There's No Place Like Lake County! 5 Things We Love



- 1.A STORIED PAST
- 2. Going Green
- 3. Heritage Tourism
- 4. A Pour Choice
- 5. Close to the Fun



A Storied Past - 181 years ago, Lake County was formed as it separated from Geauga County. These original lands from the Western Reserve brought settlers from New England as the forests, climate and price of 40 cents per acre were too good to pass up. Following the Girdled Road, Thomas Jordan arrived at Wilson's Corners in Concord Township in 1802. Samuel Huntington and Abraham Skinner settled in New Market near what was to become Grandon / Fairport by 1803. Jesse Ladd (1812), Abraham Tappan and the John Cunningham family settled and developed what formerly became Madison in 1867. Other communities in V

developed what formerly became Madison in 1867. Other communities in Willoughby, Mentor, Perry, LeRoy and Painesville soon sprung up.

Early industry used the local waterways to establish their gristmills, sawmills, tanneries, furnaces and more. Paine Falls, Chair Factory Falls and Abbott's Mill became well known. Dock Road and Water Street became sites to the leading ports of the early to mid-1800s. Lighthouses and commercial fisheries dotted the county shoreline in Madison, Fairport and Richmond / Grand River. Joseph Smith arrived in 1831 and the historic Kirtland Temple was underway. Local entrepreneurs named Moreland, Rockefeller, Squire, Coulby, Everett, Reynolds, Hanna and others built summer homes in the county. The hotels of Little Mountain dominated the summers of the late 1800s.

Today many of these historic sites and homes are still available for one tank trips and visits.

Going Green - With 39 parks, over 10,000 acres and 60 miles of paved trails, Lake Metroparks <u>Lakemetroparks.com/</u> offers endless possibilities for visitors and residents alike to recreations amid the sights and sounds of nature. Nearly four million visitors checked out the trails and woods in 2020 alone. New in 2021, visitors can include Jordan Creek Park (Environmental Learning Center) with its Adventure Play plus the addition of new trails at Hidden Lake Park and new pathways at Indian Point. In Mentor, the new Springbrook Gardens park adds amenities for

the public as it grows yearly. The Mentor Lagoons continues to develop and evolve based on public interests, even adding free concerts this year. A fishing pier in Painesville Township and birding at the Bluffs in Perry offer still more nature-related activities for all.



27 Historical Markers reside in Lake County, each a worthy stop on its own. Mentor is home to Lawnfield, the 20th President James A. Garfield's residence. Fairport Harbor is a hidden gem as two lighthouses, two heritage markers, a pristine beach and stops along the Underground Railroad are part of its storied past. Downtown Painesville features many notable historic buildings and districts, a famous train depot and railroad museum; and since 1856, is the hometown of Lake Erie College. Kirtland dots the history landscape with the Kirtland Temple, Herb Society / Vineyard House and Holden Arboretum. Madison, Perry, Willoughby and the other county cities



each feature key tales from America's past.

A Pour Choice - Lake Erie, fertile lands and a favorable growing climate made Lake County the perfect choice after early industry and farming ran its course for the burgeoning



wine industry. Some say it rivals its competition on the West Coast and nearby upstate New York. Visitors can experience the Grand River Valley Wineries. 19 local vineyards are located within 20 minutes of Painesville including family estate wineries Debonne and Ferrante. If our finest boutique wines are not your choice, three

breweries and three distilleries are among many other delicious local options.



Close to the Fun - A 'Hidden Gem' may best describe our county. Headlands State Park and Fairport Harbor Lakefront Park offer nearly 2 miles of Lake Erie beach access. A pier in Painesville Township is but one of many fishing opportunities throughout the county. Hidden Lake and Veteran's Park are inland spots for local fisherman. Lake Metroparks campsites continue to increase in popularity for nature lovers. Pickle ball courts in Mentor and Concord engage seniors daily. In Fairport, two local lighthouses, kayaking and SUP opportunities and local concerts await the visitors. Recent years have offered powerboat races off the Mentor shoreline during July as well as a beach fest. Rabbit Run Theater in Madison offers patrons of the arts a fine summer venue. Cruise-Ins and concert series are offered weekly in

Painesville,
Concord Township
and Mentor. A
Grand River Kayak
Race each April
along-with a Pirate
Triathlon each
July are found on
the Lake
Metroparks
calendar. Mardi

Gras highlights each

July 4th week in Fairport while

many major events are featured in downtown

Willoughby throughout the year. Professional Class A baseball resides in

Eastlake with the Lake County Captains. Community Days in Concord Township, Madison and other cities unite residents each summer. Each summer the Lake County Fair returns and continues an agricultural tradition dating back over 150 years. Wonderstruck, Willoughby Arts Fest, Vintage Ohio and limitless local bistros including two Grand River fish houses craft our county.

Visit <u>MyLakeOh.com</u> for all the must-visit attractions in Remarkable Lake County. There is something for everyone!