

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

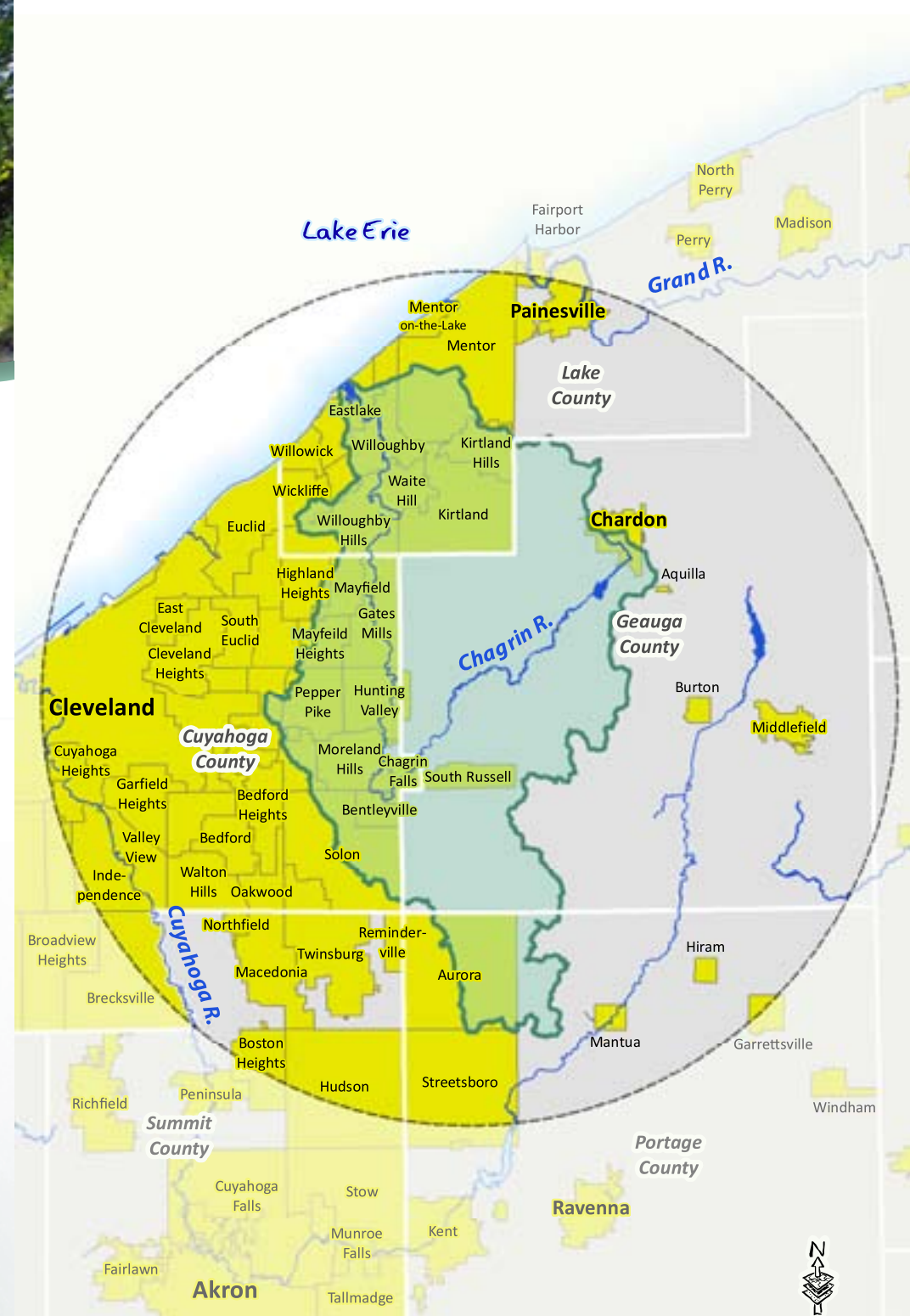
Chagrin River

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:

Location Map:



Amenities:



Field Notes:



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:

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

Field Notes:



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:

Location Map:



Amenities:



Learn More:
City of Willoughby
www.willoughbyohio.com

Field Notes:

Todd Field Park

Location:
38264 Glenn Avenue

Waterbody:
Chagrin River

River Mile Location:
Between RM 4 and RM 5

Jurisdiction:
Willoughby, OH

County:
Lake

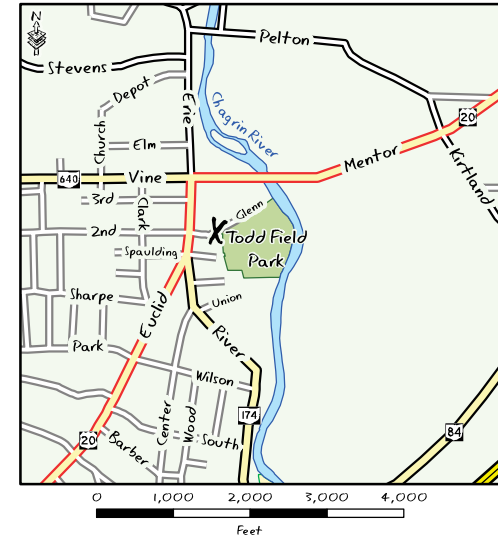
Latitude:
N 41° 38.46'

Longitude:
W 081° 24.28'

Access Site Type:
Recreation

Date Visited:

Location Map:



Amenities:



Learn More:
City of Willoughby
www.willoughbyohio.com

Field Notes:



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

Field Notes:



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

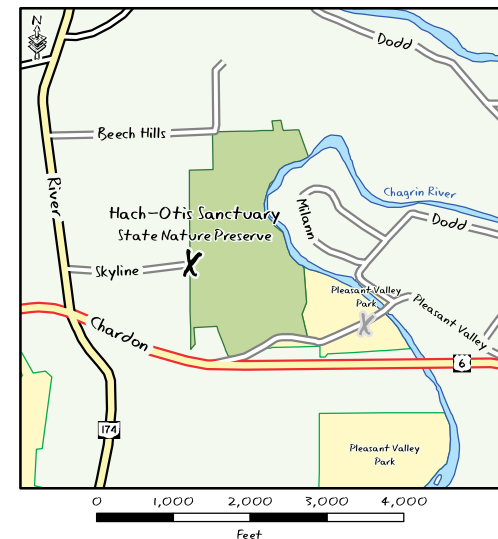
Latitude:
N 41° 35.48'

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

Field Notes:



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

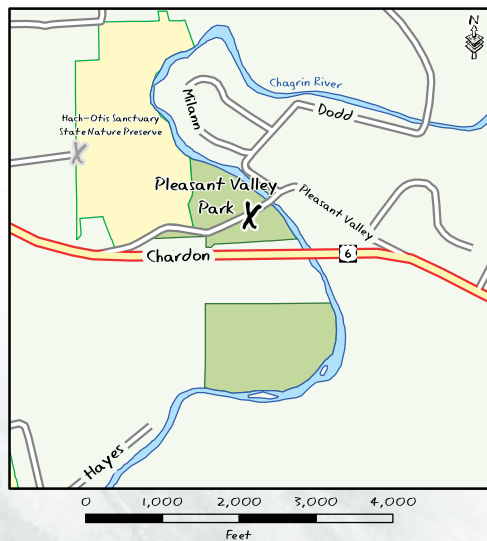
Latitude:
N 41° 35.3'

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

Field Notes:

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'

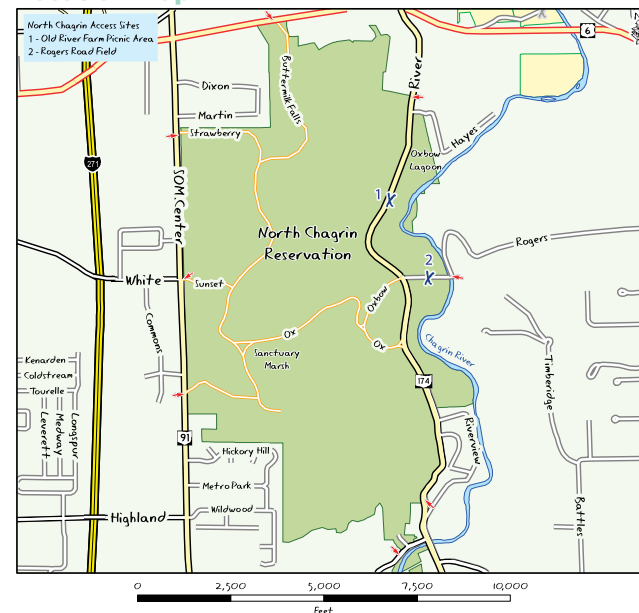
Access Site Type:
Recreation

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



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:



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

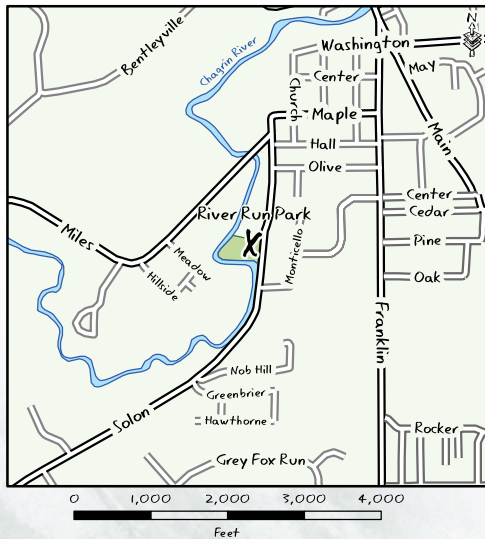
**Access
Site Type:**
Recreation

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

Field Notes:

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

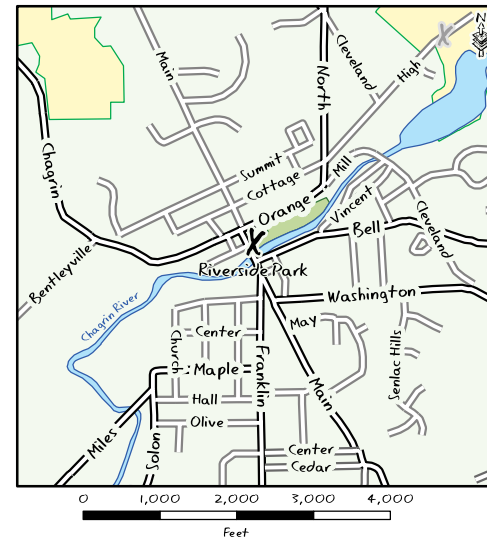
Latitude:
N 41° 25.9'

Longitude:
W 081° 23.51'

**Access
Site Type:**
Recreation

Date Visited:

Location Map:



Amenities:



Learn More:
Village of Chagrin Falls
www.chagrin-falls.org

Field Notes:



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:

Location Map:



Amenities:



Learn More:
Village of Chagrin Falls
www.chagrin-falls.org

Field Notes:

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

Waterbody:
Chagrin River

River Mile Location:
Between RM 35 and
RM 36

Jurisdiction:
Russell Township, OH

County:
Gauga

Latitude:
N 41° 29.08'

Longitude:
W 081° 21.02'

Access Site Type:
Recreation

Date Visited:

Location Map:



Amenities:



Learn More:
West Geauga Commons
www.wgcommons.com

Field Notes:



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:

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:
Gauga Park District
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

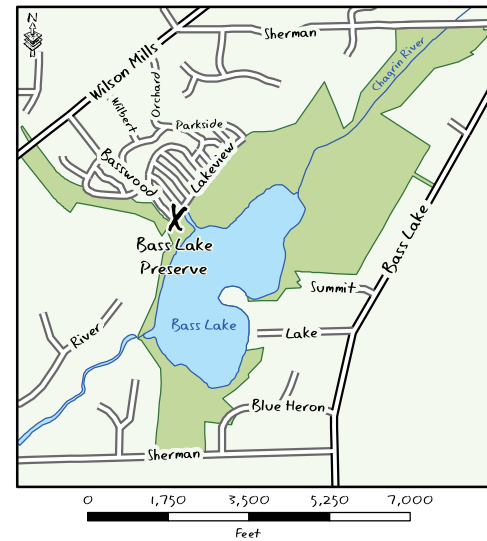
Latitude:
N 41° 33.1'

Longitude:
W 081° 13.72'

Access Site Type:
Recreation

Date Visited:

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:
Gauga Park District
www.geaugaparkdistrict.org

Field Notes: