

Hunting and Fishing

Hunting and fishing are permitted under the ODNR Division of Wildlife regulations. Shooting is prohibited from or across any road or driveway. Discharge of any firearm except during lawful hunting is also not permitted except as provided for on the designated shooting range.

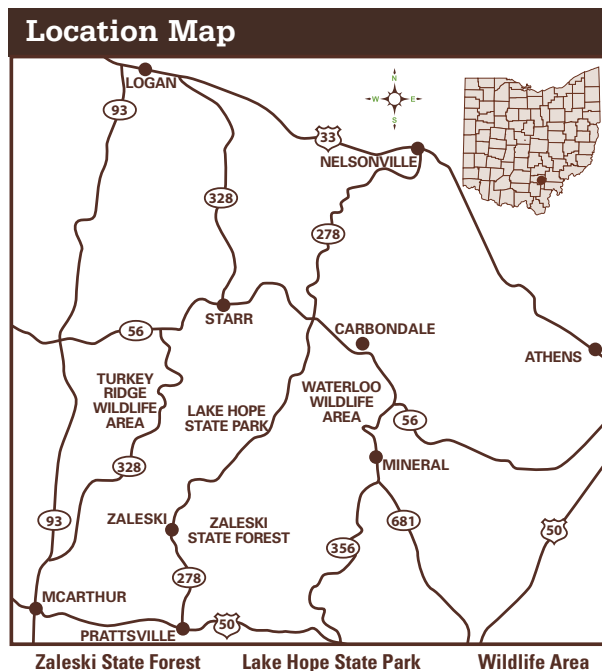
Hunting is prohibited in Lake Hope State Park.

General Rules for Forest Visitors

The Zaleski 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. Zaleski 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 times.
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, provided fire rings 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. At all times, deer stands 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. At all times, 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.
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.



Additional Information

ZALESKI STATE FOREST

P.O. Box 330 State Route 278
Zaleski, Ohio 45698
877-247-8733

LAKE HOPE STATE PARK

27331 State Route 278
McArthur, Ohio 45651
Park Office: 740-596-4938

forestry.ohiodnr.gov

EMERGENCIES: Call 911



Ohio Department of Natural Resources
Division of Forestry
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ZALESKI STATE FOREST



Ohio Department of
NATURAL RESOURCES
DIVISION OF FORESTRY

Welcome to Zaleski State Forest

Acquisition of Ohio's 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.

Area History

During the 1800s, the region supported a vibrant iron ore industry. Iron was produced in furnaces that were fired by charcoal. Generating charcoal required large supplies of wood, resulting in widespread removal of timber from surrounding hillsides. Coal mining replaced iron production as the region's main industry in the late 1800s. Most of the coal was mined from small "drift" mines, and old entries are still visible today. Acid drainage from many of these old mines degraded water quality. During this same period, subsistence farms began to appear. The steep slopes and thin soil typical of the area made farming very unproductive. Soil fertility declined, and poor agricultural practices contributed to watershed sedimentation.

Forest History

In 1928, land acquisition for Zaleski State Forest began, motivated by the purposes of reforestation and forest fire control. To accomplish this mission, trees were planted, and a fire tower was built. During the 1930s, the federal government formed the Resettlement Administration to address the impoverished conditions of marginal agricultural areas across the nation. The Resettlement Administration initiated the Land Utilization Program, through which unproductive and abandoned farmlands were acquired to promote forest management and provide recreational opportunities. The area around Zaleski, Ohio, was one of these resettlement areas. Restoration began through the application of erosion control devices and the planting of tree seedlings.

Other improvements, including 35 miles of roads, numerous firebreaks, wildlife ponds and public facilities were constructed, many with the assistance of such programs as the Works Progress Administration and the Civilian Conservation Corps. In 1939, the Division of Forestry was given operational control of the area. In 1949, the Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) was formed, and management of Lake Hope State Park was transferred to the Division of Parks. The Division of Forestry was transferred from the Agricultural Experiment Station to the new ODNR, and the division continued to manage the Zaleski State Forest. In 1957, ownership of both the park and forest land was transferred to ODNR. Zaleski State Forest has become Ohio's second largest state-owned forest, covering nearly 27,000 acres.

