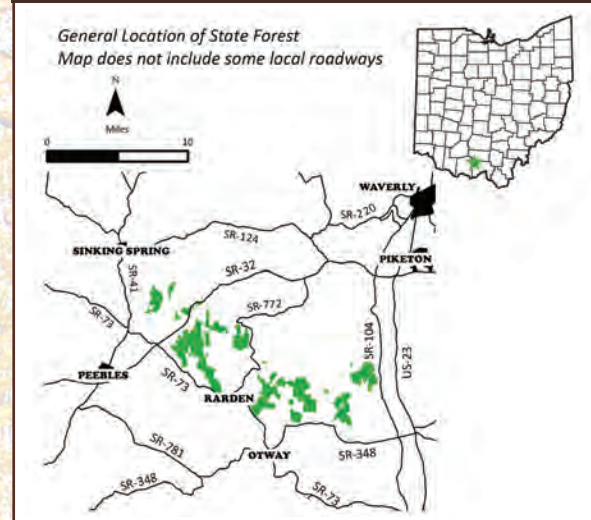




Forest Rules

1. Brush Creek State Forest is open daily to visitors between the hours of 6 a.m. and 11 p.m. Legal campers, hunters and anglers may be present during other hours.
2. Operation of motor vehicles is restricted to designated roads. The speed limit on state forest roads is 30 mph unless otherwise posted. Vehicles may not be parked where traffic or access to division service roads or trails will be obstructed.
3. Horses may be ridden only along forest roads or on designated trails. Most trails are designated as multi-use and are available to hikers and horses.
4. Fires are not permitted, except in grills or fire rings provided or in portable stoves. Fires must be attended at all times.
5. Trash may be disposed of only in receptacles provided or pack it in - pack it out.
6. Camping is not permitted.
7. Public display or consumption of any alcoholic beverage is prohibited.
8. Disturbance, defacement or destruction of any structure, property, natural feature, tree, shrub or wildflower is prohibited. Only berries, nuts, and mushrooms may be gathered and removed.
9. The use of bait to attract or hunt wild birds or deer on state forest land is prohibited.
10. Deer stands must have a waterproof tag at all times identifying the user and user's address or hunter's state identification number in legible English.
11. State forest boundaries are marked with yellow blazes on trees and/or posted signs.
12. OAC section 1501:3 Division of Forestry <http://codes.ohio.gov/oac/1501:3>

Location Map



Additional Information

OHIO DIVISION OF FORESTRY

Chillicothe District Office
345 Allen Ave.
Chillicothe, Ohio 45601
740-774-1596

SHAWNEE STATE FOREST

Division of Forestry
13291 US Highway 52
West Portsmouth, Ohio 45663
740-858-6685

ohiodnr.gov

877-247-8733

EMERGENCIES: Call 911

ODNR DIVISION OF FORESTRY MISSION:

Promoting and applying management for the sustainable use and protection of Ohio's private and public forest lands.



Ohio Department of
**NATURAL
RESOURCES**



Ohio Department of Natural Resources
Division of Forestry
2045 Morse Road, Building H-1
Columbus, OH 43229 - 6693
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BRUSH CREEK

STATE FOREST



Ohio Department of
NATURAL RESOURCES
DIVISION OF FORESTRY



Welcome to Brush Creek State Forest

Acquisition of the first state forests began in 1916, originally to be used as testing grounds for reforestation of tree species. Land acquisition later broadened to include land of scenic and recreational values and to restore forest cover to land that had been abandoned and abused. Today, Ohio's 24 state forests cover more than 200,000 acres and provide an abundance of benefits for everyone to enjoy. With the advantage of decades of management, Ohio's foresters are enhancing nature's growth cycle and continuing to produce some of the finest hardwood trees in the world on state forest lands. Forest management activities such as timber stand improvement, prescribed fire, and harvesting are employed to enhance the health, vigor, and natural regeneration of the forest. But foresters' concerns go well beyond the trees. Evaluations of water, soil, wildlife habitat, age and condition of the vegetation, recreational opportunities, and aesthetics are considered in preparation of area management plans. This process ensures that visitors may enjoy many outdoor activities including camping, hiking, horseback riding, wildlife watching, hunting, and scenic touring.

