



WINDFALL QUARRY TRAIL

AT INDIAN HOLLOW RESERVATION

SELF-GUIDED TRAIL GUIDE

1. THE OLD RAILROAD BRIDGE

At this marker there was a quarry railroad bridge. The bridge, also called the “Pony Bridge”, was named after the quarry railroad’s “pony steam engine”. The bridge crossed the river at this location so the Grafton-Brunswick Railroad (owned by the quarry company) could transport stone from the processing buildings on the west side of the river, to the main tracks in Rawsonville (later called Grafton).

2. CABIN

Around 1958 Howard Sadler, an attorney from Elyria purchased the land from the Miller family. He decided to build a cabin at this scenic river bend. Mr. Sadler also attempted to build a ford (bridge) across the river where the old quarry railroad bridge once stood. He wanted to be able to drive his car or truck across the river and into Grafton on what is now known as the Wayne Shipman Trail. The flood of 1969 destroyed the river ford and soon after Lorain County Metro Parks acquired that property. All that remains is the old concrete slab.

3. GRINDSTONE

At the base of this tree, a single grindstone lays. Large round stones like this were used to sharpen tools, blades, and other instruments. This sandstone, known as Berea sandstone, was considered friable and could not be used for grinding grain (the particles of sand would get into the grain during the grinding process). It was made further north along this trail at one of the old grindstone lathe buildings which no longer stands, except for one machinery foundation on the very edge of park property. That area was also the inventory storage yard where the Grafton-Brunswick Railroad loaded the stone to be delivered to customers all over North America.



4. SWING BRIDGE

The old swing bridge crossed the east branch of the Black River at the southern end of the jutting rock. This allowed quarry workers in Grafton to walk to work and reach either the stone processing buildings on the west side of the river or the quarries along Indian Hollow Road. The official names of these quarries were the old Black River Stone Quarry (now filled in) and the West Quarry. The west quarries include all the excavated land along Indian Hollow to the river including the two deep pits dubbed the North and South Tuttle Quarries, named after the former land owners, Charles and Sally Tuttle. The Tuttle house was dragged across Indian Hollow Road in the early 1900's so that the northern deep quarry could be dug.

5. LARGE FLAT ROCK THAT JUTS OUT INTO THE RIVER

From the 1840s to about the mid-1860s, the river was dammed at this site and a water wheel provided power to operate a sawmill. The mill, owned by John Hart, was used to clear all the surrounding land so that the quarries could be dug and farmland along Indian Hollow Road was created out of the forests. By the 1870s the water wheel sat rotting in the river next to the rock. Up above, on the rock, a steam boiler house was used to power the nearby sandstone sawing building.

6. SANDSTONE BLOCK CUTTING BUILDING

These machinery foundations are evidence of the location of this building. Sandstone was not cut by saws. Instead, a wire was moved across the stone until it formed a groove. Then water and sand were added to the groove. The water, sand, and moving wire would cut through the sandstone making large and small blocks. Sidewalks were made by cutting large blocks into thin slabs. Stone from this quarry yard was also used to help rebuild Chicago after the Great Chicago Fire of 1871.

