

**Established:** June 20, 1835  
**County Seat:** City of Toledo  
**2010 Population:** 441,815  
**2020 Projection:** 430,450  
**Land Area and Rank:** 340.4 square miles, 85 of 88  
**Miles of Coast:** 25 miles  
**Number of Primary Access Sites:** 9  
**Number of Right-of-Way Sites:** 19  
**Miles of Publicly Accessible Coast:** 9.1 miles\*

# Lucas County

Lucas County, Ohio's westernmost coastal county, is adjacent to Fulton, Henry, Wood and Ottawa counties. Lenawee and Monroe counties in Michigan are to the northwest and northeast, respectively. Lucas County has a combined 25 miles of Lake Erie and Maumee Bay shore. Maumee Bay is generally defined as the portion of Lake Erie between Woodtick Peninsula in Michigan and Cedar Point in Jerusalem Township. Lucas County is named after Ohio's twelfth governor, Robert Lucas.

On August 20, 1794, the Battle of Fallen Timbers was fought in the present-day city of Maumee. It was the final and decisive battle of the Northwest Indian War. The Legion of the United States, led by General "Mad" Anthony Wayne, quickly defeated an allied confederacy of Native American forces led by Chief Blue Jacket of the Shawnee tribe and Chief Little Turtle of the Miami tribe. The American victory ended hostilities in the region and led to the signing of the Treaty of Greenville (1795), a peace treaty that opened up much of eastern and southern Ohio to American settlement.

The northern tier of Lucas, Fulton and Williams counties, known as the "Toledo Strip," was originally claimed by both Ohio and Michigan. The Northwest Ordinance of 1787 established the boundary between the Ohio and Michigan territories as an east-west bearing line extending from the southern point of Lake Michigan to Lake Erie. The line was disputed by the Michigan Territory, which assumed the line to be farther south. The position of the line was contended for much of the early 19th century, even after Ohio's admittance into the Union in 1803. In 1835, to prevent losing the contested 468-square mile strip, which included the city of Toledo and the mouth of the Maumee River, the Ohio General Assembly created Lucas County. The Michigan Territory responded by sending its militia to defend the area. Ohio countered with its militia. The "Toledo War" involved little interaction between the two sides and no casualties. In 1836, U.S. Congress settled the conflict and ruled in Ohio's favor. As compensation, Michigan received the western two-thirds of the Upper Peninsula.

The 137-mile Maumee River, which forms part of Lucas County's southern border with Wood County, empties into Maumee Bay at Toledo. Lucas County's position on the two waterways has helped establish it and the city of Toledo as a major center of commerce in the Great Lakes region. In 1845, the now defunct Miami and Erie Canal opened, connecting Toledo with Cincinnati on the Ohio River. Today, the Maumee River is used as a major transportation corridor for commercial freight entering and leaving the Port of Toledo. Toledo is known as the "Glass City" for its well-established glass industry.

The Maumee Bay and Lake Erie shore in Lucas County is low-lying and protected with dikes, levees, revetments and seawalls. Prominent physical features include coastal wetlands, low banks and sandy beaches. Eastern Lucas County was once covered by the 900,000-acre Great Black Swamp. The massive, glacially-derived wetland covered much of northwest Ohio and was directly connected to Lake Erie. Drainage ditches and canals were constructed in the 1850s to drain the swamp. Remnants of the Great Black Swamp exist along the Lake Erie shore in Lucas and Ottawa counties and are protected as wildlife areas and wildlife refuges.

\* *Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge and Magee Marsh Wildlife Area are inventoried as Ottawa County sites, although portions extend into Lucas County. Miles of publicly accessible coast for these sites are broken down by county; see Ottawa County chapter*



**Lucas County Public Access Sites**

- LU1 Cullen Park
- LU2 Bayview Park
- LU3 Bayshore Fishing Access and Oregon Boat Ramp
- LU4 South Shore Veterans Park
- LU5 Ashcroft Drive Basin Access
- LU6 Lake Erie Center Basin Access
- LU7 Maumee Bay State Park
- LU8 Mallard Club Marsh Wildlife Area
- LU9 Metzger Marsh Wildlife Area

(see Ottawa County chapter)

- OT1 Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge
- OT2 Magee Marsh Wildlife Area

**Lucas County Right-of-Way Sites**

(see pages 38-40)

