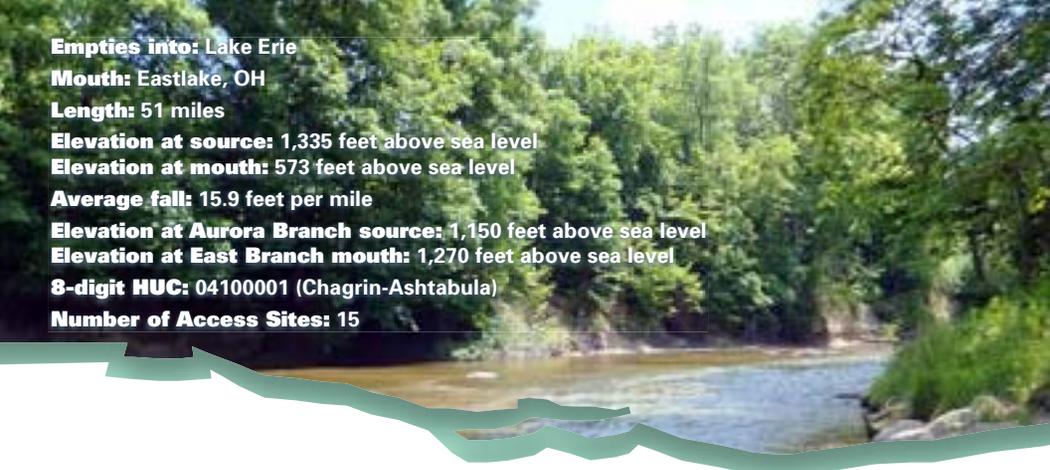


**Empties into:** Lake Erie  
**Mouth:** Eastlake, OH  
**Length:** 51 miles  
**Elevation at source:** 1,335 feet above sea level  
**Elevation at mouth:** 573 feet above sea level  
**Average fall:** 15.9 feet per mile  
**Elevation at Aurora Branch source:** 1,150 feet above sea level  
**Elevation at East Branch mouth:** 1,270 feet above sea level  
**8-digit HUC:** 04100001 (Chagrin-Ashtabula)  
**Number of Access Sites:** 15



