Hunting & Fishing:

Local areas open to the public for hunting and fishing opportunities! Public hunting and fishing areas require a state hunting and/or fishing license as well as any specific tags for hunting species such as the Whitetail Deer. Check the websites (listed below for each local area) for maps, addresses, and additional information on any restricted hunting/fishing zones within the large public access land and lake areas.

* Atwood Lake: 2,500 acres of land, 1,540 acres of lake, 28 miles of shoreline, 3 boat ramps, 4.9 miles (From Heritage road, turn left on Bark road and it dead ends into the East Lake Marina), Hunting all in-season species, fishing primarily Channel Catfish, Bullhead Catfish, Crappie, Largemouth Bass, Bluegill, Northern Pike, Saugeye and Yellow Perch. Hunting is permitted up to 500 feet from restricted areas such as campgrounds, marinas, structures, bordering residential areas, and other restricted areas.
  + https://atwoodpark.mwcd.org/
* Valley Run Wildlife Area: 304 acres, 9.7 miles, primarily Deer, Turkey, Ruffed Grouse, Fox Squirrel
  + http://wildlife.ohiodnr.gov/valleyrun
* Leesville Lake Wildlife Area: 394 Acres of land, 1,011 acres of lake, 12.3 miles, primarily Deer, Turkey, Ruffed Grouse, Grey Squirrel, Rabbit, Fishing primarily Muskellunge, Saugeye, Largemouth Bass, Yellow Perch, Bluegill, Crappie, Channel Catfish, Northern Pike, Sunfish, Carp.
  + http://wildlife.ohiodnr.gov/leesvillelakewa
* **Muskellunge** are oftentimes caught on large crank baits that are cast during the spring and fall or trolled during the summer months. Spinner baits or jerk baits are good casting lures as well for this top predator. A wire leader or very high pound test monofilament leader is a must, since muskellunge have an array of sharp teeth that will cut fishing line instantly.
* **Saugeye** are taken by drifting, trolling, or casting. Nightcrawler harnesses, minnows, crank baits, and jigs are all effective for tempting saugeye.
* **Largemouth bass** and **bluegill** can be caught close to shore, especially during the spring and again in the fall. Spinner baits, surface lures, and plastic worms all are good choices for largemouth bass.
* Wax worms, maggots, or small worms are usually a good choice to attract bluegill and other sunfish species to bite. A small hook (# 10 or smaller) is the best bet for successful bluegill fishing.
* **Yellow perch** may be caught on worms or minnows.
* **Channel catfish** can be caught relatively close to shore from spring through fall. Shrimp, nightcrawlers, or chicken liver are preferred baits for channel catfish. A sliding sinker rig, using a swivel to keep the weight from hitting the hook (such as what would be used for fishing for bass with plastic worms) will work well. A # 4 hook is a preferred size to use for catfish.
* Zepernick Wildlife Area: 518 acres + 39 acre lake + 7 acre smaller ponds + 5 acre marsh, 26.2 miles, primarily Rabbit, Fox Squirrel, Woodchuck (groundhogs), Ring-Neck Pheasant, Deer and great Fishing area
  + http://wildlife.ohiodnr.gov/zepernick
* Beach City Wildlife Area: 1,912 acres + 420 acre lake, 25.2 miles, primarily Deer, Fox Squirrel, Wood Duck, Canadian Geese, Mallards, Rabbit, Pheasant, and great Fishing and Trapping area (Mink, Muskrat, Raccoon, Beaver)
  + http://wildlife.ohiodnr.gov/beachcity
* Highlandtown Wildlife Area: 2,265 acres + 170 acre lake, 30.8 miles, primarily Rabbits, Fox & Gray Squirrels, Grouse, Turkey, Deer, waterfowl and great overall Fishing area
  + http://wildlife.ohiodnr.gov/highlandtownwa
* Yellow Creek State Forest: 756 acres, 30.8 miles (adjoins the Highlandtown Wildlife area to the North)
  + http://forestry.ohiodnr.gov/yellowcreek
* Wingfoot Wildlife Area: 179 acres + 262 acre lake + 128 acres marsh, 36.2 miles, primarily Mallards, Wood Duck, Canadian Geese, Deer, Squirrel, and great Fishing and Trapping area (Mink, Muskrat, Raccoon, Beaver)
  + http://wildlife.ohiodnr.gov/wingfootlakewa
* Berlin Lake Wildlife Area: 4,928 acres + 3,950 acres of lake, + Marsh areas, 34.8 miles, primarily Rabbit, Pheasant, Squirrels, Woodchuck, Deer, great for overall Fishing and for Trapping (Mink, Muskrat, Raccoon, Beaver)
  + http://wildlife.ohiodnr.gov/berlinlakewa