- ROW1 146th Street, Toledo
- ROW2 137th Street, Toledo

- ROW3 129th Street, Toledo
- ROW4 128th Street, Toledo
- ROW5 126th Street, Toledo
- ROW6 125th Street, Toledo
- ROW7 119th Street, Toledo
- ROW8 117th Street, Toledo
- ROW9 116th Street, Toledo
- ROW10 115th Street, Toledo
- ROW11 113th Street, Toledo
- ROW12 111th Street, Toledo
- ROW13 Caldwell Drive, Oregon
- ROW14 Duchesse Drive, Oregon
- ROW15 Lakeview Avenue, Oregon
- ROW16 Verdun Street, Oregon
- ROW17 Grange Street, Oregon
- ROW18 Blanche Drive, Oregon
- ROW19 Liliias Drive, Oregon

**Coastal Cities**

- Oregon
- Toledo

**Public Access Management**

- Local 5
- State 4

**Coastal Townships**

- Jerusalem Township

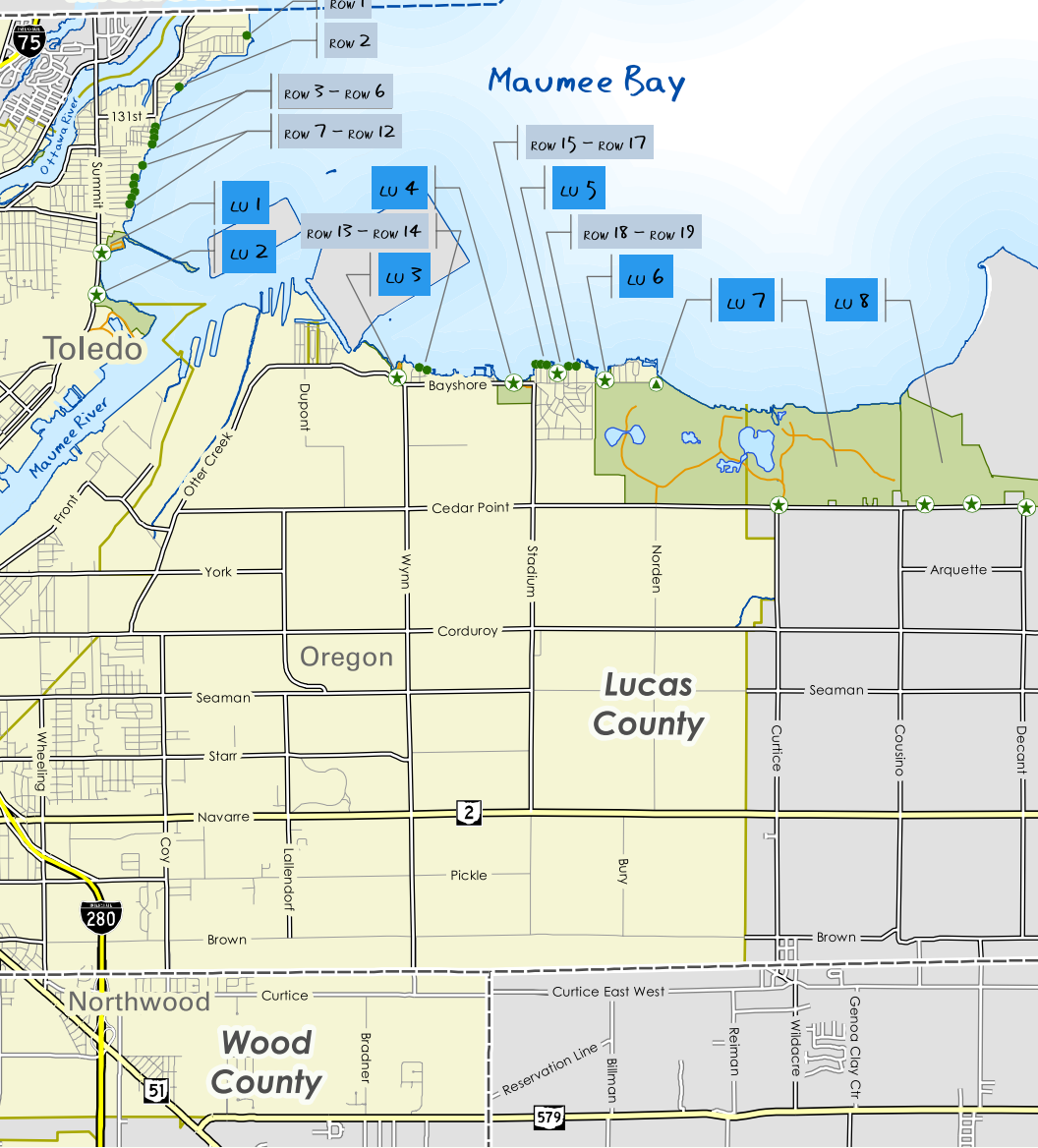
*Top: Bayview Park (LU2), Toledo*



Turtle Island

MICHIGAN

Maumee Bay



- Public Access Site
- Public Access Entrance
- Alternate Entrance

# Lake Erie



★ Interior Access Site

● Right-of-Way Access Site

2 Miles



# Cullen Park

**Location:**

4526 Summit Street,  
at 101st Street

**Jurisdiction:**

Toledo

**Latitude:**

N 41° 42.23'

