

## CHAPTER 5

# ERIE COUNTY (mainland)

LAKE ERIE | SANDUSKY BAY | EAST SANDUSKY BAY | HURON RIVER\* | VERMILION RIVER†

\* Includes sites in Huron County

† Includes sites in Lorain County and Huron County

## ERIE COUNTY LAKESHORE

Map 5.1

Erie County is bordered by Lake Erie, Sandusky Bay, and East Sandusky Bay. In total, including Kelleys Island, Erie County's shore is 68 miles long. From west to east along the mainland, coastal municipalities include the village of Bay View and the cities of Sandusky, Huron, and Vermilion. Townships bordering the shore include Margaretta, Huron, Berlin, and Vermilion. Kelleys Island is located three and a half miles north of Marblehead (Ottawa County) and about ten miles north of Sandusky.

Erie County's most prominent coastal feature is the Cedar Point Peninsula, a natural sand spit that juts from the mainland in a northwestern direction toward Ottawa County's Bay Point and Marblehead Peninsula. It separates Lake Erie (northeast) from Sandusky and East Sandusky bays (southwest). East Sandusky Bay is a small triangular extension of Sandusky Bay situated east of Cedar Point causeway. It is bound by the peninsula to the north and the mainland to the south. Erie County also features the southernmost point of shore in the entire Great Lakes basin, located near the intersection of US Route 6 and State Route 61 in Berlin Township (no public access at this exact location).

The areas surrounding Sandusky and East Sandusky bays are low-lying and include wetlands and barrier beaches. Harbor structures and artificial fill in downtown Sandusky create a completely armored and hardened shore. Sandusky access sites are generally street level and include piers, marinas, boat ramps, and fishing structures. East of Cedar Point, wetland and low-lying shore areas begin to transition to elevated bluffs composed of glacially deposited clay and till. From west to east, between Huron and Vermilion, bluffs generally increase in height and range from 10 to 20 feet high. Bluff composition transitions to shale east of the Vermilion River. Several sites in eastern Erie County provide direct access to the shore and beach areas via gently sloping trails, stairs, or terrain. Lower relief and street-level shore access is available at the Huron River and Vermilion River mouths.

Erie County's coastal mainland has 39 public access sites—totaling approximately 11.2 miles of shore—and includes eight fishing piers, five swimming beaches, and a boat ramp. Of the 39 sites, 17 are on Sandusky Bay, 14 border Lake Erie, and seven are on East Sandusky Bay. Seven additional sites are located on Kelleys Island (see Chapter 3). The 15.3-mile East Sandusky Bay Water Trail is a circular paddling route connecting multiple access sites on East Sandusky Bay. A small portion of the 27-mile Vermilion-Lorain Water Trail enters Erie County in Vermilion, with access at Main Street Beach & Park. Additionally, the Lake Erie Islands Water Trail, which consists of five individual paddling trails, including a Kelleys Island loop, connects four access sites and one rest area on Kelleys Island.

## HURON RIVER

Map 5.2

The Huron River is divided into three principal sections: a main channel, East Branch, and West Branch. The main channel is about 15 miles long and begins where the East and West branches converge at Milan Wildlife Area in Milan Township. The Huron empties into Lake Erie in the city of Huron. Headwaters for the 50-mile West Branch and 30-mile East Branch rise in Blooming Grove Township (Richland County) and Fitchville Township (Huron County), respectively. The watershed drains 403 square miles in Crawford, Erie, Huron, Richland, and Seneca counties.

A portion of the lower Huron River is an estuarine environment as water and habitat within the channel and adjacent marshlands are influenced by Lake Erie water levels. Much of the main branch has low embankments, while the East and West branches flow through deeper valleys. In northern Huron County, the West Branch features 40- to 60-foot-high shale cliffs near Monroeville, while shale cliffs of the East Branch near Norwalk are 50- to 60-feet high. South of Norwalk, about seven miles south of their confluence, the two branches meander to within 0.64 miles of each other.

Combined, the Huron River and its primary branches offer 11 publicly accessible parks (including Huron Lighthouse Pier), spanning 4.5 river miles. Huron River Boat Access provides direct boating and paddling access to Lake Erie. The Huron Boat Basin Marina is also accessible from Lake Erie.



Washington Street Pier



Huron Boat Basin Marina

VERMILION RIVER Map 5.2

The 65-mile Vermilion River flows north from the Savannah Lakes (Mud Lake and Spring Lake) in the village of Bailey Lakes (Ashland County) and empties into Lake Erie in the city of Vermilion (Erie County). Primary tributaries include the East Fork, East Branch, Southwest Branch, and Buck Creek. The Vermilion River Watershed is 268 square miles and drains portions of Ashland, Erie, Huron, Lorain, and Richland counties.

Parts of the lower Vermilion River are characterized by high shale cliffs, which are most present throughout Vermilion River Reservation. The upper reaches of the river navigate low rolling hills and agricultural lands. The city of Vermilion’s recreational harbor offers transient dockage, a boat ramp with direct access to Lake Erie, and paddling access to the 27-mile Vermilion-Lorain Water Trail. Additional water trail accesses are available at Vermilion River Reservation and sites in Lorain County (see Chapter 6), including the Black River. The Vermilion has 14 publicly accessible parks and park areas (including Wakefield MetroPark), spanning over 12 river miles. Many sites are available for paddling, fishing, wading, and nature viewing. Anglers are drawn to the river for smallmouth bass and steelhead catches.

COASTAL SITES

|     |                                      |      |                       |
|-----|--------------------------------------|------|-----------------------|
| ER1 | Willow Point Wildlife Area           | ER9  | Jackson Street Pier   |
| ER2 | Bay View Fishing Pier                | ER10 | Schade-Mylander Plaza |
| ER3 | Bayview Drive Scenic Access          | ER11 | Facer Park            |
| ER4 | Lions Park                           | ER12 | Shoreline Park        |
| ER5 | Sandusky Bay Pathway at Mills Street | ER13 | Sandusky Bay Pavilion |
| ER6 | Shelby Street Public Boat Launch     |      |                       |
| ER7 | Paper District Marina                |      |                       |
| ER8 | Chesapeake Walkway                   |      |                       |