Forest History

The earliest Brush Creek State Forest land acquisition was a 285-acre parcel that was originally purchased in 1928 as part of Shawnee State Forest. This parcel, and approximately 13,000 acres of other scattered parcels in Adams, Scioto, and Pike counties, became Brush Creek State Forest in 1950. The forest is named after Scioto Brush Creek, a local tributary of the Scioto River. Most of the acreage consists of steep hillsides, deep hollows, and narrow ridgetops containing a deciduous hardwood forest indigenous to the area. The combination of the forest resources, quarried stone and the vast Ohio River nearby contributed greatly to the prosperity of the area. The original Zane's Trace road lies just west of Brush Creek State Forest. Zane's Trace was authorized by Congress in 1796. It was first blazed by Colonel Ebenezer Zane in 1797, and it connected Wheeling, West Virginia to Limestone (Maysville), Kentucky. It was heavily used by man on foot and on horseback, and by 1804, Zane's Trace had evolved into a 20' wide wagon road and stagecoach route with taverns every 5-6 miles for man and horse to be refreshed. Along the route, taverns like Treber Inn, Wickerham Inn, and Bradford Inn became a draw for the

local settlers in the Scioto Brush Creek watershed. Zane's Trace contributed greatly to the settlement, as well as the social and cultural development, of this part of the state. One could catch up on the news and meet people like Henry Clay or General Andrew Jackson who travelled the route to Washington for his 1828 presidential inauguration. By 1840, Ohio was no longer considered frontier country. The surrounding forest, once used to build temporary log homes, became a source of lumber used to build traditional framed homes. Loggers and other tradesmen began to find ways to export their products to an emerging nation. Buena Vista Freestone, an important sandstone resource of the area, was quarried from the hills of the state forest and vicinity, exported across the eastern United States, and used to help build cities such as Cincinnati, New York, and Chicago. State Highway 41, which follows the north-south route of Zane's Trace, has been extremely important to both the development of the area, and for transportation related to sandstone quarrying and timber harvesting on the hillsides of the state forest and vicinity. As additional roads were built, some used portions of Native American trails like the Zane's Trace, while others followed newly blazed routes. Towns and cities sprang up along the roads. Some towns have since faded away, but others still thrive today.

