

# SHAWNEE STATE FOREST



ODNR • FORESTRY

## BACKPACK TRAIL



## Location Map



## Additional Information

### Shawnee State Forest

Division of Forestry  
13291 US Highway 52  
West Portsmouth, Ohio 45663  
Phone: (740) 858-6685  
Phone: 877-24STREE

### Shawnee State Park

4404 State Route 125  
West Portsmouth, Ohio 45663  
Phone: (740) 858-6652

### Shawnee State Park Resort and Conference Center

P.O. Box 189  
Friendship, Ohio 45630-0189  
Phone: (740) 858-6621

Emergency Phone Numbers: Call 911  
Southern Ohio Medical Center: (740) 356-5000

website: [ohiodnr.com/forestry](http://ohiodnr.com/forestry)



Division of Forestry • 2045 Morse Rd. Bld H1 • Columbus, Ohio 43229  
Equal Employment Opportunity Employer M/F/H

# SHAWNEE STATE FOREST

## BACKPACKING



## 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. A section of the Wilderness Side Trail traverses a portion of this area. Camping is allowed through a “special use” permit process, which must be submitted in advance (Please see Forest Office).

## Back Country Management Area

In 1999, approximately 8,000 acres adjoining the Shawnee Wilderness Area were designated for special management. The purpose of this area is to provide management opportunities for forest wildlife and state listed rare and endangered species, while creating a unique walk-in hunting, backpacking, camping, and recreational viewing area. Motorized travel in this area is limited to “special use” permits, which must be requested in advance.

## Buckeye Trail And North Country Trail

The Buckeye Trail has recently been rerouted to pass through Shawnee State Forest. As seen on the map, it enters the northwest side of the forest, joins the Backpack Trail for fourteen miles, then exits the Backpack Trail and follows the road as it leaves the forest.

This section of the Backpack Trail is also a certified section of the North Country Trail, which is one of the national scenic trails. It begins in North Dakota and ends in upstate New York. Along its way, it passes through Shawnee State Forest on the same route as the Shawnee Backpack Trail and Buckeye Trail.

## Backpack Trail Rules

1. You may camp only in the designated campground areas shown on the map.
2. A self-registration permit (no fee) is required of all hikers. The permit, which must be filled out prior

to entering the trail, is available on the trail parking area 24-hours a day, and at Shawnee State Forest Headquarters (open 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. weekdays). Place the completed permit in the registration box provided and carry the stub with you on the trail.

3. No person is permitted to camp more than 14 days in any 30-day period. Camps must be moved to a different backpack campground each day.
4. Backpack groups are limited to a maximum of 10 persons per party at any one backpack campground.
5. Persons may bring domestic cats and dogs to campgrounds provided they are leashed or under control at all times and under the following conditions: Person must have proof of current rabies inoculation for the animal. A collar or tag bearing the owner’s name and address must be attached to the animal, and the owner or handler must clean up and dispose of any excrement left by their pet in the campground.
6. Fires are prohibited except in designated fire rings or in portable stoves. Cutting of live trees is prohibited.
7. Camps must be maintained in a clean and sanitary manner and condition. All refuse must be packed out for proper disposal.
8. No person may disturb the peace and quiet of other persons in the campgrounds in any manner between the hours of 11 p.m. and 8 a.m.

## Trail Tips

1. The Shawnee Backpack Trail requires moderate levels of skill and endurance. Hikers may encounter greenbriars or stinging nettles along the trail. Proper clothing (shorts are not recommended), sturdy footwear, and good equipment are essential for success.
2. Respect the solitude sought by other backpackers and practice good camping etiquette.
3. The main trail is marked by orange blazes, and side trails with white blazes. If you become lost, roadways can usually be located by following watercourses downhill. Always carry a map and compass.

4. For safety, hike with a partner. Disabling injuries are very dangerous when you are alone.
5. The only drinking water supplies will be close to road crossings, as shown on your map. The water supply is limited, so please use it wisely. Water caches may not be serviced in winter due to bad road conditions. (Water caches are serviced using water from the City of Portsmouth, Ohio.) Latrines are provided at each campground for your convenience.
6. Beware of poisonous snakes. Both rattlesnakes (endangered) and copperheads inhabit the forest. High leather boots or heavy leggings afford good protection. Watch where you sit and place your hands, especially in rocky areas. If bitten, seek medical aid immediately.
7. Select and repack your food so that you will have a minimum of awkward and disposable containers. A portable stove is recommended. Supplies of wood fuel may not be readily available.
8. Extinguish all smoking material carefully. Be especially careful with campground fires and smoking during March, April, May, October, and November, the forest fire danger periods in Ohio. Please do not leave campfires unattended.
9. If you discover a forest fire, immediately hike the trail to the nearest road and report the fire to emergency services (Dial 911).
10. For your protection, park your vehicle only at the trailhead. Vehicles parked in the forest may attract vandalism.
11. **CAUTION:** Campgrounds situated in valleys may be flooded and stream crossings may be impassable due to rapid runoff following a severe storm.
12. Hornets and yellow jackets may be encountered particularly during late summer.
13. Shawnee State Forest is a public hunting area. Visitors should be aware of hunting seasons and are encouraged to wear bright orange colored clothing when hiking.

## LEGEND

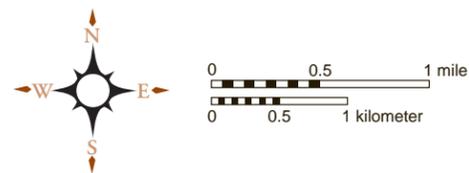
-  Road
-  State Forest road
-  Main trail (follow orange blazes)
-  Side trail (follow white blazes)
-  Day hike trail (follow blue blazes)
  
-  Campground
-  Trail parking and self registration
-  Drinking water  
Limited supply, use conservatively  
(to operate hydrant pull handle  
down and hold)
-  Shawnee Wilderness Area
-  Shawnee Back Country Management Area

## APPROXIMATE DISTANCES

| POINT TO POINT              | MILES |
|-----------------------------|-------|
| Trailhead parking to Camp 1 | 6.2   |
| Camp 1 to Camp 2            | 5.8   |
| Camp 2 to Camp 3            | 5.7   |
| Camp 3 to Camp 4            | 5.2   |
| Camp 4 to Camp 5            | 4.6   |
| Camp 5 to Camp 6            | 3.0   |
| Camp 6 to Camp 7            | 5.0   |
| Camp 7 to trailhead parking | 4.5   |

## TOTAL

|                             |      |
|-----------------------------|------|
| Main trail                  | 40.0 |
| North loop                  | 23.0 |
| South loop                  | 27.5 |
| Trailhead parking to Camp 3 | 5.3  |
| Wilderness side trail       | 9.8  |
| Day hike trail              | 7.2  |



Map reviewed and approved by  
Bob Boyles, Chief, ODNR Division of Forestry

State forest ownership shown is 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.

Adapted from the following 7.5-minute topographic quadrangle maps of the U.S. Geological Survey: Blue Creek, Buena Vista, Friendship, Otway, Pond Run, West Portsmouth