Wildlife Management

Zaleski State Forest maintains the grouse and turkey wildlife management areas.

The 1,100-acre Grouse Management Area is managed sustainably to optimize favorable habitat conducive to ruffed grouse reproduction. The Turkey Management Area covers more than 4,000 acres of the Zaleski State Forest, and is managed to create favorable conditions for wild turkey reproduction. These areas are managed under cooperative agreements between the ODNR divisions of Forestry and Wildlife, as well as the Ruffed Grouse Society. Both areas are open to hunting in season.

Sawmill

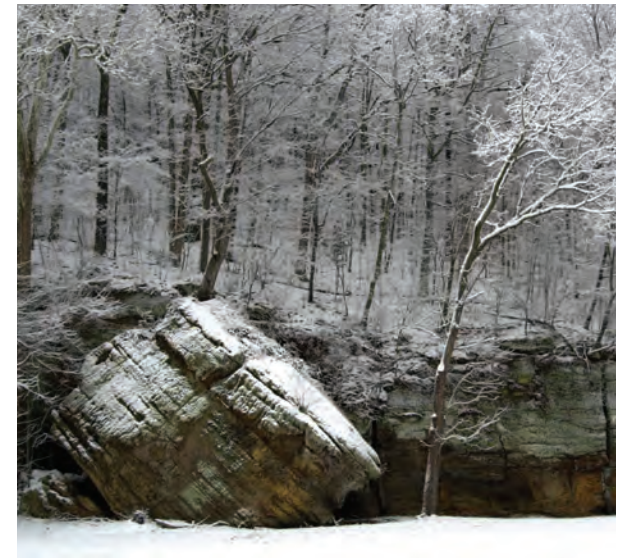
Zaleski State Forest operates the only state-owned sawmill in Ohio. The mill produces rough sawn lumber for use by Ohio's state forests and state parks in addition to other government agencies.

Waterloo State Forest

Waterloo State Forest consists of 447 acres that have been incorporated into the overall management of Zaleski State Forest. Some of the largest white pine trees in Ohio can be found at Waterloo. This area was one of the first state forest land acquisitions, making it one of the oldest continuously managed forest areas of the state.

Hunter's Camp

The Atkinson Ridge Hunters camp is located on the north end of the Grouse Management Area on Township Road 5 at the fire tower. The campground offers latrines, picnic tables and fire rings. Sites are available on a first-come, first-served basis. The Hunters Camp is operational one day before the start of squirrel season until one day after the close of grouse season. It is operational again 14 days before the start of spring wild turkey season and closes the day after the season ends.



Horse Camping

The primitive horse camp includes latrines. The camp also includes water for horses, but drinking water is not available on the site. Please complete the self-registration form displayed at the camp entrance upon arriving. Bridle trail maps are available at the horse camp or at forest headquarters.

Forest of Honor

A small area of the forest near the Zaleski State Forest Headquarters has been set aside for ceremonial tree plantings in honor of individuals who have made significant contributions to the forestry effort in Ohio. This area contains one of the forest's Adena Indian burial mounds.

Shooting Range

The shooting range is located on State Route 278, just north of the forest headquarters. There are nine 25-yard shooting lanes with benches.

Hours of operation are half an hour before sunrise until half an hour after sunset. Centerfire rifles are prohibited.

