

## Skyline Overlook Trail



- **Location:** West Creek Reservation (Parma)
- **Type:** Natural Surface
- **Length:** .7 miles
- **Cost:** \$16,000
- **Funding Source:** Cleveland Hiking Club
- **Dedicated:** April 20, 2019 in celebration of the Cleveland Hiking Club's 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

County: Cuyahoga



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The Skyline Overlook Trail was built in 2019 in Cleveland Metroparks West Creek Reservation to celebrate the Cleveland Hiking Club's 100th anniversary. Cleveland Hiking Club (CHC) leadership began working with Cleveland Metroparks in January 2017 to identify an appropriate project to support financially as well as through volunteer service. Upon selecting the project, CHC members were invited to make donations to support the project and contributed a total of \$16,000. CHC members also worked alongside Cleveland Metroparks trails crew to assist with building the trail. The trail was dedicated on April 20, 2019 –the 100th anniversary of the Cleveland Hiking Club.

Since its founding, CHC has been closely aligned with Cleveland Metroparks and was directly involved with identifying and establishing the original trails in Bedford, Brecksville, Hinckley and North Chagrin Reservations. Ralph Protano, Cleveland Metroparks trails manager, worked with CHC members to identify an appropriate location for the 'centennial trail' and subsequently designed the trail and supervised construction. West Creek Reservation was selected for this trail for many reasons including its central location and because many CHC members were part of the grassroots effort that helped to establish this park in 2004.

## Skyline Overlook Trail



- Connects to all trails within West Creek Reservation and local neighborhoods.
- Accessible for most hikers.
- Sustainable design.
- Close proximity to parking and picnic areas.

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The Skyline Overlook Trail directly links to the Lookout Ridge Trail that connects to the entire West Creek Reservation trail network as well as several local neighborhoods. It was designed with a wide range of users in mind and has quickly become one of the most popular trails in the area. The length, 8% grade and series of switchbacks make it a comfortable hike for most people including older hikers and young children. The trail is also ideal as a short hike on its own or as part of an extended journey. In addition, it was designed and built to ensure its sustainability and minimize the impact on surrounding natural resources.

Since the Skyline Overlook Trail (and entrance to Lookout Ridge Trail) is located near the main entrance of West Creek Reservation and Keystone Picnic Area it is an easy location for those new to the area and organizations seeking 'meet up' destinations. Ample parking, restrooms and picnic opportunities are also appreciated by many hikers. In 2020 more than 172,000 people visited West Creek Reservation.

## Skyline Overlook Trail



- Trail leads to 20' observation deck with spectacular view of Cleveland skyline and West Creek valley
- Area surrounding trail is a natural oasis of old growth forest and spring wildflowers

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The Skyline Overlook Trail is the final trail section that leads hikers to an observation deck that offers one of the best views of the Cleveland skyline as well as the ever-changing West Creek valley. This view was not easily accessible prior to the addition of this trail, thus the trail and overlook quickly became popular with birders and photographers as well as hikers.

# Skyline Overlook Trail

- Featured in *The Plain Dealer*
- Recognized by Cleveland Metroparks Board of Park Commissioners.

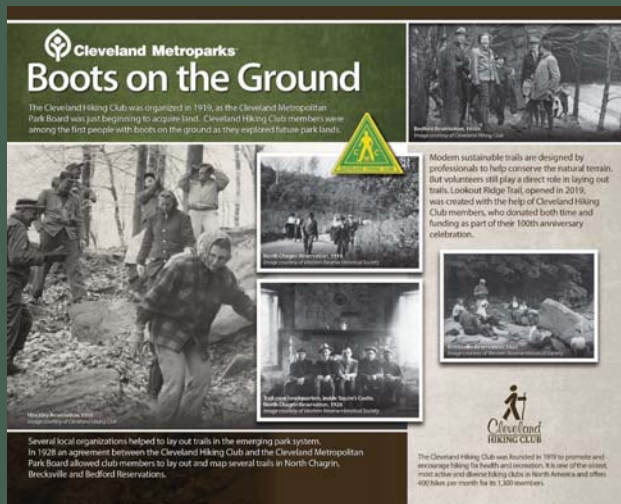


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# Skyline Overlook Trail

- Special sign at entrance of trail recognizes Cleveland Hiking Club's 100th Anniversary and its commitment to developing trails and land in Cleveland Metroparks.



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In addition to providing the community with a new trail and celebrating the Cleveland Hiking Club's 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary, the Skyline Overlook Trail reaffirmed CHC's commitment to accessible, natural and sustainable trails in northeast Ohio.