**Established:** December 26, 1822
**County Seat:** City of Elyria
**2010 Population:** 301,356
**2020 Projection:** 310,230
**Land Area and Rank:** 492.6 square miles, 29 of 88
**Miles of Coast:** 23 miles
**Number of Primary Access Sites:** 15
**Number of Right-of-Way Sites:** 0
**Miles of Publicly Accessible Coast:** 2.1 miles

# Lorain County

Lorain County is adjacent to Erie, Huron, Ashland, Medina and Cuyahoga counties. The 23-mile Lorain County lakeshore features shale bluffs from Vermilion to Avon Lake. Bluff height generally increases west to east, ranging from 15 feet in the west to 50 feet in the east. Avon Point in Avon Lake is a prominent physical feature in Lorain County's shore. This headland is an area of naturally-diverging nearshore (littoral) currents. West of Avon Point, the current flows west toward Lorain. East of Avon Point, the current flows east toward Cleveland. These currents transport and distribute sediments along the shore.

Lorain County is named after the French Province of Lorraine. Shipbuilding, steelmaking, commercial fishing, sandstone quarrying and recently, urban sprawl from neighboring Cuyahoga County, have contributed to the county's population growth.

Both the city of Oberlin and Oberlin College, located in central Lorain County, were founded in 1833 by Presbyterian minister John J. Shipherd and missionary Philo Stewart. Oberlin College, known as the Oberlin Collegiate Institute until 1850, was the first coeducational institution to provide bachelor's degrees to women. The community of Oberlin quickly became recognized for its abolitionist attitudes and anti-slavery views. Many residents aided runaway slaves as they escaped for freedom along the Underground Railroad. Beginning in 1835, Oberlin College became one of the first institutions of higher education to admit African American students. In 1855, graduate John Mercer Langston won the office of Clerk of Brownhelm Township (in northwest Lorain County), becoming the first African American elected to government office in the United States.

The city of Amherst, in northwest Lorain County, is recognized as the "Sandstone Center of the World." In 1842, John Baldwin, founder of what is now Baldwin-Wallace College in Berea, discovered a sandstone formation near his Middleburg Township (Cuyahoga County) home and began carving grindstones from it. Known as Berea sandstone, the stone is fine-grained and has excellent sharpening qualities. Quarries opened in southwest Cuyahoga County and in many Lorain County communities. In 1847, Amherst began to flourish around the sandstone quarrying industry. Many quarries were in operation in the area. In 1886, the Cleveland Stone Company was formed and operated quarries in Lorain and Cuyahoga counties. The company, now known as the Cleveland Quarries Company, continues to excavate sandstone near the town of Birmingham in Erie County. Berea sandstone has been used for grindstone production and as a building stone.

The Lorain Lighthouse, located at the north end of the West Harbor Breakwater in Lorain Harbor, was built in 1917. The lighthouse is a two-and-a-half-story, poured-concrete structure with ten-inch-thick steel walls. An electric light was installed in 1932, which was visible 15 miles away. The U.S. Coast Guard assumed the operation and maintenance of the light in 1939. The lighthouse was decommissioned in 1965 and replaced with a fully-automated light that was built at the western tip of a nearby breakwater. The Lorain Lighthouse was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1978. It is one of Lorain County's most photographed Lake Erie landmarks.

## Lorain County Public Access Sites

| | |
|---|---|
| LO1 | Showse Park |
| LO2 | Brownhelm Township Lakefront Park |
| LO3 | Waverly Place Park |
| LO4 | Lakeview Park |
| LO5 | Lorain Public Boat Ramp |
| LO6 | Lorain Public Fishing Pier |
| LO7 | Lakeside Landing |
| LO8 | Century Park |
| LO9 | Lakewood Beach Park |
| LO10 | Sheffield Lake Community Park |
| LO11 | West Shore Park |
| LO12 | Shell Cove Park |
| LO13 | Miller Road Park |
| LO14 | Lake Shore Cemetery |
| LO15 | Veterans Memorial Park |