**Longitude:**

W 083° 28.69'

**Waterbody:**

Maumee Bay

**Site Type:**

Recreational

**Shore Access:**

**Yes**

Path to Shore  
Terrain  
Boat Ramp

**Location Map:**



**Amenities:**



The 24-acre Cullen Park is Toledo's only public boat launching facility on the Maumee Bay. The park provides fishing access, boat trailer parking and the occasional lake freighter sighting. Cullen Park also features the two-mile (round trip) Squadron Island Nature Trail, a dirt path that traverses a seemingly natural and well-forested artificial pier. The pier is seamlessly connected to Squadron Island, a natural island in Maumee Bay, located just north of the Maumee River mouth. Countless fishing sites can be accessed via the trail, as can many pocket beaches and bird viewing opportunities. Cullen Park is adjacent to Bayview Park (south). The Point Place Path connects the two parks.



# Bayview Park

**Location:**

Summit Street,  
south of 101st Street

**Jurisdiction:**

Toledo

**Latitude:**

N 41° 41.93'

**Longitude:**

W 083° 28.74'

**Waterbody:**

Maumee Bay

**Site Type:**

Recreational

**Shore Access:**

**Yes**

Terrain

**Location Map:**



**Amenities:**



Toledo's Bayview Park is located at the site of the long-defunct Lake Erie Amusement Park and Casino (1895-1910). The former amusement venue once featured rides, games, a boardwalk and vaudeville shows. Like many turn-of-the-century amusement parks, fire spelled its downfall; the original pier burned in 1901 as did its replacement in 1910. Much of Bayview Park is undeveloped and managed to support and expand songbird habitat. Fishing is permitted along the shore. The site features a 1.25-mile gravel trail, which was completed in August 2012. The trail is dedicated to the late Howard Pinkley, a former community leader in Toledo's Point Place neighborhood, and his late wife, Mary. Bayview Park is adjacent to Cullen Park (north) and Detwiler Park (west). The Point Place Path connects all three parks.



# Bayshore Fishing Access and Oregon Boat Ramp

**Location:**

Bayshore Road, west of Wynn Road

**Jurisdiction:**

Oregon

**Latitude:**

N 41° 41.41'

**Longitude:**

W 083° 25.87'

**Waterbody:**

Maumee Bay

**Site Type:**

Recreational

**Shore Access:**

**Yes**

Terrain

Boat Ramp

**Location Map:**



**Amenities:**



The 8.2-acre Bayshore Fishing Access in Oregon includes a single-lane boat ramp, a short dock and trailer parking. Fishing is permitted from the dock and adjacent shore areas. Fishing is also permitted along the Driftmeyer Ditch, which was relocated in 2013 through the western portion of the access site as part of the Oregon Flood Relief and Erosion Control Project. Additional fishing is available to the west near a warm water discharge. This fishing spot is accessible via a nearly 2,600-foot long trail that starts at the parking lot and wraps around the Driftmeyer and Heckman ditches. A sign on the west side of the lot marks the trailhead. Handicapped restrooms are also available on site.



# South Shore Veterans Park

**Location:**

5700 Bayshore Road,  
at Stadium Road

**Jurisdiction:**

Oregon

**Latitude:**

N 41° 41.34'

**Longitude:**

W 083° 24.77'

**Waterbody:**

Maumee Bay

**Site Type:**

Recreational

**Shore Access:**

**Yes**

Path to Shore  
Shore Structure

**Location Map:**



**Amenities:**



The 35.4-acre South Shore Veterans Park is located on both the north and south sides of Bayshore Road in Oregon. The northern portion of the park is a narrow piece of land that features the 600-foot and handicapped-accessible James A. Haley Boardwalk. The bench-lined boardwalk offers scenic views of Maumee Bay and provides fishing access. The southern portion features many recreational amenities, including ball fields, a playground, picnic shelter, exercise trail and an observation/sledding hill. South Shore Veterans Park is also the convergence point for two community bike trails that follow Bayshore and Stadium roads. The routes are part of Oregon’s Master Bikeway Plan that, when complete, will provide an extensive network of trails connecting the Maumee River and Maumee Bay State Park.