Moonville Tunnel

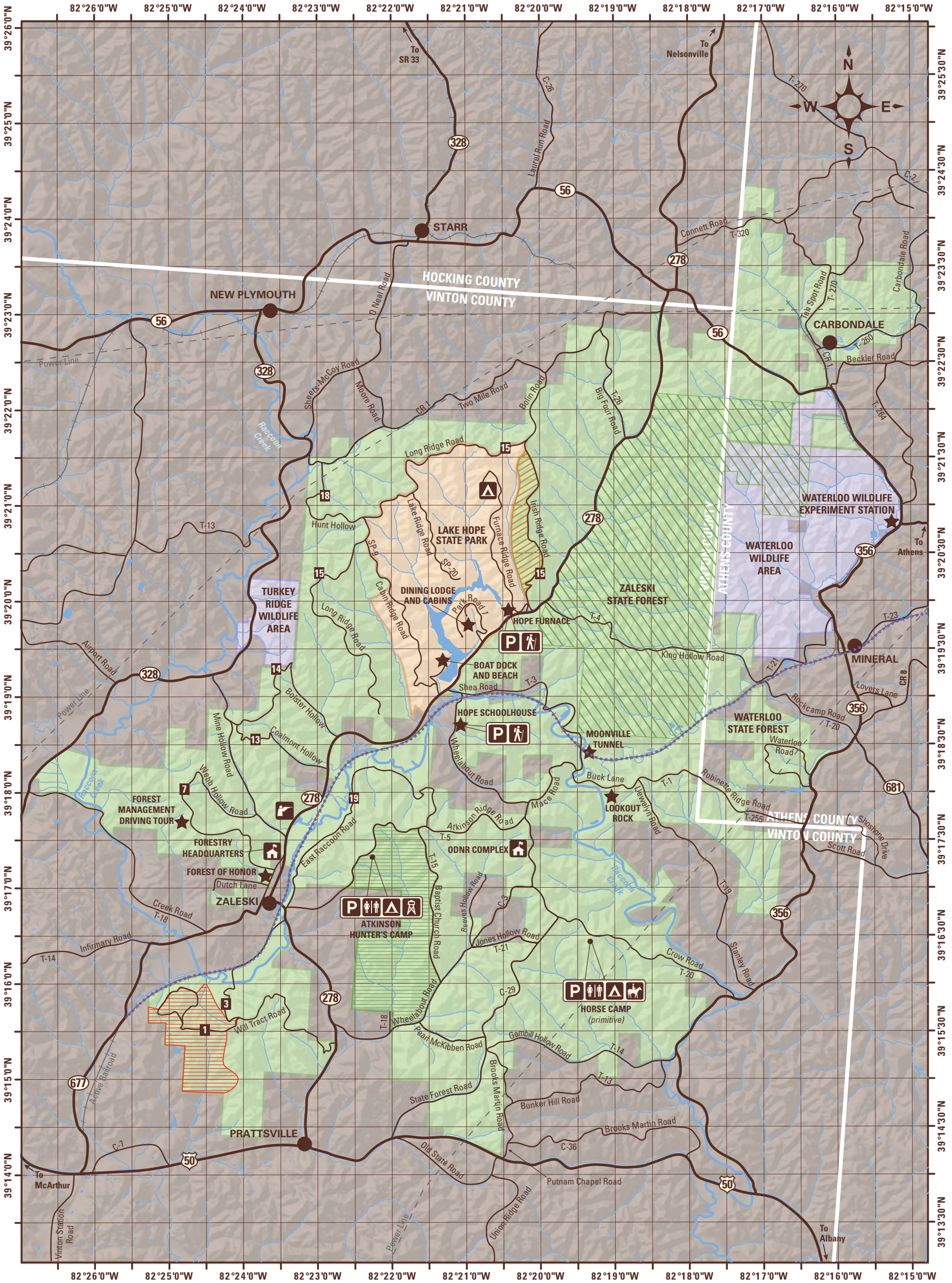
The abandoned B&O railroad right of way that runs through Zaleski State Forest is said to be haunted around the Moonville Tunnel. Legend says that, at the turn of the century, a brakeman was killed near the Moonville Tunnel as he waved his lantern to stop the train. The man was drunk, and unfortunately, he swayed into the path of the oncoming steam locomotive. Reportedly, he was buried in the Moonville Graveyard, and if visitors come here at night, some say people can see his lantern "a glimmerin'" and a waving "in the darkness, still trying to stop that train."

ZALESKI

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



LEGEND

Zaleski State Forest	Turkey Management Area	Parking	State Forest Road
Lake Hope State Park (No Hunting)	No Public Access Area	Campground	Point of Interest
Wildlife Area	Restrooms	Shooting Range	Power Line
No Hunting Area	Fire Tower	Backpack trailhead	Moonville Rail Trail
Grouse Management Area	Office	Bridle trailhead	