

Practice Trail Etiquette

The Hocking State Forest Bridle Trail is one of the most popular riding areas in our state with more than 30,000 horse and rider visits each year.

As defined in our mission, the ODNR Division of Forestry is responsible for managing the soil and water resources within Hocking State Forest. In order to protect the trails and woodlands from soil erosion and other resource damage, horse riding is permitted only on designated painted trails. The Division of Forestry has made many improvements, many of which can be seen as you ride the trails. We need your help to ensure the protection of forest land surrounding the bridle trails. Practicing proper trail etiquette and encouraging others to do the same helps us keep Hocking State Forest a beautiful place to ride. This includes:

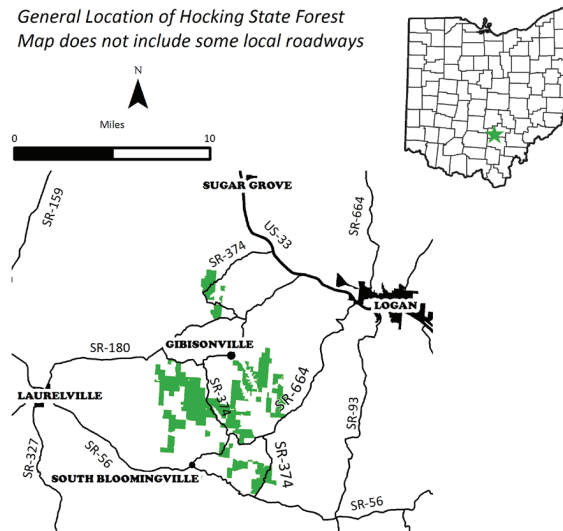
- Ride only on designated painted trails.
- Never tie to trees.
- Do not shortcut trail switchbacks.
- Pick up litter.
- Do not ride in caves or streams.
- During periods of wet weather and muddy soil conditions, do not ride.
- Report violations and down trees to our toll free number 1-877-247-8733.

The Division of Forestry believes these practices will protect the forest and soil resources. The Division of Forestry cares about the forest visitor and their experience. It is for this reason that horse riders are important partners in conservation.



Location Map

General Location of Hocking State Forest
Map does not include some local roadways



Emergency Phone Numbers

EMERGENCIES: 911

Hocking County Sheriff: 740-385-2131

Additional Information

HOCKING STATE FOREST

19275 State Route 374
Rockbridge, Ohio 43149-9749
740-385-4402

OHIO DIVISION OF FORESTRY SOUTHEASTERN DISTRICT OFFICE

360 East State Street
Athens, Ohio 45701-1852
740-272-8519

HOCKING HILLS STATE PARK

20160 State Route 664
Logan, Ohio 43138-9537
740-385-6841 Park Office

forestry.ohiodnr.gov



Ohio Department of Natural Resources
Division of Forestry
2045 Morse Rd., Building H-1
Columbus, OH 43229 - 6693
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HOCKING STATE FOREST BRIDLE TRAIL



Ohio Department of
NATURAL RESOURCES
DIVISION OF FORESTRY

Welcome to Hocking 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

Land acquisition for Hocking State Forest began in 1924, with the objective of returning abused hill farms and fire-damaged timber lands to productive forests. Most of the reforestation work was completed in the 1930s by the Civilian Conservation Corps and the Division of Forestry. Additional planting and forest improvement work was accomplished by the prisoners at the Hocking Honor Camp. Hocking State Forest now covers more than 9,600 acres in Hocking County. The many gas wells and transmission lines that you see are a result of the development of a natural gas storage field underlying the forest area.

Trail and Boundary Marks

Many different colors of paint are seen on trees throughout the area. Yellow spots indicate the boundary between state and private land. White and/or red spots are the boundaries around the three nature preserves. Blue spots designate the Buckeye Trail. The Bridle Trails are designated by various colors (see Bridle Trail map).

Recreation

The forest offers a wide range of outdoor recreational opportunities. For the equestrian, there are nearly 40 miles of bridle trails located on the forest. Beautiful scenery and challenging terrain greet riders as they wind through the forested hills and valleys. Hiking is permitted throughout the forest, including on the bridle trails and on the Buckeye Trail, which runs through the forest. There are 59 miles of hiking trails on the forest. Bird watching, photography, collecting nuts, berries, and mushrooms are all pursuits which hikers may

