Toledo is located in northwest Ohio on the west bank of the Maumee River at the western end of Lake Erie in an area known as the Great Black Swamp. Bordering Michigan, the city was originally incorporated as part of the Michigan Territory. In 1835, Michigan sent a division of its territorial militia to enforce its claim; Ohio responded by sending its own militia. Emisaries from the federal government interceded and persuaded the armed forces to disband and a settlement of the Toledo War was reached with the disputed territory given to Ohio.

Toledo has several museums. The Glass Pavilion at the Toledo Museum of Art is home to a world-renowned glass collection and features more than 5,000 works of art from ancient to contemporary times. The Museum also displays paintings, sculpture, decorative, and graphic arts from around the world. The National Museum of the Great Lakes contains artifacts, historical photographs, and more than 40 hands-on exhibits, including the James M. Schoonmaker Museum Ship. The Blair Museum of Lithophanes holds the largest collection of lithophanes, which are three-dimensional translucent porcelain plaques. Located in the 1874 Milltime-Stewart House, the Toledo History Museum is dedicated to preserving the history of the city.

Other museums include the Imagination Station, which is Toledo’s Science Center with hundreds of interactive hands-on exhibits; Toledo Police Museum with its collection of historical artifacts and interactive exhibits, such as a mock jail cell; and Toledo Firefighters Museum, which displays vintage pumpers, uniforms, and equipment used by the city’s first bucket brigade.

Toledo offers many opportunities to enjoy performing arts. The Toledo Symphony Orchestra performs its Classic Series at the Peristyle Theatre, which is located within the Toledo Museum of Art. Broadway, ballet, opera, lectures, symphony and top-name performers grace the Stranahan Theater & Great Hall stage. Theatrical performances are held at Toledo Repertory Theatre and the Village Players Theatre, which is a volunteer community theatre. National and international touring groups, a Broadway series, dance troupes, and more than 50 community groups, including the Toledo Symphony, Toledo Opera, Toledo Ballet, Ballet Theatre of Toledo, Toledo Jazz Society, and Masterworks Chorale, perform at Valentine Theatre. The Collingwood Arts Center and Huntington Center are other performance venues.

The Toledo Symphony Chamber Players, Toledo Jazz Orchestra, and the Toledo Symphony Concert Band perform on summer Sunday nights in the Toledo Zoo’s Amphitheatre. Toledo Botanical Garden hosts local jazz performers during a summer concert series.

Neighborhoods

The historic Old West End neighborhood in downtown Toledo consists of 25 city blocks featuring the largest collection of late Victorian-era homes in the country, as well as Colonial, Georgian, Italian Renaissance, Queen Anne, Dutch Colonial, French Second Empire, and Arts and Crafts styles. Condominiums, lofts, townhouses, and apartments are available in the Warehouse District, another downtown neighborhood.

A combination of historic and new homes can be found along tree-lined streets dotted with community parks, creeks, and other attractive landmarks in the Deveaux neighborhood.

Old Orchard features historic homes along tree-lined streets. Developed in the 1920s, this small neighborhood is located north of the University of Toledo in the western edge of Toledo.

Most homes in Franklin Park, a large neighborhood bordering the Ohio–Michigan state line, were built in the 1950s and 1960s in styles that include ranch, Prairie, and traditional.

Homes in the Westgate community range from quaint two-bedrooms to grandiose mansions on spacious lots along well-maintained streets.

Parks and Recreation

The Metropark system is responsible for 17 parks. The 493-acre Wildwood Preserve hosts a variety of cultural and historical events in the Georgian Colonial style Manor House. The park is also home to the Oak Grove School, a one-room brick schoolhouse dating from 1893. Another attraction is the system of trails that traverse the park’s varied terrain.

Toledo has several riverfront parks. Amenities at Side Cut include river and canal access, a sledding hill, playground, indoor and picnic shelters, and wildlife feeding stations with indoor viewing areas, called Windows on Wildlife. Side Cut is also popular for walleye fishing. Wiregrass Lake is available for canoeing and kayaking, as well as fishing from the shore or the dock. Farnsworth is a narrow park along the Maumee River with a boat launch for small boats and personal watercraft allowing access to the Maumee River directly from the park. The park is also a favorite destination for fishing.

Consisting of about 5,000 acres, Oak Openings Preserve is the city’s largest park and offers many trails and opportunities for bird-watching.

Amenities and activities at the 624-acre Pearson park include baseball diamonds, soccer fields, tennis courts, fishing, birding, a playground, ice skating, sledding, and trails. Programs at the park’s Johnlin Cabin, a log home that was constructed in the swamp in 1867, demonstrate what life was like in the notorious swamp.

Toledo Botanical Garden offers more than 60 acres of display gardens and relevant plant collections. Other features include the Artisan Village, original sculptures located throughout the Garden, and the annual Crosby Festival of the Arts.

More than 10,000 individual animals representing over 720 species live at the Toledo Zoo & Aquarium.

Sports teams include the Toledo Mud Hens, a minor league baseball team, and Toledo Walleye Hockey Club. Toledo Speedway hosts Automobile Racing Club of America and other racing events.

Toledo Public Schools educate approximately 22,000 students in 41 kindergarten through grade 8 schools, 3 grade 7 through grade 12 schools, and 7 grade 9 through grade 12 schools.

Higher education is available at the University of Toledo, a public research university that offers undergraduate, graduate, and professional degree programs. The university has Colleges of Medicine and Life Sciences, Health and Human Services, Nursing, and Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences. Mercy College of Ohio, Athena Career Academy, and Northwest Ohio Dental Assisting School specialize in health care and health science programs. Herzing University focuses on adult education, including health care, business, and technology degrees.

The Owens Community College Toledo-area Campus is a comprehensive state community college that offers over 100 academic programs. Davis College is a private, 2-year institution that offers degrees in business careers.

Health Care

Toledo is served by the following health care facilities:

- Advanced Specialty Hospital of Toledo: 40 long-term acute care registered beds
- Mercy St. Anne Hospital: 128 registered beds
- Mercy St. Vincent Medical Center: 568 registered beds
- Rehabilitation Hospital of Northwest Ohio: 40 total registered beds
- Promedica Toledo Hospital: 792 registered beds
- Promedica Wildwood Orthopedic and Spine Hospital: 42 registered beds
- University of Toledo Medical Center: 319 registered beds
- Northwest Ohio Psychiatric Hospital: 114 beds

City Stats 2016

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Photograph courtesy of Steve Klein.