

Empties into: North Maumee Bay
Mouth: Erie Township, MI
Length: 20 miles (19 miles in Ohio)

Elevation at source: 738 feet above sea level (includes Ten Mile Creek)
Elevation at mouth: 573 feet above sea level
Average fall: 4 feet per mile

8-digit HUC: 04100001
8-digit HUC name: Ottawa-Stony
Number of Access Sites: 8



Ottawa River

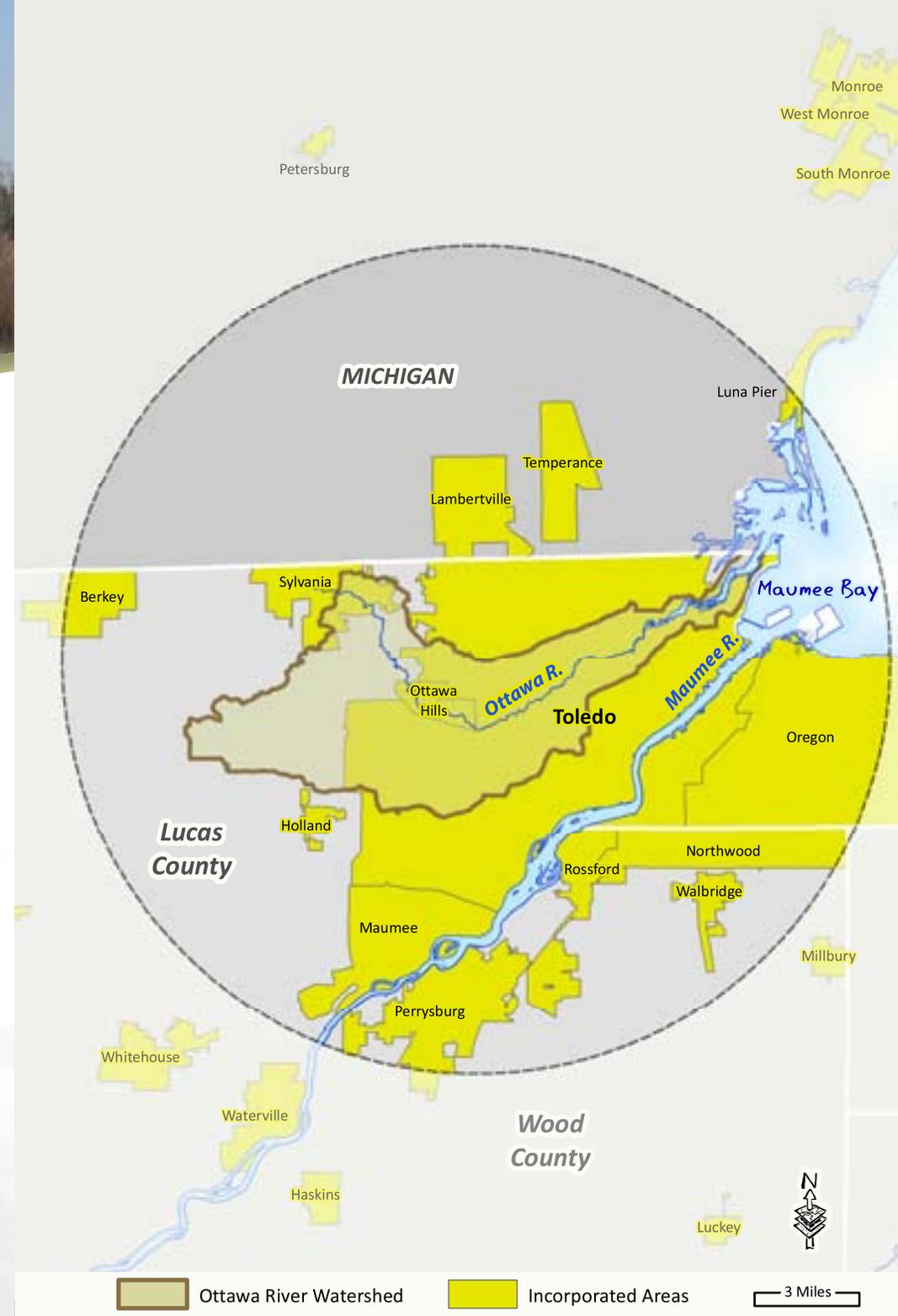
The Ottawa River is a short tributary that empties into the North Maumee Bay (Lake Erie) less than one mile north of the Ohio-Michigan state line and only 2.3 miles north of the Maumee River mouth. With the exception of the mouth and the river's first three-quarters of a mile, the 20-mile Ottawa River flows within Lucas County. The river begins at the confluence of the Ten Mile and North Ten Mile creeks in Sylvania. The North Ten Mile Creek is a 4-mile tributary that originates in Michigan. The 27-mile long Ten Mile Creek flows entirely within Ohio, although it meanders within 160 feet of the state line. The Ottawa River Watershed is 220.9 square miles and drains portions of Fulton and Lucas counties in Ohio and portions of Lenawee and Monroe counties in Michigan.