152 | McGarvey’s Landing, Vermilion

|      |                                              |
|------|----------------------------------------------|
| ER14 | Meigs Street Pier                            |
| ER15 | Battery Park                                 |
| ER16 | Water Street Pier (Springer’s Wharf)         |
| ER17 | Washington Street Pier                       |
| ER18 | Kiwanis Park                                 |
| ER19 | Pipe Creek Wildlife Area                     |
| ER20 | Big Island Preserve and Canoe Launch         |
| ER21 | Community Foundation Preserve at Eagle Point |
| ER22 | Joseph Steinen Wildlife Area                 |
| ER23 | Putnam Marsh Nature Preserve                 |
| ER24 | Wyandot MetroPark                            |
| ER25 | Sheldon Marsh State Nature Preserve          |
| ER26 | Lake Front Park                              |
| ER27 | Huron Rotary Centennial Park                 |
| ER28 | Huron Lighthouse Pier                        |
| ER29 | Nickel Plate Beach                           |
| ER30 | Old Woman Creek State Nature Preserve        |
| ER31 | Joppa Road Access                            |
| ER32 | Risden Road Access                           |
| ER33 | Coen Road Access                             |
| ER34 | Sherod Park                                  |
| ER35 | Perry Street Scenic Access                   |
| ER36 | Washington Street Scenic Access              |
| ER37 | Main Street Beach & Park                     |
| ER38 | Wakefield MetroPark                          |
| ER39 | Nokomis Park                                 |

WATER TRAILS

|     |                                                                         |
|-----|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| ESB | East Sandusky Bay Water Trail                                           |
| KI  | Lake Erie Islands Water Trail –<br>Kelleys Island Trail (see Chapter 3) |
| ML  | Lake Erie Islands Water Trail –<br>Mainland Trail (see Chapter 2)       |
| VL  | Vermilion-Lorain Water Trail (see also Chapter 6)                       |

HURON RIVER SITES

|     |                                    |
|-----|------------------------------------|
| HU1 | Flemmond’s Landing                 |
| HU2 | Huron Boat Basin Marina            |
| HU3 | Huron River Boat Access            |
| HU4 | DuPont Marsh State Nature Preserve |
| HU4 | Huron River Path MetroPark         |
| HU5 | The Coupling MetroPark             |
| HU6 | Milan Towpath MetroPark            |
| HU7 | Milan Wildlife Area                |
| HU8 | Marsh Park                         |
| HU9 | Clark Park                         |

VERMILION RIVER SITES

|       |                                              |
|-------|----------------------------------------------|
| VE1   | Water Works Marina                           |
| VE2   | East Exchange Park                           |
| VE3   | Clarion Avenue Dock                          |
| VE4   | McGarvey’s Landing                           |
| VE5   | Vermilion Rotary Centennial Park             |
| VE6   | South Street Public Boat Ramp                |
| VE7   | Vermilion River Reservation                  |
| VE7.1 | Vermilion River Reservation – Bacon Woods    |
| VE7.2 | Vermilion River Reservation – Mill Hollow    |
| VE7   | Vermilion River Reservation – Peasley Road   |
| VE7   | Vermilion River Reservation – Gore-Orphanage |
| VE8   | Schoepfle Garden                             |
| VE9   | Augusta-Anne Olsen State Nature Preserve     |
| VE10  | Bruce L. Chapin Bridge                       |



5.1 ERIE COUNTY

LEGEND

- Public Access Site
- Public Access Site/Entrance
- Interior Access Site
- Pedestrian/Trail Entrance
- Right-of-Way Access
- Roadside Parking Lot
- Water Trail

3 Miles

**LEGEND**

-  Public Access Site
-  Public Access Site/Entrance
-  Interior Access Site
-  Pedestrian/Trail Entrance
-  Right-of-Way Access
-  Roadside Parking Lot
-  Water Trail



— 3 Miles



SANDUSKY BAY

ERI Willow Point Wildlife Area

- Wahl Road, west of US Route 6  
Margaretta Township
- ODNR Division of Wildlife

**Amenities and Activities:**

The greater part of the 645-acre Willow Point Wildlife Area is located in Margaretta Township, Erie County, with a small portion extending south into Sandusky County. The Erie County portion borders Sandusky Bay and is accessible from Wahl Road. Roughly two-thirds of the wildlife area is open water and marshland. Woodlands and open meadows comprise the remaining acreage. Willow Point supports waterfowl, songbird, and shorebird populations. It is accessible for fishing, hunting, trapping, paddling, and wildlife viewing. Signage indicating fishing access is posted on Wahl Road at a gravel access road.

ER2-3 Bay View Fishing Pier and Bayview Drive Scenic Access

- Fishing Pier**  
Bayview Drive (former causeway),  
north of Bay View Village Hall  
Bay View
- Scenic Access**  
Bayview Drive, between  
Village Hall and Martins Point Road  
Bay View
- Village of Bay View

**Amenities and Activities:**

**Fishing Pier**

**Bayview Drive**

Bay View Fishing Pier is a public fishing site located in the village of Bay View. It is accessible from Bayview Drive, just north of Bay View Village Hall. The 2,800-foot-long access extends north into Sandusky Bay and was once the southern approach to the old Sandusky Bay Bridge (removed in 1985). In 1965, majority of the bridge traffic was rerouted to the new four-lane Thomas A. Edison Bridge. The northern bridge approach in Ottawa County is also a public fishing access.

Additional fishing and scenic access can be found to the south along Bayview Drive (pictured to right).



SANDUSKY BAY

ER4 Lions Park

- 533 Winnebago Avenue  
Sandusky
- Pedestrian access from  
Marquette Street and LaSalle Street
- City of Sandusky

**Amenities and Activities:**

The 13-acre Lions Park is located off West Monroe Street in Sandusky and can be accessed from Winnebago Avenue. Park amenities include picnic shelters, playground equipment, splash pad, basketball courts, restrooms, benches overlooking Sandusky Bay, and the looping Dr. Anthony Linz Pathway (paved trail). A kayak landing is available in the northeastern corner of the park and is accessible via gravel trail. Fishing is permitted.

- Water Access:**
- Sandusky Bay is accessible for fishing via kayak access path and terrain
  - Sandusky Bay is accessible for paddling via kayak access path/landing

- Trails:**
- Dr. Anthony Linz Pathway



ER5 Sandusky Bay Pathway at Mills Street

- End of Mills Street  
Sandusky
- City of Sandusky

**Amenities and Activities:**

Sandusky Bay Pathway (US Bike Route 230) is a paved, multi-purpose trail that connects many parks, piers, and smaller nodal accesses along the Sandusky waterfront. A turnaround area fronting approximately 130 feet of Sandusky Bay shore is located at the northern terminus of Mills Street. Park benches provide scenic views of the bay. To the east, Sandusky Bay Pathway connects to Shelby Street Public Boat Launch, Paper District Marina, and Jackson Street Pier, among other access sites.

