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**ABUNDANT, DISTINCTIVE COASTAL, GARDEN
AND NATIONAL HISTORIC SITES DISTINGUISH
LAKE COUNTY, OHIO'S SMALLEST COUNTY**

- The spectacle of viewing 20,000 red-breasted merganser birds at Headland [State Park Beach](#). Walking trails comprised of rare sand dunes, 800 acres of marshes, plus nature preserves on the shores of Lake Erie in Lake County.
- Guided ecotours on five miles of trails, or by canoe and kayak through a city owned, 450 acre Mentor Lagoons Nature Preserve including a wild [Lake Erie](#) beach with ten state listed plant species.
- Swimming at Ohio's largest, mile long, Lake Erie beach, Headlands State Beach Park noted as one of Ohio's seven wonders by The Columbus Dispatch.
- Charter fishing for trophy walleye, jumbo perch and steelhead trout.
- [Lake County PerchFest™](#) September 10-12, 2010, at Fairport Harbor Lakefront Park, featured on the Travel Channel, Ohio's largest Lake Erie yellow perch fish fry, a record 9,000 perch meals were sold in 2009. The PerchFest is held yearly the first Friday, Saturday and Sunday after Labor Day. Admission is free.
- Waterfront dining at Pickle Bills on the Grand River or Sunset Harbor Grille in Fairport Harbor, closest restaurant on Lake Erie.
- Exploring 3,600 acres of Holden Arboretum, one of the USA's largest, including display gardens, horticultural collections and nature trails.
- Enjoying the 800 varieties of perennials at Bluestone Perennials, the third largest perennial mail order nursery in the USA.
- Learning more about herbs at the Herb Society of America's National Headquarters.
- Viewing new plants at the test gardens of Lake County Nursery.
- Learning about agriculture and farming at the 235 acre Lake Metroparks Farmpark, America's first agricultural themed park.
- Witnessing wildlife rehabilitation at Lake Metroparks Penitentiary Glen's 424 acre Preservation Nature Preserve, where 2,000 injured or orphaned wildlife are nursed yearly to health in a state of the art rehabilitation center.
- Sampling wines in the Grand River Valley winery district region in the county, with the largest concentration of wineries (19) in Ohio, producing 65 per cent of all grapes in Ohio.
- Walking up 71 circular wrought iron steps to view Lake Erie east coast vistas from one of two Lake County lighthouses on the National Register of Historic Places.
 - The Fairport Marine Museum and Lighthouse is one the few lighthouses, which allow visitors access to the top during all open hours.

feet high, 102 feet above sea level. The 131 year old lighthouse has been called “a great destination for true lighthouse buffs,” by Lighthouse Digest.

- Golfing at championship designer golf courses, including Little Mountain Country Club, rated Five Stars by Golf Digest Magazine, 2006-2007, (only 17 courses in North America carry the five star rating).
- Youth golfing at Little Thunder, one of the few- if only- 18 hole regulation course designed for beginners and youth in the USA.
- Golfing at 6,800 yard Reserve at Thunderhill, named one of the hardest courses to play, public or private, by Golf Digest Magazine. [A restored lodge by a lake is now available for overnight stays.](#)
- Watching bagpipes made at Lake County’s Gibson Bagpipes, one of only three bagpipe makers in USA. Gibson Bagpipes was featured on the Travel Channel’s “Made in America” program.
- Sleeping in a Frank Lloyd Wright vacation rental house, one of only three lodging facilities of its type in the USA.
- Waking up to an authentic Irish Breakfast at Fitzgerald’s Irish Bed & Breakfast, voted by Inn-goers in Arrington’s 2005 Book of Lists as one of the top 15 B&B’s in North America, “Best Interior Design and Décor.”
- Mentor Museum of Speed, a 60,000 square foot muscle car museum featuring over 125 restored muscle and high performance cars.
- Western Reserve Model Railroad Museum featuring more different sized trains on display and more operating layouts than any museum in the world according to Assistant Curator Tom Pescha.
- Attending major exhibits and festivals:
 - Vintage Ohio Wine Festival, August 6-7, 2010 at Lake Metroparks Farmpark. Vintage Ohio is the most acclaimed wine and food event between the Appalachians and the Rockies, where patrons sample hundreds of Ohio wines.
 - Vintage Ohio garnered a slot on USA Today’s annual “Best in the Nation” lists eight years running. It was featured ahead of the Aspen Food Classic and Monterey festival listings in the paper’s January 2006 Destinations section as well as part of a six page “undiscovered wine regions across the country” featured in July of 2006 written by USA Today’s wine and food contributor, Jerry Shriver.
 - Vintage Ohio has also served as a model for the Zinfest in Lodi, California, a planned new event in the Cascade region of Washington State, for Vintage Indiana and Vintage Michigan as well as for the Finger Lakes Wine Festival.
 - Vintage Ohio attracts 30,000 visitors from several states featuring over 20 Ohio wineries.
 - Vintage Ohio was named a “Top 100 American Bus Association Event” in 2005

