

PENITENTIARY GLEN NATURE CENTER

8668 Kirtland-Chardon Road
Kirtland, Ohio 44094
(440) 256-1404 or 1-800-889-2099
www.lakemetroparks.com



How to get to Penitentiary Glen



Take I-90 to Rt. 306 south for about one mile to Rt. 615 and turn left. Continue to Kirtland-Chardon Road and turn right (east) for two miles to Penitentiary Glen Reservation, located on the right (south).

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Penitentiary Glen Reservation...

is an environmental education center and 422 acre park, located in the rolling hills of Kirtland.

Admission is FREE. Park grounds are open to the public daily from sunrise until a half hour past sunset. You'll find many different areas to explore at Penitentiary Glen— forests, fields, wetlands, hiking trails, a nature center, and a wildlife center. Abundant wildflowers, grasses and native trees provide a haven for diverse wildlife populations, including squirrels, turtles, deer, and over 100 species of birds.



The Nature Center, A Very Special Place

Surrounded by a butterfly garden, the Nature Center houses hands-on exhibits and the Nature Connection Gift Shop. Art shows are frequently presented. The Nature Center also features the award-winning "Window On Wildlife," where visitors can get a close-up look at backyard wildlife.

The Nature Center plays an important role in northeastern Ohio by providing environmental and science education through school field trips and outreach programs, while hosting many programs and special events for people of all ages.

The Wildlife Center

Each year, nearly 2,000 injured or orphaned animals receive first aid and rehabilitation at the Wildlife Center. Many eventually resume their life in the wild. Patients include backyard wildlife, such as rabbits and song-birds, and endangered species such as the peregrine falcon and bald eagle. Those that cannot be returned to the wild may become our permanent animal ambassadors and can be visited daily in the Center's yard.

Our goal is to reduce human impact on native Ohio wildlife through education and wildlife rehabilitation.



How the Gorge Got its Name

Penitentiary Glen is known for the deep gorge that divides the park in two. Settlers in the early 1800s called the gorge "Penitentiary Gully," because it was very difficult to get out of the deepest part, much like a prison or penitentiary. (Imagine trying to climb straight up a 100 ft. wall!)

The gorge is a sensitive area and has restricted access because of its steep walls, exposed rock, and fragile vegetation. Naturalists lead guided gorge hikes throughout the year. Ask in the Nature Center about our hikes.

Amenities

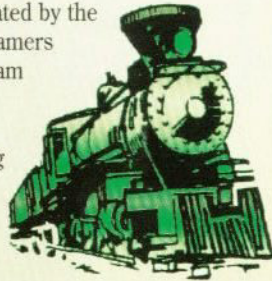
Penitentiary Glen features more than three miles of gravel trails, a paved, stroller-friendly accessible trail, bridle trail, picnic area, reservable picnic shelter, playing fields, scenic overlook, fishing ponds, and indoor restrooms.

Park History

In 1912, the Halle family, owners of The Halle Bros. Co. in Cleveland, bought this property for their summer estate and working farm. The farm was managed by the Burnett family, who lived here year-round. The only remaining structure is the horse barn, which now houses the Nature Center. Wise use of the land has preserved this special area for today and the future. Brochures are available for self-guided tours.

"All Aboard!" the Penitentiary Glen Railroad

The railroad is operated by the Lake Shore Live Steamers Club. Miniature steam engines pull cars of visitors through woodlands and along the gorge rim. Free public rides are offered regularly (weather permitting). Schedules are available in the Nature Center.



Volunteer Opportunities

If you enjoy spending your time around nature and like working with others who appreciate the natural world, consider volunteering at Penitentiary Glen. Volunteers lead nature walks, staff the information desk, and help in the gift shop, butterfly garden, and Wildlife Center. Weekday, weekend, and evening opportunities are available. Please call (440) 256-2121.

Penitentiary Glen Reservation is one of many parks owned and managed by Lake Metroparks. We invite you to enjoy all the parks within the Lake Metroparks system.

Call us at (440) 639-PARK (7275) or 1-800-227-PARK for more information.

