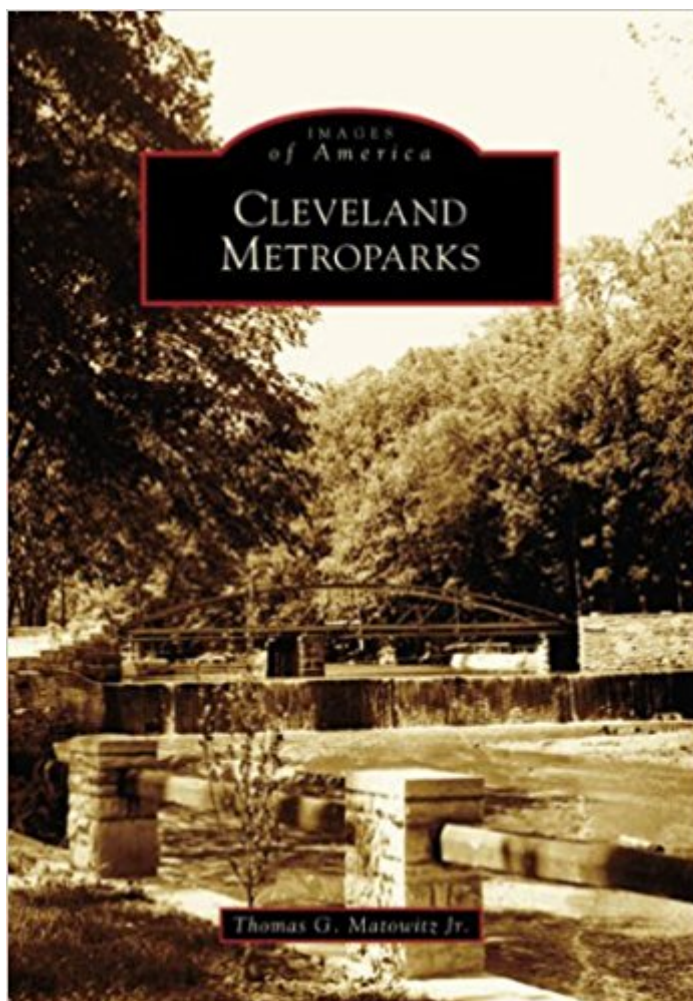


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# Cleveland Metroparks (OH) (Images Of America)



## Synopsis

A century ago, William A. Stinchcomb, aged 27, closed his annual report as chief engineer of parks for the City of Cleveland with a challenge to create an outer ring of parks and boulevards to benefit all residents of Greater Cleveland. By 1912, legislation authorizing it had been enacted, and three acres of land were acquired through a donation. This formed the nucleus of the vast park system that now includes almost 21,000 acres. Cleveland Metroparks has provided generations of area residents with readily accessible facilities for year-round recreation. The park provides opportunities for hiking, horseback riding, swimming, cycling, golfing, and boating. Use of the park, which crosses the boundaries of approximately 48 communities in the Cleveland area, has become a tradition for many families.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Thomas G. Matowitz Jr. is a lifelong resident of the Greater Cleveland area who grew up on the edge of Cleveland Metroparks Rocky River Reservation. He tells the park's story with pictures from a wide range of local sources, including the Cleveland State University Library, local historical societies, and the park's own collection.

These books are great and the price was right.

I grew up appreciating the "Park", yet after reading the book "Cleveland Metroparks", I have more gratitude for the foresight of William A. Stinchcomb and all those

who sought to make this dream become and remain a reality. Once again, Tom Matowitz's style of using photographs with thoughtful descriptions makes the images come alive. The contemporary views also offer an interesting time capsule showing how the Park has sustained itself over 60-70 years of preservation. Painstaking researched and assembled, this book offers a glimpse into the early days of Cleveland. I hope locals and visitors to the Cleveland area will continue to appreciate the rich heritage that this Park offers to all.

"Cleveland Metroparks" by Tom G. Matowitz, Jr., highlights the "Emerald Necklace" the string of parks surrounding Cleveland, linked by boulevards. The park system is dedicated to the recreation of the common man. It doesn't matter where you are in the city; you are never more than fifteen minutes drive time from the park. There are facilities for every sport imaginable: golfing, swimming, fishing, horseback riding, boating, hiking, tobogganing, ice fishing, cross-country skiing, sledding, geocaching, mountain biking and more. Having grown up running through the Wallace Lake area of the Mill Stream Run Reservation, I was fully prepared to pounce upon any inconsistency. The author has done his usual splendid job (please see my reviews on "Cleveland's Legacy of Flight" and "Cleveland National Air Race") and delivered a volume replete with information and images that tell the story of the beginning and growth of the Cleveland Metroparks System. Instead of finding misinformation, I came away from the volume inspired to seek out some of the areas that I was unfamiliar with. I think the only way to get a more superior introduction would be to visit the parks themselves. So I encourage you; read the book, and then come and experience first-hand the fruition of the dream of Mr. Stinchcomb.

The majority of Cleveland residents are aware of the rich resources that the Cleveland Metroparks, which virtually surround the greater Cleveland area, provide. Tom Matowitz has provided a succinct and well illustrated account of the conception and building of this great park system. The vision of William A. Stinchcomb, who over 100 years ago conceived the idea of the park system, is well documented. Included in the book are many archival as well as more current photographs, which give the reader an appreciation and understanding of the development and importance of these parks to the Cleveland metropolitan area. This is a fascinating read!

This is an excellent chronicle of the past and present of a beautiful place -- the Cleveland Metroparks. Although I now live in California, I grew up in Cleveland and spent untold hours exploring the Metroparks. This superb book -- which tells its story through well-chosen old and new

photographs, and concise and elegant explanatory text -- brings this very special place to life for the reader. Through the book, I revisited places within the Metroparks that I already knew well, and also discovered new ones. A must for any fan (either existing or prospective) of the Metroparks. FIVE STARS.

For all the fine points of Cleveland historically and culturally, the best the city has to offer are wonders of nature, namely Lake Erie and the "Emerald Necklace", aka the Metroparks. What foresight it took in the early 20th Century to make sure the park land was kept natural for us to enjoy as is. But it's easy to take for granted, which is why we need books like this to remind us what we have. Tom Matowitz gathered the best images, then tied it all together with lively and informative text that leaves no doubt that he loves his subject matter.

I am a native Clevelander. This book has made me stop and take a real interest in Cleveland's Cultural Gems - The Metroparks. This book has the history, culture and beauty that makes The Metroparks such a special place for all of us. I enjoyed seeing pictures that I have never seen before. I enjoyed learning about the people and places that shaped the parks. And most of all, it made me get out and explore the parks on my own!

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