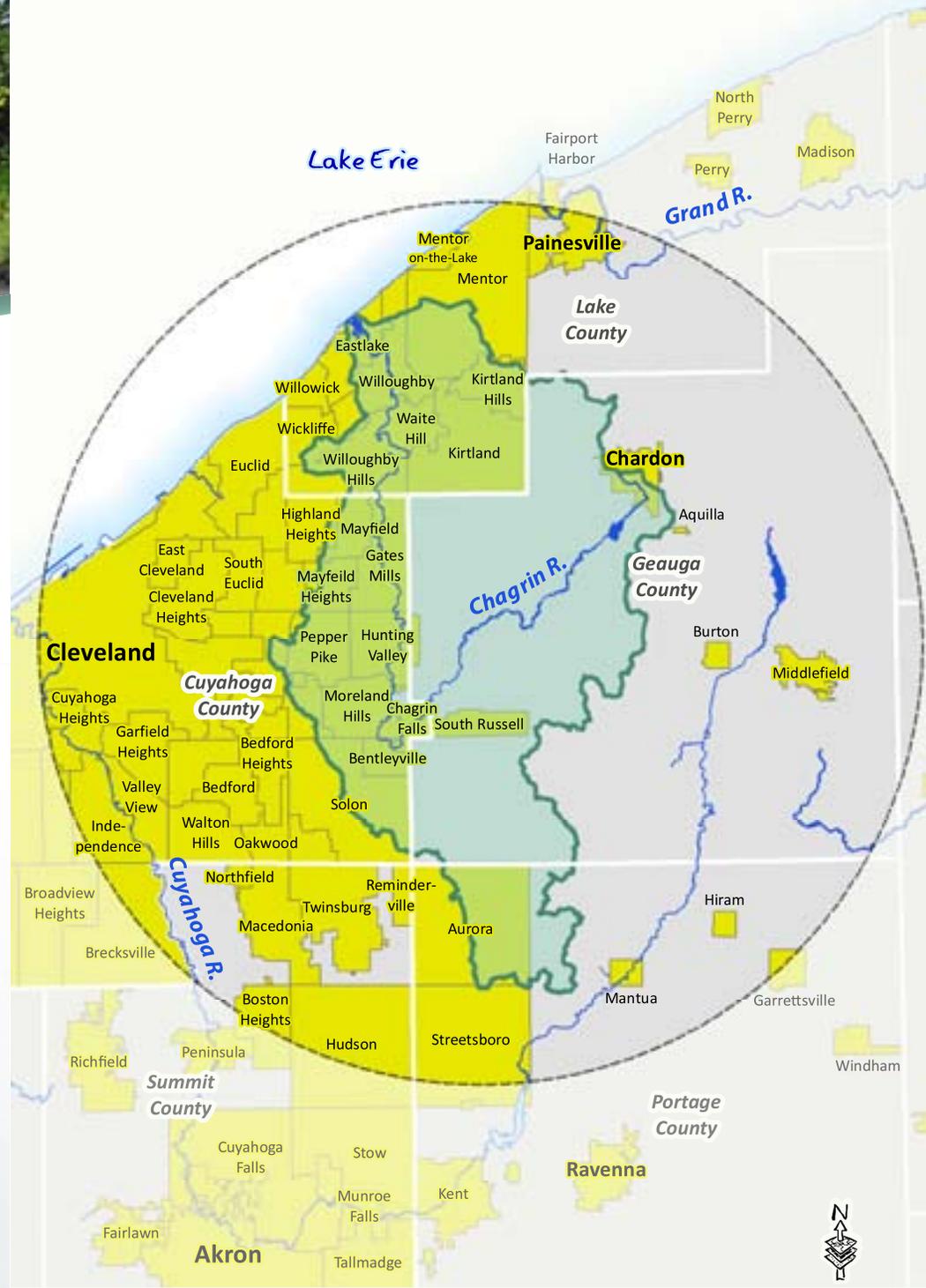
# Chagrin River

Commencing at 1,335 feet above sea level (762 feet above Lake Erie), the Chagrin River's headwaters are higher in elevation than any other tributary in the Lake Erie Watershed. The 51-mile Chagrin River begins its V-shaped course in Chardon (Geauga County) and flows for 20 miles in a southwestward direction to Chagrin Falls (Cuyahoga County) before sharply changing its course north toward Lake Erie. It empties into the lake at Eastlake in Lake County. The Chagrin River has two main branching tributaries, the Aurora Branch, which meets the Chagrin in Bentleyville (Cuyahoga County), and the East Branch, which flows into the Chagrin at Willoughby (Lake County). Headwaters for the 18-mile Aurora Branch and 21-mile East Branch begin in Mantua Township (Portage County) and Chardon Township, respectively. The entire Chagrin River Watershed drains 267 square miles (170,880 acres) and includes portions of Cuyahoga, Geauga, Lake and Portage counties.

The exact origin of the name 'Chagrin' is debatable. One thought claims the river was named 'Shaguin' after the French trader, Sieur de Saguin. Another theory suggests the word 'chagrin' is anglicized from the Erie Indian word 'shagarin' meaning 'clear water.'

Following the most recent glacial retreat, much like other river systems in northeast Ohio, the Chagrin cut a deep ravine through portions of the once rugged Allegheny Plateau on its way into the lake plain. Steep cliffs of exposed sandstone and shale bedrock are typical within the valley. The transition between the northern ridge of the plateau and the lake plain is well-defined in northeast Ohio, particularly in the Chagrin River Watershed and in neighboring watersheds. Gildersleeve Mountain (1,163 feet above sea level) in Kirtland (Lake County) is one of several features in the topography that mark the Allegheny Plateau's northernmost ridge.

Despite a great deal of urbanization and agriculture within the watershed, the Chagrin River has maintained high water quality levels and lush riparian forest cover. Seventy-one miles of the Chagrin River have been designated as a State Scenic River, including portions of the Aurora Branch and East Branch. The Chagrin is a popular sport fishing river and is particularly favorable for steelhead catches. Additionally, the Spring Brook, a small tributary to Bass Lake which feeds into the main branch, has continually held a population of the Ohio brook trout since the last ice age.