- Water Access:**
- Sandusky Bay is accessible for fishing and scenic views at pathway turnaround
- Trails:**
- Sandusky Bay Pathway

- Nearby Sites:**
- Shelby Street Public Boat Launch (to east) is connected via the Sandusky Bay Pathway/US Bike Route 230

- Water Access:**
- Sandusky Bay beach and shore are accessible for fishing via terrain
- Lake Erie Birding Trail:**
- Sandusky Bay Loop

- Water Access:**
- Fishing Pier:** Fishing areas along causeway are accessible from parking lot, steps, and terrain
  - Bayview Drive:** Sandusky Bay is accessible for fishing and scenic views along Bayview Drive

- Nearby Sites:**
- Northern portion of causeway on the north side of Sandusky Bay is accessible from Yetter Road in Ottawa County



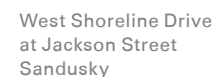


## SANDUSKY BAY

## ► Chesapeake Walkway



Mills Street Turnaround (to west) and Paper District Marina (to east) are connected via the Sandusky Bay Pathway/US Bike Route 230



Chesapeake Walkway is a 950-foot-long, accessible paved walkway that wraps around the perimeter of the Chesapeake Lofts condominium complex in Sandusky. It connects to Paper District Marina (adjacent to west) and the Sandusky Bay Pathway, which follows West Shoreline Drive. The building was constructed in the early 1920s by the Hinde & Dauch Paper Company, inventor and manufacturer of corrugated cardboard boxes and producer of other paper products and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places (1982). It was converted into a condominium complex in the mid-2000s.

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The 7.5-acre Paper District Marina is located on West Shoreline Drive at Decatur Street in Sandusky. The marina offers daily, seasonal, and overnight transient dockage and includes 62 slips that can support boats up to 45 feet long. It also has eight seasonal Jet Ski docks. Electric and water hook-ups are available. Additional amenities include restrooms, accessible showers, café, and amphitheater. Paved paths follow the marina perimeter and a 600-foot-long breakwater. The path connects to Chesapeake Walkway to the east and the Sandusky Bay Pathway (along West Shoreline Drive). Fishing is permitted along the north side of the breakwater, opposite the marina.



Jackson Street Pier is located on West Shoreline Drive at the foot of Jackson Street in downtown Sandusky. Renovated in 2021, it includes an accessible walking path around the perimeter, boardwalk area, benches and swings, open green space, and the Mylander Pavilion (available for group rentals). The pier also features the Sunset Steps, a roughly 150-foot-long, four-foot-tall, stepped concrete structure providing visitors lounging space and place to take in panoramic views. Sandusky Bay Pathway (US Bike Route 230) follows West Shoreline Drive and connects to Paper District Marina (to west) and Shoreline Park (to east). Fishing is permitted. The Dock Channel, a 330-foot-wide federal shipping channel, is located less than 100 yards from the pier, providing extremely close views of passing Great Lakes freighters.

 Sandusky Bay Pathway/US Bike Route 230 [Link](#)

- Paper District Marina is adjacent to the west and connected via pathway

- Paper District Marina (to west) and Jackson Street Pier (to east) are connected via the Sandusky Bay Pathway/US Bike Route 230





SANDUSKY BAY

SANDUSKY BAY

ER10

Wightman Wieber Foundation Plaza at Schade-Mylander Plaza

- End of Columbus Avenue Sandusky
- City of Sandusky

Amenities and Activities:

Schade-Mylander Plaza is a passive-use park at the foot of Columbus Avenue between Shoreline Drive and Water Street in downtown Sandusky. The portion north of Shoreline Drive (along the Sandusky Bay Pathway) is called the Wightman Wieber Foundation Plaza and offers fishing access and scenic waterfront views. Amenities south of Shoreline Drive include seating, accessible sidewalk, flower arrangements, and a fountain. Sandusky Bay Pathway (US Bike Route 230) connects to Jackson Street Pier (to west) and Shoreline Park (to east).

ER11

Facer Park

- 255 East Water Street, at Hancock Street Sandusky
- City of Sandusky

Amenities and Activities:

Facer Park is a passive-use pocket park located between East Shoreline Drive and East Water Street at Hancock Street in Sandusky. The park also includes about 100 feet of waterfront north of East Shoreline Drive. Picnic tables and benches are available. Facer Park features the “Path to Freedom” statue, a life-sized representation of an African American man, woman, and child escaping the bondage of slavery to freedom. Interpretive signage depicts Sandusky’s role in the Underground Railroad. Sandusky Bay Pathway follows East Shoreline Drive.

Water Access:

Sandusky Bay is accessible for fishing and scenic views via pathway

Trails:

- Sandusky Bay Pathway/US Bike Route 230

Nearby Sites:

Jackson Street Pier (to west) and Shoreline Park (to east) are connected via the Sandusky Bay Pathway/US Bike Route 230



Water Access:

Sandusky Bay is accessible for fishing and scenic views via pathway

Trails:

- Sandusky Bay Pathway/US Bike Route 230

Nearby Sites:

Schade-Mylander Plaza and Jackson Street Pier (to west) and Shoreline Park (to east) are connected via the Sandusky Bay Pathway/US Bike Route 230

ER12

Shoreline Park

- 411 East Water Street Sandusky
- 41.4595, -82.7080 (gravel) 41.4607, -82.7081 (concrete)
- City of Sandusky

Amenities and Activities:

Shoreline Park is located at the intersection of East Water Street and East Shoreline Drive in Sandusky. The park occupies three former commercial piers originally built by the Baltimore and Ohio Railway. Many goods, including crushed stone, grain, iron ore, lumber, and sand were once shipped from the port. The site was last utilized for commercial purposes in 1973. Shoreline Park (dedicated in 1990) offers many recreational amenities, including accessible walking paths, observation deck, playground, fitness equipment, picnic shelter, concession stand, and restrooms. Fishing access and scenic views are available along nearly 5,000 feet of shore. The park also includes a gravel kayak launch (just east of the playground) and small concrete paddling ramp.

