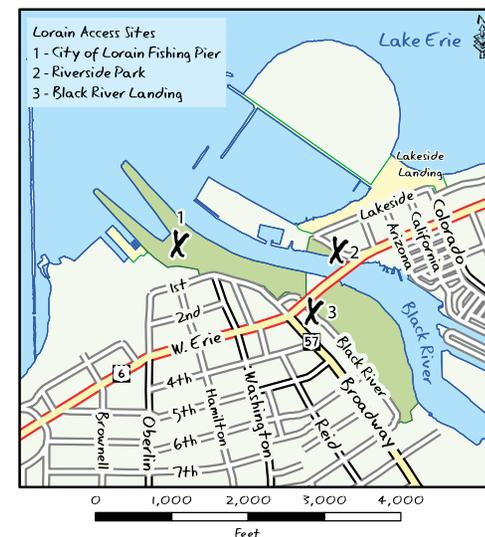
Latitude:
N 41° 28.11'

Longitude:
W 082° 10.62'

Access Site Type:
Recreation
Scenic
Cultural

Date Visited:

Location Map:



Learn More:
Lorain Port Authority
www.lorainportauthority.com

Field Notes:

Amenities:





Black River Wharf Boat Launch

Location:

355 Broadway Avenue

Waterbody:

Black River

River Mile Location:

Between RM 1 and RM 2

Jurisdiction:

Lorain, OH

County:

Lorain

Latitude:

N 41° 27.88'

Longitude:

W 082° 10.37'

Access

Site Type:

Recreation

Date Visited:

Location Map:



Amenities:



The Black River Wharf Boat Launch is an access site for the Vermilion-Lorain Water Trail. There is a launch fee for boats, canoes and kayaks.

Learn More:

Lorain Port Authority
www.lorainportauthority.com

Field Notes:



French Creek Reservation

Location

(Nature Center):
 4530 Colorado Avenue (SR 611)

Location (Water Trail Access):
 4060 Old Colorado Avenue

Waterbody:
 Black River
 French Creek

River Mile Location:
 At RM 5 (Black River)
 Between RM 0 and RM 3 (French Creek)

Jurisdiction:
 Sheffield, OH

County:
 Lorain

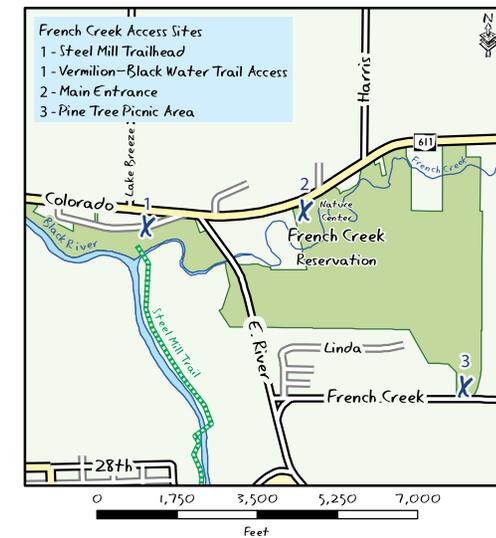
Latitude:
 N 41° 27.61'

Longitude:
 W 082° 6.75'

Access Site Type:
 Recreation

Date Visited:

Location Map:



Amenities:



Alternate Entrances:

Pine Tree Picnic Area at 4921 French Creek Road

Much of the 450-acre French Creek Reservation is forested landscape (426 acres). The forest varies in age, with some groupings of trees that are more than 100 years old. French Creek Reservation also features a nature center, picnic areas and 4.5 miles of trails.

The French Creek empties into the Black River. From a parking area off Old Colorado Avenue, a launching point for the Vermilion-Lorain Water Trail and the Steel Mill Trail's northern trailhead can be accessed. The nearly 2-mile Steel Mill Trail connects to the Black River Reservation.