- Lake County PerchFest™, September 10-12, 2010, featured extensively on the Travel Channel.
 - The PerchFest™ attracts visitors from surrounding states- even Seattle, to the 25 acre Lake Metroparks Fairport Harbor Lakefront Park to experience the coastal ambiance and a Lake Erie delicacy - yellow perch, with free admission.

Little Mountain Heritage Festival, July 24-25, 2010, a National Legacy Event located on a 30 acre hillside setting. The festival features seven music band stages and 130 arts and crafts exhibits. [The Festival is held yearly on the last weekend in July.](#)

This, and more is Lake County, Ohio, a narrow, crooked finger county, just east of Cleveland, Ohio, on the shores of Lake Erie with the most publicly accessible Lake Erie vistas in Ohio – 7.7 miles. Interstate 90 allows easy access to Lake County, a prosperous, diverse, exurb with abundant natural resources, attractions, events and accommodations for its small size.

Lake County's Lake Erie waters have a deeper depth, which attract the migration of larger walleye, plus jumbo yellow perch and the fighting sport fish – steelhead trout.

Lake County has experienced charter fishing captains to assist catching Lake Erie fish. "In Fishing Adventures Magazine's" Top Ten Picks for Big Water Walleye includes Lake Erie's Central Basin and Top Ten Great Lakes Steelhead Runs Number six ranking is Lake County's Grand River. Lake County's Chagrin and Grand Rivers are Ohio Designated Scenic Rivers.

Lake County is part of Lake Erie Coastal Ohio's National and Ohio Designated Scenic Byways.

Inland, applaud summer stock performances at Rabbit Run Theater in Madison with a Lake Erie breeze. Rabbit Run is one of the few actual operating barn theaters in the USA. A historical landmark, the barn's stage has been graced by the presence of such entertainment greats as Dustin Hoffman, Jessica Tandy, Hume Cronyn, Sandy Dennis, Jim Backus and Charles Grodin. Amidst its sylvan setting on the shores of Lake Erie, this nearly 300-seat, fully-equipped theater produces top-notch comedies, dramas and musicals.

Lake County is home to James A. Garfield National Historic Site in Mentor, reopened in June 1998 after a \$12 million renovation. The Garfield Site has been noted in Newsweek Magazine and featured on C-Span TV. Lawnfield has more authentic Presidential artifacts (85 per cent) than any other United States Presidential site.

Lake County significant historical prominence continues with the Underground Railroad. Route 20, which crosses Lake County and is now called Mentor Avenue, used to be the Oregon Trail, accommodating visitors travelling east and west across the country. Abolitionists in Lake County played a predominant role with an intricate system of hideouts and escape paths to help slaves escape to Canada. Lake County was the last stop for slaves, where volunteer sailors transported slaves to Canada, many from Fairport Harbor. Then, they could obtain Canadian citizenship and not be subject to the Fugitive Slave Act of 1820. One former slave returned to serve as a fireman for the City of Painesville, and often hid in the basement of

movement was created, purportedly with some economic reasons. Areas which used slaves to harvest tobacco apparently created competitive difficulties for the Northeast Ohio region to raise crops. Helping slaves escape denied competitors free, slave labor.