The Ottawa River is named after the Ottawa Indians, a Native American tribe that once inhabited the area. 'Ottawa' is an anglicized spelling of the word 'adawe,' which means "trader" or "to trade." The river also shares its name with another western Lake Erie Watershed tributary. The other Ottawa River is a 50-mile tributary that rises in Hardin County, flows through Allen and Putnam counties and empties into the Auglaize River, which then flows into the Maumee River.

The lower three miles of Lake Erie's Ottawa River closely parallel the Maumee Bay shore, creating a peninsula that at its narrowest is only roughly 1,000 feet wide. The northernmost 126.5 acres of the peninsula is actually part of Michigan and known as the "Lost Peninsula." This cadastral anomaly was the inadvertent result of the Ohio-Michigan boundary dispute which ended in Ohio's favor in 1836 (33 years after Ohio gained statehood).

The upper reaches of the Ottawa River Watershed are located within the Oak Openings Region, a globally-rare and significant ecosystem. The Oak Openings feature remnant beach ridges and sand dunes that were formed as a result of the last glacial retreat, as well as large tracts of grassland prairie, oak savannah and oak woodlands. Because of these physiological characteristics, the Oak Openings supports diverse communities of rare plants and wildlife.

Due to industrial runoff, sewage and landfill runoff, and the slow flowing nature of the river, ecological and water quality concerns have existed in the lower sections of the Ottawa. Great strides to improve the river's quality have transpired over the last decade. In 2012, the fish consumption advisory – with the exception of carp – first issued in 1991 was ordered lifted by the Ohio Department of Health and the Toledo-Lucas County Health Department.





Washington Township Launch Sites

Howard Pinkley Landing at Riviera Park

Location:
End of President, Belpre and Hammond drives, off Shoreland Avenue

Waterbody:
Ottawa River

River Mile Location:
Between RM 1 and RM 2

Jurisdiction:
Washington Township, OH

County:
Lucas

President Drive:
Lat: N 41° 43.35'
Long: W 083° 29.01'

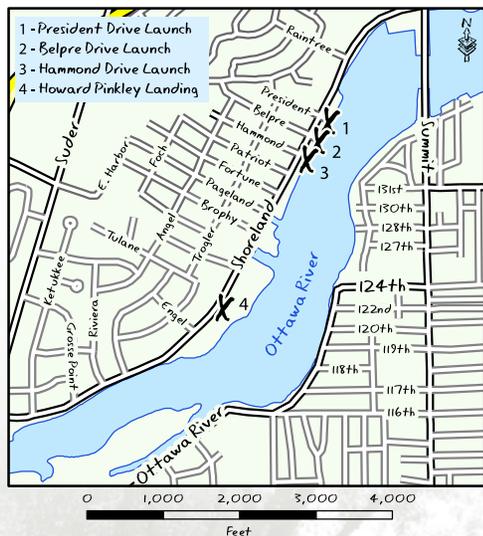
Belpre Drive:
Lat: N 41° 43.31'
Long: W 083° 29.08'

Hammond Drive:
Lat: N 41° 43.31'
Long: W 083° 29.13'

Access Site Type:
Recreation

Date Visited:

Location Map:



Amenities:



The Washington Township boat launch sites are located at the road terminuses of (from northeast to southwest) President, Belpre and Hammond drives. These consecutively-spaced streets descend directly into the Ottawa River, providing access for boaters. There are no additional amenities at any of the three sites.

