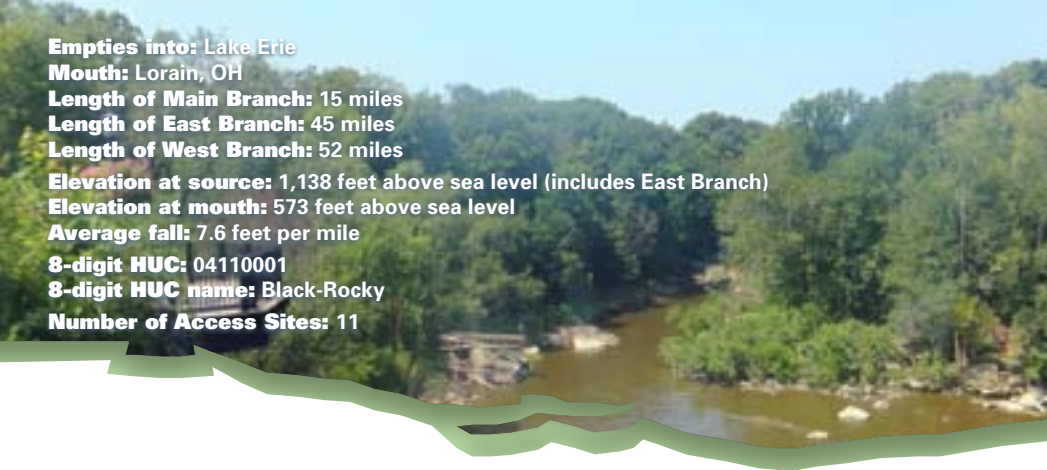


**Empties into:** Lake Erie  
**Mouth:** Lorain, OH  
**Length of Main Branch:** 15 miles  
**Length of East Branch:** 45 miles  
**Length of West Branch:** 52 miles  
**Elevation at source:** 1,138 feet above sea level (includes East Branch)  
**Elevation at mouth:** 573 feet above sea level  
**Average fall:** 7.6 feet per mile  
**8-digit HUC:** 04110001  
**8-digit HUC name:** Black-Rocky  
**Number of Access Sites:** 11