ER13

Sandusky Bay Pavilion

- 605 East Water Street, at Meigs Street Sandusky
- Pedestrian access from Perry Street parking lot
- City of Sandusky

Amenities and Activities:

Sandusky Bay Pavilion is a 5.3-acre site located at the corner of Meigs and East Water streets. Amenities include a picnic shelter and tables, playground, and restrooms. Fishing is permitted along the northeast seawall near Meigs Street Pier. Access to the shore from the rocks is restricted (signs posted). The Sandusky Bay Pavilion entrance and parking is located at the foot of Meigs Street Pier, an accessible pedestrian walking pier. Additional parking is available at Battery Park and the Perry Street lot.

Water Access:

- Sandusky Bay is accessible for fishing via trails and terrain
- Sandusky Bay is accessible for paddling via ramps

Trails:

- Shoreline Park Trail
- Sandusky Bay Pathway/US Bike Route 230

Nearby Sites:

Facer Park (to west) and Sandusky Bay Pavilion (to east) are connected via the Sandusky Bay Pathway/US Bike Route 230

Water Access:

Sandusky Bay is accessible for fishing along northeast seawall

Trails:

- Sandusky Bay Pathway/US Bike Route 230

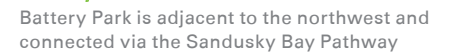
Nearby Sites:

- Meigs Street Pier is adjacent to the northeast (shared parking lot)
- Shoreline Park (to west) and Battery Park (to east) are connected via the Sandusky Bay Pathway/US Bike Route 230

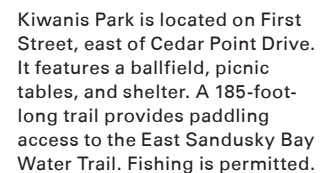


## SANDUSKY BAY / EAST SANDUSKY BAY

### Washington Street Pier



## ► Kiwanis Park



➔ Big Island Preserve and Canoe Launch  
(1.5 miles around Pipe Creek Wildlife Area)



EAST SANDUSKY BAY

ER19-20

## Pipe Creek Wildlife Area and Big Island Preserve and Canoe Launch

 F Street and River Avenue  
Sandusky

 41.4481, -82.6700

 ODNR Division of Wildlife &  
City of Sandusky

### Amenities and Activities:

**Pipe Creek**  


**Big Island**  


The 97-acre Pipe Creek Wildlife Area is a man-made marsh originally known as Big Island Wetlands. It was built to mitigate wetland loss to development. The area is diked and divided into four, shallow-water basins to manage wetland habitat and wildlife. The outer dikes provide fishing access. Waterfowl hunting is permitted via special permit only. Pipe Creek shares a parking lot with Big Island Preserve and Canoe Launch. The launch provides paddling access to the 15.3-mile East Sandusky Bay Water Trail. Fishing is not permitted from the kayak dock. Big Island is the home to the Sandusky Bay Rowing Association.

ER21

## Community Foundation Preserve at Eagle Point

 3819 Cleveland Road West (US 6)  
Huron Township

 41.4315, -82.6420

 Erie MetroParks

### Amenities and Activities:



The 92-acre Community Foundation Preserve at Eagle Point is located on US Route 6 (Cleveland Road West) in Huron Township. Plum Brook, Bogert Marsh, and Pete Weiland Wetland cover much of the area. The preserve offers wildlife and birding opportunities, hiking trails, and padding access to the East Sandusky Bay Water Trail (via Plum Brook). The launch is available near Stockdale Arboretum (east entrance). Additional amenities include a picnic shelter and observation platform. Eagle Point provides critical habitat for breeding and migrating birds and ducks. Access to the preserve may be limited during bald eagle nesting season. US Bike Route 230 follows US 6.

### Water Access:

• **Pipe Creek:** East Sandusky Bay is accessible for fishing via trails and outer dikes

• **Big Island:** East Sandusky Bay is accessible for paddling via trail

### Water Trail:

 **East Sandusky Bay Water Trail**

← Kiwanis Park (1.5 miles around Pipe Creek Wildlife Area)

↑ Community Foundation Preserve at Eagle Point (1.9 miles; across Pipe Creek mouth and east (↗) along shore)

### Lake Erie Birding Trail:

 Sandusky Bay Loop

ER22

## Joseph Steinen Wildlife Area

 4501 Cleveland Road West (US 6)  
Huron Township

 Erie MetroParks

### Amenities and Activities:



The 144-acre Joseph Steinen Wildlife Area is comprised of three separate tracts of land in Huron Township. The east and west sections are located along US Route 6 (Cleveland Road West) and border East Sandusky Bay. The third lies south of US 6 (and railroad) and features Erie County's Ohio Bicentennial Barn. The western portion of the wildlife area is publicly accessible and features a gravel parking area and trail network. Trail access may be limited during bald eagle nesting season. Seasonal hunting (youth only, lottery) is allowed by special permit only. US Bike Route 230 follows US 6.

ER23

## Putnam Marsh Nature Preserve

### Amenities and Activities:



The 966-acre Putnam Marsh Nature Preserve is protected by Erie MetroParks; it is one of the last remaining undeveloped and naturally functioning marshes along Ohio's shore. Much of it is covered by East Sandusky Bay. No parking, trails, or recreational amenities are available. Open water areas are accessible via the East Sandusky Bay Water Trail.

ER24

## Wyandot MetroPark

 5401 Cleveland Road West (US 6)  
Huron Township

 Erie MetroParks

### Amenities and Activities:



The 158-acre Wyandot MetroPark is comprised of reclaimed row-crop farmland, wooded land, and marshland. It is located along US Route 6 in Huron Township, just east of Cedar Point Road. The preserve offers a gravel parking lot, trail network, and observation deck. US Bike Route 230 follows US 6.

EAST SANDUSKY BAY

### Water Access:

No bay access  
Scenic views of East Sandusky Bay are accessible via trails

### Trails:

 Perimeter Loop Trail  
 Galloway Pond Loop Trail  
 Middle Lane

### Nearby Sites:

Community Foundation Preserve at Eagle Point is adjacent to the west (no trail connections)



LAKE ERIE

LAKE ERIE

ER25 Sheldon Marsh State Nature Preserve

- 2715 Cleveland Road West (US 6)  
Huron Township
- ODNR Division of  
Natural Areas and Preserves

**Amenities and Activities:**



Sheldon Marsh State Nature Preserve is located on US Route 6 (Cleveland Road West) in Huron Township. The preserve protects 465 acres of marshland, woodland, and meadow. It also features a 7,300-foot-long barrier beach that separates the open waters of Lake Erie (to the north) from the coastal wetlands of East Sandusky Bay (to the south). The wetlands that comprise and surround Sheldon Marsh exhibit some of the last remaining undeveloped stretches of shore in the East Sandusky Bay region. The one-mile Old Cedar Point Road Trail is a paved and accessible walking trail that follows Cedar Point’s original automobile route to the beach. The road opened in 1913 and closed in 1919 due to storm damage. Additional amenities include nature trails, two observation platforms, and portable restrooms. The preserve is a prime location for birding, wildlife viewing, and nature photography. Nearly 300 species of birds have been sighted at Sheldon Marsh.