# Eastlake Port Authority Boat Ramp

**Location:**  
201 Erie Road,  
north of Lakeshore  
Boulevard (SR 283)

**Waterbody:**  
Chagrin River

**River Mile Location:**  
Between RM 0  
and RM 1

**Jurisdiction:**  
Eastlake, OH

**County:**  
Lake

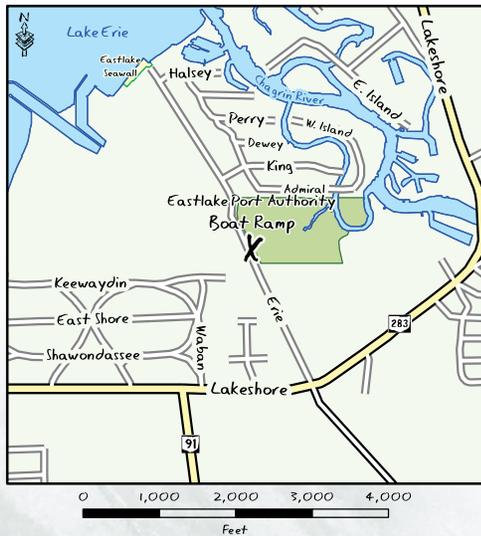
**Latitude:**  
N 41° 40.08'

**Longitude:**  
W 081° 26.15'

**Access Site Type:**  
Recreation

**Date Visited:**  
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**Location Map:**



**Amenities:**



**Field Notes:**

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# Chagrin River Park

**Entrances:**  
37669 Erie Road  
3100 Reeves Road  
1000 Rural Drive

**Waterbody:**  
Chagrin River

**River Mile Location:**  
Between RM 1  
and RM 3

**Jurisdiction:**  
Eastlake and  
Willoughby, OH

**Lat/Long (Erie Rd):**  
N 41° 39.11'  
W 081° 24.8'

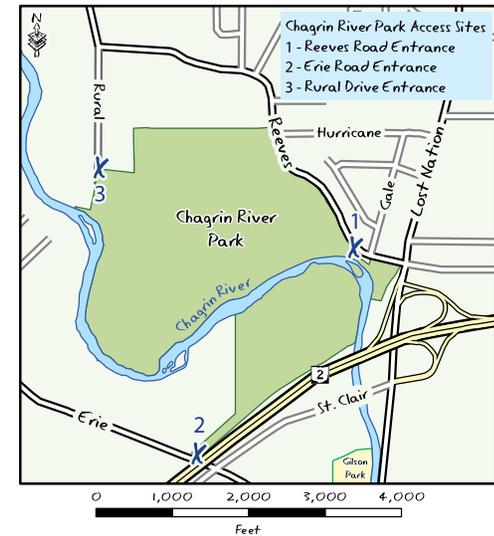
**Lat/Long (Reeves Rd):**  
N 41° 39.11'  
W 081° 24.8'

**Lat/Long (Rural Dr):**  
N 41° 39.11'  
W 081° 25.12'

**Access Site Type:**  
Recreation

**Date Visited:**  
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**Location Map:**



**Amenities:**



The 237-acre Chagrin River Park features park land on both the east and west bank of the Chagrin River; which is connected by a pedestrian bridge. The park has three entrances: 1) Erie Road in Willoughby, 2) Reeves Road in Willoughby and 3) Rural Drive in Eastlake. These access locations are connected only by the park's 2.8-mile network of trails.

**Learn More:**

Lake Metroparks  
[www.lakemetroparks.com](http://www.lakemetroparks.com)

**Field Notes:**

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## Gilson Park

**Location:**  
38125 Erie Road

**Waterbody:**  
Chagrin River

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

**Jurisdiction:**  
Willoughby, OH

**County:**  
Lake

**Latitude:**  
N 41° 38.98'

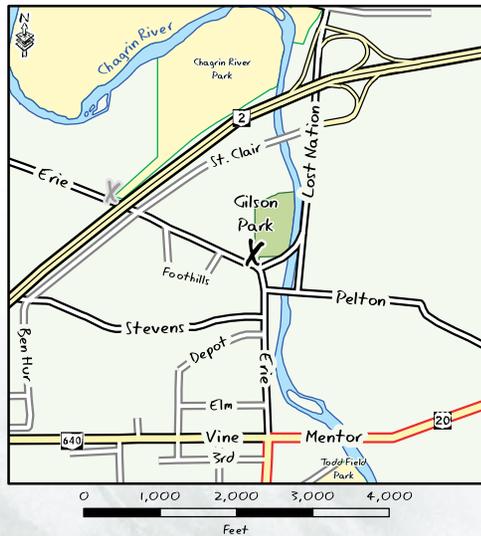
**Longitude:**  
W 081° 24.46'

