

## Cleveland Metro Parks

Name of trail: Cleveland Metro parks

Location of trail: 7 separate reservations: Bedford, Brecksville, Hinckley, Mill Stream, Rocky River, North Chagrin, and South Chagrin

Directions from nearest main route:

Trail Land Manager: Cleveland Metro parks 216-351-6300, [www.clemetparks.com](http://www.clemetparks.com)

Trail description: Suburban area, road crossings, yet feels secluded most of the time

Type of trail (multi-use, bridle/hike, etc.): horses, walkers, and joggers –NO WHEELS

Trail surface: wide, well groomed, well maintained

Normal trail condition: good, not well marked

Trail condition during winter/wet weather: good

Length of trail: 82 miles – 7 reservation areas, some connected, need guide for connectors

Trailhead parking description: numerous

Trailhead horse facilities: no overnight – some picnic spots

Trailhead human facilities: port-a-johns

Unique /scenic trail features: many

Trail hazards: some busy roads, Bedford Reservation river crossing after a heavy rain

Trail rating:  **Easy** – Level or gently sloping terrain; consistent groomed surface; wide trail surface; shallow or no water crossings

**Moderate** – Rolling to hilly terrain; short steeper slopes; water crossings; irregular trail surface; narrower trail surface

**Challenging** – Steeper hills; unimproved trail surface; deeper water crossings; wider water crossings; boggy areas

**Difficult** – Very steep hills; long climbs or descents; narrow trail surface; faster flowing and wider water crossings; deep water crossings

## **Bridle Trail Information Cuyahoga County Chapter**

Cleveland Metro parks “The Emerald Necklace” consists of over twenty thousand acres with fourteen “reservations” draped around the city and suburbs of Cleveland, Ohio. Seven of these reservations have bridle trails totaling over eighty-two miles. Maps and trail markers are not consistent and are not easy to follow. This being a park that rings suburban areas it does mean that generally you are near roads or homes although you usually have the illusion of being deep in the woods and sometimes you truly are. Most trails are wide and well groomed although stone topping may be a problem for unshod horses. Five of these seven Reservations connect although each is probably better ridden as its own unless you get someone to show you through.

All Bridle Trails are primarily for the use of equestrians but people on foot and dogs ON LEASH are also allowed. Other users are to yield to horses. NO BIKES or WHEELED vehicles propelled by human or animal power are allowed. This includes bikes, strollers and horse drawn vehicles. Horses must be kept on bridle trails and under control at all times. Manure must be picked up in the parking areas and horses are not allowed in picnic areas. There are some areas with a picnic table near the edge and common sense rules. If there is a tie rail and mounting block you know you are welcome.

Cuyahoga has a club representative for each Reservation who would be willing to answer your questions.

You can also contact Club Trail Coordinators:

Penny Passalacqua at 440-248-0156 [pennyohc@sbcglobal.net](mailto:pennyohc@sbcglobal.net) or

Margaret Wolfe 440 232-0710 [Mrgrtrw@aol.com](mailto:Mrgrtrw@aol.com)

The Park Ranger Emergency # is (440) 243-0442

Non Emergency Ranger # is (440)-243-7860

The following is a brief review of each reservation and a contact name. We will give the primary parking area although there may be others. There are no overnight camping facilities.

**NORTH CHAGRIN RESERVATION:** Monica DeSanto (440)-338-6084  
[misukuma@adelphia.net](mailto:misukuma@adelphia.net).

Located in Mayfield Village, Willoughby Hills and Gates Mills. It is within the boundaries of Rt.6- Rt.91- Chagrin River Rd. and Wilson Mills Rd. There are 2100 acres and two to three hours of riding which can be extended by loops. This Reservation stands by itself, not connecting to the others.

The Ox Bow Trailhead is the horse trailer parking area. Located on N. Oxbow Lane off of Chagrin River Road. There is a potty, picnic tables, tie rails and plenty of parking for 15 trailers or more.

Trails are well maintained but rocky in places (slag). There are some good long hills to climb but only one small water crossing so bring water for horses to drink.

Point of interest: Squires Castle built in 1890 to be a gatehouse for a country estate-the estate never materializes but the castle remains.

**SOUTH CHAGRIN RESERVATION:** Penny Passalacqua (440)-248-0156

[pennyohc@sbcglobal.net](mailto:pennyohc@sbcglobal.net)

Located in Bentleyville, Solon and Moreland Hills, bounded by Rt.87 (South Woodland Rd.) Chagrin River Rd.-Cannon Rd. and Richmond Rd.

There are over 1438 acres and one to six hours of trail riding. This Reservation connects to the other four Reservations so riding could go for days.

