

**Empties into:** Lake Erie

**Mouth:** Lakewood, OH (east) and Rocky River, OH (west)

**Length of Main Branch:** 12 miles

**Length of East Branch:** 35 miles

**Length of West Branch:** 36 miles

**Elevation at source:** 1,230 feet above sea level (includes West Branch)

**Elevation at mouth:** 573 feet above sea level

**Average fall:** 13.7 feet per mile

**8-digit HUC:** 04110001

**8-digit HUC name:** Black-Rocky

**Number of Access Sites:** 10

# Rocky River

including the East Branch and West Branch

The main branch of the Rocky River is a little over 12 miles long and begins at the confluence of the East Branch Rocky and West Branch Rocky rivers in North Olmsted. Along its course, the Rocky River serves as the jurisdictional divide for the cities of Brook Park and North Olmsted, Cleveland and Fairview Park, Cleveland and Lakewood and finally Lakewood and Rocky River. The river empties into Lake Erie between Lakewood and Rocky River. Headwaters for the 35-mile East Branch and 36-mile West Branch are in Broadview Heights (Cuyahoga County) and Montville Township (Medina County), respectively. A North Branch rises in Granger Township (Medina County) and flows into the West Branch in Medina. The entire Rocky River Watershed is 294 square miles (188,160 acres) and contains portions of Cuyahoga, Lorain, Medina and Summit counties.

The main branch of the Rocky River is often characterized by its deep valley and steep shale cliffs, which in some places reach depths of 150 feet below the street level. Eight high-level bridges cross this stretch. The valley features wide-open meadow areas and also dense floodplain forests; cottonwoods, sycamores and willows are abundant. With exception of the first seven-tenths of a mile between Lake Erie and the Detroit Avenue Bridge, majority of the main stem of the Rocky River is included within the Rocky River Reservation of the Cleveland Metroparks and is publicly accessible. In fact, the 2,572-acre reservation contains the very first parcel of land secured by William A. Stinchcomb for the establishment of the Cleveland Metroparks.

The Rocky River Reservation provides easy access to the river for many recreational activities, including boating (near the mouth), kayaking, fishing and wading. The river offers excellent steelhead fishing as well as bluegill, catfish, largemouth bass, smallmouth bass and perch. In June 2007, Field and Stream magazine listed the Rocky River as one of the "150 Best Places to fish in America."



Rocky River Watershed

Incorporated Areas

6 Miles



## Port of Lakewood Courtesy Dock

**Location:**

Beneath the Detroit Avenue Bridge, accessible from the Rocky River Reservation's Scenic Park and Emerald Necklace Marina

**Waterbody:**

Rocky River

**River Mile Location:**

Between RM 0 and RM 1

**Jurisdiction:**

Lakewood, OH

**County:**

Cuyahoga

**Latitude:**

N 41° 28.92'

**Longitude:**

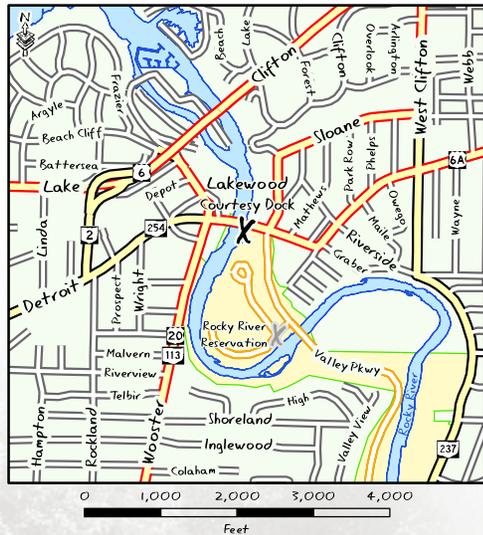
W 081° 49.86'

**Access Site Type:**

Recreation

**Date Visited:**

**Location Map:**



**Amenities:**



The Port of Lakewood Courtesy Dock is located directly beneath the Detroit Avenue Bridge. It provides boaters a free 15-minute transient dock area on the east bank of the Rocky River.