ER26 Lake Front Park

- Park Street,  
between Ohio and Center streets  
Huron
- City of Huron

**Amenities and Activities:**



The three-acre Lake Front Park is located less than 1,000 feet west of the Huron River in Huron. It is bounded by Ohio, Park, and Center streets to the west, south, and east, respectively. Parking is available along all three streets. Amenities include picnic tables, grills, playground, walking path, restroom facilities, gazebo, and benches that overlook Lake Erie. A 445-foot shore-parallel detached breakwater helps maintain a sand beach. Swimming, paddling, and fishing are permitted.

**Water Access:**  
Lake Erie barrier beach is accessible for nature walking and birding via trails

- Trails:**
- Butterfly Meadow Trail
  - Pond Loop Trail
  - Woods Trail
  - Boardwalk Trail
  - Old Cedar Point Road Trail
  - NASA Road Trail
  - US Bike Route 230

**Lake Erie Birding Trail:**  
Huron & Lorain Loop

**Nearby Sites:**  
Wyandot MetroPark (to west) and Huron River Boat Access (to east) are connected via US Bike Route 230 (on-road signed bike route; portions with bike lanes)

**Water Access:**  
Lake Erie beach is accessible for swimming, fishing, and paddling via terrain



ER27 Huron Rotary Centennial Park

- End of Main Street  
Huron
- City of Huron

**Amenities and Activities:**





Huron Rotary Centennial Park is a small passive park located at the northern terminus of Main Street in Huron. The park faces west and is situated at the base of Huron Lighthouse Pier, opposite the Huron River mouth. Amenities include a beach and benches. Swimming and paddling are permitted.

ER28 Huron Lighthouse Pier

- End of Main Street  
Huron
- City of Huron

**Amenities and Activities:**



Huron Lighthouse Pier occupies the landward 1,800 feet of the 3,100-foot-long Huron Harbor West Pier. It is located at the end of Main Street in Huron and is adjacent to the mouth of the Huron River. The lakeward portion of the West Pier is constructed of large rocks (no public access). The accessible paved walking path at Huron Lighthouse Pier leads from the parking lot to an observation platform. Fishing and bicycling are only permitted along the walkway. West Pier serves as the western border of Huron Harbor and is the eastern limit of a 68-acre, partially filled confined disposal facility. The 72-foot-tall Huron Harbor Lighthouse is located at the end of the breakwater. Access beyond the observation platform and to the lighthouse is restricted.

**Water Access:**  
Lake Erie beach is accessible for swimming and paddling via terrain

**Trails:**  
Huron Lighthouse Pier

**Nearby Sites:**  
Huron Lighthouse Pier is adjacent to the north and connected via path (shared parking lot)

**Water Access:**

- Lake Erie and Huron River are accessible for fishing along pier
- Scenic views of Lake Erie and Huron River are available from observation deck; accessible via pier walkway

**River Mile Location:**  
Landward 700 feet of Huron Lighthouse Pier located between RM 0.0 and RM 0.1 of the Huron River

**Trails:**  
Huron Lighthouse Pier

**Lake Erie Birding Trail:**  
Huron & Lorain Loop

**Nearby Sites:**  
Huron Rotary Centennial Park is adjacent to the south and connected via path (shared parking lot)



## HURON RIVER

HU1

### Flemmond's Landing

- Main Street at Wall Street  
Huron
- City of Huron

Flemmond's Landing is a small public space overlooking the Huron River in Huron. It is located on Main Street at Wall Street. Amenities include a gazebo, park benches, and historic marker.

#### Amenities and Activities:



#### Water Access:

No river access  
Scenic views of the Huron River are accessible via sidewalk

#### River Mile Location:

At RM 0.2



HU2

### Huron Boat Basin Marina

- 330 North Main Street  
Huron
- 41.3938, -82.5545
- City of Huron

Huron Boat Basin Marina is located on Main Street at Cleveland Road West in Huron. The facility includes a 123-slip public marina, restrooms, showers, amphitheater, picnic pavilions, and accessible paved paths, including a riverfront walkway. The marina offers electric and water, transient dockage (daily and short-term), seasonal dockage, and weekday boater passes. Dockage rates vary for residents and non-residents.

#### Amenities and Activities:



#### Water Access:

- Marina available to boaters via walkway
- Huron River is accessible for fishing via path and stairs (accessible ramp available)

#### River Mile Location:

Between RM 0.3 and RM 0.5

HU3

### Huron River Boat Access

- 41 Cleveland Road East (US 6)  
Huron
- 41.3903, -82.5525
- City of Huron

#### Amenities and Activities:



Huron River Boat Access is a four-lane boat launch facility that affords access to the Huron River and Lake Erie. The site features accessible docks, fish cleaning station, restrooms, and parking for 135 vehicles with boat trailers. A courtesy dock allows for loading, unloading, and temporary tie-ups. There are no launch fees or parking fees. The site is located on Cleveland Road East (US Route 6) at River Road in Huron. It was acquired and developed by the ODNR divisions of Watercraft and Wildlife and managed by the city. A paved and accessible 675-foot walking trail with benches extends north of the parking lot along the river.

HU4

### DuPont Marsh State Nature Preserve and Huron River Path MetroPark

- 1805 River Road  
Huron Township
- Erie MetroParks

#### Amenities and Activities:



The 114-acre DuPont Marsh State Nature Preserve is owned by ODNR and managed by Erie MetroParks. It is located on River Road about two-and-a-half miles south of Huron. The preserve boasts one of the few remaining riverine marshes in Ohio. Vegetation varies with water depth. Pondweeds and water-milfoil are found in deeper waters. Bur-reed, cattail, and spatter-dock are closer to shore in shallower water. Two hiking trails, the 0.4-mile Loop Trail and 0.2-mile Maple Trail, navigate the preserve and overlook the marsh.