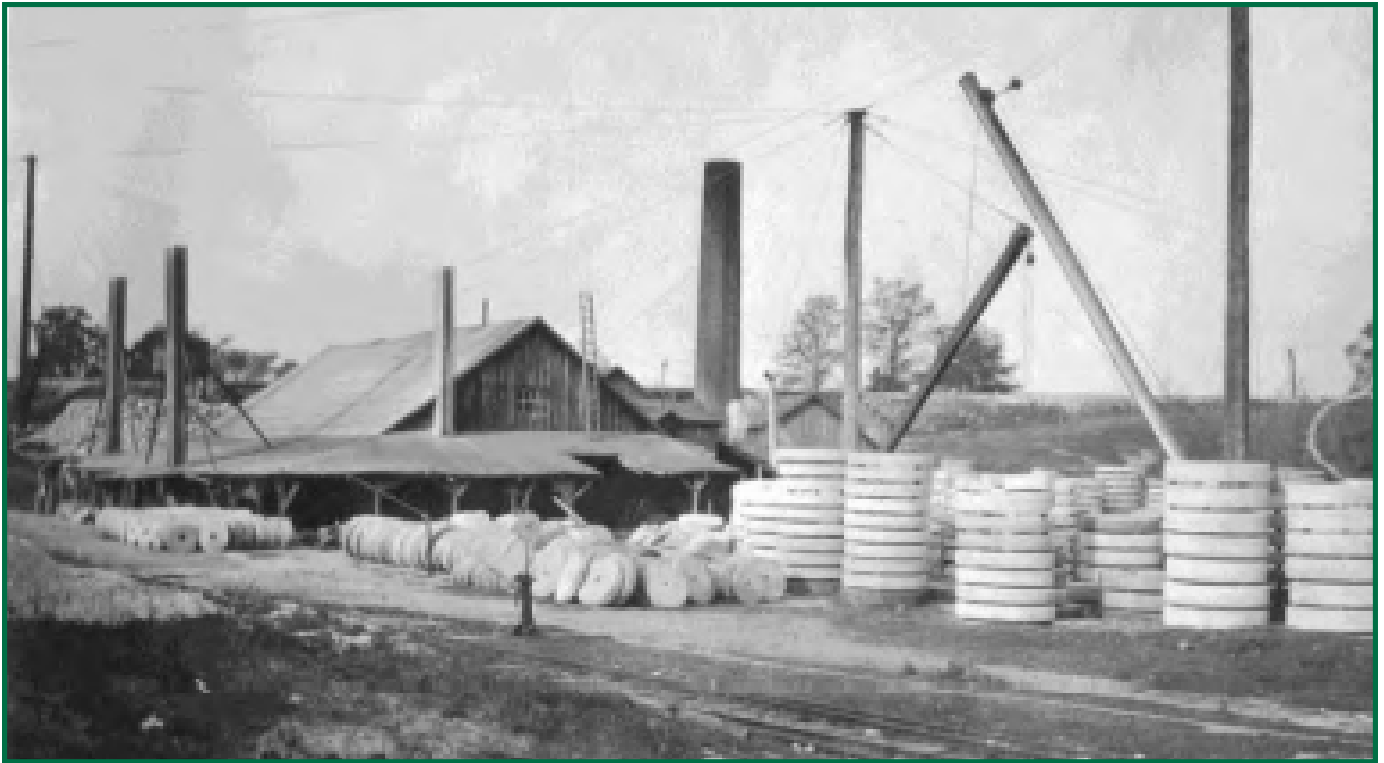
7. SPRING OR WELL

This man-made well was dug by the quarry company as a source of water for the steam boilers used to power the stone processing buildings and the guy derricks used to move the huge stone blocks. While the river could have been used for this purpose too, the well was more reliable during the summer when the river would get low.

8. PINE TREES/QUARRY ROAD

The pine trees in this area were planted by the former property owner in the late 1950's and early 1960's. He had planned to make this area into a campground and felt the pine trees would be a nice addition to the area. The campground was never built and the property ended up in the hands of the Lorain County Metro Parks around 1963. The path from Indian Hollow Road to the river was a quarry road and not an old railroad line. However, it intersects an old quarry railroad line where the trail heads north toward the quarry well. That stretch of path is an old railroad line that took the stone from the North and South Tuttle Quarries over to the processing buildings to be cut.





The grindstone lathe buildings and the grindstone storage yard were busy places in 1910. Many of the grindstones placed at the bottom of these stacks can still be found in the park. These stones were left in place as it took a lot of effort to make the bottom stone level.



Standing on an old railroad bridge and looking southwest in 1900 would give you a view of these quarry buildings. The two buildings in the upper left corner are the grindstone block saw buildings. The three buildings in the middle were the grindstone lathe buildings.



This channeling machine, invented in the 1880s, chiseled into solid stone and created huge blocks. It was also used to cut grindstones directly out of the ground, as seen in this photo.



The Stone Fishing Pier Quarry (or warm quarry) looks different in this photo from 1957. The sandstone pier can still be seen today on the river's east side next to the railroad tracks.



The Grafton Stone Company's quarry in 1910. The quarry was known as the Swim Quarry (or the warm quarry) and the Stone Fishing Pier Quarry and was located on the river's east side. If you look closely, you can see men working on the quarry floor.

