

# Toledo Botanical Garden Highlights

Please use this as a supplement to information provided on any Metroparks maps.

## Messages for Interpretation

Timeless layers of formal garden design blend with natural and cultural history to make Toledo Botanical Garden unique.

- Each visit offers a new experience as beauty unfolds through seasonal landscapes.
- Native restoration initiatives compliment the garden and enhance biodiversity.
- Ideas for home and yard can be discovered at this Metropark.
- TBG's history and volunteerism resonate with community involvement.

## What's In A Name?

Since 1989, this site has been Toledo Botanical Garden, reflective of its growing size and mission. It formerly had been both Crosby Gardens, and George P. Crosby Park, which honored the man who donated the original property. He is still recognized today through Crosby Lake as well as Crosby Festival of the Arts-- a popular annual event whose proceeds go to support community gardens through the event's sponsor, Toledo GROWS.

## Natural and Human History

TBG is a museum of plants, offering visitors display gardens, plant and tree collections, and native and restored areas. Sometimes at TBG, native and cultivated species grow side by side, which makes an excellent learning comparison. The great variety here also creates a storehouse of ideas for home landscaping.

The sand and underlying clay characterize TBG as part of the Oak Openings Region. One part of this Metropark featuring native plants and wildlife is the restored Hill Stream corridor along Crosby Lake. In decades past, two dams had been built on Hill Stream to form Crosby Lake. Recent restoration removed the dams and added riffles, ledges, and rock structures to redirect the stream, reduce erosion and enhance fish habitat. Native plantings at the water's edges also increase habitat for birds, butterflies and other wildlife.

TBG history begins in 1964, when George Crosby donated 20 acres of his former horse farm and stable to the City of Toledo. Crosby had planted the area with over 350 individual trees and hundreds of shrubs of many varieties. Opening to the public in 1968, the early years brought an initiative for environmental education, and Toledo Public Schools began purchasing land next door for a vocational and agricultural education center. This was the beginning of what today is TBG's neighbor and partner, The Natural Science and Technology Center.



Hill ditch stream site



Old Woman with Birds statue



Baltimore oriole



Song sparrow



Virginia opossum (young)



Daylily Walk

As TBG became a hub for artistic design, sculptures were added to enhance the beauty. One of the earliest is "Old Woman and Birds," purchased in 1973 with the help of The Arts Commission of Greater Toledo who continue to maintain it through the Art in Public Places program. Since then, over a dozen more sculptures have been incorporated.

Also in the early 1970's, a small housing sub-division was purchased and became the origin of today's Artist's Village, where working art studios and galleries accommodate potters, glass blowers, photographers and painters. Today one of these houses is also the headquarters for The Ohio State University Cooperative Extension Service, Lucas County, who administers the popular Master Gardener and Ohio Certified Volunteer Naturalist programs.

The Peter Navarre Memorial Cabin, visible near the Conference Center Parking Lot, was moved to TBG in 1975. It is not clear whether this cabin was built by Peter, his son, or even after Navarre's death. Before arriving at TBG, it had been moved several times from its original location east of Toledo.

The Metroparks partnership with the Toledo Botanical Garden Board, Inc. began in 2006, and in 2017, TBG became a Metropark. The incredible work of volunteers, gardening groups and staff is reflected in inspired designs that offer beauty and peacefulness to those visiting this unique jewel now part of Metroparks Toledo.

Please stay on trails and in lawn areas, leave your pets at home and your bicycles at the rack located in the front of the Elmer Drive entrance.

**Plant Life** (\* = State-listed as rare)

*Trees/shrubs include:*

Larch	Douglas fir
Norway spruce	Dawn redwood
Bald cyprus	Yellowwood
Catalpa	Weeping willow
American hornbeam	Paw-Paw
Sumac	Redbud
American hazelnut	Witch hazel
Elderberry	Dogwood
American elm	Sassafras
Black walnut	Green ash

Sycamore and Linden allees invite visitors to stroll through the shade of their overarching branches.

*Plants include:*

Spotted jewelweed	Tall Joe Pye weed
Dense blazing star	Butterfly milkweed
Common milkweed	Swamp milkweed
Bracken fern	Cinnamon fern
Sensitive fern	Royal fern
Boneset	Iris
Goldenrod sp	Aster sp.
Peony	Popcorn cassia
Sedum	Coral Bells (Heuchera)
False corn hellebore	Butterbur

Azalea, Rhododendron, Rose and Dahlia collections brighten their seasons with color.

TBG houses a nationally accredited Hosta Collection-- a 'living repository' with more than 500 taxa on display, recognized by the Plant Collections Network of the American Public Garden Association.

The award-winning 'Daylily Walk,' is a collection of more than 400 cultivars, recognized as a Display Garden of the American Hemerocallis Society as well as a Historic Daylily Display Garden of AHS.



American elm



Tiger swallowtail



Eastern screech owl



Dense blazing star

**Wildlife** (\* = State-listed as rare)

*Mammals include:*

Eastern cotton-tail	Eastern fox squirrel
Red squirrel	Ground hog
White-tailed deer	Muskrat
Red fox	Striped skunk
Virginia opossum	Silver-haired bat

*Birds include:*

Cooper's hawk	Red-tailed hawk
Eastern screech owl	Great-horned owl
Belted kingfisher	Green heron
Great blue heron	Canada goose
Mallard duck	Song sparrow
American goldfinch	Orchard oriole
Baltimore oriole	Yellow warbler
American robin	Gray catbird
Carolina wren	Blue jay

*Insects include:*

Ebony jewel-wing	Eastern amberwing
Widow skimmer	Firefly
Common bumblebee	Honeybee
Monarch	Black swallowtail
Tiger swallowtail	Pearl crescent
Silver-spotted skipper	Peck's skipper

*Reptiles and amphibians include:*

American toad	American bullfrog
Green frog	Eastern garter snake
Northern brown snake	(and melanistic form)
Eastern hognose snake	Snapping turtle
Midland painted turtle	