## Coastal Cities

Avon Lake
Lorain
Sheffield Lake
Vermilion

## Public Access Management

| | |
|---|---|
| Local | 13 |
| Metropark | 1 |
| Port Authority | 1 |

*Top: Lakeside Landing (LO7), Lorain*

Lake Erie
LO 7
LO 5 – LO 6
LO 4
LO 3
LO 1
LO 2
ERIE COUNTY
Lorain
Vermilion
Amherst
South Amherst
Liberty
Brownhelm Station
Cooper Foster Park
Jaeger
Meister
Tower
Park
Middle Ridge
North Ridge
Stang
Darrow
Trinter
Sperry
Portman
Stick
Albrecht
Gore Orphanage
Vermilion
Sunnyside
Claus
Rice
Lake
Main
Elyria
Dewey
Oberlin
Leavitt
Washington
Broadway
West Ridge
Bechtel
Fowl
Quarry
Gifford
Bank
West River
Baumhart
Kolbe
Oak Point
W. Erie
611
58
6
2
80
90
113
60
Public Access Site
Public Access Entrance
Alternate Entrance

Interior Access Site • Right-of-Way Access Site 2 Miles

# Showse Park

**Location:**
3325 Edgewater Drive, east of Claremont Road

**Jurisdiction:**
Vermilion

**Alternate Entrances:**
Berkley Road at Claremont Road

Pedestrian access from Elyria and Lorain avenues

**Edgewater Drive:**
Lat: N 41° 25.78′
Long: W 082° 18.84′

**Berkley Road:**
Lat: N 41° 25.63′
Long: W 082° 18.86′

**Waterbody:**
Lake Erie

**Site Type:**
Recreational

**Shore Access:**
**Yes**
Path to Shore

**Location Map:**

**Amenities:**

The 18.5-acre Showse Park is situated both north and south of Edgewater Drive in Vermilion's Vermilion-on-the-Lake neighborhood. The name "Showse" is an acronym representing six Native American tribes that once inhabited the area–Sandusky, Huron, Ottawa, Wyandot, Seneca and Erie. The park's northern portion includes a parking lot, benches and direct Lake Erie access. An improved graded path to the beach and bluff stabilization work were completed in 2013. Fishing and swimming are permitted. The beach also provides canoe and kayak access to the 27-mile Vermilion-Lorain Water Trail. The southern portion of the park includes many recreational amenities, including a playground, baseball and soccer fields, basketball and tennis courts and picnic area. Two parking lots are located off Edgewater Drive. A third parking area is accessible from Berkley Road. Pedestrians can access the eastern part of Showse Park from Elyria and Lorain avenues.

# Brownhelm Township Lakefront Park

**Location:**
Edgewater Drive at Woodside Avenue

**Jurisdiction:**
Vermilion

**Latitude:**
N 41° 25.76′

**Longitude:**
W 082° 18.62′

**Waterbody:**
Lake Erie

**Site Type:**
Scenic

**Shore Access:**
**No**
Vegetation

**Location Map:**

**Amenities:**

The nearly half-acre Brownhelm Township Lakefront Park is a township-managed park located within the city limits of Vermilion. The park is located on Edgewater Drive at Woodside Avenue. This passive-use park includes a gravel parking lot, a picnic table and benches that overlook Lake Erie. Swimming and fishing are permitted; however, there is no designated path leading down the steep, heavily-vegetated bluff to the shore. A sign is posted warning visitors of the hazardous area and to use caution if accessing the shore.

# Waverly Place Park

**Location:**
End of Waverly Place

**Jurisdiction:**
Lorain

**Alternate Entrance:**
Pedestrian access from Lakeview Park

**Latitude:**
N 41° 27.70′

**Longitude:**
W 082° 11.98′

**Waterbody:**
Lake Erie

**Site Type:**
Scenic

**Shore Access:**
Yes
Stairs to Shore

**Location Map:**

**Amenities:**

Waverly Place Park is a small, road right-of-way access site located at the end of Waverly Place in Lorain. It is directly adjacent to Lakeview Park (east). This 0.57-acre passive park is primarily shaded green space. There are no amenities and no parking lot. Limited street parking is available. No signage denotes the park. A steel staircase provides access to the shore. Fishing is permitted.