**Learn More:**  
City of Lakewood  
[www.onelakewood.com](http://www.onelakewood.com)

**Field Notes:**

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## Rocky River Reservation

**Location Map:**



**Location:**

Western Cuyahoga County along Valley Parkway between Detroit Avenue in Lakewood and Bagley Road in Berea

**Waterbody:**

Rocky River  
East Branch and West Branch Rocky rivers

**River Mile Location:**

Between RM 1 and RM 12 (Rocky River);  
Between RM 0 and RM 5 (East Branch Rocky River);  
Between RM 0 and RM 1 (West Branch Rocky River)

**County:**

Cuyahoga

**Access Site Type:**

Recreation

**Date Visited:**

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## Rocky River Reservation

The Cleveland Metroparks' Rocky River Reservation encompasses over 2,500 acres of protected land along the Rocky River and portions of its East and West branches. From north to south, the Reservation is located in Lakewood, Rocky River, Cleveland, Fairview Park, Brook Park, North Olmsted, Olmsted Township and Berea. The 12-mile Valley Parkway meanders with the river for the entire length of the Reservation between Lakewood and Berea. Many access roads lead into the valley and to the parkway. South of Bagley Road, Valley Parkway continues into the adjacent Mill Stream Run Reservation, also a Cleveland Metropark.

The Rocky River valley is characterized by massive shale cliffs, floodplain forests, wetland areas and open meadows. The Reservation features a vast collection of trails, including the 13.6-mile, paved All Purpose Trail, three bridle trail loops totaling 15.4 miles, all-purpose neighborhood connector trails and many shorter hiking and walking trails of varying difficulty levels. Many picnic areas and shelters, scenic overlooks and wildlife viewing opportunities are located throughout the park.

A boat launch, which affords access to Lake Erie, can be found at the Scenic Park Picnic Area. The Emerald Necklace Marina is also accessible from Scenic Park. The reservation includes the Rocky River Nature Center, three golf courses (Big Met, Little Met and Mastick Woods) and the Frostville Museum, which educates visitors on how area settlers lived and worked in the 1800s.

Rocky River Reservation is the most visited of the Cleveland Metroparks' 16 reservations.

### Access Roads:

- Valley Parkway from Detroit Avenue (US 6A), Lakewood
- Rockcliff Drive, Rocky River
- Old Hogsback Lane, Lakewood
- Old Lorain Road, Cleveland
- Wooster Road, Fairview Park
- Mastick Road, Fairview Park
- Puritas Road, Cleveland
- Brookway Boulevard, Fairview Park
- Shepherd's Hill Lane, North Olmsted
- Cedar Point Road, Brook Park (east); North Olmsted (west)
- Spafford Road, Brook Park (east); Olmsted Township (west)
- Falls Lane, Berea
- Barrett Road from Bagley Road, Berea

### Learn More:

Cleveland Metroparks  
[www.clemetparks.com](http://www.clemetparks.com)



## Rocky River Reservation

RO2.1

### Scenic Park Picnic Area and Emerald Necklace Marina

#### Location:

Valley Parkway, south of the Detroit Avenue entrance

#### River Mile Location:

Between RM 1 and RM 2

#### Jurisdiction:

Lakewood, OH

#### Lat/Long:

N 41° 28.69'  
 W 081° 49.78'

#### Amenities:



RO2.2

### Rockcliff Springs

#### Location:

Valley Parkway at Rockcliff Drive

#### River Mile Location:

Between RM 2 and RM 3

#### Jurisdiction:

Lakewood, OH

#### Lat/Long:

N 41° 28.22'  
 W 081° 49.75'