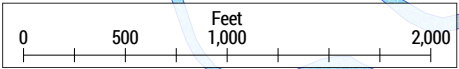
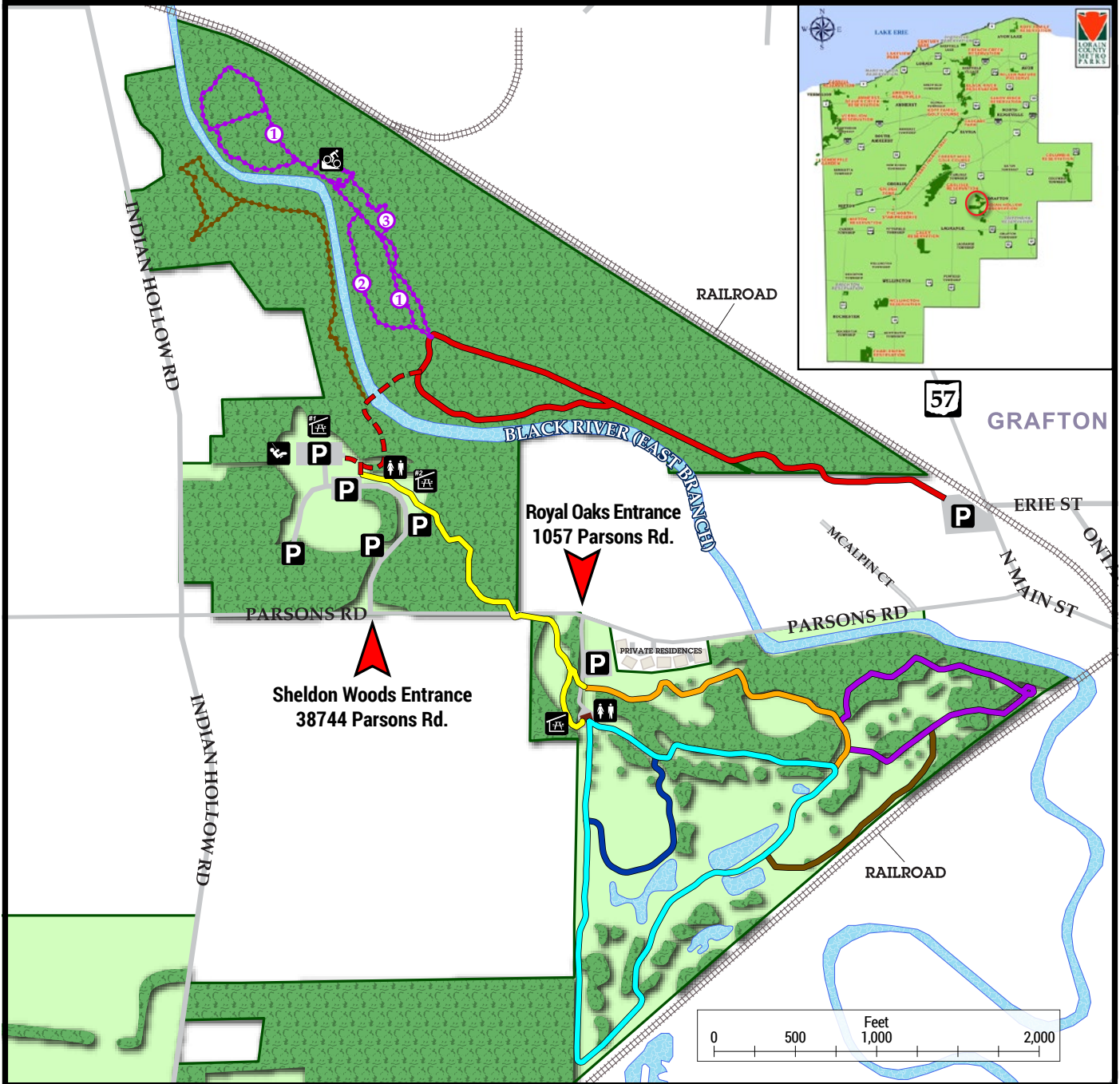


The quarry swing bridge existed well into the 1920s. On October 30, 1917, Hoppe Bittner and Stace Dubert posed for a photo. Evidence of the bridge still exists at trail marker 4.



INDIAN HOLLOW RESERVATION

Sheldon Woods: 38744 Parsons Rd., Grafton, OH 44044 | Royal Oaks: 1057 Parsons Rd., Grafton, OH 44044
 Visit us online at www.LorainCountyMetroParks.com



TRAILS

- | | |
|--|-------------------------------------|
| Wayne Shipman Memorial Trail - 1 mile | Sheldon Oaks Trail - 0.66 mile |
| Connector Trail - 0.2 mile | Big Loop Trail - 1.2 miles |
| Windfall Quarry Trail - 0.93 mile | Front Loop Trail - 0.4 mile |
| Mountain Bike Trail - 0.68 mile | Fitness Trail - 0.3 mile |
| Mountain Bike Trail (Alternate) - 0.2 mile | Chestnut Connector Trail - 0.5 mile |
| Mountain Bike Trail (Expert) - 0.15 mile | Railroad Trail - 0.25 mile |

LANDCOVER

- Forest
- Open/Field
- Waterway

SYMBOLS

- Restrooms
- Parking
- Playground
- Shelter
- Mountain Biking