Recreation

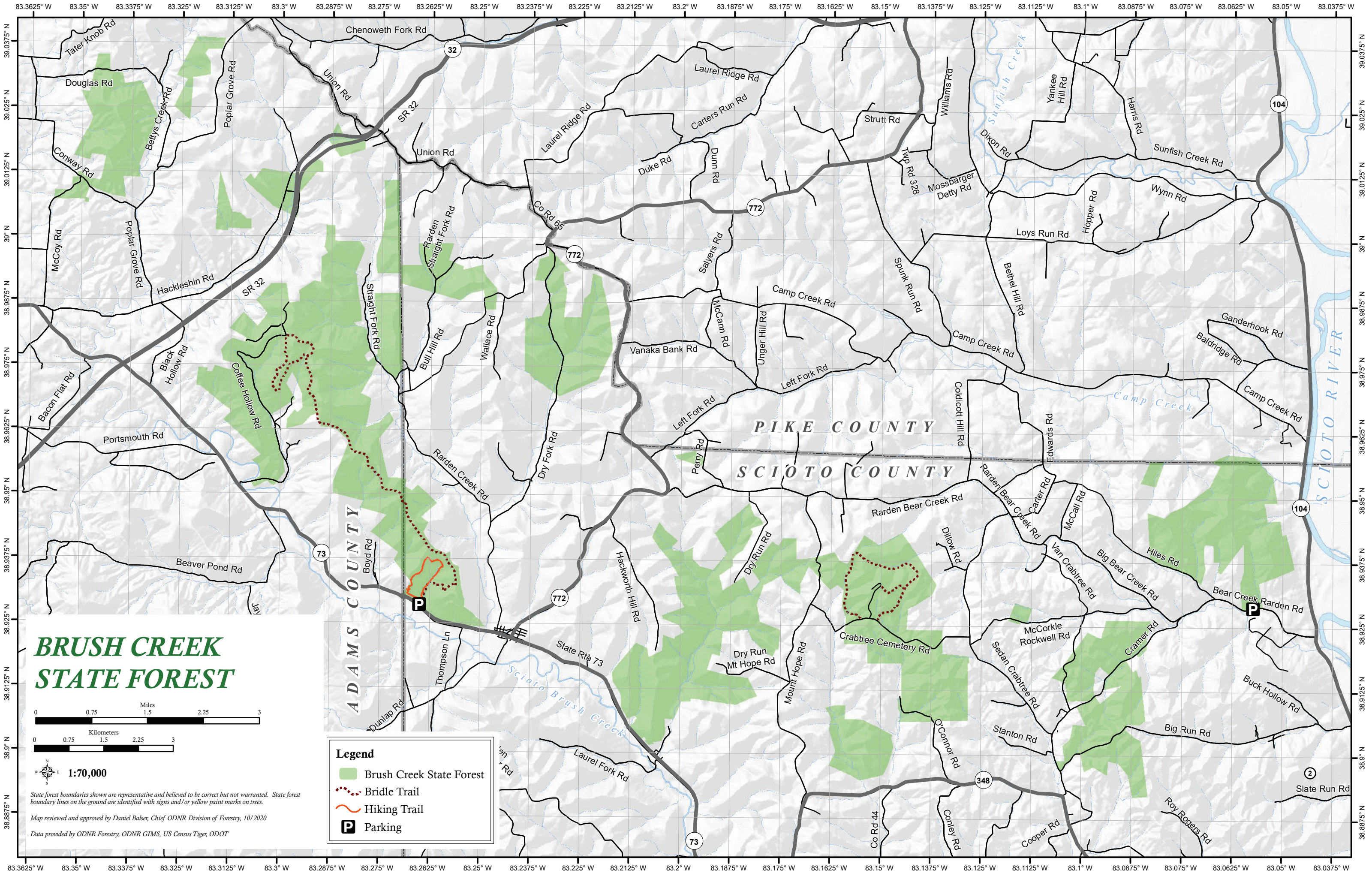
Brush Creek State Forest offers a variety of public use opportunities, including hunting, horseback riding, hiking and gathering mushrooms, nuts and berries. With considerable populations of white-tailed deer and wild turkey, hunting is the chief public use on the forest. Perhaps the next most popular use is the hunting and gathering of the morel mushroom. For a few short weeks each spring, the forest is a virtual beehive of activity, as people search the hillsides and ridge tops for the elusive but extremely tasty fungus.

Hunting and Fishing

Hunting and fishing are permitted under Division of Wildlife regulations. Shooting on, from, or across any road or driveway is prohibited on state forests. Discharge of any firearm is not permitted except during lawful hunting season. Discharge of any firearm except during lawful hunting is also not permitted.

Forest Headquarters

Brush Creek State Forest is maintained by forestry employees headquartered at the Shawnee State Forest in Friendship, Ohio (see "Additional Information" on back panel). The former Brush Creek headquarters on Rt. 73, west of Rarden, Ohio, are now occupied by the Rarden Township Trustees.



BRUSH CREEK STATE FOREST

0 0.75 1.5 2.25 3
Miles

0 0.75 1.5 2.25 3
Kilometers

1:70,000

State forest boundaries shown are representative and believed to be correct but not warranted. State forest boundary lines on the ground are identified with signs and/or yellow paint marks on trees.

Map reviewed and approved by Daniel Balser, Chief ODNR Division of Forestry, 10/10/2020

Data provided by ODNR Forestry, ODNR GIMS, US Census Tiger, ODOT

Legend

- Brush Creek State Forest
- Bridle Trail
- Hiking Trail
- Parking