# Ashcroft Drive Basin Access

**Location:**

Ashcroft Drive at South Shore Boulevard

**Jurisdiction:**

Oregon

**Latitude:**

N 41° 41.41'

**Longitude:**

W 083° 24.36'

**Waterbody:**

Maumee Bay

**Site Type:**

Scenic

**Shore Access:**

Yes

Terrain

**Location Map:**



**Amenities:**



The Ashcroft Drive Basin Access in Oregon is an unimproved parkland area that adjoins the curvature of Ashcroft Drive and parallels the orientation of a small Maumee Bay inlet. The site features a beach and affords fishing access, wildlife viewing opportunities and scenic vistas. It is accessible via a dirt path from Ashcroft Drive. There are no recreational or additional passive amenities. This city-maintained location is not marked with a sign and does not have a designated parking area.

# Lake Erie Center Basin Access



**Location:**  
6225 Bayshore Road,  
east of Lagundovie  
Road

**Jurisdiction:**  
Oregon

**Latitude:**  
N 41° 41.36'

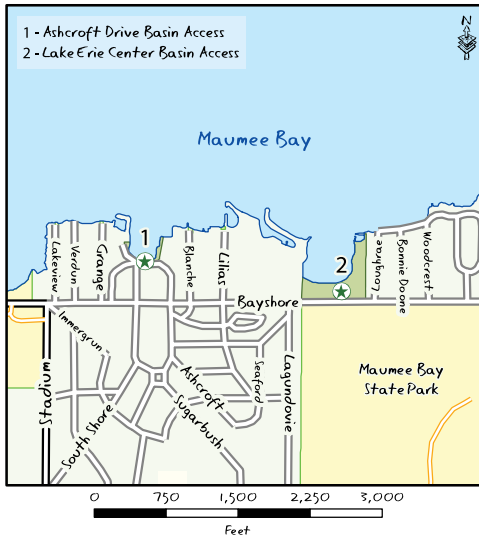
**Longitude:**  
W 083° 23.91'

**Waterbody:**  
Maumee Bay

**Site Type:**  
Scenic

**Shore Access:**  
**Yes**  
Terrain

**Location Map:**



**Amenities:**



The Lake Erie Center Basin Access is a 4.5-acre unimproved parkland area located on Bayshore Road in Oregon across from the University of Toledo's Lake Erie Center. The site is situated on a Maumee Bay inlet and features a beach. The city-maintained access site also includes a large open green space suitable for picnicking and recreation activities such as throwing a Frisbee, baseball or football. The Lake Erie Center, which is located on Maumee Bay State Park land, is an interdisciplinary research and education center that focuses on aquatic conservation, coastal zone processes, environmental chemistry, ecosystem management, fishery genetics, limnology, land use planning and water quality in the Great Lakes region.



# Maumee Bay State Park

## Location:

1400 State Park Road  
Cedar Point Road at  
North Curtis Road

## Jurisdiction:

Oregon  
Jerusalem Township

## Alternate

## Entrance:

Trail access from  
Bayshore Road

## Main Entrance:

Lat: N 41° 40.66'  
Long: W 083° 22.22'

## Bayshore Road:

Lat: N 41° 41.34'  
Long: W 083° 23.42'

## Waterbody:

Maumee Bay

## Site Type:

Recreational

## Shore Access:

### Yes

Path to Shore  
Terrain  
Shore Structure

## Location Map:



## Amenities:



See right for  
more

Maumee Bay State Park is the westernmost state park on Ohio's Lake Erie shore. The 1,336-acre park offers a multitude of recreational and passive amenities for day-use and overnight visitors. The park is situated among meadows, marshlands, wetlands and areas of reforestation. There are 10 miles of trails throughout the park, including bicycling and jogging trails. More than 300 types of birds have been sighted and recorded in the park. The park is also the site of the Trautman Nature Center, a year-round naturalist-staffed facility with interactive displays, an auditorium, wildlife viewing windows, research laboratory and the two-mile, handicapped-accessible Interpretive Boardwalk. The Maumee Bay State Park Golf Course, an 18-hole, Scottish-links style course is located at the park. The park's main entrance is located on Cedar Point Road at North Curtis Road in Jerusalem Township. There is also a paved trail that accesses the park from the eastern terminus of Bayshore Road in Oregon. The trail continues west as the Bayshore Road Bike Path, which connects to South Shore Veterans Park.



# Maumee Bay State Park

LU7.1

## Maumee Bay State Park Campground

**Amenities (for registered campers only):**



Overnight visitors to Maumee Bay State Park can stay at the 256-site campground. All campsites provide electric hook-up. The use of campground amenities is limited to overnight guests. Laundry, trash dumpsters and camp store are also available to campers. The campground entrance is located west of the main entrance on Cedar Point Road at Norden Road. Three Rent-A-Camp units and one Yurt are located within the campground.