# Black River

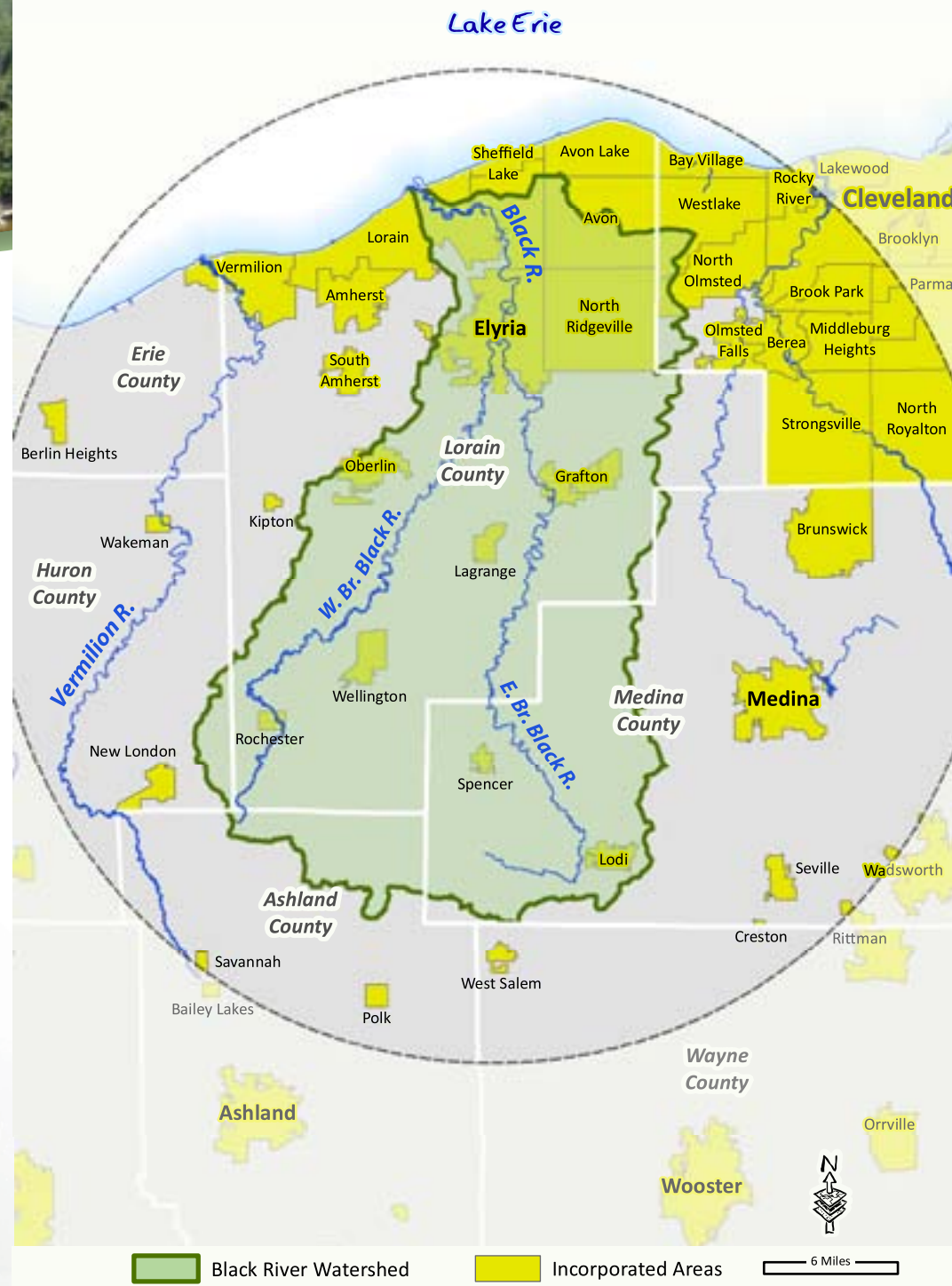
including the East Branch and West Branch

The Black River Watershed is divided into three principal sections: the Main Branch, the East Branch and the West Branch. The Main Branch of the Black is just over 15 miles long and begins where the East and West branches converge at Cascade Falls in the city of Elyria. The mouth empties into Lake Erie in the city of Lorain. The 45-mile East Branch begins at the confluence of the East and West forks northwest of Lodi (Medina County). Headwaters for the 52-mile West Branch rise in Troy Township (Ashland County). The whole watershed covers 466 square miles (298,240 acres) in portions of Ashland, Cuyahoga, Huron, Lorain and Medina counties.

Similar to the Vermilion and Rocky rivers, the Black features distinctively high and steep shale cliffs.

Due to concerns that too much industrial and waste water contaminants had been discharged into the lower portion of the river, the Black was federally designated an Area of Concern in 1985 (along with the Ashtabula, Cuyahoga and Maumee rivers), prompting the foundation of the Black River Remedial Action Plan (RAP). The RAP uses community-based, collaborative, ecosystem-based approaches to clean and restore the polluted portions of the river. As a result of the RAP's efforts, water quality in the lower Black has significantly improved over the last decade. While continuing the downstream efforts, the Black River RAP now aims to focus on agricultural impacts upriver.

The Black River Watershed is home to nearly 300,000 residents (644 people per square mile), 40 percent of whom live in the cities of Lorain and Elyria. The river meanders through large areas of protected and connected public land including the Lorain County Metro Parks' Black River and French Creek reservations. The Bridgeway Trail and Steel Mill Trail offer hikers and bicyclists a 5.5-mile, fully-accessible, paved path linking the two reservations. The Vermilion-Lorain Water Trail, dedicated in 2009, also provides paddlers a designated route down the Black from the Black River Reservation to Lake Erie, and then west to the Vermilion River.





