

## General Rules for Forest Visitors

1. Dean State Forest is open daily to visitors between the hours of 6 a.m. and 11 p.m. Legal campers, hunters and fishermen may be present during other hours.
2. Operation of motor vehicles is restricted to roads provided for such travel. 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 bridle trails.
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 permitted only in areas provided and designated for such use.
7. Public display or consumption of any alcoholic beverages is prohibited.
8. Disturbance, defacement or destruction of any structure, property, natural feature, tree, shrub or wildflower is prohibited. Berries, nuts and mushrooms may be gathered and removed, except from tree seed orchards or posted areas.
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 in legible English.
11. Game cameras are not permitted unless they bear a waterproof, legible tag identifying the owner's name, phone number and address in English.
12. State forest boundaries are indicated with yellow blazes on the trees and/or posted signs.

*Rules found in the Ohio Administrative Code Section 1501:3.*

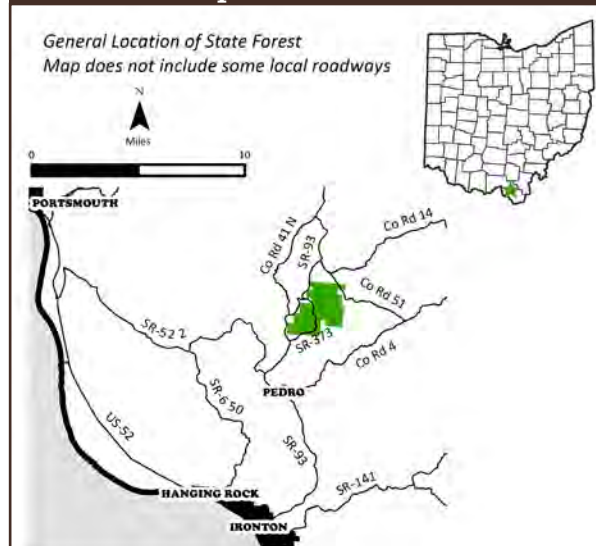
## Area Parks and Forests

Other ODNR facilities in the area include Shawnee State Forest and Shawnee State Park, located 30 miles west of Dean State Forest near Portsmouth. Shawnee lodge is located at the park. Jackson Lake State Park is located 15 miles north on State Route 279 near Oak Hill.

## Wayne National Forest

Dean State Forest is nearly surrounded by Wayne National Forest land, administered by the U.S. Forest Service. Lake Vesuvius Recreational Area provides camping, hiking, boating, and swimming, and is located eight miles south on State Route 93.

## Location Map



## Additional Information

### DEAN STATE FOREST

149 Dean State Forest Road  
Pedro, Ohio 45659-9740  
**740-532-7228**

### PIKE STATE FOREST

334 Lapperell Road  
Latham, OH 45646-9722  
**740-493-2441**

### SOUTHERN DISTRICT OFFICE

345 Allen Ave.  
Chillicothe, OH 45601-1699  
**740-774-1596**

### WAYNE NATIONAL FOREST IRONTON RANGER DISTRICT

6518 State Route 93  
Pedro, Ohio 45659-9603  
**740-534-6500**

**forestry.ohiodnr.gov**

**1-877-247-8733**

**EMERGENCIES: Call 911**



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Division of Forestry  
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Columbus, OH 43229 - 6693  
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# DEAN STATE FOREST



Ohio Department of  
**NATURAL RESOURCES**  
DIVISION OF FORESTRY

## Welcome to Dean 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 23 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 the state forests continue to produce some of the finest hardwood trees in the world. 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.

## History

Dean State Forest became one of Ohio's first state forests when 1,500 acres were acquired in 1916. It is located in the unglaciated hill country of southcentral Ohio near the Ohio River in Lawrence County.

From the early 1800s to about 1900, most of the timber in the area was cut for charcoal to supply blast furnaces for the smelting of locally mined iron ore. The area had also been burned over many times by fires started along the Cincinnati, Hamilton, and Dayton Railroad which ran through the forest. Thus, when the land was purchased in 1916 for Dean State Forest, it was largely denuded of trees. It became an early experimental area to determine the best tree species and planting methods for reforestation. Several of the plantings (such as the white pine, red pine, and yellow-poplar along State Route 373 in Texas Hollow) are visible results of those experiments and efforts.

In the early 1930s, a Civilian Conservation Camp was located on the forest. Supervised by the Division of Forestry, camp personnel constructed and improved access roads and did much timber stand improvement work. Today, Dean contains an unbroken block of more than 2,750 acres of forest land.

## Ice Storm

After nearly a century of sound forest management, Dean State Forest contained some of the finest stands of Upland Central Hardwoods (oak - hickory forest) in Appalachia. In February of 2003, a devastating glaze storm occurred in the area. The ice was so thick on the trees in the forest that major limbs and even whole tops were torn out of the trees. When the trees were located on slopes, whole stands of trees fell like dominos down the sides of the hills. The damage was severe and widespread throughout the forest. Nearly 20,000 acres on nearby Shawnee State Forest were hit hard by the storm as well. The first order of business was to clear the roads for public safety and forest management. The Ohio Division of Forestry (DOF) was forced to conduct major timber salvage operations. The first helicopter logging operations on state forests were conducted on both Shawnee and Dean state forests to remove

and salvage damaged timber. Significant value and most of the mature forest wildlife habitat were lost at Dean State Forest for the immediate future. The DOF is working with the regenerating forest that will once again flourish.

## Hunting

The ice storm created some rather unique opportunities for hunting on public lands. Different species of wildlife depend on different habitats. Species dependent on the early successional habitat created by the storm include ruffed grouse, rabbits, white-tailed deer, fox, and a multitude of other species of birds and small mammals. Hunting success for white-tailed deer has been very good on Dean State Forest in recent years.



## Shooting Range

The shooting range is located on State Route 373 approximately one mile south of the forest headquarters. There is a 30-yard pistol range and a 125-yard rifle range with benches. Hours of operation are half an hour before sunrise until half an hour after sunset. Only paper targets are permitted. Extended rules for the ranges are posted on site.

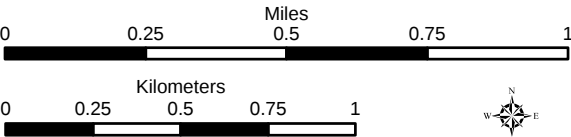
## Recreation

A wide variety of recreational opportunities exist at Dean State Forest. One popular activity is hunting. Deer, wild turkey, grouse, squirrel, and rabbits are hunted in season at Dean. Several small fishing ponds are located on the forest. Mushroom hunting is becoming an increasingly popular activity. Horseback riding is also available at the forest. Approximately 17 miles of bridle trails run throughout the forest and offer users a scenic ride through the woods.

# Dean State Forest

## Legend

- Dean State Forest
- Wayne National Forest
- Roads
- Bridle Trails
- Forest HQ
- Parking
- Shooting Range



State and National 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, 08/2019

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

