

Hunting and Fishing

Hunting is permitted on Shawnee State Forest as regulated by the Division of Wildlife.

Discharge of any firearm except during lawful hunting is prohibited. Fishing is permitted under Division of Wildlife regulation. Most fishing, however, is confined to the lakes. The use of bait to attract or hunt wild birds or deer on state forest land is prohibited. 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.

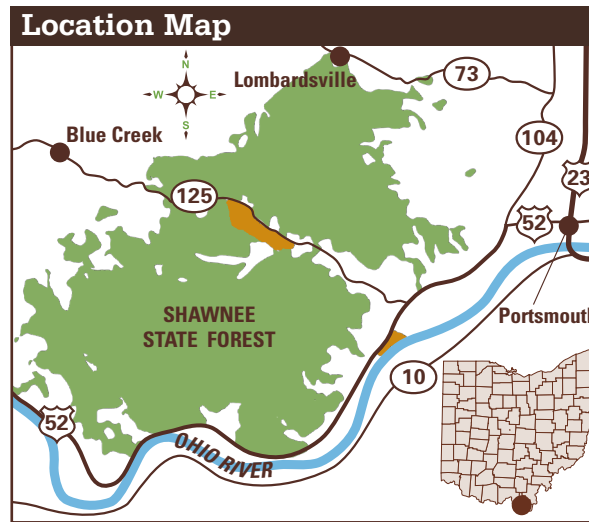
General Rules for Forest Visitors

The Shawnee State Forest area receives hundreds of thousands of visitors each year. Please respect the forest.

Your consideration of other visitors using the forest will help provide an enjoyable experience for all.

1. Shawnee State Forest is open to visitors between the hours of 6:00 a.m. and 11:00 p.m. Legal campers, hunters and anglers 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. The use of ATVs (four-wheelers) is prohibited.
3. Horses may be ridden only along forest roads or on designated bridle trails.
4. Swimming and motorized boats, except with electric motors, are prohibited in state forest lakes.
5. Fires are not permitted except in grills, fire rings, or portable stoves. Fires must be attended at all times.
6. Trash may only be deposited in provided receptacles or "pack-it-in/pack-it-out."
7. Camping is permitted only in areas provided and designated for such use. Limited road-side camping is permitted during deer and turkey hunting season when camps are registered at the Forest Office.
8. Public display or consumption of any alcoholic beverage is prohibited.
9. Disturbance, defacement, or destruction of any natural or man-made object is prohibited. Berries, nuts, and mushrooms may be gathered and removed except from tree seed orchards or posted areas. Root digging is prohibited.
10. 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.



Shawnee State Forest Shawnee State Park

Additional Information

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

Shawnee State Park
4404 State Route 125
West Portsmouth, Ohio 45663
Park Office: 740-858-6652

Shawnee State Park Resort and Conference Center
P.O. Box 189
Friendship, Ohio 45630-0189
740-858-6621

forestry.ohiodnr.gov

EMERGENCIES: Call 911



Ohio Department of Natural Resources
Division of Forestry
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SHAWNEE

STATE FOREST



Ohio Department of
NATURAL RESOURCES
DIVISION OF FORESTRY



Welcome to Shawnee 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 over 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.

History of Shawnee State Forest

In 1922, the State of Ohio purchased 5,000 acres of cleared and fire-ravaged land once inhabited by the Shawnee Indians. This initial land acquisition established what is now known as Shawnee State Forest. During that same year, land purchases started for the nearby Theodore Roosevelt Game Preserve. In the 1930's, six Civilian Conservation Corps camps were located in the forest. The CCC constructed many roads in the inaccessible area. Five small lakes were also constructed by the young men of the CCC, and these

lakes are still enjoyed by visitors. After the creation of the Department of Natural Resources in 1949, the recreational facilities at Roosevelt Lake were transferred to the Division of Parks. In 1951, an agreement between the divisions of Forestry and Wildlife transferred the remaining 11,000 acres of the Roosevelt Game Preserve into Shawnee State Forest. Shawnee State Forest, also called "the Little Smokies of Ohio," has developed into the largest of the state forests, with over 63,000 acres. While the forest is a fantastic recreation feature in southern Ohio, visitors should not be surprised to see other activities here. The forest provides a variety of uses on a sustainable basis. Timber harvesting, tree planting, wildlife habitat enhancement, forestry research, watershed and soil protection, production of tree seeds, and road and trail maintenance are some of the projects accomplished by the Division of Forestry. During the spring and fall forest fire danger periods, state forest crews detect and suppress wildfires that occur on state and private lands within the surrounding protection area.

Forest Vegetation and Management

A variety of vegetation grows in the rugged unglaciated hills of Shawnee State Forest. Several species of oaks and hickories, sassafras, and native pitch and shortleaf pines populate the ridges. Midslope areas support oaks and hickories as well as soft and hard maple, basswood, yellow poplar, buckeye, blackgum, white ash, red elm, hackberry, and aspen. Sweetgum, beech, black cherry, black walnut, sycamore, birch, and butternut can also be



found in bottomland areas and coves. Several methods of management are used to harvest and improve the growth, yield, and quality of trees. In selection harvesting, single trees and small groups of trees are removed from the stand creating openings in the forest canopy. Species that can grow well in shaded environments, such as beech and sugar maple, are favored by this type of management. In regeneration cutting, or clearcutting, all trees are removed in a given area to allow full penetration of sunlight to the forest floor. This method creates conditions favorable for tree species such as yellow poplar, white oak, and red oak, which need abundant sunlight to grow well. Deer, grouse, and many species of songbirds also benefit from this type of management. Timber is harvested only after the proposed site is inventoried; evaluated for wildlife, recreation, watershed, and aesthetic factors; and finally marked in accordance with the forest management plan. Timber is sold on an advertised competitive bid basis, with a percentage of the net revenue going to the school district where the timber harvest occurs. The remaining revenue is divided between the state, local county, and township.

Shawnee Wilderness Area

In 1972, nearly 8,000 acres of Shawnee State Forest were designated as wilderness. This designation minimizes human influence by prohibiting vegetative manipulation and all mechanized activity. Prior to acquisition by the State of Ohio, these properties had been heavily impacted by mining and logging. Vastine and Cabbage Patch Hollows, located in the southwestern portion of the Wilderness Area, were utilized in the mid 1800's and early 1900's as a source for building stone. The stone was transported by rail to the Ohio River, where it was loaded on barges. Much of the stone was used in the construction of buildings in Cincinnati.

Bear Lake Horse Camp

The horse camp includes 58 campsites with tie rails, latrines, and water for horses. Shawnee State Forest has over 70 miles of bridle trails, most of which are directly accessible from the camp. Campsites are available on a first-come, first-served basis.

Scenic Drive Opportunities

A drive in Shawnee State Forest is always enjoyable, especially during the fall color and spring blossom seasons. At Picnic Point and other vistas, motorists can see the Ohio River Valley as it was viewed by Native Americans who scouted advancing parties of explorers and settlers moving down river. Motorists are urged to exercise caution while driving the narrow and winding forest roads. Hazardous driving conditions and road closures may be encountered during the winter season.

SHAWNEE

STATE FOREST

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, 3/2020

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