**Access Site Type:**  
Recreation

**Date Visited:**

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**Location Map:**



**Amenities:**



**Learn More:**  
City of Willoughby  
[www.willoughbyohio.com](http://www.willoughbyohio.com)

**Field Notes:**

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## Todd Field Park

**Location:**  
38264 Glenn Avenue

**Waterbody:**  
Chagrin River

**River Mile Location:**  
Between RM 4 and RM 5

**Jurisdiction:**  
Willoughby, OH

**County:**  
Lake

**Latitude:**  
N 41° 38.46'

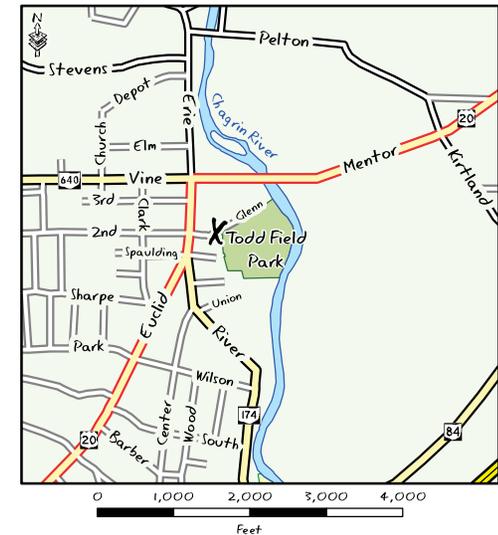
**Longitude:**  
W 081° 24.28'

**Access Site Type:**  
Recreation

**Date Visited:**

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**Location Map:**



**Amenities:**



**Learn More:**  
City of Willoughby  
[www.willoughbyohio.com](http://www.willoughbyohio.com)

**Field Notes:**

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# Daniels Park

- Location:**  
38401 Johnnycake Ridge Road (SR 84)
- Waterbody:**  
Chagrin River
- River Mile Location:**  
At RM 5
- Jurisdiction:**  
Willoughby, OH
- County:**  
Lake
- Latitude:**  
N 41° 37.82'
- Longitude:**  
W 081° 24.1'
- Access Site Type:**  
Recreation
- Date Visited:**

**Location Map:**



**Amenities:**



**Learn More:**  
City of Willoughby  
[www.willoughbyohio.com](http://www.willoughbyohio.com)

**Field Notes:**

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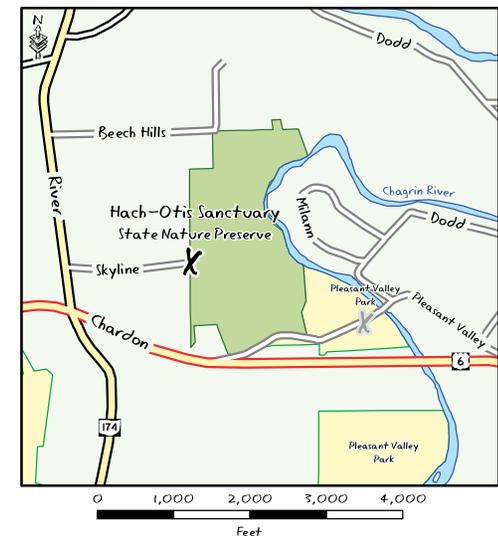
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# Hach-Otis Sanctuary State Nature Preserve

- Location:**  
37142 Skyline Drive
- Waterbody:**  
Chagrin River
- River Mile Location:**  
Between RM 10 and RM 11
- Jurisdiction:**  
Willoughby Hills, OH
- County:**  
Lake
- Latitude:**  
N 41° 35.48'
- Longitude:**  
W 081° 24.7'
- Access Site Type:**  
Natural
- Date Visited:**

**Location Map:**



**Amenities:**



The 81-acre Hach-Otis Sanctuary State Nature Preserve has been a protected bird sanctuary since 1944. The sanctuary was dedicated as an interpretive nature preserve in 1977. Hach-Otis is noted for its 150-foot high, steep and constantly eroding clay banks along the designated Chagrin State Scenic River. A 1.5-mile trail system loops through the Preserve.

