

LORAIN COUNTY METRO PARKS

# SENIOR BUS TOURS



Lorain County Metro Parks offers FREE bus tours to senior groups of 10-22 individuals.

Your group can choose from one of nine predetermined guided tours of our beautiful Lorain County Metro Parks reservations. Options include a tour of our conservatory, rose garden, historical homes, and more!

Due to the popularity of this program, groups are limited to two tours per year. Groups may choose to bring a packed lunch or eat lunch at one of our on-site cafés (*only available at two park locations*).

To begin scheduling a tour, submit your request online at:

[loraincountymetroparks.com/bus-tours](http://loraincountymetroparks.com/bus-tours)  
or call (440) 458-5121.

**AVAILABLE TOURS DATES:**

**TUESDAYS - FRIDAYS**

**APRIL - SEPTEMBER**




[LORAINCOUNTYMETROPARKS.COM/BUS-TOURS](http://LORAINCOUNTYMETROPARKS.COM/BUS-TOURS)

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

3. BENJAMIN BACON HOUSE TOUR
4. CARLISLE VISITOR CENTER TOUR
5. CASCADE PARK TOUR
6. FRENCH CREEK NATURE CENTER TOUR
7. LAKEVIEW PARK TOUR
8. MILLER NATURE PRESERVE TOUR
9. SANDY RIDGE RESERVATION TOUR
10. SCHOEPFLE HOME AND GARDEN TOUR
11. WELLINGTON RESERVATION TOUR

# BENJAMIN BACON HOUSE TOUR

 VERMILION RIVER RESERVATION  
51211 NORTH RIDGE ROAD,  
VERMILION, OH 44089



## LOCATION HIGHLIGHTS:


Benjamin Bacon was an early settler to Lorain County and one of its first County Commissioners. He built his home along the Vermilion River in 1845. Vermilion River Reservation is the first park in the district. The donation of the land prompted the creation of the metro parks organization in 1957. Museum tour is on the ground floor only.

**NOTE:** Option to add a stop at the Carriage Barn, located directly beside the Benjamin Bacon Museum, to eat packed lunch.



Inside the Benjamin Bacon House at Vermilion River Reservation

# CARLISLE VISITOR CENTER TOUR

 **CARLISLE RESERVATION**  
12882 DIAGONAL ROAD,  
LAGRANGE, OH 44050



## **LOCATION HIGHLIGHTS:**


Carlisle Reservation and the Visitor Center serve as the park's headquarters. This location opened in 1981, but the addition of the facilities Raptor Center did not come until 1998. The Raptor Center is home to various non-releasable raptors who serve as wildlife ambassadors through educational programming.

***NOTE:** Option to add a stop in one of the Visitor Center's meeting rooms to eat packed lunch.*



Red-tailed Hawk at Carlisle's Raptor Center

# CASCADE PARK TOUR

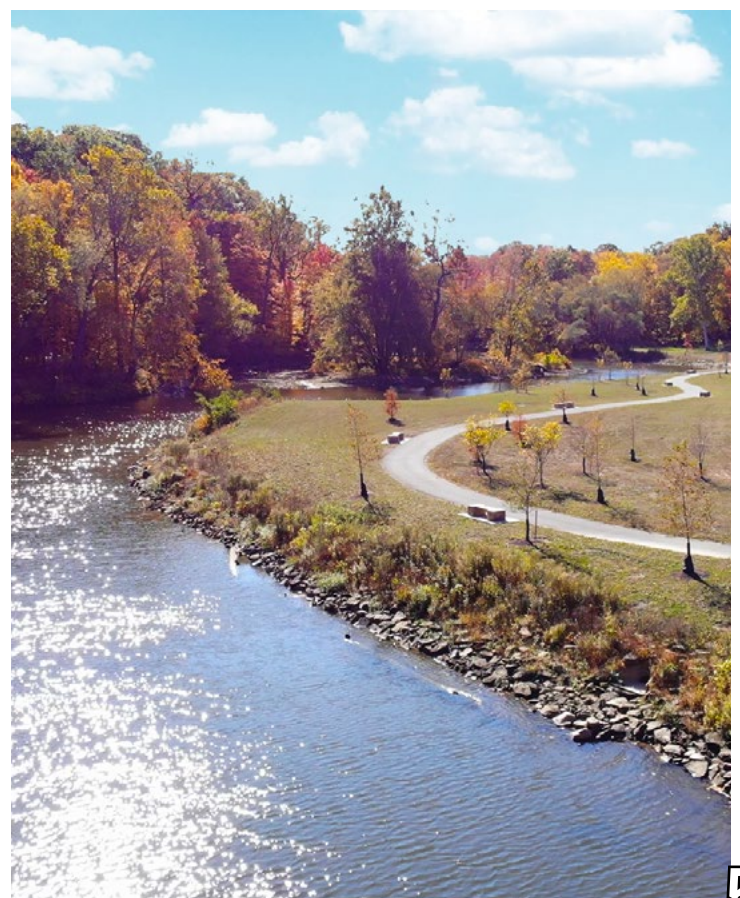
 **CASCADE PARK**  
387 FURNACE STREET,  
ELYRIA, OH 44035



## **LOCATION HIGHLIGHTS:**

Cascade Park is best known for its majestic waterfalls of the east and west branches of the Black River. The park district took over the operations of the park in 2014 and has since seen major upgrades, including the installation of a large bridge spanning the Black River. Visitors can elect to take a self-guided hike over the bridge, to the Elywood side of the park. Waterfall trail is steep and includes uneven terrain.