Huron River Path MetroPark extends to the south and features the Huron River Path (crushed-gravel surfaced). The nearly one-mile path follows the former Wheeling & Lake Erie Railway corridor.



## HURON RIVER

#### Water Access:

- Huron River accessible for boating and paddling via boat ramp (with access to Lake Erie)
- Huron River accessible for fishing

#### River Mile Location:

Between RM 0.5 and RM 0.7

#### Trails:

- US Bike Route 230

#### Nearby Sites:

Sheldon Marsh State Nature Preserve (to west) and Old Woman Creek State Nature Preserve (to east) are connected via US Bike Route 230 (on-road signed bike route; portions with bike lanes)

#### Water Access:

No river access  
DuPont Marsh: Scenic views of the Huron River accessible via trails

#### River Mile Location:

Between RM 3.2 and RM 4.1

#### Trails:

- Maple Trail
- Loop Trail
- Huron River Path

#### Nearby Sites:

DuPont Marsh State Nature Preserve and Huron River Path MetroPark are adjacent sites (shared parking lot)





LAKE ERIE

LAKE ERIE

ER29 Nickel Plate Beach

- 1 Nickel Plate Drive  
Huron
- Pedestrian access from  
McKinley Street
- City of Huron

**Amenities and Activities:**

Nickel Plate Beach is located at the end of Nickel Plate Drive, just west of Tiffin Avenue in Huron. Pedestrian access is also available to the east at McKinley Avenue. The nearly 800-foot-long beach is the largest public swimming beach in Erie County. Amenities include a picnic shelter, grills, playground, beach volleyball, ping pong table, and cornhole boards. Paddle boards and kayaks are available to rent. A parking fee is required during the summer months. Seasonal parking passes are available. Parking is free during the off season. The beach and grounds are open to pedestrians and bicycle traffic free of charge.

ER30 Old Woman Creek State Nature Preserve and National Estuarine Research Reserve

- Barrier Beach Entrance**  
2005 Cleveland Road East (US 6)  
Berlin Township
- Visitor Center Entrance**  
2514 Cleveland Road East (US 6)  
Berlin Township
- ODNR Old Woman Creek NERR and  
Office of Coastal Management

**Amenities and Activities:**

**Barrier Beach**

The 573-acre Old Woman Creek State Nature Preserve and National Estuarine Research Reserve is located on US Route 6 in Berlin Township, east of Huron. The site features one of Ohio’s few natural Lake Erie estuaries. An estuary is a transition zone where freshwater from a tributary is mixed with water from a lake or ocean. Estuaries are ecologically sensitive habitats that provide sanctuary for native plant and animal species. They also filter pollutants that would otherwise enter and impact the lake. Much of the preserve and its amenities are found south of US 6, including the visitor center and trail network. The Barrier Beach Access is on the north side of US 6 (west of the bridge) and provides access to the 760-foot-long barrier beach and estuary mouth.

**Water Access:**  
Nickel Plate Beach is accessible for swimming, fishing, and paddling via terrain (adjacent to parking lot)

**Fees:**  
\$ Parking fee during summer months

*Access to the 1,400-foot-long Huron Harbor east jetty is restricted.*

**Water Access:**  
Lake Erie barrier beach and Old Woman Creek mouth are accessible for nature walking and birding via trail and terrain

**Trails:** Barrier Beach Access

Beach Trail

**Trails:** Main access

Early Successional Trail  
Lower Estuary Trail  
Prairie Access Trail  
Upland Woods Trail  
Estuary Overlook Trail  
US Bike Route 230

**Lake Erie Birding Trail:**

Huron & Lorain Loop

US Bike Route 230 follows Cleveland Road East (US 6) to Huron River Boat Access (to west) and Sherod Park (to east)

ER31-33 Vermilion Township Accesses

- Joppa Road Access**  
End of Joppa Road  
Vermilion Township
- Risden Road Access**  
End of Risden Road  
Vermilion Township
- Coen Road Access**  
End of Coen Road  
Vermilion Township

**Amenities and Activities:**

**Joppa Road**

**Risden Road**

**Coen Road**

Joppa Road Access, Risden Road Access, and Coen Road Access are passive-use park areas in Vermilion Township. All three occupy public road right-of-ways. Fishing is permitted at Joppa Road. Visitors must navigate sloping terrain to access the water. Risden Road offers scenic views of the lake atop a 20-foot-high bluff. Coen Road Access is accessible from Sherod Park and features benches and an ornamental lighthouse. A small beach is accessible from the Sherod Park beach.

ER34 Sherod Park

- 13406 West Lake Road (US 6)  
Vermilion Township
- City of Vermilion

**Amenities and Activities:**

The 21.2-acre Sherod Park is located at the intersection of US Route 6 (West Lake Road) and Coen Road in Vermilion Township. Parking is accessible from Coen Road. Sherod Park’s amenities include picnic areas, shelter, playground, pollinator garden, walking trails (compacted aggregate) with exercise equipment, stationary tire pump, and beach. Sherod Creek flows through the center of the park. Trails descend the ravine and provide access to the beach. Stone steps also lead to the beach on the west side of the park (near Coen Road). Benches along the bluff offer views of Lake Erie.

**Water Access:**

- Joppa Road:** Lake Erie accessible for fishing and scenic views via terrain
- Risden Road:** No lake access; scenic views of Lake Erie are accessible atop bluff
- Coen Road:** No lake access from entrance; scenic views of Lake Erie available via walking path (with steps)
- Coen Road:** Beach accessible from Sherod Park beach

**Nearby Sites:**  
Coen Road Access is only accessible from Sherod Park (adjacent to the east)

Vermilion Township

**Water Access:**  
Lake Erie beach accessible for swimming, fishing, and paddling via trails, steps, and terrain

**Trails:**

Northwest loop trails  
Southwest Loop  
East Side Stone Loop  
US Bike Route 230

**Lake Erie Birding Trail:**

Huron & Lorain Loop

**Nearby Sites:**

- Coen Road Access is adjacent to the west (only accessible from Sherod Park)
- Old Woman Creek State Nature Preserve (to west) and East Exchange Park (to east) are connected via US Bike Route 230 (on-road signed bike route)



ER35-36

## Vermilion Scenic Accesses

 **Perry Street Scenic Access**  
End of Perry Street  
Vermilion

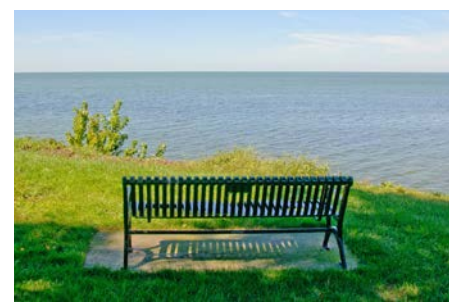
 **Washington Street Scenic Access**  
End of Washington Street  
Vermilion

 City of Vermilion

**Amenities and Activities:**  


Park benches overlooking Lake Erie are available at the ends of Perry and Washington streets in downtown Vermilion (one bench per site). Both sites are pedestrian-friendly and have limited street parking. Access to the water is restricted due to high bluffs.

**Water Access:** No lake access  
Scenic views of Lake Erie are accessible via sidewalks



ER38

## Wakefield MetroPark

 5540 Huron Street  
Vermilion

 Trail and beach access from  
Main Street Beach & Park

 Erie MetroParks

**Amenities and Activities:**  


The 1.6-acre Wakefield MetroPark is a small triangular park area situated between Lake Erie and the Vermilion River. It offers passive recreational opportunities, such as fishing and wildlife viewing. The park and beach are accessible from Main Street Beach (to west) and available for scenic views of Lake Erie. Additional amenities include walking trails, picnic table, and swing benches.

**Water Access:**

- Lake Erie beach is accessible for fishing and paddling via trail and terrain
- Vermilion River is accessible for fishing via trail and terrain

**River Mile Location:**  
At RM 0.1 of the Vermilion River

**Nearby Sites:**  
Main Street Beach & Park is adjacent to the west and connected via trail and beach

ER37

## Main Street Beach & Park

 480 Main Street  
End of Main Street  
Vermilion

 41.4251, -82.3663

 City of Vermilion

**Amenities and Activities:**  


Main Street Beach & Park is located at the northern terminus of Main Street in downtown Vermilion. It features a nearly one-acre beach with over 330 feet of accessible shore. Swimming and fishing are permitted. Amenities include an observation area, restrooms, outdoor shower, and access to the 27-mile Vermilion-Lorain Water Trail. A wheelchair designed for beach accessibility is available free of charge. The park portion (west of the beach) features unobstructed views of Lake Erie and replica of the original Vermilion Lighthouse.

**Water Access:**

- Main Street Beach is accessible for swimming, fishing, and paddling via sidewalk (adjacent to parking lot)
- Scenic views of Lake Erie are accessible via paths and terrain

**Water Trail:**  
 **Vermilion-Lorain Water Trail**

- ➔ South Street Public Boat Ramp (0.9 miles east and up (➔) Vermilion River)
- ➔ Showse Park (2.6 miles east via Lake Erie)

**Lake Erie Birding Trail:**  
 Huron & Lorain Loop

**Nearby Sites:**  
Wakefield MetroPark is adjacent to the east and connected via trail and beach

ER39

## Nokomis Park

 End of Minnie Wawa Street  
Vermilion

 Trail access from Ewa Yea Street

 City of Vermilion

**Amenities and Activities:**  


Nokomis Park is a small passive park located at the northern end of Minnie Wawa Street in Vermilion. The park features a narrow stretch of green space along a 20-foot-high shale bluff. A grassy strip parallels the top of the bluff and provides pedestrian access from Ewa Yea Street (to the east). At the west end of the park, a wooden staircase provides beach access. Swimming and fishing are permitted. A metal ramp with rollers and pulley system is available to help lower kayaks and canoes to the beach. The ramp parallels the staircase. The connecting beach to the west is private property and denoted with a sign.

**Water Access:**

- Lake Erie beach is accessible for swimming and fishing via staircase
- Lake Erie is accessible for paddling; ramp with pulley system available to lower kayaks to beach





VERMILION RIVER

VE1 Water Works Marina

- End of Huron Street  
Vermilion
- 41.4240, -82.3651
- Vermilion Port Authority

**Amenities and Activities:**

Water Works Marina is located on the west bank of the Vermilion River at the end of Huron Street. It is managed by the Vermilion Port Authority and provides 20 spaces for both powerboats and sailboats (up to 45 feet). Water, electric, restrooms with showers (code required), and accessible docks are available. Dockage rates apply (self-pay, cash only kiosk on site); reservations are recommended.

VE2-3 East Exchange Park and Clarion Avenue Dock

- East Exchange Park  
Liberty Avenue (US 6)  
at Exchange Street  
Vermilion
- 41.4227, -82.3634
- Clarion Avenue Dock  
End of Clarion Avenue  
Vermilion
- 41.4232, -82.3601

**Amenities and Activities:**

**East Exchange Park**

**Clarion Avenue Dock**

City of Vermilion and Vermilion Port Authority

East Exchange Park (pictured to right) is a small pocket park located on Liberty Avenue (US Route 6), across from Exchange Street. A paved walkway with gradual stairs connects the sidewalk to a bench and dock area. Additional amenities include a picnic table and swings. Vermilion's Public Comfort Station (public restrooms) is located just west of the park.

Clarion Avenue Dock is managed by the Vermilion Port Authority and offers overnight/transient dockage for boaters. Parking is available for seasonal dockers only. The dock is located at the end of Clarion Avenue, south of Park Drive in Vermilion.

- Water Access:**
- Docks available to boaters
- River Mile Location:**
- At RM 0.2

- Water Access:**
- Docks available to boaters
  - East Exchange Park: Scenic views of the Vermilion River are accessible via path (with steps)
- River Mile Location:**
- East Exchange Park: At RM 0.3
  - Clarion Avenue Dock: Between RM 0.5 and RM 0.6



VE4-5 McGarvey's Landing and Vermilion Rotary Centennial Park

- McGarvey's Landing  
Liberty Avenue (US 6)  
at Liberty Avenue Bridge  
Vermilion
- 41.4226, -82.3586
- Rotary Centennial Park  
West River Road,  
south of Liberty Avenue (US 6)  
Vermilion

**Amenities and Activities:**

**McGarvey's Landing**

**Rotary Park**

McGarvey's Landing sits on the east bank of the Vermilion River, just north of the Liberty Avenue Bridge (US Route 6). It is managed by the Vermilion Port Authority and provides overnight/transient dockage, water, electric, and restrooms with showers (code required). Dockage rates apply (self-pay, cash only kiosk on site).