LU7.2

## Lake Erie Beach and Inland Lake Swimming Beach

**Amenities:**



Maumee Bay State Park offers two beaches, including a large beach on Lake Erie and an inland lake swimming beach. Swimming is permitted at the Lake Erie Beach; however, seasonal lifeguards are only stationed at the inland lake beach. Changing areas, concessions, outdoor rinsing stations and restrooms are available. A large lakeside amphitheater is located between the two beaches. The inland lake is also suitable for sailing, paddling and fishing.

LU7.3

## Maumee Bay Marina

**Amenities:**



Maumee Bay Marina offers 24 overnight slips with electric and water hook-up and seven transient slips for day use. The marina, which is operated by the Maumee Bay Resort Lodge, is available to boaters by reservation. Jet Ski and kayak rentals are available. The lodge opened in 1991. It is a 120-room facility with racquetball courts, game room, saunas, indoor and outdoor pools, conference and meeting rooms, dining room, lounge and snack bar. The use of lodge amenities is limited to overnight guests. Maumee Bay State Park also offers 24 deluxe cabins, located east of the lodge.



Lucas  
County

# Mallard Club Marsh Wildlife Area

**Location:**

8763 Cedar Point  
Road

**Jurisdiction:**

Jerusalem Township

**Latitude:**

N 41° 40.51'

**Longitude:**

W 083° 20.87'

**Waterbody:**

Maumee Bay

**Site Type:**

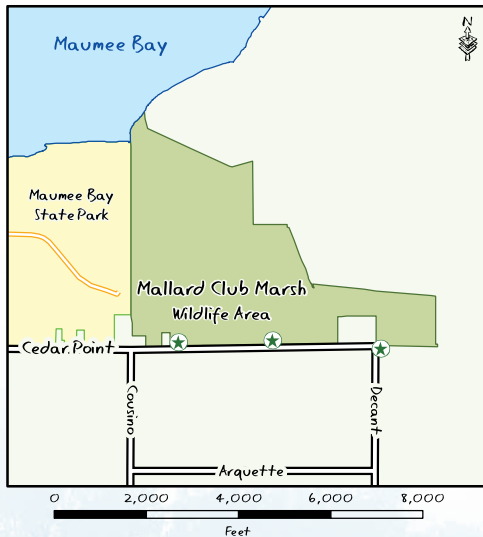
Outdoors

**Shore Access:**

**Yes**

Terrain

**Location Map:**



**Amenities:**



Mallard Club Marsh Wildlife Area is geared toward hunting, fishing and trapping. Although 402 acres in area, this site has less than 890 feet of Maumee Bay shore. Most of the land is situated between Maumee Bay State Park (west) and the Cedar Point National Wildlife Refuge (northeast). Mallard Club Marsh is sectioned into six marshlands separated by dikes. These units are managed to provide prime wetland vegetation and to sustain a variety of wildlife. The marsh also has a pocket of wooded land on its western side. Mallard Club Marsh Wildlife Area has two parking lots along Cedar Point Road and one on Decant Road. There are no additional amenities.

*Note: Access to Cedar Point National Wildlife Refuge is by permit only. The dikes that line the boundary of the wildlife refuge should not be accessed. They are national wildlife refuge property.*



# Metzger Marsh Wildlife Area

**Location:**

12600 Bono Road,  
east of State Route 2

**Jurisdiction:**

Jerusalem Township

**Latitude:**

N 41° 38.33'

**Longitude:**

W 083° 15.07'

**Waterbody:**

Lake Erie  
Wards Canal

**Site Type:**

Outdoors

**Shore Access:**

**Yes**

Terrain  
Shore Structure  
Boat Ramp

**Location Map:**



**Amenities:**



The 558-acre Metzger Marsh Wildlife Area is located in Jerusalem Township at the eastern terminus of Bono Road. The marsh itself is a remnant of the 900,000-acre Great Black Swamp, which bordered most of western Lake Erie and once covered much of northwest Ohio and extended into Indiana. The swamp was drained in the 1850s to aid transportation, agriculture and the logging industry. Today, only 15,000 acres of the former swamp remain, many of which are preserved by the Metzger and Magee state wildlife area marshes and the Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge complex. Birding, waterfowl hunting, trapping and fishing are main uses of this site. A boat ramp on site provides boaters with direct access to Lake Erie via the Wards Canal. A handicapped-accessible fishing pier and portable restrooms are also available.