***NOTE:** Tram is available by request for this tour. Group may optionally use Cascade Nature Center for packed lunch.*



The Black River at Cascade Park

# FRENCH CREEK NATURE CENTER TOUR

## 📍 FRENCH CREEK NATURE CENTER

4530 COLORADO AVENUE,  
SHEFFIELD VILLAGE, OH 44054

## 📍 BURRELL HOMESTEAD\*

2792 EAST RIVER ROAD,  
SHEFFIELD VILLAGE, OH 44054

*\*This stop is optional*

## LOCATION HIGHLIGHTS:

French Creek Nature Center, built in 1987, is home to the French Creek Theatre, as well as a classroom featuring various aquatic and reptile animal displays. The park also features more than 4.5 miles of trails along three separate creeks. Visitors can take a self-guided tour of the facility but may schedule a guided sneak-peak backstage, of the French Creek Theatre.

The Burrell Homestead has stood beside the Black River for more than 200 years. Not far from the shores of Lake Erie, the Burrell family provided refuge for runaway slaves as a stop on the Underground Railroad.

**NOTE:** Option to add a stop at the historic Burrell Homestead. Separate location from the Nature Center. This is the only 2-stop tour that LCMP offers. House has 2 floors, but tour can be contained to the first floor as mobility allows. Groups may optionally use the French Creek Nature Center Classroom for a packed lunch.



Aerial view of French Creek Nature Center

# LAKEVIEW PARK TOUR

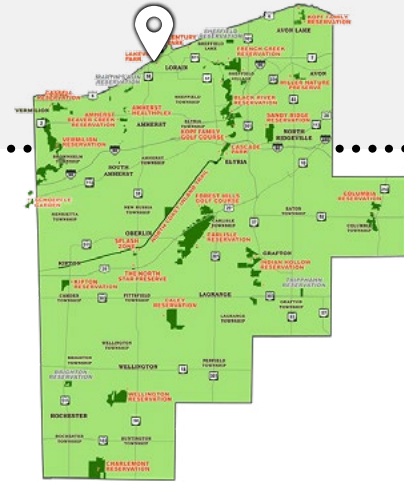
## 📍 LAKEVIEW PARK

1800 WEST ERIE AVENUE,  
LORAIN, OH 44052

## LOCATION HIGHLIGHTS:

Lakeview Park has a history that dates back more than 100 years, long before the park district took it on in 2006. This lakefront beach allows hundreds of thousands of visitors access to Lake Erie each year and features a historical 1936 fountain, as well as the park's renowned rose garden. Visitors can elect to do a self-guided tour of the grounds and enjoy lunch on the terrace overlooking Lake Erie.

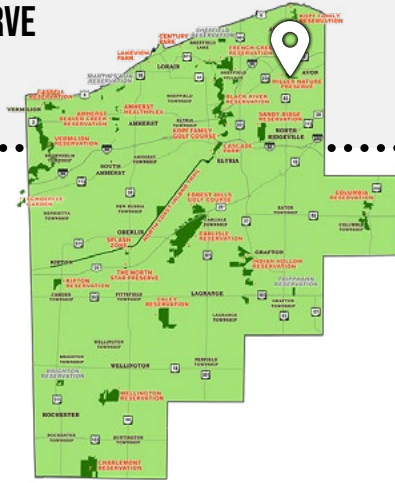
**NOTE:** Optionally, tour group may opt to pre-purchase lunch from the Sunset Café (closed on Fridays) instead of eating a packed lunch.



