

The 390 acres of Chapin Forest offer trails to wander through a mature woodland. Enjoy walking beneath the branches of beech, maple, oak, tulip and hemlock trees. To protect this beautiful setting from logging, Frederic H. Chapin purchased this property in 1949 and donated it to the State of Ohio. Under a lease agreement with the Ohio Department of Natural Resources Division of Forestry, Lake Metroparks manages Chapin Forest Reservation.

Chapin Forest is known for its distinctive rock formations as well as its majestic forests. The rocky outcroppings, or ledges, were formed about 300 million years ago, long before glaciers slid across northern Ohio. This bedrock is made of sandstone and quartz pebbles, a combination called Sharon Conglomerate. To protect the fragile vegetation that clings to the rocky ledges – and because of the steep cliffs – the ledges area is restricted unless you are part of a guided walk. Regularly scheduled Ledgerrock Walks are offered throughout the year.

As you explore Chapin Forest Reservation, you might want to stop by Quarry Pond. This pond and the adjacent streambed were part of a stone quarry operated during the 1800s. Sandstone from this site supplied the foundations for many local buildings, including the Kirtland Temple, which was completed in 1836.

Chapin Forest has also served as a study site. During the late 1950s, the Ohio Division of Forestry and Reclamation began using Chapin Forest as a research site to determine the growth rates of trees for possible commercial timber production. Have you seen the white numbers still visible on some trees in Chapin Forest? These tell you that they are part of the study.

One of the best scenic overlooks in Lake County is found along Lucky Stone Loop. On a clear day, you can see Lake Erie and the Cleveland skyline, 18 miles away. In winter, as storms sweep across Lake Erie, picking up additional moisture, they hit the ridge of land containing the ledges. Large amounts of snow are then dropped on the land just beyond Kirtland, in the famous snowbelt of northeast Ohio. At the base of the overlook is another abandoned stone quarry, where the Sharon Conglomerate was crushed to separate the quartz pebbles and sand, which were used in local construction and industry.

Did you know that you can hike a continuous trail throughout Ohio? Called the Buckeye Trail, it includes parts of Chapin Forest Reservation and is managed by its own volunteer crews. Look for light blue paint blazes on some trees along Arbor Lane, Lucky Stone Loop and Quarry Pond Loop.

Natural richness abounds at Chapin Forest Reservation. Enjoy your visit and come again soon!

