

Hunting and Fishing

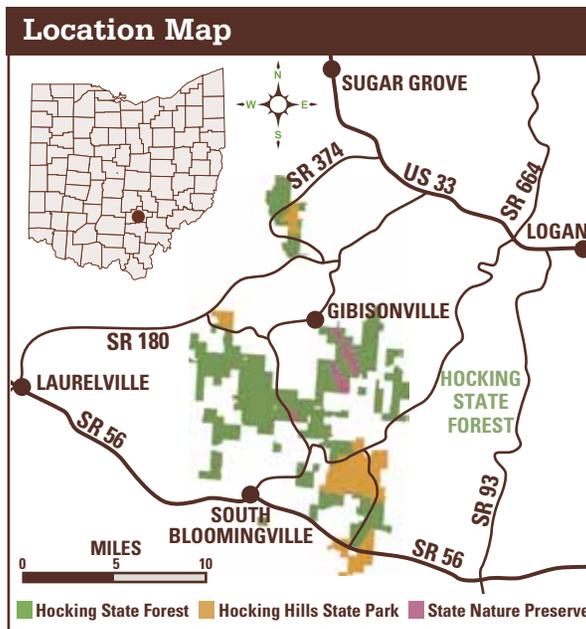
Hunting and fishing are permitted on Hocking State Forest under ODNR Division of Wildlife regulations. Hunting is not permitted on the nature preserves or Hocking Hills State Park. Shooting is prohibited within 400 feet of any building, facility, or recreation area and from or across any road or driveway. Discharge of any firearm, except during lawful hunting, is also not permitted.

General Rules for Forest Visitors

The Hocking 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. Visitors are free to walk on state forest property during daylight hours. However, because of the many cliffs located throughout the area, extreme caution is urged, particularly when ice or snow is present. Because of these hazards, Hocking State Forest closes at dark.
2. Operation of motor vehicles is restricted to roads provided for such travel. 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 is obstructed.
3. Horses may be ridden along forest roads or on designated bridle trails.
4. Fires are not permitted except in grills or fire rings provided, or in portable stoves. Fires must be attended to at all times.
5. Trash must be disposed of in receptacles provided or "pack-it-in/pack-it-out."
6. Camping is not permitted except as provided for on the 23 horse sites in the horse camp.
7. Public display or consumption of any alcoholic beverage is prohibited.
8. Disturbance, defacement or destruction of any property, material, natural feature or vegetation is prohibited. Berries, nuts and mushrooms may be gathered and removed except from posted areas.
9. State forest boundaries are indicated with yellow blazes on the trees and/or posted signs.
10. The use of bait to attract or hunt wild birds or deer on state forest land is prohibited.
11. Deer stands must have a waterproof tag at all times identifying the user and user's address in legible English.
12. Game cameras are not permitted unless they bear a waterproof, legible tag identifying the owner's name, phone number and address in English.

Rules found in the Ohio Administrative Code Section 1501.3.



Additional Information

HOCKING STATE FOREST

19275 State Route 374
Rockbridge, Ohio 43149-9749
877-247-8733

HOCKING HILLS STATE PARK

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

DIVISION OF NATURAL AREAS & PRESERVES

2045 Morse Rd.
Columbus, Ohio 43229-6693
614-265-6453

forestry.ohiodnr.gov

EMERGENCIES - Call 911



Ohio Department of Natural Resources
Division of Forestry
2045 Morse Rd., Building H-1
Columbus, OH 43229 - 6693
An Equal Opportunity Employer - M/F/H
printed on recycled content paper

HOCKING STATE FOREST



Ohio Department of
NATURAL RESOURCES
DIVISION OF FORESTRY

Welcome to Hocking 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 21 state forests cover nearly 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 people see are a result of the development of a natural gas storage field under 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. The interior boundary markers between the state forest and state park are red, and the markers between forest and nature preserve are white. Blue spots designate the Buckeye Trail. The bridle trails are designated by various colors (see bridle trail map).

Hocking Hills State Park

Hocking Hills State Park, administered by Ohio State Parks, includes five areas which contain some of the most striking cliffs and land formations found anywhere in Ohio. Additional information about Ash Cave, Old Man's Cave, Rock House, Cedar Falls and Cantwell Cliffs is available at the park office.

State Nature Preserves

Three state nature preserves have been established in Hocking State Forest. These preserves—Conkles, Sheick, and Little Rocky hollows—have unique ecological systems. Conkles Hollow has hiking trails for the general public. No hunting is permitted, and all visitors must stay on the trails. Sheick and Little Rocky hollows are designated as interpretive and scientific preserves respectively, and are not open to the general public. Admission is by permit only. Permits are issued by the ODNR Division of Natural Areas and Preserves who cooperatively administer the preserves.

Recreation

The forest offers a wide range of outdoor recreational opportunities. For the equestrian, there are 31 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 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 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.

Rockclimbing and Rappelling Area

The 99-acre area is located on Big Pine Road, 1 mile east of Conkles Hollow. A parking area is within easy walking distance of the rock and cliff face. Be sure to use quality equipment and climb with experienced people. Climbers and rappellers must register prior to entering the Rockclimbing and Rappelling Area (*see Rockclimbing and Rappelling Area map*).



Forest Vegetation

One of the special attractions of Hocking State Forest is the natural vegetation. Plant species commonly found farther north mix with typically southern species to provide an unusual variety of native plant life and associated wildlife.

Virginia and pitch pines, sassafras, as well as black, scarlet, white and chestnut oaks, grow on the generally dry ridge areas. Hemlock, beech, black birch, red and sugar maples, yellow poplar, white ash, red oak, basswood and hickories grow in cool gorges, moist coves and on slopes. Flowers, shrubs and ferns commonly associated with these site conditions also abound.

Plantations of red, white and shortleaf pines have developed from plantings of seedlings on abandoned farm fields. These stands of native and planted pines often indicate where corn and wheat once grew on subsistence farms in the 19th and early 20th centuries.