#### Amenities:





## Rocky River Reservation

## Rocky River Reservation

RO2.3

### Sycamore Picnic Area and North Mastick Picnic Area

**Location:**  
Valley Parkway, north of Mastick/  
Puritas Road

**River Mile Location:**  
At RM 8

**Jurisdiction:**  
Fairview Park, OH

**Lat/Long:**  
N 41° 26.45'  
W 081° 50.73'

**Amenities:**



RO2.4

### South Mastick Picnic Area and Cottonwood Picnic Area

**Location:**  
Valley Parkway, south of Mastick/  
Puritas Road

**River Mile Location:**  
Between RM 8 and RM 9

**Jurisdiction:**  
Fairview Park, OH

**Lat/Long:**  
N 41° 26.09'  
W 081° 50.78'

**Amenities:**



RO2.5

### Rocky River Nature Center

**Location:**  
24000 Valley Parkway, north of  
Cedar Point Road

**River Mile Location:**  
Between RM 11 and RM 12

**Jurisdiction:**  
North Olmsted, OH

**Lat/Long:**  
N 41° 24.5'  
W 081° 52.91'

**Amenities:**



RO2.6

### Big Cedar Point Picnic Area and Little Cedar Point Picnic Area

**Location:**  
Valley Parkway and  
Cedar Point Road

**River Mile Location:**  
At RM 12

**Jurisdiction:**  
North Olmsted, OH

**Lat/Long:**  
N 41° 24.42'  
W 081° 53.15'

**Amenities:**







## Mill Stream Run Reservation

The Cleveland Metroparks' Mill Stream Run Reservation is a 3,302-acre reserve of protected land that follows the East Branch Rocky River from Bagley Road in Berea to Edgerton Road in North Royalton. From north to south, the Reservation is located in Berea, Middleburg Heights, Strongsville and North Royalton. Sites within Mill Stream Run are accessible via Valley Parkway, which travels the Reservation's entire length. Many access roads lead to the parkway, including Pearl Road (US Route 42) and Royalton Road (State Route 82). North of Bagley Road, Valley Parkway continues into the Rocky River Reservation, and east of Edgerton Road the parkway continues to the Brecksville Reservation. Both adjacent reservations are also Cleveland Metropark facilities. Mill Stream Run also connects to another Cleveland Metropark, the Big Creek Reservation via the Big Creek Parkway, located just south of Whitney Road in Strongsville.

The Mill Stream Run Reservation includes many trails, including the 8.9-mile paved All Purpose Trail, a 9-mile bridle trail and other shorter hiking and walking trails. Mill Stream Run is also noted for the Chalet Recreation Center in Strongsville, which features twin downhill toboggan chutes (open during winter months). Located in Berea, Baldwin and Wallace lakes offer fishing and swimming. Both lakes were former sandstone quarries.

Mill Stream Run owes its name to the many sawmills, gristmills and other mills that were once abundantly placed along the East Branch of the Rocky River.

### Access Roads:

- Valley Parkway from Bagley Road, Berea
- Lee Road, Berea
- North Quarry Lane, Berea
- South Quarry Lane, Berea
- Eastland Road, Middleburg Heights
- Whitney Road, Strongsville
- Big Creek Parkway, Strongsville
- Pearl Road (US 42), Strongsville
- Albion Road, Strongsville
- Handle Road, Strongsville
- Royalton Road (SR 82), Strongsville
- West 130th Street, Strongsville/North Royalton
- Valley Parkway from Edgerton Road, North Royalton

### Learn More:

Cleveland Metroparks  
[www.clemetparks.com](http://www.clemetparks.com)

## Mill Stream Run Reservation

### ERO2.1

### Baldwin Picnic Area

#### Location:

Valley Parkway, south of North Quarry Lane

#### River Mile Location:

Between RM 5 and RM 6

#### Jurisdiction:

Berea, OH

#### Lat/Long:

N 41° 21.78'  
 W 081° 51.38'

#### Amenities:



### ERO2.2

### Music Mound

#### Location:

North Quarry Lane, east of Valley Parkway

#### River Mile Location:

Between RM 5 and RM 6

#### Jurisdiction:

Berea, OH

#### Lat/Long:

N 41° 21.8'  
 W 081° 51.26'

#### Amenities:





# Mill Stream Run Reservation

# Mill Stream Run Reservation

ERO2.3

## Baldwin Lake Viewing Area

**Location:**  
Valley Parkway, between North Quarry and South Quarry lanes

**River Mile Location:**  
Between RM 5 and RM 6

**Jurisdiction:**  
Berea, OH

**Lat/Long:**  
N 41° 21.62'  
W 081° 51.45'

**Amenities:**



ERO2.5

## Walter F. Ehrnfelt Covered Bridge

**Location:**  
Whitney Road, just west of Valley Parkway

**River Mile Location:**  
Between RM 7 and RM 8

**Jurisdiction:**  
Strongsville, OH

**Lat/Long:**  
N 41° 20.57'  
W 081° 50.18'

**Amenities:**



ERO2.4

## South Quarry Picnic Area

**Location:**  
Valley Parkway at South Quarry Lane

**River Mile Location:**  
Between RM 5 and RM 6

**Jurisdiction:**  
Berea, OH

**Lat/Long:**  
N 41° 21.31'  
W 081° 51.27'

**Amenities:**



ERO2.6

## Bonnie Park

**Location:**  
Valley Parkway at Albion Road

**River Mile Location:**  
Between RM 8 and RM 9

**Jurisdiction:**  
Strongsville, OH

**Lat/Long:**  
N 41° 19.97'  
W 081° 50.03'

**Amenities:**





## Mill Stream Run Reservation

## Hinckley Reservation

### The Chalet

**Location:**

16200 Valley Parkway, between Albion Road and Royalton Road (SR 82)

**River Mile Location:**

At RM 10

**Jurisdiction:**

Strongsville, OH

**Lat/Long:**

N 41° 19.33'  
W 081° 49.06'

