

State Forest Rules

1. Shade River State Forest is open daily to visitors between the hours of 6 a.m. and 11 p.m. Hunters and fishermen may be present during other hours.
2. Operation of motor vehicles is restricted to roads provided for such travel. 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 roads open to public travel.
4. Fires are not permitted.
5. Trash may be disposed of only in receptacles provided or "pack-it-in/pack-it-out."
6. Camping is not permitted on this state forest.
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. At all times, deer stands and game cameras shall either have a waterproof tag or be stamped with the user's name and mailing address in legible English letters or bear the user's State Hunter Identification Number.
11. State Forest boundaries are indicated with yellow blazes on the trees and/or posted signs.
12. Operation of dirt bikes and APVs is strictly prohibited on Shade River State Forest.

Complete rules for state forests are found in the Ohio Administrative Code Section 1501:3.

EMERGENCY PHONE NUMBERS

EMERGENCIES: 911

Ross County Sheriff 740-773-1185

Hocking County Sheriff 740-385-2131

Vinton County Sheriff 740-596-5242

LOCATION MAP



Managed out of:
ZALESKI STATE FOREST
ODNR Division of Forestry
PO Box 330
Zaleski, Ohio 45698
740-596-5781

ATHENS DISTRICT OFFICE
ODNR Division of Forestry
360 E. State Street
Athens, Ohio 45701
740-589-9920

COLUMBUS CENTRAL OFFICE
ODNR Division of Forestry
2045 Morse Road, H-1
Columbus, Ohio 43229
877-247-8733

FORKED RUN STATE PARK
P.O. Box 127
Reedsville, Ohio 45772-0127
740-378-6206

forestry.ohiodnr.gov



Ohio Department of
**NATURAL
RESOURCES**



Ohio Department of Natural Resources
Division of Forestry
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SHADE RIVER STATE FOREST



Ohio Department of
NATURAL RESOURCES
DIVISION OF FORESTRY

History of Ohio's State Forests

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.

Welcome to Shade River State Forest

Nestled in the rolling hills of southeastern Ohio, Shade River State Forest encompasses 2,859 acres. Native hardwoods grow on what was formerly abandoned, unproductive farmland. In the 1950s, a few abandoned farm fields were planted with different species of pines including white, red and loblolly pine. In addition, many acres of native Virginia pine, shortleaf pine and pitch pine are present. Modern forestry practices are evident throughout the forest. Forest management practices completed by Division of Forestry personnel include crop tree release, grapevine control, forest health monitoring, prescribed fire, woodlot thinning, and wildlife openings. These projects reduce tree competition, increase vigor, and improve overall forest health. Timber harvests serve as an example of how our forests should be managed and the benefits associated with proper management. Large blocks of pine are being harvested for conversion to hardwood species, which are more beneficial and have greater commercial value. The state forest is open year-round to hunting, hiking and general sight-seeing. Wildlife is abundant; deer, turkey and grouse are the major game species. Many non-game species also thrive in this area.

Forest Management

Shade River State Forest is managed under the multiple-use concept for timber, wildlife habitat, forestry research, demonstrations of good forest land management, back country recreation, natural beauty, and protection of watersheds and soil.

Forest Recreation

Many recreational activities can be enjoyed at Shade River State Forest. The forest provides opportunities for mushroom hunters, berry pickers, photographers, hunters, and adventurous hikers to pursue their interests.

Hunting and Fishing

Hunting and fishing are permitted within Shade River State Forest as regulated by the Division of Wildlife. Fishing and hunting are welcomed activities in Shade River State Forest. No person shall hunt, trap, fish, kill, pursue, shoot, or take any wildlife or wild animal by any means in any state forest area in which such is specifically prohibited by signs or on maps as designated by the chief or authorized agent. Shooting on, from, or across any road or driveway within any state forest is also prohibited. No person shall use a rifle, pistol, revolver, shotgun, or other firearm on this state forest area at any time except while lawfully hunting wild animals. Forest boundaries are marked in yellow paint and with yellow posts along the property lines. Please respect adjacent landowners, and do not trespass on private property.

Nearby Points of Interest

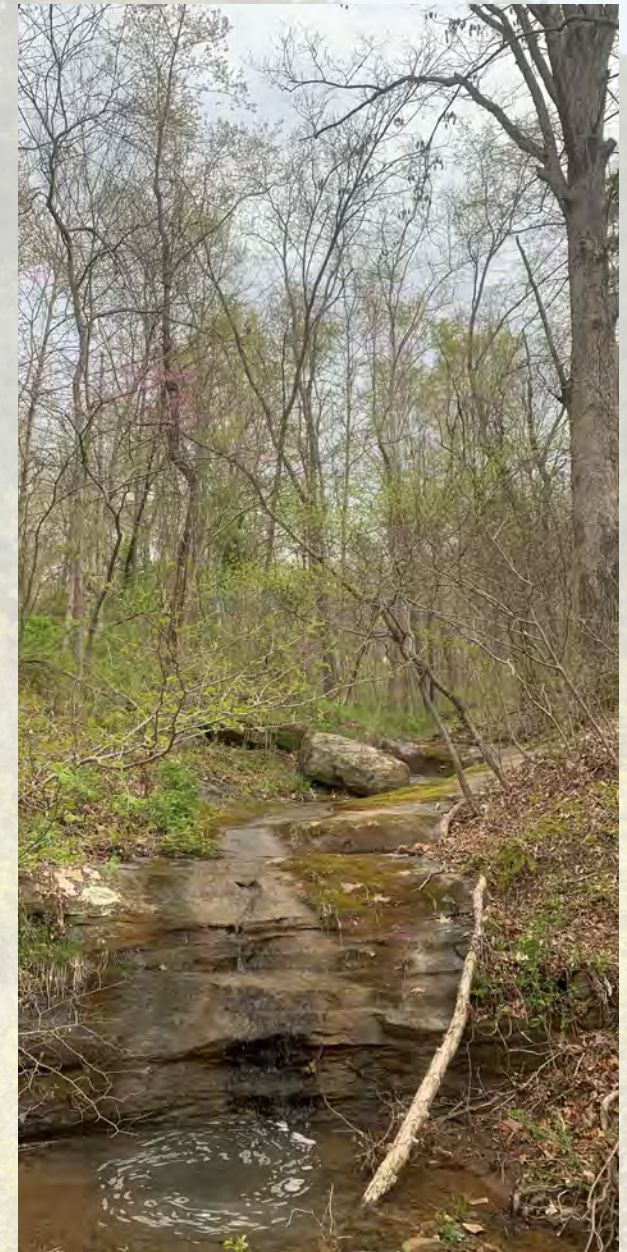
Camping, swimming, and fishing are available in nearby Forked Run State Park. Portions of the forest are within sight of the Ohio River near the Belleville Locks and Dam at Reedsville.

West Shade River Tract

There is a 154-acre tract of Shade River State Forest in Meigs County, Scipio Township, Section 24. The area was formerly known as the Meigs County Underground Sand Abatement Project No. 1 and was acquired by the ODNR Division of Reclamation in 1975. Ownership of this tract was transferred from the Division of Reclamation (now known as the Division of Mineral Resources Management) to the Division of Forestry in 1981. Access to this tract is from Meigs County Road 338, Sand Ridge Road. All rules for visitation, hunting, and fishing are the same on this tract as they are for the rest of Shade River State Forest. There are no developed trails or facilities on this tract.

General Rules for Forest Visitors

The Shade River State Forest area receives hundreds of visitors each year. Please respect the forest community that you find. Your consideration of other visitors using the forest will provide an enjoyable experience for all. Please use caution while driving on all area roads.



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