



Self-Guided Fall Foliage Walks

It's that time of year when trees turn bright orange, brilliant yellow, and vivid red. In autumn, the process of photosynthesis stops, leaving the chemicals in the leaves to break down. Chlorophyll (which gives leaves their green color) is first to break down in the leaf. What's left are chemicals xanthophyll and carotene which are bright yellow and orange. Some trees ramp up the production of anthocyanin which add pops of bright reds and deep purples. Lake County offers many parks to experience amazing views of fall colors. Below are some of our favorites:

Chagrin River Park

Chagrin River Park may not have a high vantage point like some other parks, but its scenery in fall is still outstanding. The pedestrian bridge over the Chagrin River along with the surrounding fall color provide an amazing backdrop for fall photography.

Chapin Forest Reservation

Home to one of the best overlooks in Northeast Ohio, Chapin Forest Reservation is an excellent spot to take in the colors that autumn brings. The overlook is the fourth highest point in Lake County at approximately 1,160 feet above sea level. From there, you can see as far as downtown Cleveland on a clear day. Looking out at the canopy of color makes this spot worth the hike during peak color.

Girdled Road Reservation

Girdled Road Reservation boasts a scenic overlook that rivals that of Chapin Forest. Located a short distance from the north parking lot, this ADA-accessible overlook opened in 2021 and features a lookout deck and an amazing view of the Big Creek valley.

Hell Hollow Wilderness Area

At 981 acres, Hell Hollow Wilderness Area is Lake Metroparks' largest park. Amazing views of the Paine Creek valley showcase some gorgeous color. Don't forget to make your way down the stairs and into the valley to be immersed in the fall colors.

Indian Point Park

Indian Point Park offers many areas to take in fall color. You can head up to the top of the point and view how the colors complement the valley below, or head to the new pedestrian bridge for a more intimate, but just as breathtaking, fall scene.

Chagrin River Park

East entrance
3100 Reeves Rd.
Willoughby, Ohio 44094

South entrance
37699 Erie Rd.
Willoughby, Ohio 44094

- Brambleside Loop Trail
- Riverwood Trail
- Song Bird Loop Trail

Chapin Forest Reservation

9938 Chillicothe Rd (Rt. 306)
Kirtland, Ohio 44094

- Lucky Stone Loop Trail
- Turkey Trail
- Quarry Loop Trail

Girdled Road Reservation

North Entrance
12840 Girdled Rd.
Concord Twp., Ohio 44077

- Valley View Overlook Trail

Hell Hollow Wilderness Area

14437 Leroy Center Rd.
Thompson, Ohio 44086

- Beech Ridge Loop Trail

Indian Point Park

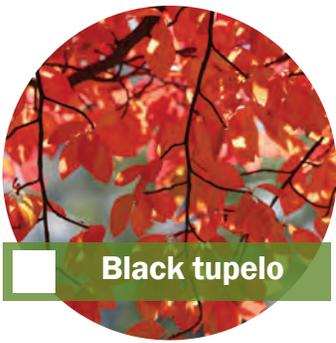
Paine Creek parking lot
12951 Seeley Rd.
Leroy Twp., Ohio 44077

Upper parking lot
13165 Seeley Rd.
Leroy Twp., Ohio 44077

West parking lot
12701 Seeley Rd.
Leroy Twp., Ohio 44077

- Mason's Crossing
- Point Overlook Loop Trail
- Paine Creek Trail

Park maps and more information can be found at
goto.lakemetroparks.com/bingewalk



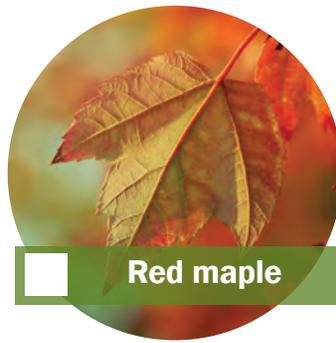
Black tupelo

Black tupelo aka blackgum trees are some of the earliest to change color. They produce brilliant crimson leaves and purple berries in the fall.



Sugar maple

Sugar maple trees are some of the most colorful trees in the region during fall. Most leaves turn blinding orange, while some are spotted red and yellow.



Red maple

Red maple trees have similarly-shaped leaves to sugar maples and are about as common. They live up to their name in fall with beautiful red leaves.



Sweetgum

Sweetgum trees produce amazing color that varies from tree to tree. Some are a bright red, others a deep purple, or even yellow or orange.



Sassafras

Sassafras trees turn a plethora of colors in fall. Fitting, as each tree also sports three different leaf shapes. Leaves range in color from deep purple to blazing orange, often on the same tree.



Staghorn sumac

Staghorn sumac trees may be known for their horn-like fruit, but their leaves are the showstoppers in fall. Their red and orange colors are electrifying, albeit brief.



Honey locust

Honey locust trees are known for their dense rot-resistant wood and produce some of the most brilliant yellow leaves you'll find in fall.



Shagbark hickory

Shagbark hickory leaves are vivid yellow in the fall. These trees are common throughout the area and can be identified by their "shaggy" bark.



Northern catalpa

Northern catalpa trees are an important food source to many pollinators and are known for their very large leaves (up to ten inches!) While they produce a nice yellow, they often lose their leaves before other trees.



Flowering dogwood

Flowering dogwood are small trees that usually produce a beautiful red color in autumn.



Tulip

Tulip trees aka tulip poplar are one of the largest trees found in the region and produce leaves ranging from brilliant yellow to golden orange.



American beech

American beech trees are known more for their smooth gray bark than their fall color, but their golden-brown leaves offer a nice contrast to brighter trees in fall.



Yellow birch

Yellow birch trees are usually found in floodplains or near water. Despite their glittering yellow color, their name actually comes from their yellowish peeling bark.



Pin oak

Pin oak trees (like most oaks) aren't the brightest of trees, but can produce a nice deep red leaf in fall.



Bigtooth aspen

Bigtooth aspen trees grow in a variety of soils and feature gleaming yellow foliage in fall. They often grow on recently disturbed or cleared land.