Lorain County

# Lakeview Park

## including South Lakeview Park

**Location:**
1800 West Erie Ave. (US Route 6), at South Lakeview Boulevard

**Location (South Lakeview):**
Parkview Avenue at West 9th Street

**Jurisdiction:**
Lorain

**Alternate Entrances:**
Pedestrian access from North Lakeview Boulevard and from Waverly Place Park

**Lakeview Park:**
Lat: N 41° 27.81′
Long: W 082° 11.57′

**South Lakeview:**
Lat: N 41° 27.65′
Long: W 082° 11.61′

**Waterbody:**
Lake Erie

**Site Type:**
Recreational

**Shore Access:**
Yes
Stairs to Shore
Path to Shore

**Location Map:**

The 49-acre Lakeview Park is located on West Erie Avenue (US Route 6) in Lorain. Parkland is found on both sides of the road. The 20-acre northern section is leased to the Lorain County Metro Parks and includes the historic Rose Garden, picnic shelters, paved trails, lawn bowling, two amphitheaters and access to a 1,850-foot swimming beach. In 2007, the bluff was re-graded and handicap-accessible walkways to the beach were added. Beachside playground equipment and beach volleyball courts are available. The beach also provides paddling access to the 27-mile Vermilion-Lorain Water Trail. Fishing is permitted. Lakeview Park features a new, 1920s-inspired bathhouse with eight family changing rooms and a concession stand. The city-managed southern section, known as South Lakeview Park, includes active-use amenities, such as baseball/softball and soccer fields and basketball and tennis courts.

**Amenities:**

Lakeview Park

South Lakeview

# Lorain Public Boat Ramp

**Location:**
First Street at Oberlin Avenue

**Jurisdiction:**
Lorain

**Latitude:**
N 41° 28.24′

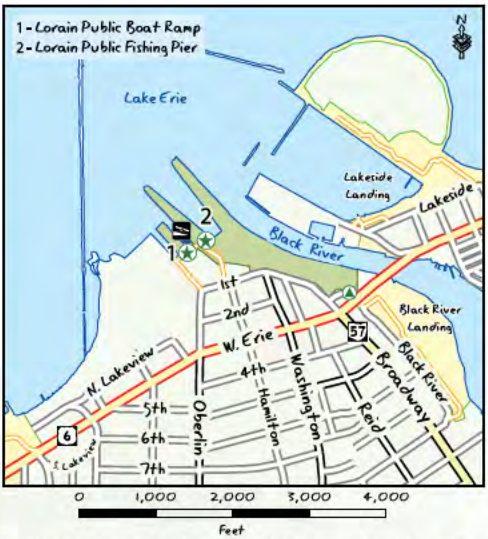
**Longitude:**
W 082° 11.12′

**Waterbody:**
Lake Erie

**Site Type:**
Recreational

**Shore Access:**
Yes
Shore Structure
Boat Ramp

**Location Map:**




**Amenities:**

The Lorain Public Boat Ramp is located on First Street at Oberlin Avenue in downtown Lorain. The site is locally known as "Hot Waters" because of its location between a former power plant warm water discharge to the west and the former ore docks to the east. Three of the six boat ramps are dedicated for launching vessels up to 24-feet and three are dedicated for boat recovery. Launching smaller watercraft vessels is permitted but may be restricted to the shallowest ramp on busy days. Fishing is permitted. A bait and tackle store is located at the site.

