

# Colorful cliffs star at Vermilion park

Lorain County-owned site is great for fishing outing for kids, picnic or short hike. 1845 house is museum

**VERMILION:** The 100-foot, multi-tiered cliffs of dark shale are distinctive.

They are among the dominant features at Vermilion River Reservation, a 1,026-acre tract along the river in northwest Lorain County.



**BOB DOWNING**

It's a pretty park south of Vermilion in Brownhelm Township, a great place for a picnic, a fishing outing for kids or a short hike. The area has a bit of local history. It is popular with bird watchers and with anglers seeking trout in the spring.

The park, which is owned

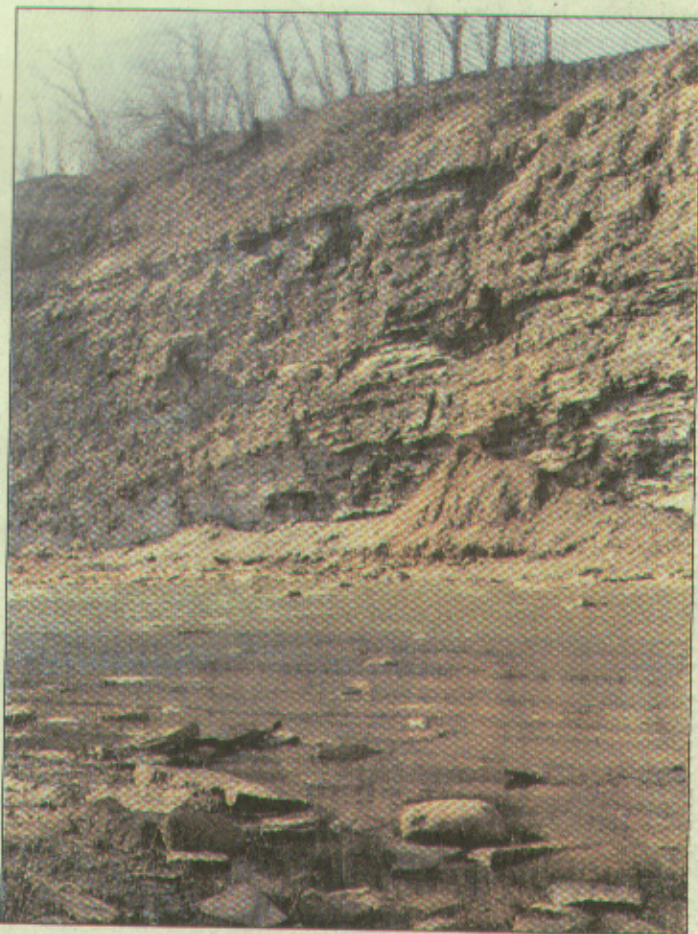
and operated by the Lorain County Park District, lies along an oxbow or a hollow along the green-brown river, which gurgles and cascades north toward Lake Erie.

The lower two-thirds of the cliffs are made up of thin layers of dark, soft, crumbly Cleveland shale. There is also a layer of fine sandstone. The upper third is a soft, grayish-red Bedford shale.

That upper rock gave the river its name. After heavy rain, the reddish hue would wash out and stain the cliffs reddish-orange, or "vermilion" in French.

At river level, you can find the soft, bluish Chagrin Shale that is 360 million years old and the oldest exposed rock in

Please see **Cliffs**, G4



BOB DOWNING/Akron Beacon Journal

The lower two-thirds of the park's cliffs are Cleveland shale and fine sandstone. The upper third is Bedford shale.