Vermilion Rotary Centennial Park is a pocket park that provides scenic views of the river. The 150-foot-tall Vermilion water tower (out of service since 1992) is the park's most prominent feature. Rotary Park sits atop the vestiges of the old Lake Shore Electric Railway bridge (razed in 1939).

VE6 South Street Public Boat Ramp

- 777 West River Road  
Vermilion
- 41.4203, -82.3565
- 41.4201, -82.3551
- Vermilion Port Authority

**Amenities and Activities:**

South Street Public Boat Ramp is located on West River Road at South Street in Vermilion. Managed by the Vermilion Port Authority, the access site offers two paved launch ramps, two courtesy docks, boat trailer parking, and an accessible kayak/canoe roller launch. Picnic tables and benches are positioned along the Vermilion River. South Street Public Boat Ramp is an access point on the Vermilion-Lorain Water Trail.

VERMILION RIVER

- Water Access:**
- McGarvey's: Docks available to boaters
  - Rotary Park: No river access. Scenic views of the Vermilion River accessible via path
- River Mile Location:**
- McGarvey's: Between RM 0.6 and RM 0.7
  - Rotary Park: Between RM 0.7 and RM 0.8
- Trails:**
- Back Roads & Beaches Bike Route
- Nearby Sites:**
- South Street Public Boat Ramp (to south) is connected via the Back Roads & Beaches Bike Route (on-road signed bike route)
  - Vermilion Port Authority and City of Vermilion

- Water Access:**
- Vermilion River is accessible for fishing, boating, and paddling via terrain, boat ramp, and kayak launch (with access to Lake Erie)
- River Mile Location:**
- Between RM 0.8 and RM 1.0
- Trails:**
- Back Roads & Beaches Bike Route
- Water Trail:**
- Vermilion-Lorain Water Trail
  - Main Street Beach (0.9 miles downriver and west (↖) via Lake Erie)
  - Vermilion River Reservation – Mill Hollow (5.4 miles upriver)



VERMILION RIVER

VERMILION RIVER

VE7

## Vermilion River Reservation

**Bacon Woods and Mill Hollow**  
51211 North Ridge Road  
Brownhelm Township

Trail access from Vermilion Road,  
south of Jerusalem Road

41.3823, -82.3163

Lorain County Metro Parks

The 1,110-acre Vermilion River Reservation's primary recreational areas: Bacon Woods and Mill Hollow, are located on North Ridge Road, just west of Vermilion Road in Brownhelm Township. Collectively, Bacon Woods (east bank) and Mill Hollow (west bank) comprise roughly 350 acres and follow three miles along the Vermilion River. The entire reservation follows roughly 10 river miles. Mill Hollow was donated to the Lorain County Metro Parks in 1958 and opened in 1960 as its first park. The sheer shale cliffs along the east bank (opposite Mill Hollow) expose many millions of years of geologic history. Fishing is permitted. The Vermilion River is noted for steelhead trout and smallmouth bass yields.

Additional fishing access points are located along Vermilion Road (parking lot and trailhead south of Jerusalem Road), at the end of Peasley Road (parking lot available), and at the Gore-Orphanage Road bridge.

### Amenities and Activities:



### Water Access:

Vermilion River is accessible for fishing and paddling via trails and terrain

### River Mile Location:

Between RM 2.2 and RM 12.7 (with gaps)

### Trails: Bacon Woods

- Coopers Loop Trail
- Bluebird Trail
- Bacon Woods Trail
- Hillside Trail
- Sycamore Trail

### Trails: Mill Hollow

- Riverside Trail

### Water Trail:

- Vermilion-Lorain Water Trail

← South Street Public Boat Ramp (5.4 miles downriver)

### Lake Erie Birding Trail:

- Huron & Lorain Loop

VE7.1

## Bacon Woods

### Amenities and Activities:



Bacon Woods features an extensive trail network, including the 1.4-mile Coopers Loop Trail, the 0.85-mile Bacon Woods Trail, and the 0.7-mile Bluebird Trail. The trails traverse wooded areas, open meadow, and along the Vermilion River. Additional amenities at Bacon Woods include a picnic area and pavilion, playground, amphitheater, sledding hill, restrooms, and 12-hole disc golf course.

VE7.2

## Mill Hollow

### Amenities and Activities:



Mill Hollow amenities include a picnic area with two pavilions, playground, the 0.55-mile Riverside Trail, restrooms, and the Benjamin Bacon Museum and Carriage Barn. The 27-mile Vermilion-Lorain Water Trail begins at Mill Hollow just north (upriver) of the bridge. The water trail connects to the Black River Reservation (see Chapter 6) in Elyria via the Vermilion River, Lake Erie, and Black River.

VE8

## Schoepfle Garden

11106 Market Street  
Florence Township  
(Erie County)

Trail access from Community Center  
(Community Center Connector)

Lorain County Metro Parks

The 70-acre Schoepfle Garden features finely manicured botanical gardens, including the Formal Garden, Shade Garden, and Children's Garden, as well as natural woodlands, two ponds, and mill ruins. A variety of foliage on the grounds include European Beech, Paperback Maple, Japanese Umbrella Pine, rhododendrons, and ornamental grasses. The grounds offer walking paths, hiking trails, visitor center, picnic tables, playground, and carousel.

### Amenities and Activities:



VE9

## Augusta-Anne Olsen State Nature Preserve

4934 West River Road  
Wakeman Township  
(Huron County)

ODNR Division of  
Natural Areas and Preserves

The 132-acre Augusta-Anne Olsen State Nature Preserve features tall oaks and maples atop a ridge above mixed floodplain forest, as well as a variety of spring wildflowers. A 3.1-mile network of unimproved trails wind throughout the preserve and provide scenic views of the river. Three staircases along the trails provide access to the floodplain.

### Amenities and Activities:



VE10

## Bruce L. Chapin Bridge (North Coast Inland Trail and Buckeye Trail)

### Amenities and Activities:



Built in 1872 by the Lake Shore and Michigan Southern Railway, the Bruce L. Chapin Bridge was preserved, converted, and dedicated as a cycling/pedestrian crossing in 2018. The 273-foot-long, double-arched sandstone bridge spans the Vermilion River (at RM 23.6) directly north of US Route 20/State Route 60. The path carries the North Coast Inland Trail, Buckeye Trail, and US Bike Route 30. Parking is available at Railroad Street.