Lakeview Park's Rose Garden

# MILLER NATURE PRESERVE TOUR

 **MILLER NATURE PRESERVE**  
2739 CENTER ROAD,  
AVON, OH 44011

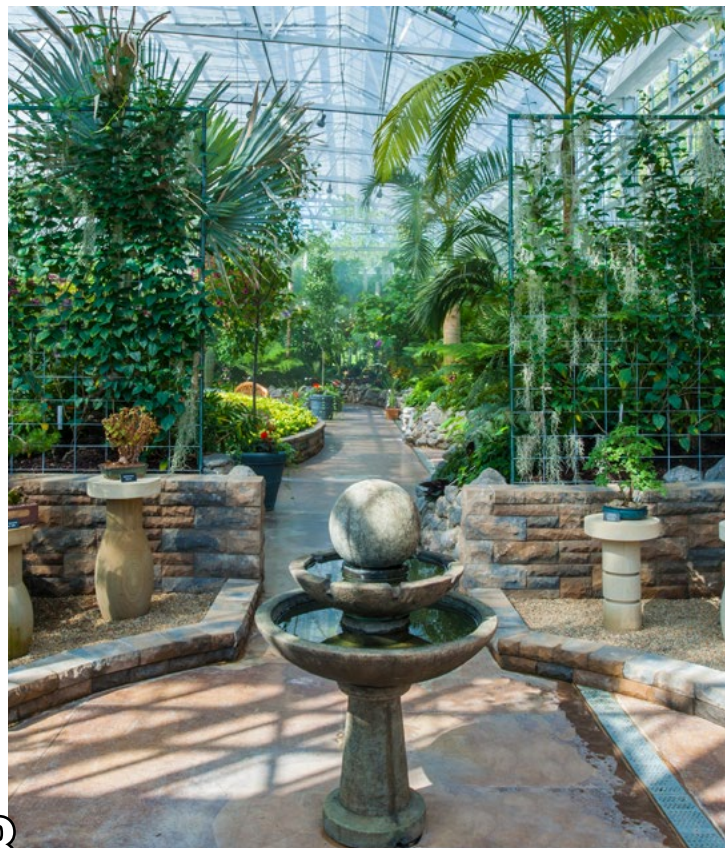


## **LOCATION HIGHLIGHTS:**

Miller Nature Preserve is a unique hidden gem with 145 acres of woodlands in the heart of Avon.

However, the star of this park is the 5,000 sq. foot Conservatory featuring plant specimens from all over the world. Self-guided Conservatory tours have a fee of \$2 per person. Visitors can tour the indoor Butterfly House from 11 a.m.-3 p.m., from Father's Day through Labor Day.

**NOTE: Optionally, tour group may opt to pre-purchase lunch from the Orchid Café instead of eating a packed lunch.**



Inside Miller Nature Preserve's conservatory

# SANDY RIDGE RESERVATION TOUR

 **SANDY RIDGE RESERVATION**  
6195 OTTEN ROAD,  
NORTH RIDGEVILLE, OH 44039



## **LOCATION HIGHLIGHTS:**

Sandy Ridge Reservation is one of the county's birding hotspots situated on a migratory bird route.


This park includes a 526-acre wetland and wildlife preserve. Visitors can elect to do a self-guided hike on a 0.7 mile loop trail.

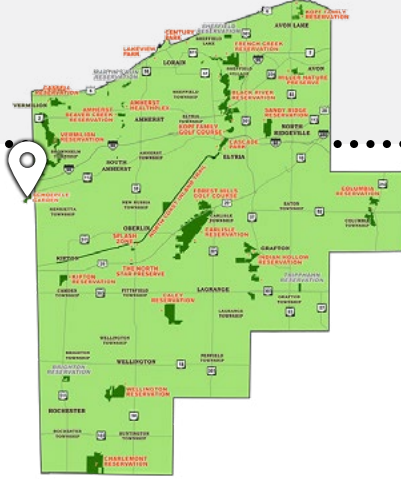
**NOTE: Tram is available by request for this tour. Groups may optionally use the Johnson Wetland Center Room for a packed lunch.**



Birdwatching at the wetlands of Sandy Ridge Reservation

# SCHOEPFLE HOME AND GARDEN TOUR

 **SCHOEPFLE GARDEN**  
11106 MARKET STREET,  
BIRMINGHAM, OH 44816



## LOCATION HIGHLIGHTS:

Schoepfle Garden is 77 acres of botanical gardens and natural woodland bordered by the Vermilion River.

This park is the only location located just outside of the Lorain County line. Otto Schoepfle was a successful businessman, but his true passion lay in the soil of his grandparents' Birmingham farm. His home is a moment captured in time of the "garden that grew." Tour includes a guided view of Otto Schoepfle's home, located on the park grounds. Tour remains on the ground floor only.

**NOTE:** Tram is available by request for this tour. Groups may optionally use the Schoepfle Garden Meeting Room for a packed lunch.



Rhododendrons at Schoepfle Garden

# WELLINGTON RESERVATION TOUR

 **WELLINGTON RESERVATION**  
535 JONES ROAD,  
WELLINGTON, OH 44090



## LOCATION HIGHLIGHTS:

The Wellington Reservation is a 541-acre park that was developed in 2005 through a collaboration with the Village of Wellington. This location includes the Wellington South Reservoir with seasonal paddleboat and kayak rentals.

**NOTE:** Tram is available by request for this tour. Groups may optionally use the Wellington Reservation Meeting Room for a packed lunch.



Wellington Reservation Visitor Center on the banks of the lake



**To begin scheduling a tour,  
submit your request online at:  
[loraincountymetroparks.com/bus-tours](http://loraincountymetroparks.com/bus-tours)  
or call (440) 458-5121.**