



Self-Guided Pollinator Walks

The parks are alive with pollinators in summer! Pollinators are any animals that help plants reproduce by moving pollen from flower to flower. Bees and butterflies are the most well-known pollinators but other examples include flies, birds, moths and even bats! Although pollinators can be found everywhere, here are a few parks with some great summer gardens that are chock full of pollinators!

Penitentiary Glen Reservation

Penitentiary Glen Reservation is home to the largest planted butterfly garden in the park system. The garden is home to a variety of native wildflowers from common plants like purple coneflower and ironweed to less common monarda, turtlehead and foxglove. In addition to the butterfly garden, the Glen Meadow and Red Fox Loop Trails are filled with native wildflowers and their pollinators.

Jordan Creek Park

Outside the Environmental Learning Center at Jordan Creek Park is a butterfly garden filled with native plants such as rudbeckia. While this provides a great spot to view pollinators, Jordan Creek Park's forest habitat has woodland pollinators including red-spotted purple butterflies.

Hogback Ridge Park

Hogback Ridge Park in Madison is home to a few different habitats in which to find pollinators. The open meadow is home to more typical wildflowers like asters, while the floodplain along the bank of Mill Creek is home to flowers such as columbine.

Lake Erie Bluffs

The fields at Lake Erie Bluffs are a good example of why it's more than just flowers that are important to pollinators. There are a good number of flowers here, but Lake Erie Bluffs is also home to a variety of grasses and sedges. While these plants don't necessarily require the help of pollinators to reproduce, they are the host plants for pollinators, including a variety of skipper butterflies.

Hidden Lake

The wetlands at Hidden Lake are home to plants and animals specialized to live in wet conditions. Swamp rose mallow, blue lobelia and lizard tail are just a few of the wetland flowers you'll find here. And while we may think of native wildflowers as the only plants that require pollinators, there are many bushes that do too, such as buttonbush.

Hidden Lake

North Entrance
6850 Kniffen Rd.

South Entrance
7024 Kniffen Rd.
Leroy Twp., Ohio 44077

- Birder's Loop Trail
- Goldenrod Loop Trail
- Hidden Lake Loop Trail
- Meadow View Loop Trail

Hogback Ridge Park

4700 Emerson Rd.
Madison Twp., Ohio 44057

- Meadow Rim Trail
- Hemlock Ridge Loop Trail
- Bluebell Valley Path

Jordan Creek Park

7250 Alexander Rd.
Concord Twp., Ohio 44077

- Learning Loop Trail
- Ridge Trail
- Research Station Loop Trail
- Tulip Tree Trail

Lake Erie Bluffs

3301 Lane Rd.
2901 Clark Rd.
Perry Twp., Ohio 44081

- Eagle View Loop Trail
- Shoreline Trail
- Bluff Loop Trail
- Forest Edge Trail

Penitentiary Glen Reservation

8668 Kirtland-Chardon Rd.
Kirtland, Ohio 44094

- Red Fox Loop Trail
- Glen Meadow Loop Trail



Monarch

Monarchs are orange and black butterflies that use milkweed as a host plant but pollinate a variety of flowers. Look for them in open meadows and butterfly gardens.



Ruby-throated hummingbird

Ruby-throated hummingbirds feed on nectar and help pollinate tube-shaped flowers such as columbine and jewelweed. Look for them anywhere tube flowers are plentiful.



Spicebush swallowtail

Spicebush swallowtail butterflies are commonly found in forests and can be confused for other swallowtails in our area. Look for a splash of iridescent blue or green on the hindwings.



Two-spotted bumblebee

One of many bumblebee species in our area, the **two-spotted bumblebee** is a fuzzy bee with two yellow spots on its abdomen. Bumblebees rarely sting and can be found in nearly any habitat.



Hummingbird clearwing

Hummingbird clearwings are large diurnal moths sometimes confused for hummingbirds, hence the name. Hummingbird clearwings are in the sphinx moth family and are found in gardens and open meadows.



Least skipper

Least skippers are tiny orange butterflies that are sometimes overlooked but are important pollinators. Look for them in wet grasslands and dense sedges.



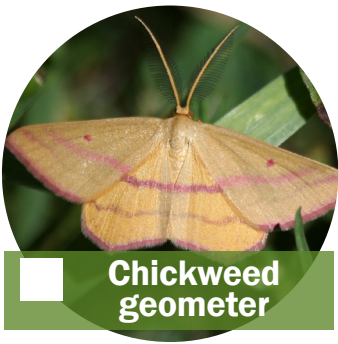
Mason bee

Most abundant in early summer, there are about 20 species of **mason bee** in Ohio ranging in color from black and pale yellow to metallic green. Mason bees are solitary and can be found in meadows and forest edges.



Great spangled fritillary

Great spangled fritillaries are large orange and black butterflies with white spots on their underwings. They are one of many fritillary species in Ohio. Look for them in open meadows and gardens.



Chickweed geometer

Chickweed geometers are yellow and pink daytime moths and are some of the most abundant moths in the state. Often mistaken for butterflies, they can be found in open areas.



Hoverfly

Don't be fooled by the black and yellow markings, this isn't a bee, it's a fly! **Hoverflies** are bee mimics but can be identified by their larger eyes and two wings (instead of four). Hoverflies are found in nearly every habitat.



Giant leopard moth

Giant leopard moths are striking moths and are easy to identify with their black and white spotted pattern. They can be found in forests and semi-open areas.



Pollinators range from small to large. Some are insects, others are birds—that's a wide array of animals! These are just a few pollinators you're likely to spot in your parks!

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