**Learn More:**  
ODNR Division of Natural and Preserves  
[www.ohiodnr.com/dnap](http://www.ohiodnr.com/dnap)

**Field Notes:**

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## Pleasant Valley Park

**Location:**  
37611 Pleasant Valley Rd.

**Waterbody:**  
Chagrin River

**River Mile Location:**  
Between RM 10 and RM 12

**Jurisdiction:**  
Willoughby Hills, OH

**County:**  
Lake

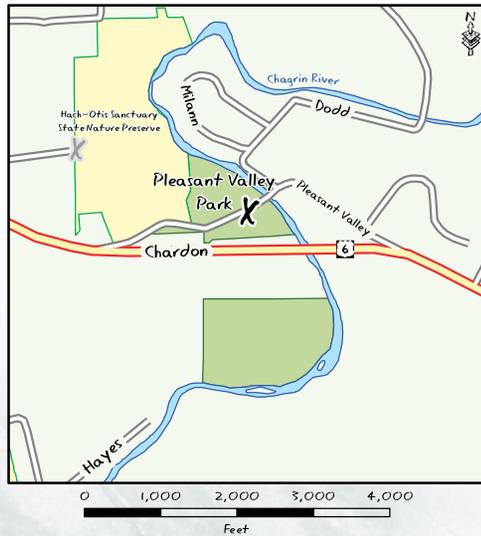
**Latitude:**  
N 41° 35.3'

**Longitude:**  
W 081° 24.2'

**Access Site Type:**  
Natural  
Outdoors

**Date Visited:**

**Location Map:**



The 72-acre Pleasant Valley Park has limited river access, but does provide areas for fishing along the river.

**Learn More:**  
Lake Metroparks  
[www.lakemetroparks.com](http://www.lakemetroparks.com)

**Field Notes:**

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**Amenities:**



## North Chagrin Reservation

**Location (Old River Farm):**  
Chagrin River Road (SR 174) north of Rogers Road

**Location (Rogers Field):**  
Rogers Road, east of Chagrin River Road

**Waterbody:**  
Chagrin River

**River Mile Location:**  
Btw RM 12 and RM 16

**Jurisdiction:**  
Gates Mills, Mayfield Village and Willoughby Hills, OH

**Lat/Long (Old River Farm):**  
N 41° 34.57'  
W 081° 25.15'

**Lat/Long (Rogers Field):**  
N 41° 34.17'  
W 081° 24.94'

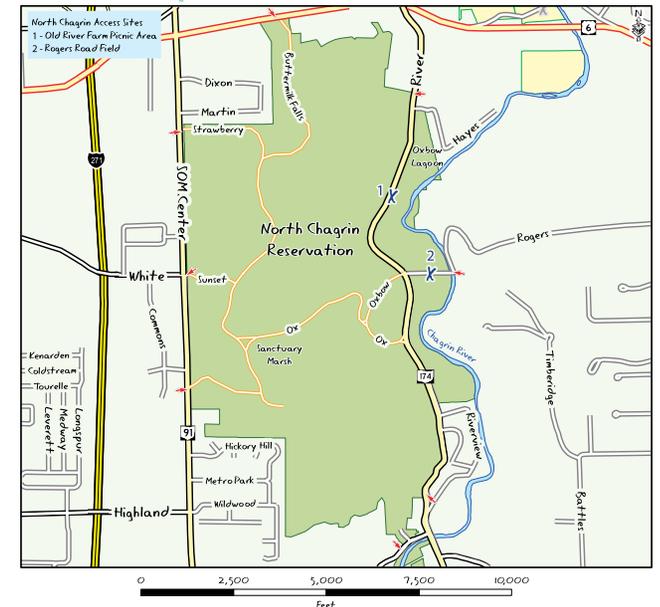
**Access Site Type:**  
Recreation

**Date Visited:**

**Amenities:**



**Location Map:**



The Cleveland Metroparks' North Chagrin Reservation is located in the Lake County city of Willoughby Hills and in the Cuyahoga County villages of Mayfield and Gates Mills. The natural diversity of the reservation is highlighted by the A.B. Williams Memorial Woods, a climax forest listed on the National Register of Natural Areas.