The Polo Field at Rt.87 and Chagrin River Rd. is the best place to park as long as there is no huge prescheduled event being held. Enter from Chagrin River Rd. There are toilets, picnic tables and mounting blocks. The trail is wide, well maintained, relatively flat with several shallow water crossings. There are several busy road crossings some with traffic lights. Taking the main trail would take you about ten miles to the connection to Bedford Reservation but most people do a series of loops after crossing Miles Road and return to the Polo Field. This would take anywhere from two to five or more hours.

Point of interest: A small but attractive Arboretum that you pass through. A ten-mile ride takes you to Shadow Lake and a small equestrian picnic area with tie rails etc and a beautiful view of the Lake. Remember it is ten miles back.

**BEDFORD RESERVATION:** Margaret Wolfe (440)-232-0710 [mrgtrw@aol.com](mailto:mrgtrw@aol.com)

Located in Bedford, Oakwood, Valley View, and Walton Hills. Bounded by Richmond Rd. Egbert Rd. Dunham Rd. and Canal Rd. There are over 2200 acres and miles of groomed trails plus a loop around the rim of a beautiful 200-foot deep gorge that has a more primitive trail. There is also a primitive trail heading down the valley toward the Brecksville Reservation and across Canal Rd. onto the Towpath Trail. The loop around the gorge takes about two hours. One side is groomed and the other primitive with Tinkers Creek (river) to cross at either end. This is not to be crossed after a rainstorm. A guide is suggested.

Jacks Place Trailhead is located on Old Button Rd. at Dunham and Tinkers Creek Rd. just beyond the Park Maintenance Area. There is a small corral, picnic tables and a mounting block. Toilets a short walk away in the Hemlock Creek Picnic Area.

**BRECKSVILLE RESERVATION:** Sue Sandercock (440)-746-1033 or [sue21@cox.net](mailto:sue21@cox.net)

Located in Brecksville and bounded by Rt. 21(Brecksville Rd.), Parkview Rd. Chippewa Rd. (Rt.82) Riverview Rd. and Snowville Rd. This Reservation connects to the Mill Stream Reservation.

There are over 3470 acres and miles of well-maintained trails that are hilly but have long stretches of flat. Trailers can be parked at Brecksville Stable in the meadow as long as it is dry enough or lengthwise on the right side of the blacktop. The restrooms are located in the stable and there is a picnic table.

Point of interest: The loop trail around the stable takes you to the newly opened Valley Trail a primitive trail heading to the Wetmore Trail system in Peninsula. This section alone is about a ten-mile trail and would need to be retraced to return to the stable. The

Brecksville trail system takes about two hours to ride with dogleg extensions that would greatly extend the time.

**MILL STREAM RESERVATION:** Kathy King (216)-741-3966 [kking@nis.net](mailto:kking@nis.net)

Running from Berea to Strongsville it is bounded by Bagley Rd. Edgerton Rd. and runs on either side of the Valley Parkway. This is a long narrow Reservation of 3181 acres and a long run of trail that connects Brecksville Reservation to Rocky River Reservation. There are no loops so count on doubling back at some point.

Trailers may be parked at Wallace Lake or across from the archery field in the Albion Picnic Area. There are some major roads to cross if you start from Wallace Lake so horses must be traffic safe. This is one of the more urbanized parks because of its narrow boundaries but is a nice ride in spite of the traffic at some points.

**ROCKY RIVER RESERVATION:** Carol Miller (440)-826-3720

Located in Berea, Lakewood, Olmsted Township and Rocky River, this Reservation of 2520 acres offers a beautiful ride along the river with some wide water crossings and views of massive shale cliffs. Trails run from Bagley Rd. connecting at Mill Stream to past Puritas Rd. and the Stable.

Trailer parking is at the Lewis Rd. Show Ring area on Lewis Road. There are tie rails, potty, mounting blocks and picnic tables. From there you can ride to Mill Stream (you would have to ride an all purpose trail and cross busy Bagley Rd.) or better yet to the Stable on Puritas Rd. and then past the stable to a loop up by the golf course. Several hours of trails are well groomed and mostly flat once you go down the hill from the back of the ring area. You must double back at some point in your ride. Cleveland Hopkins Airport is nearby and it is a thrill to see and hear the low flying planes. Horses seem to take this in stride.

**HINCKLEY RESERVATION:** John Shaughnessy (440) 243-7120 [jscamf@aol.com](mailto:jscamf@aol.com)

Located in Hinckley Township in Medina County this Reservation of 2300 acres offers the best of groomed rural riding. Trailer Parking is on Rt. 606 where you find tie rails, potty, mounting stone a trail winding through woods and fields for fourteen miles. This is also an out and back trail and has two doglegs to extend your ride. You really can't get lost but you feel like you are very isolated from the busy world. There are several other smaller parking areas, one at the Worden House and one at Johnson's Picnic Area.

Watch for the beautiful Blue Herons who nest in this reservation.

Cuyahoga OHC rides a different Reservation each month throughout the spring, summer and fall. Come join us and learn the trails and make new friends. Other Chapters are ALWAYS WELCOME!