Due to water pollution and health concerns, warning signs have been posted at all three sites notifying visitors that the river is unsafe for swimming and waterskiing and that fish caught may be contaminated.

Field Notes:

Location:
2250 Shoreland Avenue

Waterbody:
Ottawa River

River Mile Location:
Between RM 2 and RM 3

Jurisdiction:
Washington Township, OH

County:
Lucas

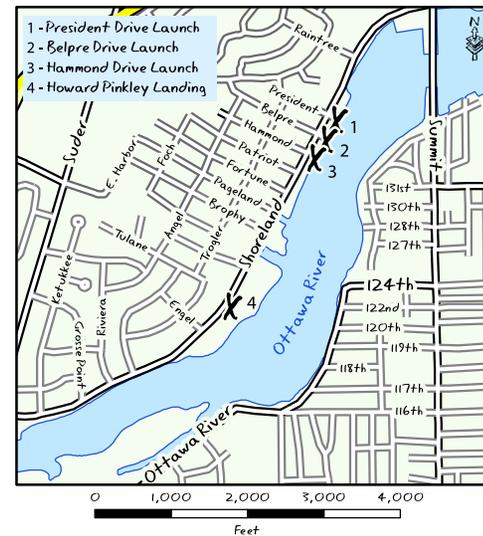
Latitude:
N 41° 42.94"

Longitude:
W 083° 29.33"

Access Site Type:
Recreation

Date Visited:

Location Map:



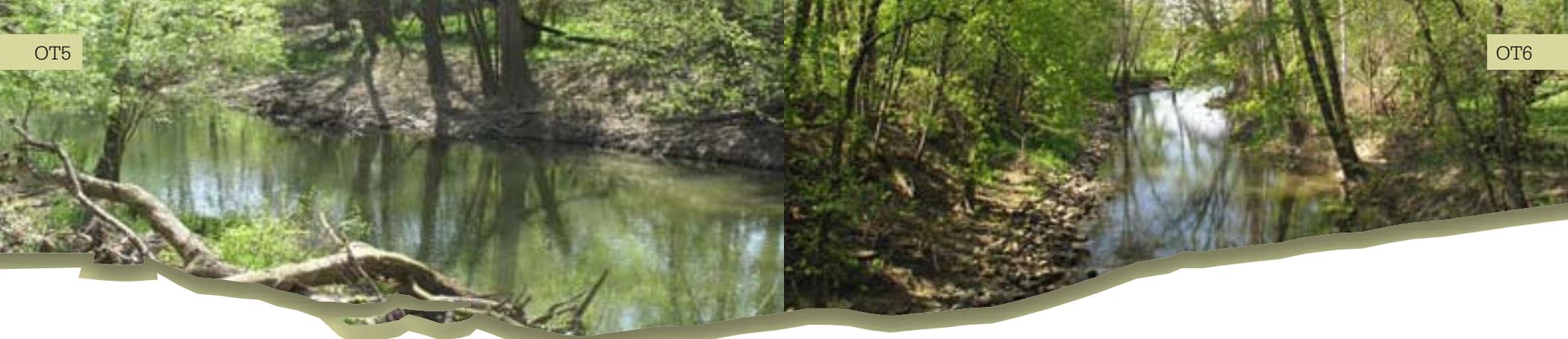
Amenities:



Located on Shoreland Road between Engel Boulevard and Whitehouse Drive is Howard Pinkley Landing at Riviera Park, which provides a public launch designed for kayaks, canoes and rowing shells.

The landing was dedicated in April of 2011. It is named after Howard Pinkley, a community leader in the Point Place neighborhood of Toledo, where the landing is located.