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



## South Chagrin Reservation

## South Chagrin Reservation

**Location (Polo Field):**

Chagrin River Road south of Woodland Road (SR 87)

**Location (Chagrin Field):**

Chagrin Boulevard east of Chagrin River Road

**Location (Jackson Field):**

Chagrin River Road at Jackson Road

**Location (Sulphur Springs):**

Sulphur Springs Drive south of Miles Road

**Waterbody:**

Chagrin River  
Aurora Branch  
Chagrin River

**River Mile Location:**

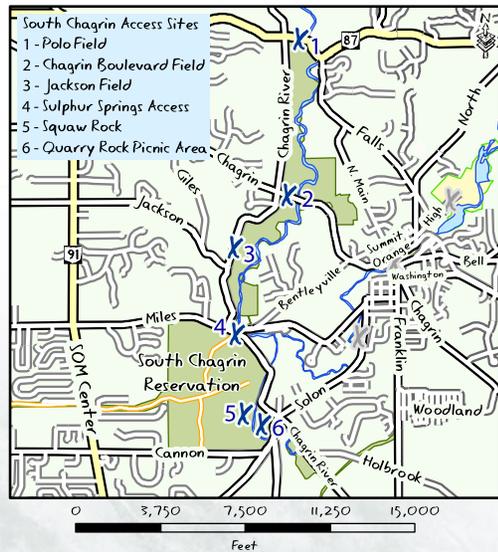
Between RM 23 and RM 27

**Access Site Type:**

Recreation

**Date Visited:**

**Location Map:**



The Cleveland Metroparks' South Chagrin Reservation is located along four miles of the Chagrin River, a State Scenic River (designated in 1979). Between South Woodland Road (State Route 87) to the north and Miles Road to the south, the Reservation is primarily situated between Chagrin River Road and the west bank of the Chagrin River. A portion of the 15.3-mile Bridle Trail, a polo field, the 0.8-mile Hatchet Ridge Trail and a portion of the statewide Buckeye Trail are located within this northern section.

South of Miles Road, the South Chagrin Reservation abuts the Chagrin River's Aurora Branch. Many trails, picnic areas, an arboretum and a sledding hill can be found in this section, including the Quarry Rock, Squaw Rock and Sulphur Springs picnic areas. Squaw Rock, a sandstone boulder carved by Henry Church in 1885, is found along the Aurora Branch and can be reached via the 0.6-mile Squaw Rock Loop Trail.

**Amenities:**



**Lat/Long (Polo Field):**

N 41° 34.57' W 081° 25.15'

**Lat/Long (Chagrin Blvd. Field):**

N 41° 26.37' W 081° 24.38'

**Lat/Long (Jackson Field):**

N 41° 26.02' W 081° 25.07'

**Lat/Long (Sulphur Springs):**

N 41° 25.42' W 081° 25.08'