Ohio's smallest county features the Cleveland Indians' Class A affiliate, the Lake County Captains, which attracted 2 million visitors in their fifth season of play. The Lake County Captains play in a state-of-the-art \$27 million ballpark, Classic Park, opened in 2003 in Eastlake. The team plays 70 regular season home games annually in the 6,500-seat ballpark with a \$9.00 ticket price. Classic Park and The Captains hosted the 2006 SAL All Star Game. The Classic Park Stadium was designed by DLR Group architects of St. Petersburg, Florida.

Numerous Cleveland industrialists built lavish mansions in Lake County at the turn of the century escape inner city congestion and to impress their east coast colleagues. Many still remain in Lake County, renovated and operated as conference centers, visitor centers and city halls – Coulby Mansion – Wickliffe's City Hall open for tours – Banker Edward Moore's, "Mooreland", now an exquisitely renovated conference facility – Lake County History Center's Shadybrook Mansion – Lake Erie College's Morley Mansion – Lake Metroparks Pine Ridge Country Club, the former Corrigan Estate — the former Skeggs Arabian horse farm now expanded to Lake Metroparks Farmpark 235-acre open air science and cultural center in Kirtland – and the Warren Corning Estate, Lantern Court – at Holden Arboretum, also in Kirtland - Abraham Garfield designed Wildwood Estate in Mentor.

Lake County features premier golf, like the Quail Hollow Country Club. Quail offers a \$6 million, 18-hole Weiskopf-Morrish Course ranked in the top 10 of "Best New Upscale Courses" by Golf Digest Magazine, plus the original Devlin, Von Hagge 18-hole course, nestled in 700 acres of wooded countryside. About 42,000 rounds of golf are played yearly at Quail Hollow Country Club.

Lake Metroparks Pine Ridge Country Club's 60-bunker course challenged Arnold Palmer who competed there in the '50's. Pine Ridge Country Club exemplifies premier public golf and meeting facilities. The Pine Ridge's clubhouse has completed extensive renovations.

Little Mountain Country Club in Concord Township is opened to the public, designed by noted golf architects Michael Hurdzan and Dana Fry. Manakiki Golf Course, a Don Ross designed course, is another former private, elegant country club open to the public in Willoughby Hills.

New/renovated hotels and B&B's offer NE Ohio visitors, affordable rates and fresh accommodations near Cleveland. The recently restored Frank Lloyd Wright Louis Penfield House Vacation Rental House, on 30 wooded, secluded acres near the Chagrin River in Willoughby Hills, offers memorable visits, based on guestbook remarks and overwhelming bookings. Proprietor Paul Penfield has received inquiries from Bangkok and Singapore due to Associated Press New York City Travel Writer Beth Hartog's article, published in over 30 major dailies; online coverage in CNN, USA Today and the New York Daily News, and a cover article in *This Old House Magazine* and *Ohio Magazine*. A second Frank Lloyd Wright Vacation Rental

design given by Frank Lloyd Wright to the Penfield family, is one of his last residential house plans.

The \$19 million Quail Hollow Resort renovation in Concord Township, has given Lake County a prestige resort to draw visitors to \$50 million in new and renovated hotels and B&B's.

Best Western Lawnfield Inn and Suites, again rated a top Best Western property in Ohio, is a boutique hotel in the City of Mentor with 50 suites and architecture matching President Garfield's architecture, and a few minutes from the Lake County hotel.

Minutes from Headlands State Beach Park, Ohio's longest beach and 450-acre Mentor Lagoons Nature Preserve, is the elegant Holiday Inn Express Hotel and Suites LaMalfa in Mentor. Eighty two spacious suites including executive, penthouse and presidential suites, plus four unique master suites, each with 900 square feet of space, have fireplaces and Jacuzzi's. A swimming pool, exercise room and an outdoor wedding chapel are part of latest renovation. The LaMalfa hotel was awarded the Bass Hotels and Resorts prestigious Quality of Excellence Award, plus AAA Three Diamond Rating of Excellence.

Lake County's B&B's include the recently opened Bank Street B&B in Painesville, Homestead House B&B in quaint downtown shopping/arts district of Willoughby, and Irish themed – Fitzgerald's B&B, voted fifth in USA/Canada polls as "Best Interior and Décor" by Arrington's B&B Journal; the venerable Rider's Inn, with ten rooms, a restaurant and a New Orleans style lounge in historic Painesville, the County Seat; two renovated B&B's, His Majesty's B&B and the Winan's B&B are in Madison. Lake View Condos in Fairport Harbor are near 25 acre Fairport Harbor Lakefront Park, Fairport Marine Museum Lighthouse and Grand River Lighthouse.