# Lorain Public Fishing Pier

**Location:**
First Street at Hamilton Avenue

**Jurisdiction:**
Lorain

**Latitude:**
N 41° 28.25'

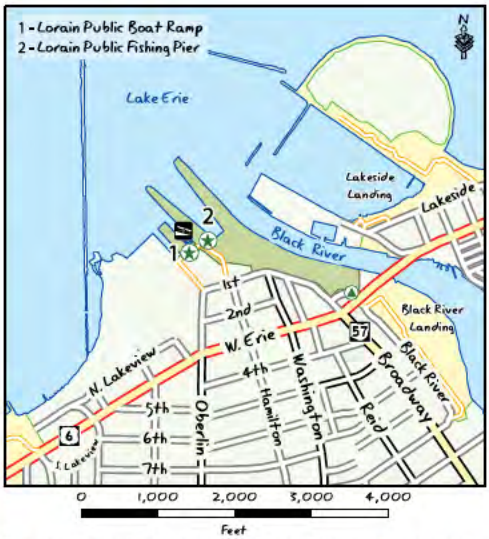
**Longitude:**
W 082° 11.00

**Waterbody:**
Lake Erie
Black River

**Site Type:**
Recreational

**Shore Access:**
**Yes**
Shore Structure

**Location Map:**




**Amenities:**

The city of Lorain's 25.5-acre Public Fishing Pier provides fishing and scenic access to Lake Erie and the Black River. The fishing pier, located on First Street at Hamilton Avenue, is mostly unimproved and accessible to pedestrians only. Parking is available at the adjacent Lorain Public Boat Ramp (west). No signage denotes the access. A paved concrete path extends the length of the fishing pier alongside the river. The northern portion of the access includes two former industrial piers separated by a shipping slip. Both are accessible for fishing. Rail tracks, piles of iron ore and three massive 20-ton Hulett Iron-Ore Unloaders once occupied the space. All three Huletts, which included the last one ever built (1960), were removed in the late-1980s.

# Lakeside Landing

## including East Side Launch Ramp

**Location:**
Lakeside Avenue, between Alabama and Colorado Avenues

**Location (Launch Ramp):**
Alabama Avenue, west of Lakeside Avenue

**Jurisdiction:**
Lorain

**Main Entrance:**
Lat: N 41° 28.38′
Long: W 082° 10.31′

**Launch Ramp:**
Lat: N 41° 28.28′
Long: W 082° 10.66′

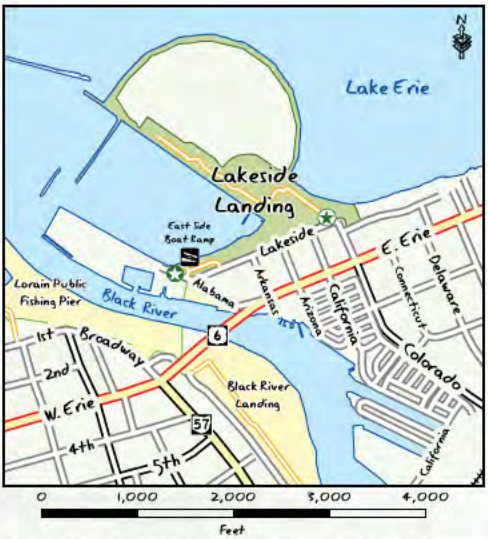
**Waterbody:**
Lake Erie

**Site Type:**
Recreational

**Shore Access:**
**Yes**
Path to Shore
Shore Structure
Boat Ramp

Lorain County

**Location Map:**




**Amenities:**

The 15-acre Lakeside Landing is located along Lakeside Avenue between Alabama and Colorado avenues in Lorain. It is adjacent to a commercial marina (west) and a 58-acre, partially-filled confined disposal facility (CDF) to the north. In 2010, 5.26 acres of the CDF were transferred to the Lorain Port Authority to develop as part of Lakeside Landing. Improvements include a paved path leading to a southeast-facing observation platform and an expanded parking area. The rest of the CDF remains available for the disposal of future dredge material and is not publicly accessible. Lakeside Landing also features the nearly 2,300-foot long East Pier, offering sightseers and anglers access to Lorain Harbor and views of the Lorain West Breakwater Lighthouse. Brick pavers were installed atop the pier in 2011. Additional amenities include picnic shelters, grills, benches and the East Side Launch Ramp. The CDF and harbor area are noted locations to spot rare gulls, waterfowl and migrating songbirds.