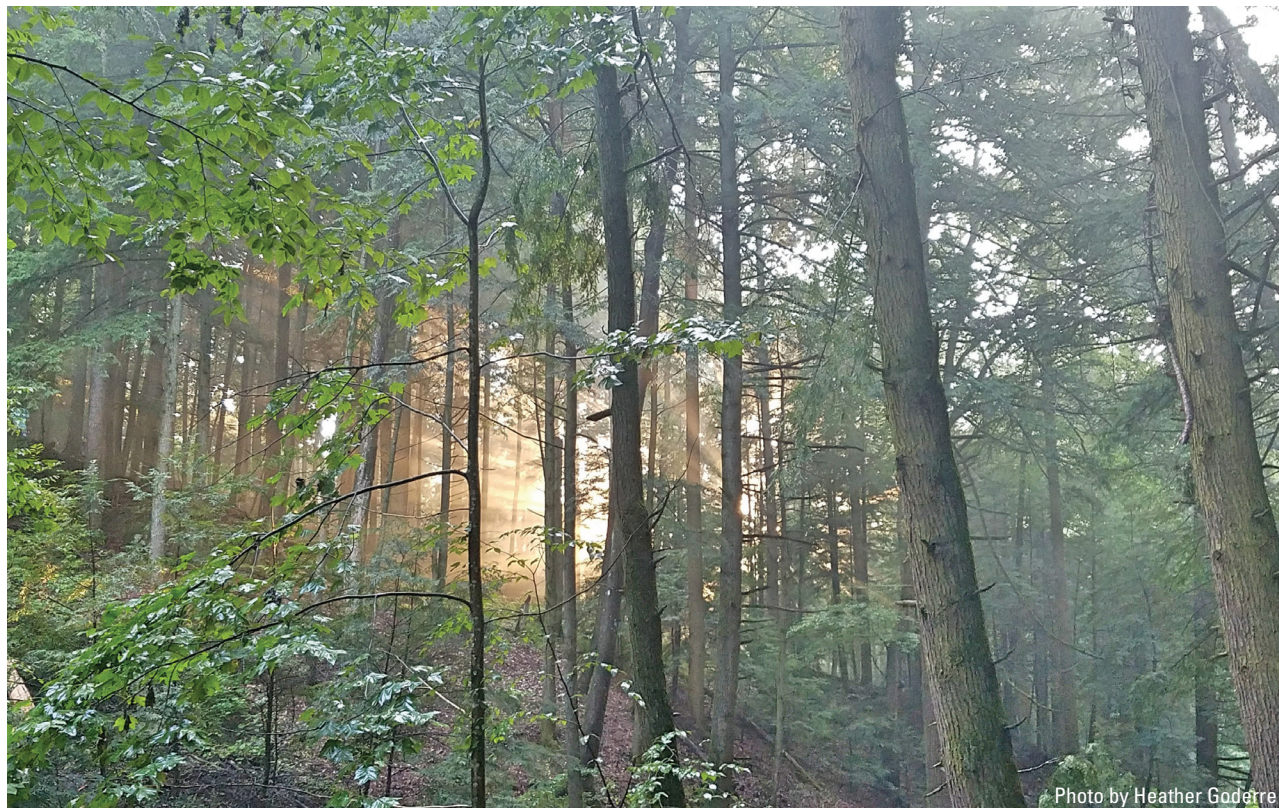


Photo by Heather Godette

enjoy. For those who want to stay on the beaten path, there are numerous county and township roads that pass through the forest. The hills come alive again in the fall with a panorama of vivid colors. Scenic vistas also await the visitor who wants to tour the forest by car. Hocking State Forest is open to public hunting and fishing, in season. Hunters can pursue many species of forest game including squirrel, grouse, deer, turkey, raccoon, opossum, and rabbit.

Horse Camp and Trail Rules

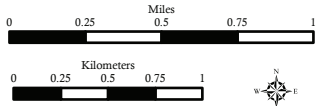
Please observe the following:

1. This campground is for horse riders only.
2. Day users are to use the day-use parking lot. Do not park in camp area.
3. Horse campers must register at the Self-Registration Booth. Only one unit is permitted per campsite.
4. Campsites are available on a first-come first-served basis; saving campsites is prohibited.
5. Fires and camping are allowed in designated areas only. Do not move fire rings.
6. Trash and litter should be handled with the back country ethic, "Pack it in, pack it out."
7. Do not leave fires unattended or dispose of trash in fire rings.
8. For your safety, the forest closes at dark; riding is not permitted after dark.
9. Please park all equipment on your campsite; do not park in the grass.
10. Maintain your campsite in a clean and sanitary manner. Citations may be issued. All manure and discarded hay must be placed in manure bins prior to leaving
11. Tie Lines are provided at each campsite; tying horses to trees or temporary corals are not permitted.
12. Please observe quiet hours from 11:00 p.m. to 8:00 a.m.
13. Alcoholic beverages are prohibited.
14. The use of firearms is restricted to lawful hunting only.
15. Riding is permitted only on designated bridle trails. They are marked with colored paint.) Please see the map for paint color details.) Riding is prohibited in state park and preserve areas. (Exception: Riders of the Buckeye Trail may use the horsemen's bypass around the east end of Old Man's Cave and Cedar Falls).
16. The State Forest boundary is marked with **yellow** blazes.

Hocking State Forest Bridle Trail Map

Legend

- Hocking State Forest
- State Park (no hunting)
- State Nature Preserve (no hunting)
- Firetower
- Forest Office
- Restroom
- Points of Interest
- Bridle Trail Markers
- Roads
- Streams
- Buckeye Trail
- Bridle Trails
 - Light Green
 - Orange
 - Pink
 - Purple
 - Red
 - Silver
 - Turquoise
 - White
 - Buckeye Trail Horse Bypass (Light Blue)



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 Dan Balser, Chief ODNR Division of Forestry, 2/2020

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