Numerous above mentioned B&B's plus Quail Hollow Resort are near Lake County's vineyard region, often compared to California's Sonoma Valley featuring national award-winning wineries like Chalet Debonné, Grand River Cellars and Ferrante's. Chalet Debonné is Ohio's largest estate winery with 120-acres of vineyards in the township of Madison. Chalet Debonné grows 150,000 tons of grapes for 26 different varieties to make wines for itself and nearby South River Vineyards and Grand River Cellars. A 2001 Wall Street Journal article noted two of Chalet Debonné wines winning national awards. Nearby Ferrante's, South River Winery, Maple Ridge Vineyard, Grand River Cellars and Harpersfield Vineyards provide a wine district of distinction. Two additional wineries are soon to open in Lake County, St Joseph's and Bolinos's.

Ferrante's Winery and Ristorante specialize in vinifera grapes with a full-service Italian restaurant with scenic vineyard views from the ristorante windows.

Pinot Gris and Riesling wines grown in Lake County have won Best of Show and Double Gold Medals in the San Francisco Wine Competition, in the Riverside (California) competition, in the Dallas Morning News Judging, in the American Wine Society Competition, in the Pacific Rim Competition and in the Eastern International Competition in recent years.

height of the tourist season. Their Tannenbaum Trail has become the model for holiday wine trail events in states across America.

Lake County is the nursery mecca (5,000 acres) of the Midwest featuring: Lake County Nursery (1,000 acres) and test gardens open to the public, and Bluestone's, the nation's third largest perennial mail-order nursery with over 800 varieties of perennials. The Herb Society of America is also headquartered in Lake County.

Lake County is on the Mormon pilgrimage trail, with two National Historic Landmarks, The Kirtland Temple and Historic Kirtland.

The Church of Jesus Christ Latter-day Saints features a \$30 million renovated attraction Historic Kirtland. The complex restoration project, opened in 2003, is a 25-acre village with three new structures; a Visitors' Center, the reconstructed John Johnson Inn and restored Whitney Store that was dedicated in 1984. The Newel K. Whitney Store, one of eight historic sites at Historic Kirtland, was honored by President Ronald Reagan with the President's Historic Preservation award. This beautiful historic walking village now includes North America's only Ashery, a working sawmill and a replica of Kirtland's first frame schoolhouse, which was built in 1819. Historic Kirtland expects to attract 150,000 visitors in 2007.

The 10,000 square foot Visitors' Center includes picture of Historic Kirtland and a 120-seat theater featuring a substantially financed Hollywood quality film that shows visitors the daily life of those who gathered to Ohio in the 1830's. Another room provides a panoramic view of the village. The façade of the Johnson Inn replicates the mid-1820's Peter French Inn, the first brick building in Kirtland. The Latter-day Saint Prophet Joseph Smith and his wife Emma lived in the Whitney Home for a short time in early 1831.

The Kirtland Temple, operated by another denomination, The Community of Christ, is a National Historic Landmark just up the road (Route 306) from Historic Kirtland and attracts 50,000 visitors yearly. A new visitor center is open.

Both sites are architectural wonders worthy of secular, heritage visits.

The Lake County History and Heritage Center has just moved to a historic century building, featuring hands on heritage tours, picnic grounds, walking trails and guides.

Gallery One, in Mentor, claims to be the USA's largest art gallery, with 10,000 prints. Gallery One features, nationally renowned artists, such as Thomas Kinkade, monthly for showings and signings.

Lake Metroparks Farmpark, one of 27 Lake Metroparks comprising 7,015 acres, is a 235-acre agricultural/horticultural themed park, teaching families where food comes from in an entertaining fashion. A giant tomato works, cow milking parlors, restaurant, gift shop and 50 species of animals entertain and educate visitors about America's most crucial, yet taken for granted industry – agriculture. Lake Metroparks Farmpark was featured on ABC's "Home Show" in a five minute segment with Peter Greenberg, now a travel contributor for NBC TV.