Learn More:

Lorain Port Authority
www.lorainportauthority.com



Indian Hollow Reservation

Location:
38744 Parsons Road,
east of Indian Hollow
Road

Waterbody:
East Branch Black
River

**River Mile
Location:**
Between
RM 10 and RM 11

Jurisdiction:
Carlisle Township, OH

County:
Lorain

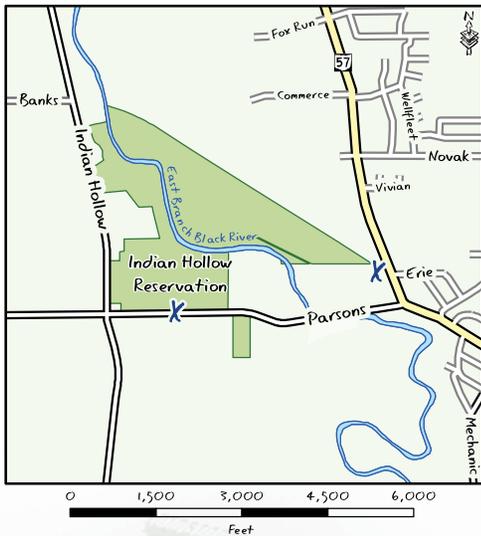
Main Entrance:
Lat: N 41° 16.49'
Long: W 082° 4.53'

SR 57:
Lat: N 41° 16.61'
Long: W 082° 3.76'

**Access
Site Type:**
Recreation

Date Visited:

Location Map:



Amenities:



Alternate Entrance: Beech-Maple Trail trailhead at North Main Street (SR 57) in Grafton

The Lorain County Metro Parks' Indian Hollow Reservation is comprised of four disconnected tracts of land. Only the Sheldon Woods and Midview Soccer Complex areas are presently open to the public. The map, location information and amenity listing are for the Sheldon Woods area.

The 180-acre Sheldon Woods area is mostly wooded and includes remnants of the former Grafton Stone Quarry. Much of the vegetation at Indian Hollow had been stripped for the quarry (east bank). Nature has been reclaiming the land since the quarry ceased operations. Other parts of the reservation were not impacted by industry and feature mature forest cover.

Learn More:
Lorain County Metro Parks
www.metroparks.cc



Carlisle Reservation

Location:
12882 Diagonal Road

Waterbody:
West Branch
Black River

**River Mile
Location:**
Between
RM 7 and RM 15

Jurisdiction:
Carlisle Township, OH

County:
Lorain

Duck Pond:
Lat: N 41° 17.82'
Long: W 082° 8.11'

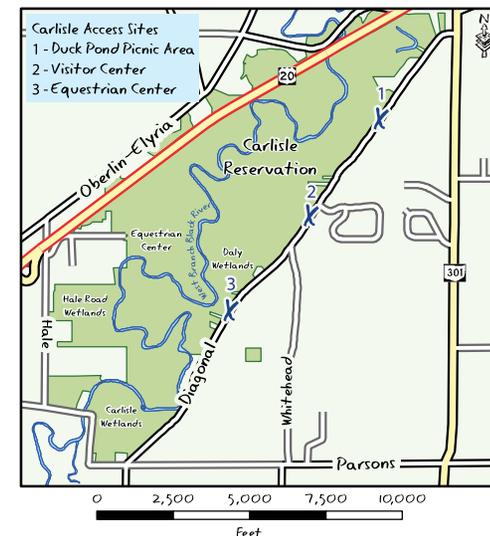
Visitor Center:
Lat: N 41° 18.34'
Long: W 082° 7.61'

**Equestrian
Center:**
Lat: N 41° 17.32'
Long: W 082° 8.69'

Access Type:
Recreation

Date Visited:

Location Map:



Amenities:



The 1,917-acre Carlisle Reservation is the largest Lorain County Metro Park. The park includes the Forest Hills Golf Course (not mapped), a visitor center, the Raptor Center, an equestrian center, the Nielsen Observatory, the Metro Parks' administrative headquarters and other recreational amenities. The Raptor Center houses a collection of wild-hatched birds that have sustained permanent injuries, including a bald eagle, red-tailed hawk, peregrine falcon and various owls.

Carlisle has many trails, including two bridle trails. The trail surfaces range from natural and gravel to paved asphalt. The reservation features a variety of natural habitat types, including multiple wetland areas, open fields, prairies and forested areas. Carlisle's trail network provides exploration through all of these habitats.

Learn More:
Lorain County Metro Parks
www.metroparks.cc