Field Notes:



Jermain Park

Ottawa Park

Location:
3650 Monroe Street

Waterbody:
Ottawa River

River Mile Location:
Between RM 9 and RM 10

Jurisdiction:
Toledo, OH

County:
Lucas

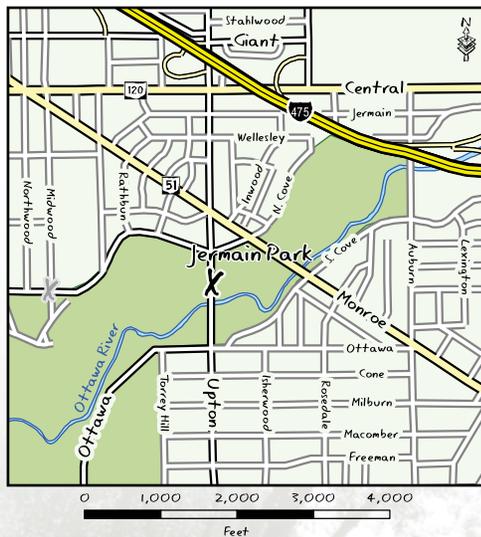
Latitude:
N 41° 40.25'

Longitude:
W 083° 35.31'

Access Site Type:
Recreation

Date Visited:

Location Map:



Amenities:



Learn More:
City of Toledo
www.ci.toledo.oh.us

Field Notes:

Location:
Kenwood Boulevard at Midwood Avenue

Waterbody:
Ottawa River

River Mile Location:
Between RM 10 and RM 11

Jurisdiction:
Toledo, OH

County:
Lucas

Latitude:
N 41° 40.22'

Longitude:
W 083° 35.8'

Access Site Type:
Recreation

Date Visited:

Location Map:



Amenities:



Alternate Entrances:
1. Ottawa Parkway from Bancroft Street
2. Ottawa Parkway from Upton Avenue

Learn More:
City of Toledo
www.ci.toledo.oh.us

Field Notes:



Wildwood Preserve Metropark

Harroun Community Park

Location:
5100 West Central Avenue (SR 120)

Waterbody:
Ottawa River

River Mile Location:
Between RM 15 and RM 17

Jurisdiction:
Toledo, OH

County:
Lucas

Latitude:
N 41° 40.25'

Longitude:
W 083° 35.31'

Access Site Type:
Recreation

Date Visited:

Location Map:



Amenities:



Wildwood Preserve Metropark is the former family estate of a local automotive executive. The Metroparks purchased the estate grounds, including the family home, in the 1970s. The Georgian Colonial home is open for free tours and hosts a variety of cultural and historical events.

Learn More:
Metroparks of the Toledo Area
www.metroparkstoledo.com

Field Notes:

Location:
5500 Main Street

Waterbody:
Ottawa River
Ten Mile Creek

River Mile Location:
Between RM 19 and RM 20 (Ottawa River) and between RM 0 and RM 1 (Ten Mile Creek)

Jurisdiction:
Sylvania, OH

County:
Lucas

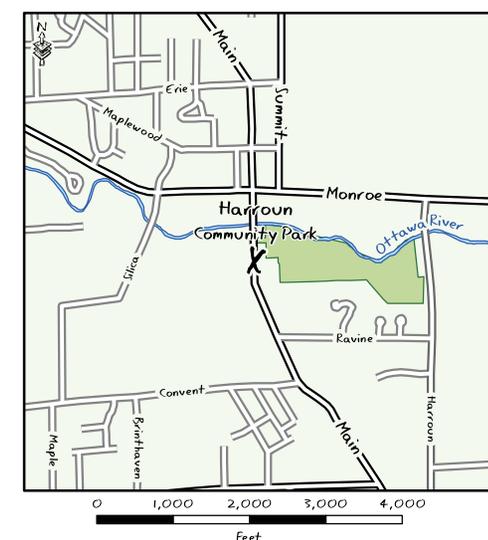
Latitude:
N 41° 42.78'

Longitude:
W 083° 42.19'

Access Site Type:
Recreation

Date Visited:

Location Map:



Amenities:



Learn More:
City of Sylvania
www.cityofsylvania.com

Field Notes:
