

WELCOME TO OHIO'S STATE FORESTS

Ohio's system of 24 state forests cover more than 200,000 acres and provide many environmental and economic benefits. Acquisition of land for Ohio's first state forests began in 1916. Prior to that, a thorough analysis of the condition of forested land in Ohio established a clear need for a state forest system. State forests are open to visitors daily between the hours of 6:00 a.m. and 11:00 p.m. (except for Hocking State Forest and the four all-purpose vehicle areas, which are closed one half hour after sunset until one-half hour before sunrise). Persons engaged in legal activities, such as camping, hunting, and those granted by special permission may be present during other hours. Recreational activities, including motorized vehicles, are generally restricted to areas designated and provided for their use, and are governed by specific rules and regulations. Removal or disturbance of any plant is prohibited, with the exception of berries, fruits, nuts, cones, seeds, and mushrooms. Visitors should check state forest maps for information at forestry.ohiodnr.gov.

TIMBER MANAGEMENT

Foresters apply their knowledge of forest ecosystems to enhance nature's growth cycle and maintain sustainable timber production. The state forests were established to be places where the "practical value of forestry" would be demonstrated. This basic mission, set out at the inception of the state forest system, is as important now as it was at the beginning of the 20th Century. It is carried forward today by the Ohio Division of Forestry to demonstrate the application of sound management for the sustainable use and protection of forest resources. It is because of over 100 years of this care and nurturing that Ohio's state forests are treasured places. Foresters' concerns go well beyond growing of trees. Evaluations of water, soil, wildlife, age and condition of vegetation, threatened and endangered species, invasive plants and insects, recreational opportunities, and scenic qualities are considered in planning and preparing management plans.

CAMPING

Camping is permitted on state forest land only in areas provided for such use. Family camp-grounds are available at Fernwood and Harrison state forests. Primitive horse camps are located at five state forests. Remote park & pack camp-sites are available on a permit basis at Mohican-Memorial State Forest for novice backpackers interested in short treks and secluded camps.

BACKPACK TRAILS

Three backpack trails are provided by the Division of Forestry at Shawnee State Forest (50 miles with seven walk-in camp areas) Zaleski State Forest (28 miles with three walk-in camp areas), and Tar Hollow State Forest (21 miles with one walk-in camp area). The Shawnee Backpack Trail crosses rugged terrain requiring moderate skill and endurance, while the Zaleski Selinde Roosenburg Memorial Backpack Trail provides a shorter and generally less strenuous hike. The Tar Hollow Logan Backpack Trail provides hikers with a shorter, challenging, but less strenuous hike than Zaleski and Shawnee. Self-registration permits (no fee) are available at the trailheads. Reservations are not required. Latrines and water are provided, but backpackers are also encouraged to carry a supply of water. Trail maps are available at forestry.ohiodnr.gov.

HUNTING, FISHING, & SHOOTING

Hunting is permitted on most state forest property, and numerous ponds and lakes afford fishing opportunities. Four shooting range sites are open.

ALL-PURPOSE VEHICLE AREAS

Four all-purpose vehicle (APV) areas are provided by the Division of Forestry for off-road motorcycles and all-purpose vehicles (with width of 62 inches or less). Riding is restricted to designated trails (except within the Perry APV Area).

When conditions permit, snowmobiles are permitted on designated trails in the Maumee APV Area and Mohican-Memorial State Forest. All vehicles must display a valid highway or APV registration obtained through the Ohio Bureau of Motor Vehicles. Operators must wear head and eye protection. Perry, Pike, and Richland Furnace APV Areas are closed beginning on the second Monday morning in December and reopen on the first Friday morning in April.

PRESCRIBED FIRE AND WILDFIRE

Fire has long been an influence on forest ecosystems and the use of fire as a management tool is increasing. Planned prescribed fires are carefully used to accomplish specific land management goals. These goals include managing for oak stands and the habitats that they provide. It also includes reducing fuels so that a wildfire, should one occur, may not be as damaging as it might otherwise be.

However, not all fires are planned or beneficial. Each year, carelessness results in an average of 500 wildfires burning 1,600 acres, nearly all in close proximity to homes, buildings, or infrastructure. Protection of public and private forest lands, primarily in southern and eastern Ohio, is provided by the Division of Forestry. There are nearly 600 fire departments within the Division of Forestry fire protection area. Services include technical advice, federal excess equipment, training, fire investigation and enforcement, suppression assistance, and grants through the federal Volunteer Fire Assistance Grant Program.



Department of
Natural Resources

FOR INFORMATION

Ohio Department of Natural Resources
Division of Forestry
2045 Morse Road, H-1
Columbus, Oh 43229-6693
(614) 265-6694 • Toll Free: (877) 247-8733

forestry.ohiodnr.gov

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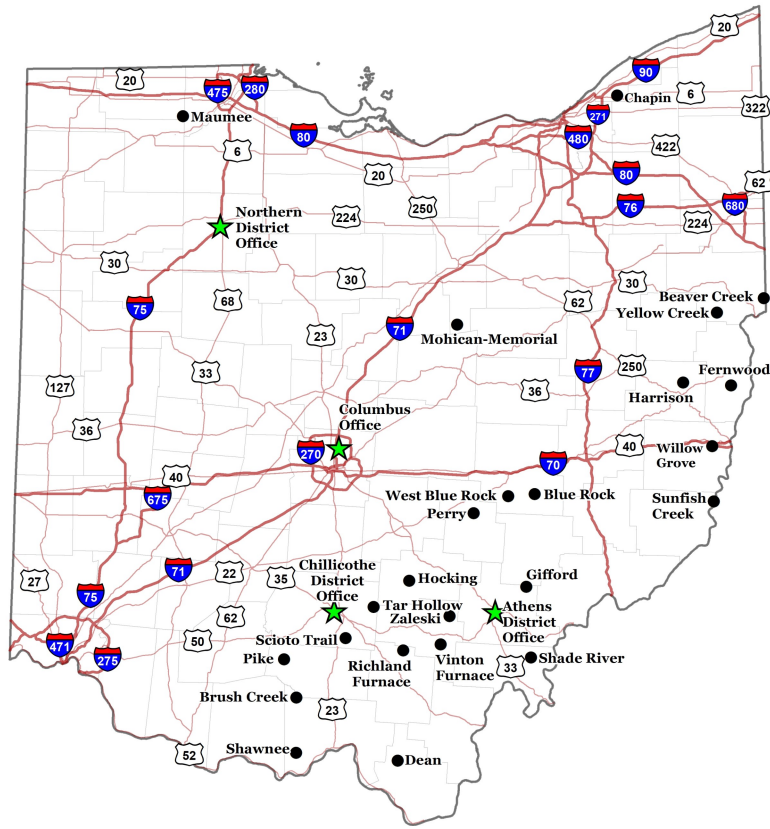
OHIO

STATE FORESTS GUIDE



DIVISION OF
FORESTRY
OHIO DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

OHIO'S STATE FORESTS



- State forests have active forest management and wildlife habitat management programs. Guided tours of these areas and the Zaleski State Forest sawmill may be arranged.
- Due to field work, state forest personnel may be difficult to reach by phone. Information can be obtained through the Columbus office by calling toll-free at (877) 247-8733, or at forestry.ohiodnr.gov
- All bridle trails are open to hiking.
- Mountain bikes are permitted on APV trails. Mountain bikes are also permitted on bridle trails at Scioto Trail State Forest and designated trails at Mohican-Memorial State Forest.

CONTACTS		
OFFICES	ADDRESS	PHONE
Columbus	2045 Morse Rd., H-1, Columbus, OH 43229	(877) 247-8733
Northern District	952 Lima Ave, Box B, Findlay, OH 45840	(419) 424-5004
Athens District	360 E. State Street, Athens, OH 45701	(740) 272-8519
Chillicothe District	345 Allen Avenue, Chillicothe, OH 45601	(740) 774-1596

STATE FOREST	District	Acres	Office Address	MILES OF TRAILS					Camps*	Other Features
				Hiking	Horse & Hiking	APV	Mountain Bike	Backpack		
BEAVER CREEK	Northern	1,122	See Fernwood office							no recreational facilities
BLUE ROCK	Athens	4,578	6665 Cutler Lake Rd. Blue Rock, OH 43720		20					(SP)**, fire tower
BRUSH CREEK	Chillicothe	13,518	See Pike office	2	11					mushroom hunting
CHAPIN	n/a	371	n/a							managed by Lake Metroparks
DEAN	Chillicothe	2,759	149 Dean Forest Rd. Pedro, OH 45659		17					trail connects to Wayne National Forest, shooting range
FERNWOOD	Northern	3,023	11 TR 181 Bloomingdale, OH 43910	5					F(22)	trap, rifle, pistol ranges
GIFFORD	Athens	320	See Zaleski office	3						experimental seed orchards, fishing pond, picnic area
HARRISON	Northern	1,345	See Fernwood office		14				H, F(27)	rifle range, fishing ponds
HOCKING	Athens	9,815	19275 SR 374 Rockbridge, OH 43149	3	41				H(23)	(SP), rock-climbing, rappelling, Buckeye Trail, fire tower
MAUMEE	Northern	3,332	3390 C.R. D Swanton, OH 43558	2	8	6	6			Windbreak Arboretum, tree improvement area, wet sedge meadow
MOHICAN-MEMORIAL	Northern	4,541	945 ODNR Mohican Rd. 60 Perrysville, OH 44864	3	23		25		P(7)	(SP), Memorial Forest Shrine, fire tower, mountain bike and snowmobile trails
PERRY	Athens	4,706	See Blue Rock office		6	22	22			mountain biking, surface mine areas
PIKE	Chillicothe	12,531	334 Lapperell Rd Latham, OH 45646	15	34	36	36			(SP), Buckeye Trail, mountain biking
RICHLAND FURNACE	Chillicothe	2,530	See Pike office			11	11			mountain biking, historic iron ore area
SCIOTO TRAIL	Chillicothe	9,600	2731 Stoney Creek Rd. Chillicothe, OH 45601	7	25		25			(SP), Buckeye Trail, fire tower, mountain biking
SHADE RIVER	Athens	2,859	See Zaleski office							fishing pond, picnic area
SHAWNEE	Chillicothe	64,735	13291 US 52 W. Portsmouth, OH 45663	59	63			50	B(7 camps), H(58)	(SP), 8,000 acre wilderness area, Buckeye Trail, fishing lakes
SUNFISH CREEK	Athens	637	See Blue Rock office							steep terrain along Ohio River
TAR HOLLOW	Athens	16,446	50874 Clark Hollow Road Londonderry, OH 45647	31	25			21	H(46)	(SP), Buckeye Trail, Logan Trail, fire tower, Grouse Management Area
VINTON FURNACE	Athens	12,086	See Zaleski office						Ht(3)	hunters' camp
WEST BLUE ROCK	Athens	675	See Blue Rock office							no recreational facilities
WILLOW GROVE	Northern	350	See Fernwood office							no recreational facilities
YELLOW CREEK	Northern	756	See Fernwood office							Highland Wildlife Area adjacent
ZALESKI	Athens	27,822	P.O. Box 330, S.R. 278 Zaleski, OH 45698	28	31			28	B(3 camps), H(16)	(SP), shooting range, hunters camp, fire tower, Forest of Honor

*Camp codes: **B** - Backpack, **F** -Family, **H** -Horse, **Ht** - Hunting Season, **P** - Park & Pack. **()** Indicates campsites available. ******State Park located within State Forest.

Find state forest and trail maps at forestry.ohiodnr.gov