**Amenities:**



Toboggan chutes

### Strongsville Wildlife Area

**Location:**

Valley Parkway, between Handle Road and Royalton Road (SR 82)

**River Mile Location:**

Between RM 10 and RM 11

**Jurisdiction:**

Strongsville, OH

**Lat/Long:**

N 41° 19.15'  
W 081° 48.44'

**Amenities:**



Wildlife viewing blind

**Location:**  
Bellus Road, between State Route 606 and State Road

**Waterbody:**

East Branch Rocky River  
Hinckley Lake

**River Mile Location:**

Between RM 23 and RM 27

**Jurisdiction:**

Hinckley Township, OH

**County:**

Medina

**Latitude:**

N 41° 13.63'

**Longitude:**

W 081° 43.09'

**Access Site Type:**

Recreation

**Date Visited:**

**Location Map:**



**Amenities:**



Hinckley Reservation is the only Cleveland Metropark located in Medina County. This Metropark is internationally-known for the punctual spring return of the turkey vulture, commonly known as the buzzard, to the area every March 15.

Hinckley Reservation features the manmade 90-acre Hinckley Lake, which offers all-season fishing, a boat ramp and ice skating. Below the dam is the Hinckley Lake Swimming Area and continuation of the East Branch Rocky River. Many trails meander throughout the reservation, including six miles of the Buckeye Trail, a 6-mile bridle trail, the 3.4-mile Hinckley Lake Loop Trail and a 3.3-mile paved All Purpose Trail. Trailheads can be accessed from within the park, or from the Reservation's perimeter.

Hinckley Reservation also includes Whipp's Ledges and Worden's Ledges. Whipp's Ledges are remarkable 350-foot Sharon Conglomerate sandstone ledges. The 1.25-mile Whipp's Ledges Loop Trail traverses through this geologic phenomenon and connects the Whipp's Ledges Picnic Area (off State Road) with the Top O'Ledges Picnic Area (off Bellus Road).



# Hinckley Reservation

Rising Valley Picnic Area

**Location:**  
Newton and Oviatt roads

**Waterbody:**  
East Branch Rocky River

**River Mile Location:**

Between RM 31 and RM 32

**Jurisdiction:**  
Hinckley Township, OH

**County:**  
Medina

**Latitude:**  
N 41° 15.63'

**Longitude:**  
W 081° 41.12'

**Access**

**Site Type:**  
Recreation

**Date Visited:**

**Location Map:**



**Amenities:**



**Learn More:**

Cleveland Metroparks  
[www.clemetparks.com](http://www.clemetparks.com)

**Field Notes:**

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# Olmsted Falls East River Park

**Location:**  
Water Street at River Road; accessible also from Main Street north of Columbia Road (SR 252)

**Waterbody:**  
West Branch Rocky River Plum Creek

**River Mile Location:**

Between RM 3 and RM 4

**Jurisdiction:**  
Olmsted Falls, OH

**County:**  
Cuyahoga

**Latitude:**  
N 41° 22.7'

**Longitude:**  
W 081° 53.95'

**Access**

**Site Type:**  
Recreation

**Date Visited:**

**Location Map:**



**Amenities:**



**Learn More:**

City of Olmsted Falls  
[www.olmstedfalls.org](http://www.olmstedfalls.org)

**Field Notes:**

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## David Fortier River Park

**Location:**  
Lewis Road, between  
Water Street and  
Bagley Road

**Waterbody:**  
West Branch  
Rocky River

**River Mile  
Location:**  
Between  
RM 3 and RM 4

**Jurisdiction:**  
Olmsted Falls, OH

**County:**  
Cuyahoga

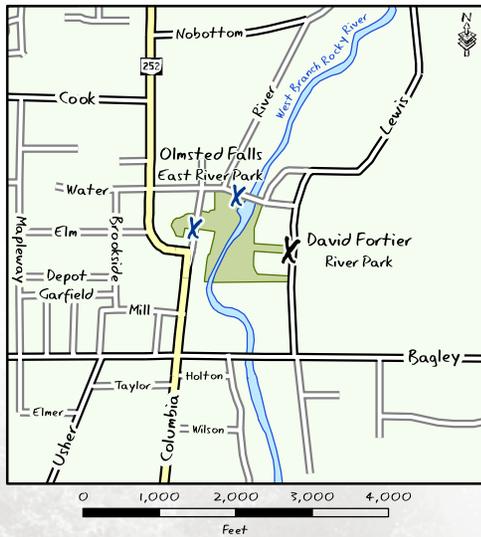
**Latitude:**  
N 41° 22.58'