# Lorain Public Fishing Pier and Riverside Park

**Location (Fishing Pier):**  
First Street at Hamilton Avenue

**Waterbody:**  
Black River  
Lake Erie

**River Mile Location:**  
Between RM 0 and RM 1

**Jurisdiction:**  
Lorain, OH

**County:**  
Lorain

**Fishing Pier:**  
Lat: N 41° 28.25'  
Long: W 082° 11'

**Riverside:**  
Lat: N 41° 28.24'  
Long: W 082° 10.71'

**Access Site Type:**  
Recreation

**Date Visited:**

**Location Map:**



**Riverside Park Location:**  
Alabama Avenue at Lakeside Avenue

**Learn More:**

City of Lorain, [www.cityoflorain.org](http://www.cityoflorain.org)  
Lorain Port Authority, [www.lorainportauthority.com](http://www.lorainportauthority.com)

**Field Notes:**

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**Amenities:**

Lorain Public Fishing Pier



Riverside Park



# Black River Landing

**Location:**  
421 Black River Lane

**Waterbody:**  
Black River

**River Mile Location:**  
Between RM 0 and RM 1

**Jurisdiction:**  
Lorain, OH

**County:**  
Lorain

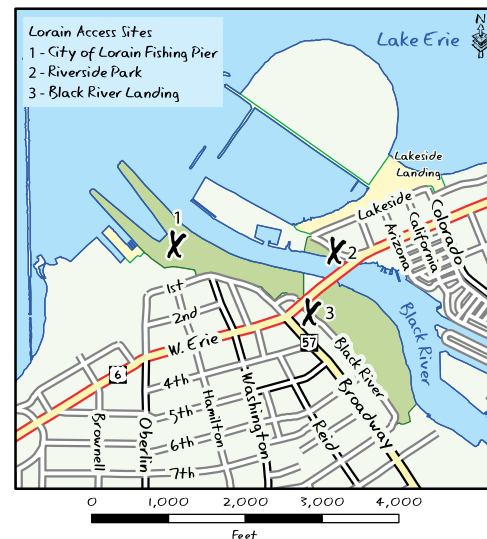
**Latitude:**  
N 41° 28.11'

**Longitude:**  
W 082° 10.62'

**Access Site Type:**  
Recreation  
Scenic  
Cultural

**Date Visited:**

**Location Map:**



**Learn More:**  
Lorain Port Authority  
[www.lorainportauthority.com](http://www.lorainportauthority.com)

**Field Notes:**

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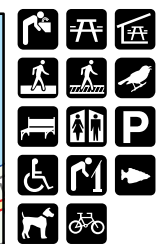


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**Amenities:**





# Black River Wharf Boat Launch

**Location:**  
355 Broadway Avenue

**Waterbody:**  
Black River

**River Mile Location:**  
Between RM 1 and RM 2

**Jurisdiction:**  
Lorain, OH

**County:**  
Lorain

**Latitude:**  
N 41° 27.88'

**Longitude:**  
W 082° 10.37'

**Access Site Type:**  
Recreation

**Date Visited:**

**Location Map:**



The Black River Wharf Boat Launch is an access site for the Vermilion-Lorain Water Trail. There is a launch fee for boats, canoes and kayaks.