**Jurisdiction:**

Moreland Hills, Chagrin Falls Township, Bentleyville and Solon, OH

**County:**

Cuyahoga

**Learn More:**

Cleveland Metroparks  
www.clemetparks.com

**Field Notes:**

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## River Run Park

**Location:**  
Solon Road, south of  
Miles Road

**Waterbody:**  
Chagrin River

**River Mile  
Location:**  
Between RM 28 and  
RM 29

**Jurisdiction:**  
Chagrin Falls, OH

**County:**  
Cuyahoga

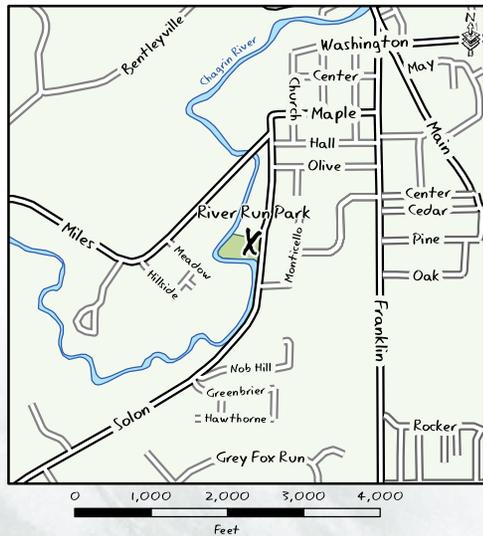
**Access  
Site Type:**  
Recreation

**Latitude:**  
N 41° 25.36'

**Longitude:**  
W 081° 23.87'

**Date Visited:**

**Location Map:**



**Amenities:**



**Learn More:**  
Village of Chagrin Falls  
[www.chagrin-falls.org](http://www.chagrin-falls.org)

**Field Notes:**

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## Riverside Park

**Location:**  
North Main Street,  
between East Orange  
and Bell streets

**Waterbody:**  
Chagrin River

**River Mile  
Location:**  
Between RM 29  
and RM 30

**Jurisdiction:**  
Chagrin Falls, OH

**County:**  
Cuyahoga

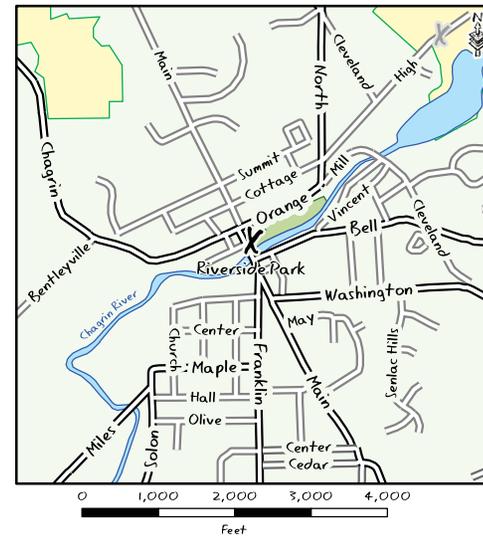
**Latitude:**  
N 41° 25.9'

**Longitude:**  
W 081° 23.51'

**Access  
Site Type:**  
Recreation

**Date Visited:**

**Location Map:**



**Amenities:**



**Learn More:**  
Village of Chagrin Falls  
[www.chagrin-falls.org](http://www.chagrin-falls.org)

**Field Notes:**

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# Whitesburg Nature Preserve

# West Geauga Commons

**Location:**  
End of High Street,  
east of North Street

**Waterbody:**  
Chagrin River

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

**Jurisdiction:**  
Chagrin Falls, OH

**County:**  
Cuyahoga

**Latitude:**  
N 41° 26.34'

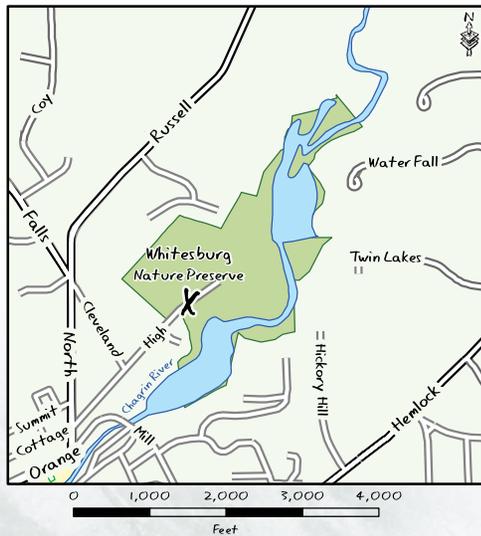
**Longitude:**  
W 081° 22.97'

**Access Site Type:**  
Natural

**Date Visited:**

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**Location Map:**



**Amenities:**



**Learn More:**  
Village of Chagrin Falls  
[www.chagrin-falls.org](http://www.chagrin-falls.org)

**Field Notes:**

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**Location:**  
Chillicothe Road (SR  
306), south of Fair-  
mont Road

