

# SUGARCREEK METROPARK • TRAIL MAP



## THE STRATEGIC TRAIL INITIATIVE

is currently underway at Sugar Creek MetroPark, which will convert existing hiking trails into sustainable trails. Working with the land and sculpting trails using natural contours, sustainable trails reduce erosion and create large swaths of undisturbed habitat. The old trails will remain open while new construction is taking place, one section at a time. Once a new section has been completed with specialized machinery, hand working crews will finalize the new trail. When opened, new trail sections may be hazardous when muddy until the surface has been compacted by use.

PLEASE USE CAUTION.

## PARK FEATURES

### SYCAMORE RIDGE

The sycamore is usually a tree of floodplains, streambanks and moist banks. Here, however, sycamores are growing on a ridge. This suggests a water source seeps beneath this ridge and provides the sycamore with adequate moisture. To recognize a sycamore, look for trees with white bark on the upper portions.

### PLANTED PRAIRIE

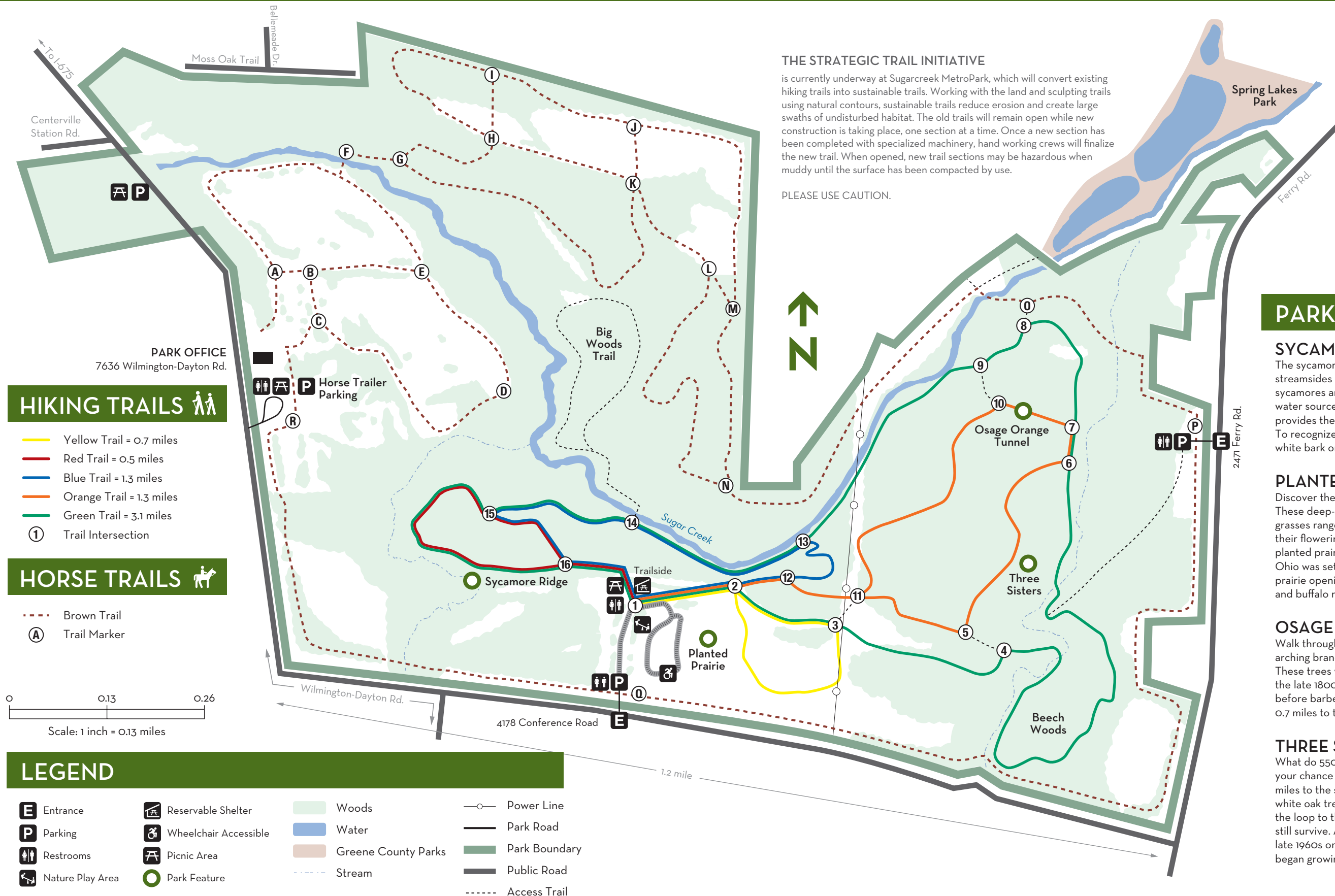
Discover the special plants of a tallgrass prairie. These deep-rooted, sun-loving flowers and grasses range in height up to 10 feet and reach their flowering peak in mid-to-late summer. This planted prairie reflects an earlier time, before Ohio was settled, when more than 300 natural prairie openings existed and Native Americans and buffalo roamed the land.

### OSAGE ORANGE TUNNEL

Walk through a living tunnel created by the large arching branches of old osage orange trees. These trees were originally planted in this row in the late 1800s to serve as a fence in the days before barbed wire was available. (Hike about 0.7 miles to the tunnel on the orange trail.)

### THREE SISTERS OAK TREES

What do 550-year old trees look like? Here's your chance to find out when you venture 0.7 miles to the site of the "Three Sisters," ancient white oak trees. (Follow the orange trail and take the loop to the right.) Although in decline, two still survive. A boring from the trunk, done in the late 1960s on the largest tree, indicated they began growing around 1440.



## HIKING TRAILS

- Yellow Trail = 0.7 miles
- Red Trail = 0.5 miles
- Blue Trail = 1.3 miles
- Orange Trail = 1.3 miles
- Green Trail = 3.1 miles
- Trail Intersection

## HORSE TRAILS

- Brown Trail
- Trail Marker

## LEGEND

- |                   |                       |                     |               |
|-------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|---------------|
| <b>E</b> Entrance | Reservable Shelter    | Woods               | Power Line    |
| <b>P</b> Parking  | Wheelchair Accessible | Water               | Park Road     |
| Restrooms         | Picnic Area           | Greene County Parks | Park Boundary |
| Nature Play Area  | Park Feature          | Stream              | Public Road   |
|                   |                       |                     | Access Trail  |