**Learn More:**  
Lorain Port Authority  
[www.lorainportauthority.com](http://www.lorainportauthority.com)

**Field Notes:**

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**Amenities:**



# French Creek Reservation

**Location (Nature Center):**  
4530 Colorado Avenue (SR 611)

**Location (Water Trail Access):**  
4060 Old Colorado Avenue

**Waterbody:**  
Black River  
French Creek

**River Mile Location:**  
At RM 5 (Black River)  
Between RM 0 and RM 3 (French Creek)

**Jurisdiction:**  
Sheffield, OH

**County:**  
Lorain

**Latitude:**  
N 41° 27.61'

**Longitude:**  
W 082° 6.75'

**Access Site Type:**  
Recreation

**Date Visited:**

**Location Map:**



**Alternate Entrances:**

Pine Tree Picnic Area at 4921 French Creek Road

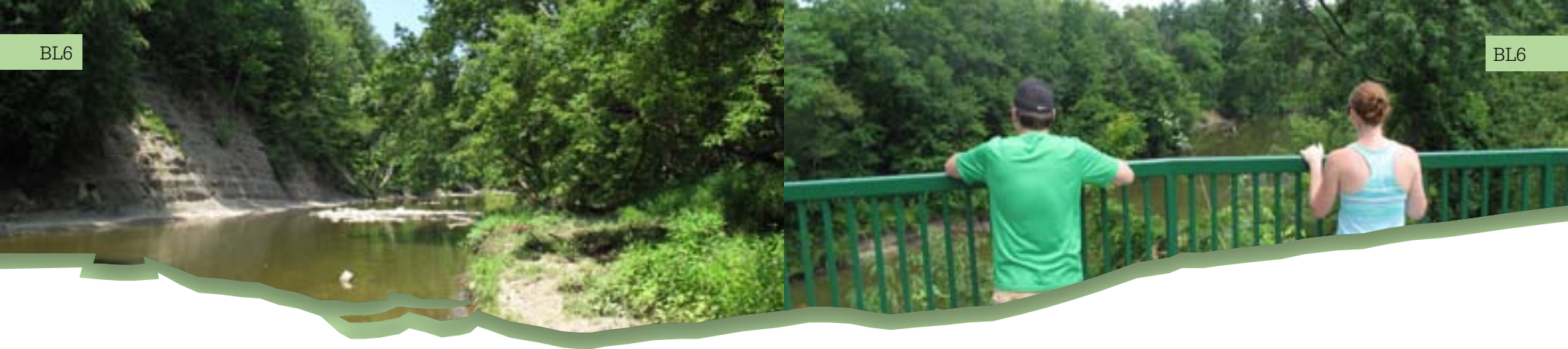
Much of the 450-acre French Creek Reservation is forested landscape (426 acres). The forest varies in age, with some groupings of trees that are more than 100 years old. French Creek Reservation also features a nature center, picnic areas and 4.5 miles of trails.

The French Creek empties into the Black River. From a parking area off Old Colorado Avenue, a launching point for the Vermilion-Lorain Water Trail and the Steel Mill Trail's northern trailhead can be accessed. The nearly 2-mile Steel Mill Trail connects to the Black River Reservation.

**Learn More:**  
Lorain Port Authority  
[www.lorainportauthority.com](http://www.lorainportauthority.com)

**Amenities:**





# Black River Reservation

## Location (Day's Dam):

East 31st Street, east of Norfolk Avenue; also trail access via the Steel Mill Trail to French Creek Reservation

## Location (Bur Oak):

1350 Ford Road, southwest of Gulf Road (bridge over Black River closed - no auto access from Midway Boulevard)

## Location (High Meadows):

Ford Road, northeast of Midway Boulevard (bridge over Black River closed - no auto access from Gulf Road)

## Waterbody:

Black River

The expansive Black River Reservation spans between Lorain County's two largest cities, Lorain and Elyria, and features three separate picnic areas: Day's Dam in Lorain, and Bur Oak and High Meadows in Elyria. All three areas are connected within the park via a trail network. The nearly 2-mile Steel Mill Trail begins at Old Colorado Avenue in the French Creek Reservation and connects to the Day's Dam area on East 31st Street. This section of trail passes alongside industrial slag fields and crosses both the Black River and French Creek. It was completed in 2008. From Day's Dam, the 4.5-mile Bridgeway Trail continues south to Bur Oak and then to High Meadows.

There are no roads completely within the Black River Reservation that connect all three picnic areas. Bur Oak and High Meadows are both on Ford Road; however, the bridge crossing the Black River closed in 2008 due to its poor condition. As of January 2013, the bridge remains closed.