**Longitude:**  
W 081° 53.79'

**Access  
Site Type:**  
Recreation

**Date Visited:**

**Location Map:**



**Amenities:**



**Learn More:**

City of Olmsted Falls  
[www.olmstedfalls.org](http://www.olmstedfalls.org)

**Field Notes:**

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## Columbia Reservation

**Location:**  
25145 Royalton Road  
(SR 82)

**Waterbody:**  
West Branch  
Rocky River

**River Mile  
Location:**  
Between  
RM 9 and RM 11

**Jurisdiction:**  
Columbia  
Township, OH

**County:**  
Lorain

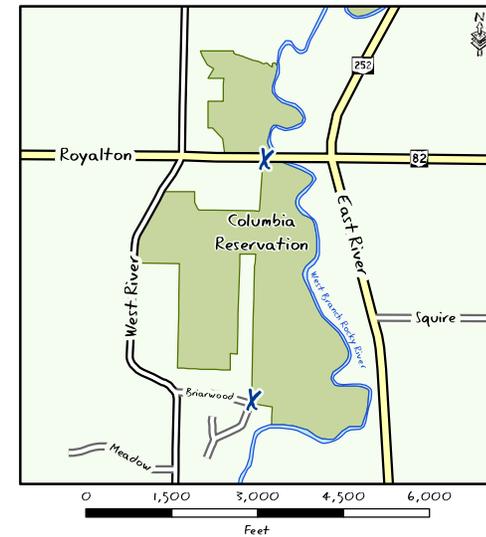
**Latitude:**  
N 41° 18.76'

**Longitude:**  
W 081° 55.19'

**Access  
Site Type:**  
Recreation

**Date Visited:**

**Location Map:**



**Amenities:**



**Alternate Entrance:**

Briarwood Lodge Entrance from Briarwood Lane

**Learn More:**

Lorain County Metro Parks  
[www.metrotparks.cc](http://www.metrotparks.cc)

**Field Notes:**

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# Mill Stream Park

**Location:**  
End of Maple Street

**Waterbody:**  
West Branch  
Rocky River

**River Mile  
Location:**  
Between  
RM 18 and RM 19

**Jurisdiction:**  
Liverpool  
Township, OH

**County:**  
Medina

**Latitude:**  
N 41° 14.43'

**Longitude:**  
W 081° 55.7'

**Access  
Site Type:**  
Recreation

**Date Visited:**

**Location Map:**



**Amenities:**



**Learn More:**  
Liverpool Township and Valley City  
[www.valleycity.org](http://www.valleycity.org)

**Field Notes:**

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# Lake Medina

**Location:**  
Medina Road (SR 18),  
between Foote and  
River Styx roads

**Waterbody:**  
West Branch  
Rocky River  
Lake Medina

**River Mile  
Location:**  
Between  
RM 30 and RM 31

**Jurisdiction:**  
Medina, OH

**County:**  
Medina

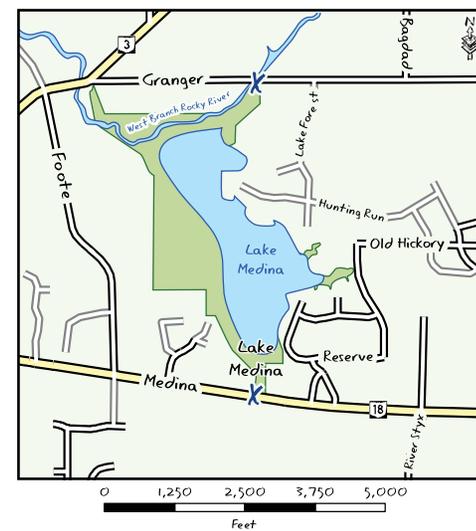
**SR 18 Entrance:**  
Lat: N 41° 8.23'  
Long: W 081° 49.36'

**Granger Road:**  
Lat: N 41° 9.14'  
Long: W 081° 49.34'

**Access  
Site Type:**  
Recreation

**Date Visited:**

**Location Map:**



**Amenities:**



**Alternate Entrance:**  
Granger Road, east of Weymouth Road (SR 3)

**Learn More:**  
Medina County Park District  
[www.medinacountyparks.com](http://www.medinacountyparks.com)

**Field Notes:**

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