



WOODLAND RETREATS

How to improve the recreational appeal of your woodland

1. Identify a top recreational experience for your woodland retreat:

- Bed & Breakfast
- Biking
- Bird Watching
- Cabin Rentals
- Camping
- Canoeing
- Fishing
- Hiking
- Horseback Riding
- Hunting
- Kayaking
- All-Terrain Vehicles
- Photography
- Snow Skiing
- Sledding/Tubing
- Wildlife Viewing

2. Identify unique features already found on your property:

- Boulder Piles
- Hills
- Historic Sites
- Meadow/Forest Openings
- Nests
- Ponds
- Rare Species
- Ravines
- Rock Outcrops
- Scenic Views
- Streams
- Trails
- Trees (Big, Old, Evergreen)
- Wetlands
- Wildflowers
- Wildlife Food & Cover Plots



3. Create unique features to add diversity & appeal to your woods.

- Construct a prairie, pond, wetland, or wildlife food-plot; if possible in a non-wooded area or on a low-quality woodland site.
- Harvest groups of trees to create young woodland stands and increase diversity of your woodland and wildlife habitat.
- Create boulder and brush piles and leave dead trees to increase wildlife habitat.
- Plant unique species of trees, shrubs, and wildflowers that are native -- species that add beauty to your woods with spring or summer flowers; species that provide food and cover for wildlife; or evergreen species that add year round color and shelter wildlife from harsh winter elements.
- Create or enhance woodland trails for easy viewing and access to the unique features in your woodland.

4. Maintain a native plant community.

- Native plant communities provide diverse and beneficial habitat for a variety of wildlife.
- Non-native invasive plants often form a structurally uniform plant monoculture that lacks diversity, can restrict access, is less beneficial for wildlife, and is less appealing aesthetically than native plant communities.

5. Balance recreation with other woodland benefits.

- Over-using your woodland can degrade its natural condition and lower its recreational appeal.
- Develop a plan with guidelines for how each area will be used and the main activities they will support.
- Manage with your top recreational experience in mind and a few others that make sense; don't try to provide every experience.
- Designate areas as off-limits if needed for protecting unique plants and wildlife habitat.

6. Contact a professional forester for assistance.

State service foresters and private consulting foresters are available to help you reach your objectives:

- In-the-field assistance and recommendations
- Identifying possible funding sources (federal cost-share funding, tax breaks, timber harvests)

ODNR State Service Foresters: forestry.ohiodnr.gov/ServiceForesters, 1-877-247-8733

OSAF Private Consulting Foresters: www.osafdirectory.com, ACF Private Consulting Foresters: www.acf-foresters.org