# Century Park

**Location:**
East Erie Avenue (US Route 6) at Massachusetts Avenue

**Jurisdiction:**
Lorain

**Latitude:**
N 41° 28.64'

**Longitude:**
W 082° 09.21'

**Waterbody:**
Lake Erie

**Site Type:**
Recreational

**Shore Access:**
**Yes**
Stairs to Shore
Path to Shore

**Location Map:**

**Amenities:**

The 2.76-acre Century Park is located on East Erie Avenue (US Route 6) at Massachusetts Avenue in Lorain. Amenities at Century Park include a swimming beach, picnic tables, playground equipment and restroom facilities. Steps lead down the bluff to the beach. A gravel path on the park's east side also traverses the bluff. Two 150-foot L-shaped groins enclose and protect the beach. A third groin extends into the lake from the center of the beach, providing fishing access. Century Park is located on the Back Roads & Beaches Bike Trail, which follows US 6 in Lorain County.

# Lakewood Beach Park

**Location:**
3801 Lake Road (US Route 6), at Lakewood Beach Drive

**Jurisdiction:**
Sheffield Lake

**Latitude:**
N 41° 29.21'

**Longitude:**
W 082° 07.36'

**Waterbody:**
Lake Erie

**Site Type:**
Recreational

**Shore Access:**
**Yes**
Path to Shore

**Location Map:**

**Amenities:**

Lakewood Beach Park is located on Lake Road (US Route 6) just west of Lakewood Beach Drive in Sheffield Lake. It is a small (less than one acre) passive-use site that provides direct access to a beach. A dirt/sand path connects to the beach area from the parking lot. Amenities include a picnic table and grill. Lakewood Beach Park is located on the Back Roads & Beaches Bike Trail, which follows US 6 in Lorain County.

# Sheffield Lake Community Park

**Location:**
Lake Road (US Route 6) at Lake Breeze Road

**Jurisdiction:**
Sheffield Lake

**Latitude:**
N 41° 29.39′

**Longitude:**
W 082° 06.79′

**Waterbody:**
Lake Erie

**Site Type:**
Recreational

**Shore Access:**
**Yes**
Path to Shore
Boat Ramp

**Location Map:**

**Amenities:**

The nearly 3.5-acre Sheffield Lake Community Park is located on Lake Road (US Route 6) at Lake Breeze Road in Sheffield Lake. In 2008, many amenities were added to enhance public access to the water, including a two-lane boat launch for vessels up to 30 feet, temporary tie-ups, a concrete-paved boardwalk and a concrete sidewalk atop an L-shaped breakwater. Both the boardwalk and breakwater walkway are handicapped-accessible and provide fishing access. Additional amenities include stationary binoculars, picnic tables and benches overlooking Lake Erie. A beach extends east of the breakwater. Swimming is permitted. Overnight parking for vehicles and trailers is available at the park. Overflow parking is located south of Lake Road. Sheffield Lake Community Park is located on the Back Roads & Beaches Bike Trail, which follows US 6 in Lorain County.

# West Shore Park

**Location:**
Lake Road (US Route 6), between Sunset Avenue and West Shore Boulevard

**Jurisdiction:**
Sheffield Lake

**Alternate Entrance:**
Pedestrian access from Edgewater Drive

**Latitude:**
N 41° 29.62′

**Longitude:**
W 082° 05.91′

**Waterbody:**
Lake Erie

**Site Type:**
Recreational

**Shore Access:**
Yes
Terrain

**Location Map:**

**Amenities:**

The nearly 3-acre West Shore Park is located on Lake Road (US Route 6) just west of West Shore Boulevard in Sheffield Lake. Pedestrians can access the eastern part of the park from Edgewater Drive. Park amenities include playground equipment, a picnic shelter and tables, grills, gazebo and access to a small beach. Fishing is permitted. The Sheffield Lake Community Civic Center is also located on site. West Shore Park is located on the Back Roads & Beaches Bike Trail, which follows US 6 in Lorain County.