**Waterbody:**  
Chagrin River

**River Mile Location:**  
Between RM 35 and  
RM 36

**Jurisdiction:**  
Russell Township, OH

**County:**  
Geauga

**Latitude:**  
N 41° 29.08'

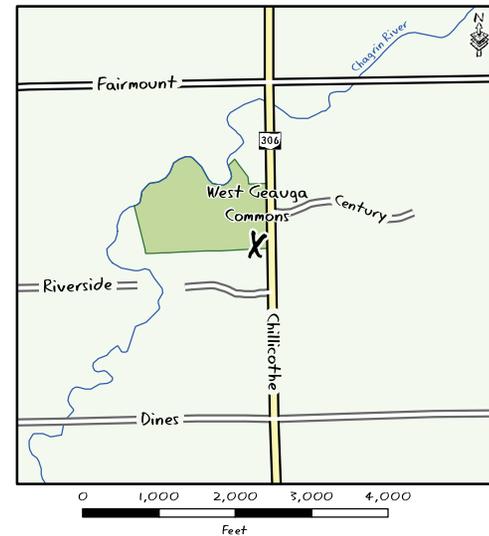
**Longitude:**  
W 081° 21.02'

**Access Site Type:**  
Recreation

**Date Visited:**

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**Location Map:**



**Amenities:**



**Learn More:**  
West Geauga Commons  
[www.wgcommons.com](http://www.wgcommons.com)

**Field Notes:**

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# The Rookery

**Location:**  
10110 Cedar Road

**Waterbody:**  
Chagrin River

**River Mile Location:**  
Between RM 40 and RM 43

**Jurisdiction:**  
Newbury Township and Munson Township, OH

**County:**  
Geauga

**Latitude:**  
N 41° 29.95'

**Longitude:**  
W 081° 16.63'

**Access Site Type:**  
Recreation  
Scenic  
Natural

**Date Visited:**

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**Location Map:**



**Amenities:**



The 562-acre Rookery is a protected area that was once the site of the Cleveland & Eastern (C&E) Traction Company's interurban junction, where Chardon-bound passengers could connect with trolleys destined for Burton or Middlefield. The C&E operated between 1899 and 1925.

The Rookery is named after one of Geauga County's largest great blue heron rookeries, which is located within the preserve. The park features marsh and swamp forest wetlands, beech-maple forests and several old oxbows of the original Chagrin River channel. There are 1.5 miles of trails in the Rookery, including the 1-mile Interurban Trail, which follows the course of the old C&E.

**Learn More:**  
Geauga Park District  
[www.geaugaparkdistrict.org](http://www.geaugaparkdistrict.org)



# Bass Lake Preserve

**Location:**  
11445 Lakeview Road

**Waterbody:**  
Chagrin River  
Bass Lake

**River Mile Location:**  
Between RM 47 and RM 49

**Jurisdiction:**  
Munson Township, OH

**County:**  
Geauga

**Latitude:**  
N 41° 33.1'

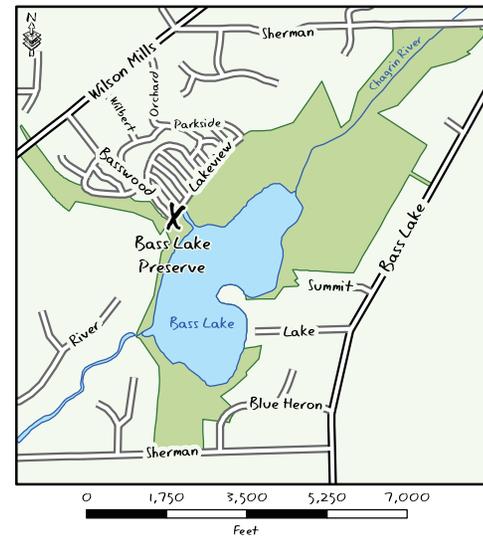
**Longitude:**  
W 081° 13.72'

**Access Site Type:**  
Recreation

**Date Visited:**

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**Location Map:**



**Amenities:**



The 606-acre Bass Lake Preserve includes the 160-acre Bass Lake and the Spring Brook Sanctuary, a nature preserve that protects the state's last known indigenous population of brook trout. Bass Lake is a natural lake on the Chagrin River, although water levels are maintained by a human-made system. It is accessible for boating and fishing (permit only). The Preserve's boat launch, accessible lands and other amenities are located on the west side of the lake.

**Learn More:**  
Geauga Park District  
[www.geaugaparkdistrict.org](http://www.geaugaparkdistrict.org)

**Field Notes:**

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