



Piers at Dold Lake (above) and Shank Lake (cover) provide fishing and breathtaking views.

## Oakwoods Nature Preserve

1400 Oakwoods Lane, Findlay

Wetlands, woodlands, and prairie create a place for discovery and form a natural attraction full of seasonal beauty that supports wildlife, environmental education, and nature-based outdoor recreation. In spring, mayapples, trout lilies, toad trilliums, and many other plant species can be seen along the trails. In summer, the wetlands, woodlands, and prairie are teeming with life. In autumn, the hardwood canopy takes on a seemingly magical transformation with its presentation of colors. And in winter with snow-laden branches, the nature preserve becomes a winter wonderland.

A few relatively quiet destinations can be found while hiking Oakwoods Nature Preserve. The overlook offers a rare vantage point within the park. A bench near the Prairie Trail affords a nice view of Shank Lake. And hiking the entire 1.7-mile Meadowlark Trail may give hikers a sense of isolation and solitude, and a rewarding backcountry experience.

In *In Nature's Realm*, "Doc" Phillips wrote, "Then we came to an inviting-looking woods and an expanse of blue water off to the right, and of course, we had to investigate these. This is how we found Shank's Quarry." Shank Lake is available for fishing and boating with electric motors only. Access to the lake is provided by a boat ramp, a fishing pier, and the Shank Lake Trail. Dold Lake is also available for fishing. Access to the lake is provided by the McKinley Trail, a beach, and a fishing pier with picnic tables.

