

TAKE a **COLORS** TOUR of some of the **BEST PLACES** in **S.E. MICHIGAN**



After 40 years of annually selecting local places to observe some of the very best Fall colors in the Metro area, for myself, family and friends, I now venture to share a few of my favorite choices with everyone. Many of you probably have some selected places that you try to get to during this time of year, but the places I will be listing are areas that have consistently proven themselves to produce some of the most striking and vivid colors. There are many, many other Parks in S.E. Michigan that all have excellent Fall leaf colors that are just outstanding. I have tried to list Parks that are spread out across the Metro area, so that there should be one of them close to your home.

One of my personal favorite Parks and even the general roads in the area is **WOLCOTT MILL Metro Park**, located off of 27 mile road, east of Romeo Plank road, in the Northeast section of the Metro area. This part of the state was settled early in our history, by farming communities. Many of the hardwood trees here are old and big, and produce some of the brightest and most awe inspiring colors there are. A stroll in the Parks restored Mill area with all the colors surrounding you, will take you to a place you have never been before. Just driving around the back roads here is worth the journey..

On the far Northwest side of the Metro area are a number of early farming settlements and a very large state Park called **ORTONVILLE Recreation Area**. The Park has some vast sections of old hardwood forests that produce an array of blended colors of reds, yellows and bright orange. Like the Wolcott Mill area, even riding along the many back roads surrounding the Park is worth the visit. This could easily be an entire afternoons adventure, with stops at some of the local quaint villages and small communities such as Holly. While your there, check out **HOLLY Recreation Area** too.

Located just about in the center of what is the Metro area is a Park with many different histories to it. **HIGHLAND Recreation Area** is truly a unique Fall color visit. Inside the main Park area is the *Haven Hill Natural area*. This was the location of the old Edsel Ford retreat manor. This natural area has a representation of every tree that grows in our beautiful state. Which means that there is a representation of all the various colors you could see, anywhere through our state. The surrounding area roads have some very old trees that canopy many of these Park connectors. At the right times, you will be bathed in a particular color by just driving along the roadways. Many of the same old hardwood forests exists just up the road at **PONTIAC LAKE Recreation Area**.

On the far East side is a very old Park, **METRO BEACH Metro park**. Although this Park does not have vast tracts of deeply forested lands, there are some very old hardwood trees that produce some Fantastic color displays. A walk out to the Point that jarts out into lake St. Clair, with the lake almost surrounding you and the changing tree colors is a wonderful experience. The small Nature trails section of the Park has some very tall & old trees that produce an interesting mixture of varied colors as well. The trees here turn color and pass a little quicker than most other places due to the close proximity to the lake and it's varied winds. But caught at the right time, this is worth a visit for those Fall colors.

These are just a few of my favorite places to visit during this time of year. There are of course so many more places to see some of the wonderful Fall color displays without leaving the S.E.MI. area. There is something almost magical and certainly rejuvenating about stopping your busy life for just an afternoon and observing what nature produces as one of it's finest shows. So if it's a local community Park, an entire afternoon adventure trip, or just a couple of hours cruising the backroads, take that time and connect to the seasonal changes, and the beauty that is Free for the viewing. It's Michigan, our state, and some of the very best Fall colors anywhere in the world.