This Lorain County Metro Park offers many views of the Black River's industrial heritage and scenic views. The reservation features high shale cliffs, open meadows and wooded landscapes.

The Bur Oak picnic area is the eastern trailhead access point for the Vermilion-Lorain Water Trail.

## Learn More:

Lorain County Metro Parks  
[www.metroparks.cc](http://www.metroparks.cc)

## Field Notes:

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## Amenities (Day's Dam):



## Amenities (Bur Oak):



## Amenities (High Meadows):



## Location Map:



## River Mile

Location:  
Between RM 6 and RM 12

Jurisdiction:  
Lorain, OH

County:  
Lorain

Lat/Long (Day's Dam):  
N 41° 26.57'  
W 082° 6.47'

Lat/Long (Bur Oak):  
N 41° 24.76'  
W 082° 6.02'

Lat/Long (High Meadows):  
N 41° 24.16'  
W 082° 5.89'

Access Site Type:  
Recreation

Date Visited:





## Indian Hollow Reservation

**Location:**  
38744 Parsons Road,  
east of Indian Hollow  
Road

**Waterbody:**  
East Branch Black  
River

**River Mile  
Location:**  
Between  
RM 10 and RM 11

**Jurisdiction:**  
Carlisle Township, OH

**County:**  
Lorain

**Main Entrance:**  
Lat: N 41° 16.49'  
Long: W 082° 4.53'

**SR 57:**  
Lat: N 41° 16.61'  
Long: W 082° 3.76'

**Access  
Site Type:**  
Recreation

**Date Visited:**

**Location Map:**



**Amenities:**



**Alternate Entrance:** Beech-Maple Trail trailhead at North Main Street (SR 57) in Grafton

The Lorain County Metro Parks' Indian Hollow Reservation is comprised of four disconnected tracts of land. Only the Sheldon Woods and Midview Soccer Complex areas are presently open to the public. The map, location information and amenity listing are for the Sheldon Woods area.

The 180-acre Sheldon Woods area is mostly wooded and includes remnants of the former Grafton Stone Quarry. Much of the vegetation at Indian Hollow had been stripped for the quarry (east bank). Nature has been reclaiming the land since the quarry ceased operations. Other parts of the reservation were not impacted by industry and feature mature forest cover.

**Learn More:**  
Lorain County Metro Parks  
[www.metroparks.cc](http://www.metroparks.cc)



## Carlisle Reservation

**Location:**  
12882 Diagonal Road

**Waterbody:**  
West Branch  
Black River

**River Mile  
Location:**  
Between  
RM 7 and RM 15

**Jurisdiction:**  
Carlisle Township, OH

**County:**  
Lorain

**Duck Pond:**  
Lat: N 41° 17.82'  
Long: W 082° 8.11'

**Visitor Center:**  
Lat: N 41° 18.34'  
Long: W 082° 7.61'

**Equestrian  
Center:**  
Lat: N 41° 17.32'  
Long: W 082° 8.69'

**Access Type:**  
Recreation

**Date Visited:**

**Location Map:**



**Amenities:**



The 1,917-acre Carlisle Reservation is the largest Lorain County Metro Park. The park includes the Forest Hills Golf Course (not mapped), a visitor center, the Raptor Center, an equestrian center, the Nielsen Observatory, the Metro Parks' administrative headquarters and other recreational amenities. The Raptor Center houses a collection of wild-hatched birds that have sustained permanent injuries, including a bald eagle, red-tailed hawk, peregrine falcon and various owls.

Carlisle has many trails, including two bridle trails. The trail surfaces range from natural and gravel to paved asphalt. The reservation features a variety of natural habitat types, including multiple wetland areas, open fields, prairies and forested areas. Carlisle's trail network provides exploration through all of these habitats.

**Learn More:**  
Lorain County Metro Parks  
[www.metroparks.cc](http://www.metroparks.cc)