# Shell Cove Park

**Location:**
Lake Road (US Route 6), between Treadway and Irving Park boulevards

**Jurisdiction:**
Sheffield Lake

**Latitude:**
N 41° 29.72′

**Longitude:**
W 082° 05.30′

**Waterbody:**
Lake Erie

**Site Type:**
Recreational

**Shore Access:**
Yes
Terrain

**Location Map:**

**Amenities:**

Shell Cove Park is located on Lake Road (US Route 6) just west of Irving Park Boulevard in Sheffield Lake. Amenities at the park include a playground, picnic tables, grills and an observation deck. In 1867, amateur fossil hunter Jay Terrell discovered the massive remains of a long-extinct armor-plated fish, known as Dunkleosteus terrelli (named after Terrell) at the site. First labeled the "terrible fish," the joint-necked predator lived in the shallow waters of the ancient Devonian Sea, which once covered much of the then-equatorial eastern North American continent 354-364 million years ago. The fossil is from the placoderm class and is the largest of its kind ever found. A kiosk at Shell Cove Park educates visitors on the prehistoric fish and an Ohio historical marker commemorates the find.

# Miller Road Park

## including Avon Lake Boat Launch

**Location:**
33760 Miller Road, Lake Road (US Route 6) at Miller Road

**Jurisdiction:**
Avon Lake

**Main Entrance:**
Lat: N 41° 30.14′
Long: W 082° 03.55′

**Boat Launch:**
Lat: N 41° 30.10′
Long: W 082° 03.42′

**Waterbody:**
Lake Erie

**Site Type:**
Recreational

**Shore Access:**
Yes
Path to Shore
Boat Ramp

Lorain County

**Location Map:**

**Amenities:**

The 15.6-acre Miller Road Park is located on Lake Road (US Route 6) at the northern terminus of Miller Road in Avon Lake. The park features a two-lane boat launch (accessible 24 hours), a 400-foot concrete-paved fishing pier, handicapped-accessible swimming beach, picnic tables and pavilion, paved walking paths, gazebo and playground equipment. The beach is accessible near the foot of the pier via a gently-sloped paved path. Signs posted show maps of the designated swimming and fishing areas. Bald eagles and peregrine falcons are regularly seen at the park. Miller Road Park is located on the Back Roads & Beaches Bike Trail, which follows US 6 in Lorain County. The Peter Miller House Museum is located on site.

# Veterans Memorial Park

## and Lake Shore Cemetery

**Location:**
32756 Lake Road (US Route 6), at Avon Belden Road (State Route 83)

**Jurisdiction:**
Avon Lake

**Lake Shore Cemetery:**
Lat: N 41° 30.79′
Long: W 082° 01.22′

**Veterans Park:**
Lat: N 41° 30.80′
Long: W 082° 01.12′

**Waterbody:**
Lake Erie

**Site Type:**
Lake Shore Cemetery: Scenic Cultural

Veterans Park: Recreational

**Shore Access (Cemetery): No**
Fence

**Shore Access (Veterans Park): Yes**
Stairs to Shore
Terrain

**Location Map:**

**Amenities:**

Lake Shore Cemetery

Veterans Memorial Park

The nearly 6-acre Veterans Memorial Park is located on Lake Road (US Route 6) at Avon Belden Road (State Route 83) in Avon Lake. Amenities at the park include a swimming beach, fishing pier, restrooms, wooden-planked boardwalk atop the bluff, benches overlooking Lake Erie, playground equipment, picnic tables and grills. Stairs lead to the beach. Fishing is permitted off the west side of the pier. The historic Thomas Folger Home, Lake House and Avon Lake Boat Club are also located on park grounds. Both the Folger Home and Lake House are rentable facilities. The boat club provides small-boat lake access and is a members-only club available to Avon Lake residents.

Lake Shore Cemetery, also known as Avon Lake Cemetery, is located on Lake Road (US 6) just west of Veterans Memorial Park. It is Avon Lake's only cemetery. Many city streets in Avon Lake are named after family plots at the cemetery. An access driveway loops site's perimeter. Parking is available on the south side of Lake Road. Benches at the one-acre site provide scenic views of Lake Erie. A chain-linked fence restricts direct access to the shore. There are no additional amenities. In 2013, the cemetery was designated a historic landmark by the Avon Lake Historic Preservation Commission.