Holden Arboretum is one of USA's largest with 3,600 acres. The American Association of Museum accredits Holden, with 20,000-plants and plant groupings. Holden is acclaimed for both extensive cultivars and worldwide explorations for rare specimens

Willoughby Brewing Company and Restaurant District, to Painesville's and Madison's downtown districts, to Mentor's Great Lakes Mall, old Mentor retail district and Gallery One make Lake County one of the Ohio's top shopping districts. Lake County's City of Mentor is the sixth largest retail district in Ohio. Painesville's Craft and Antique Co-op, for example, offers a 47,000 square foot mall.

A poignant, distinguished 9/11 America Remembers Memorial, in Eastlake, features remnants from each crash site. Steel beams, stone and light fixtures from the World Trade Center, a piece of the Pentagon building and turf from the fields of Shanksville, Pennsylvania, have been solemnly exhibited in a permanent impressively designed outdoor display alongside of the Boulevard of 500 Flags in Eastlake, Ohio.

Lake County hosts many prestigious national and state bowling tournaments plus an ESPN tournament broadcast, December 3, 2006, at Freeway Lanes in Wickliffe, the USA's largest in-line bowling center.

Lake County's coastal shoreline and inland venues like Holden Arboretum are in the migratory paths of hundred of species of birds.

At Headlands State Beach Park, Mentor Marsh, Mentor Lagoons Nature Preserve, Fairport Harbor and Eastlake over 322 species of birds have been seen including four Kirtland warblers, (Federally endangered species), Swainson's warbler, Harlequin ducks and purple sandpipers.

Large peat (35 feet deep of decomposed vegetation) at the 800 acres of Mentor Marsh and the 450 acres of forest right on Lake Erie at Mentor Lagoons Nature Preserve, attract rare birds plus huge flocks of mergansers - ducks and gulls.

The sites attract monarch butterflies in the autumn. Mexico dragon flies are also popular.

Endangered birds like the American Bitteran, Sora Rail and Least Bitteran, join more than 30 species of plovers and sandpipers, also seen in Lake County.

Rare plants such as lance leaf toothwort and beach pea grass offer hours of horticultural enjoyment on the eastern shores of Lake Erie.

Lake County features 15,000 acres of foliated land, preserved for public viewing. The Northeast Ohio Lake Erie coastal county borders Cleveland and Ashtabula, off Interstate 90 and State Route 2. Unlike other east coast popular foliage destinations, where full tree colors quickly fade, Lake County has a more diverse tree stock of red maples, oaks and sugar maples providing up to three weeks of color. Lake County offers a driving fall foliage tour, a "view shed," offering scenic routes to follow.

- 235-acre Lake Metroparks Farmpark in Kirtland is one of Lake Metroparks 27 parks encompassing 7,015 acres. Planters overlook at Lake Farmpark is the highest location with panoramic views. Lake Metroparks offers 37 miles of trails plus the 4.4 mile Greenway Corridor Bike Trail.
- 450-acre Mentor Lagoons Preserve, off State Route 2 at Route 615 north exit, offers an extensive trail system with wild beach and is the most biologically diverse dune

quality riverine marsh areas on the state's Lake Erie shoreline. There is a significant unbroken bluff forest that parallels the natural beach.

- The Mentor Lagoons Nature Preserve and Marina are directly adjacent to the Mentor Marsh, which is a National Nature Landmark. Golf carts available to those unable to walk the trails. Bicycles are available for loan.
- 800-acre Mentor Marsh Nature Center, 5185 Corduroy Road, combines marsh, forest and beach habits trails.
- Holden Arboretum, in Kirtland, with 3,400 acres, 20,000 plants and plant groupings, features an elevated viewing deck for such sites as Little Mountain, a 125 acre, 1,266 foot peak elevation site and 425 acre Stebbins Gulch.
- Headlands State Beach Park and Sand Dunes Preserves is a popular autumn stopover.

Serene, scenic, cross country skiing can be enjoyed at Lake Metroparks Chapin Forest, Holden Arboretum (admission), Mentor Lagoons Nature Preserve and YMCA Outdoor Family Center in Perry.

For more information, images and media tours, contact: 800-368-LAKE (5253); www.lakevisit.com; ulas@lakevisit.com.

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