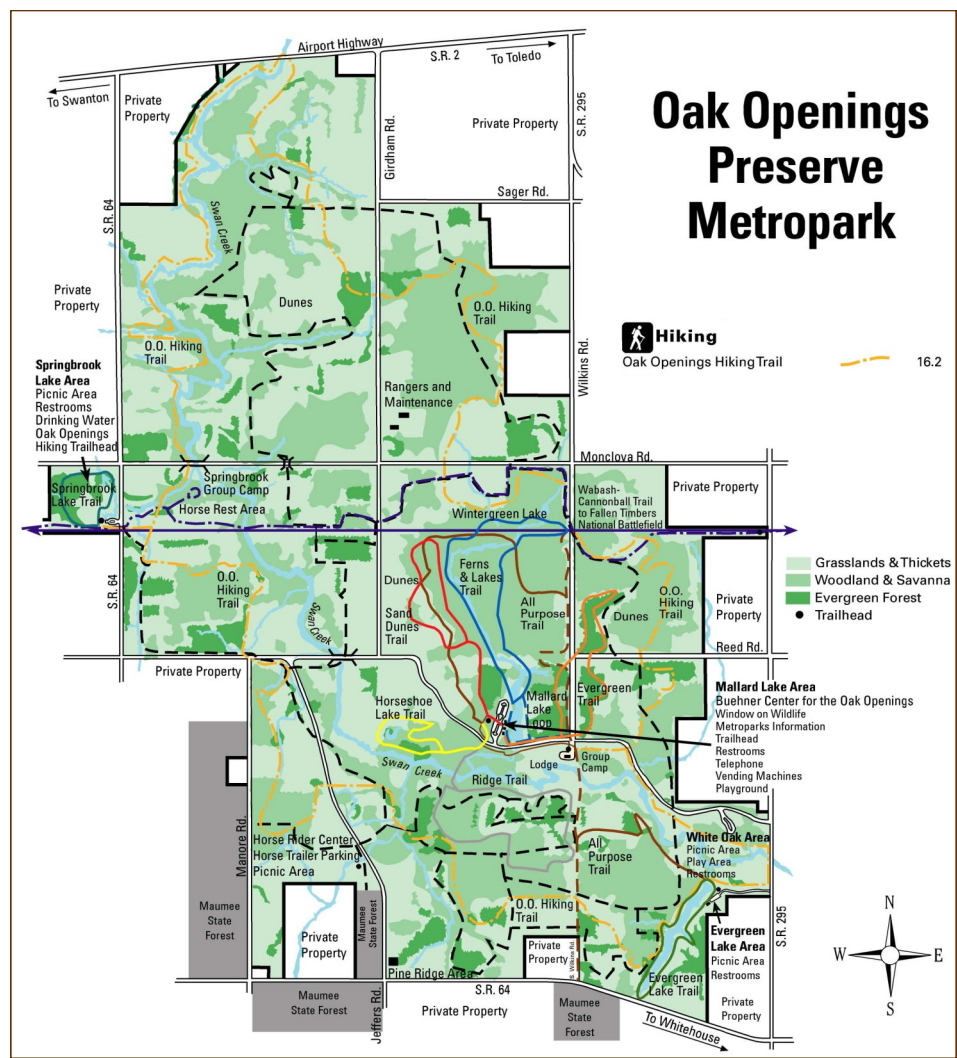


Camping Facilities

Metroparks has two primitive group camping areas in Oak Openings: Spring Brook and the Parkway. The Spring Brook Camp area includes: a vault toilet, a hand pump for water and an open shelter with a fire place. Each campsite has one or two picnic tables and a metal fire ring with a grill. The Parkway area includes two vault toilets and a hand pump for water. Each campsite has one or two picnic tables and a fire ring with a grill.

The cost to rent a campsite is \$15 per night. Each site accommodates up to five tents and 15 people. Reservation fees are due when reservations are made.

To rent a site, group leaders should call 419-407-9710. Questions specific to Oak Openings Metropark or the campsites may be directed to the ranger on duty at 419-360-9179 or 419-877-5675.





The Oak Openings Trail is more than a place to get exercise. This intriguing trail provides a rare opportunity for one to escape the tensions of everyday living. Here, the hiker is reminded of America's heritage of primeval wildness, pioneer life and Indians. The beautiful region, through which oak openings Trail passes, was created by nature upon a large sand deposit.

The term "Oak Openings" was first used by early settlers who observed large expanses of open grasses between stands of oaks. Some of these species of prairie grass still grow in the Oak Openings today, but the large expanses of dense grasses are gone. All of the Oak Openings Metropark lies within the Oak Openings region. At least this much of the region is going to be protected and, with man's help, a large area of prairie grass could be restored. May would enjoy hiking through an area where grass reaches five or more feet above their heads.

As you hike the Oak Openings Trail use your senses: look, listen, feel, and smell. Look up, look down, and look into the depths of the forest. You might see wild deer, fox, woodchucks, mink, weasels, owls, and a hundred other animals. The scout trail (also known as the Oak Openings Hiking Trail) is a 16.2 mile trail that goes around the perimeter of Oak Openings Preserve.



Steps to Hike the Trail

- ◆ Retrieve hiking information sheet from the Erie Shores Council office or from erishorescouncil.org. Fill out sheet with troop number, names of those hiking the trail, date hiking the trail, and Scoutmaster's name.
- ◆ For a day hike, no additional documents are needed. Just arrive at Oak Openings and hike (see map on back). *Units outside of Erie Shores Council must have an official tour permit, as required by their local council.* If overnight camping, reservations must be made with the Toledo Metroparks office (more info on back page).
- ◆ Turn in the hiking information sheet at the Erie Shores Council Scout Shop at Camp Miakonda and purchase your awards. Awards include:

⇒ For 1st time completed

- ◆ Trail Patch

⇒ For completion over 2 consecutive days

(can also be 1st time completed for patch)

- ◆ Trail Medal



⇒ For additional trail completion after earning medal

- ◆ 2nd Segment pin
(to be worn on medal)



⇒ For additional trail completion after earning 2nd segment pin

- ◆ 3rd Segment pin
(to be worn on medal)



Leave No Trace

It is recommended that all Scouts & Scouters follow Leave No Trace & the Outdoor Code while camping and/or hiking

- Plan Ahead and Prepare
- Travel and Camp on Durable Surfaces
- Dispose of Water Properly
- Leave What You Find
- Minimize Campfire Impacts
- Respect Wildlife Visitors



"As an American I will do my best to be clean in my outdoor manners, be careful with fire, be considerate in the outdoors, and be conservation minded."