



Hocking Hills Woodland Plan Fact Sheet

forestry.ohiodnr.gov/hockinghillsplan

Hocking Hills Healthy Woodlands

A Plan for the Woodlands

The Ohio Department of Natural Resources, Division of Forestry collaborating with local woodland owners, partners, and natural resource professionals has developed a Woodland Plan for the Hocking Hills area.

The plan is to sustain area woodlands by providing information and natural resource professional assistance to landowners interested in improving their woodland benefits with a focus on woodland health and wildlife habitat. The plan provides an area-wide framework for voluntary coordinated woodland management, and a unified approach to addressing current and future woodland threats.

Participation in the plan is voluntary and open to all area landowners, however the focus of assistance is on small woodlot owners (2-10 acres) and woodland cabin owners. The plan covers multiple communities and townships in the Hocking Hills area: the community of Sugar Grove and township of Berne in Fairfield County, the city of Logan and townships of Benton, Falls, Falls-Gore, Good Hope, Green, and Laurel in Hocking County.

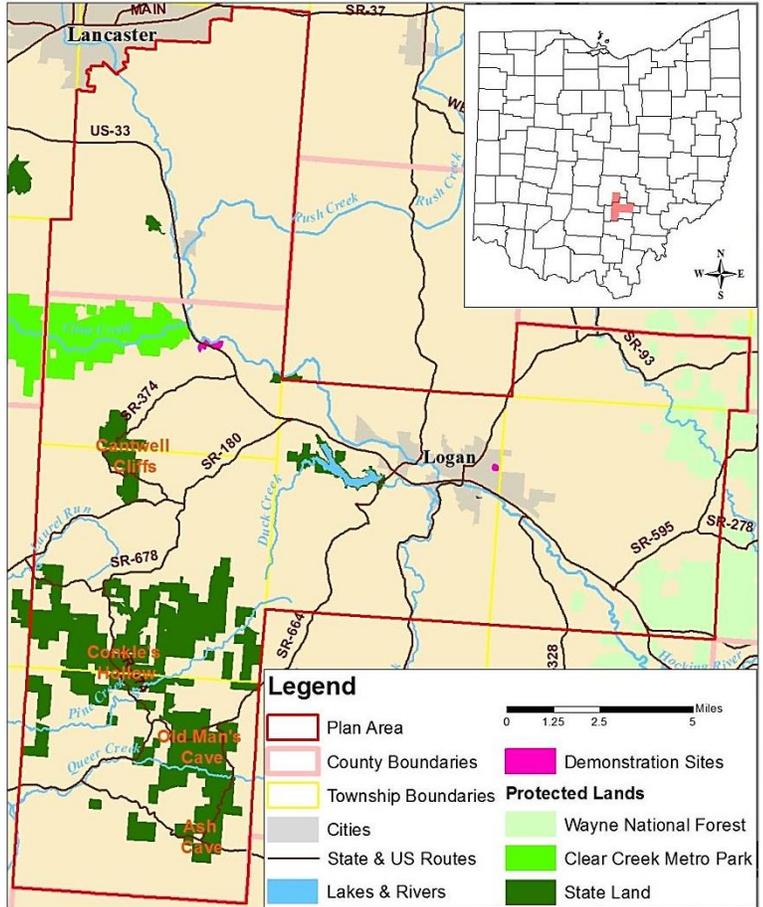


Figure 1. Hocking Hills Woodland Plan (Ohio DNR Division of Forestry)

WOODLAND BENEFITS & SERVICES

The woodlands of the Hocking Hills provide a scenic backdrop for the region’s caves, cliffs, and gorges while also providing an array of benefits: clean air & water, flood reduction, soil protection, wildlife habitat, privacy, recreation, energy (firewood & biomass), energy reduction (shade/windbreaks), property value, timber products, and non-timber forest products (herbs, mushrooms, nuts).



Figure 2. Rare species benefit from woodlands in the area, left to right: Red Bat (OH Species of Concern), Northern Monkshood (US Threatened), Sharp-shinned Hawk (OH Species of Concern), Bobcat (OH Threatened), Eastern Box Turtle (OH Species of Concern), Dark-eyed Junco (OH Species of Special Interest) (Photos: ODNR).

MAJOR WOODLAND ISSUES AND CONCERNS IN THE AREA

1. Non-Native Invasive Insect Pests & Diseases – Non-natives such as the Hemlock Woolly Adelgid threaten to degrade the woodlands and the diversity of wildlife habitat found in the Hocking Hills.
2. Land Use Change & Land Use Planning – Given the popularity of the region and its proximity to Columbus, Lancaster, and U.S. Route 33: development, forest fragmentation, and forest loss threaten to diminish woodland benefits and services.

3. **Non-Native Invasive Plants** – Many non-native invasive plants have been found in the area. Plant communities that are dominated by invasive plants provide diminished benefits and services compared with diverse native plant communities.



Figure 2. Non-Native Invasive Species, left to right: Hemlock Woolly Adelgid, Asian Longhorned Beetle-Adult, Amur Honeysuckle, Japanese Knotweed, Tree-of-Heaven, & Japanese Stiltgrass. (Photos: ODNR)

4. **Poor Woodland Management** – Poor woodland management or lack of good practices will not only diminish the benefits and services of that woodland but can also negatively impact surrounding woodlands, wildlife, and water quality.
5. **Water Pollution & Soil Erosion** – Forest loss and fragmentation, especially along rivers, streams, lakes, and wetlands, has contributed to lower water quality, soil loss, and increased flooding.

HOW WILL THIS PLAN ADDRESS THESE ISSUES?

By providing information to interested landowners on recommended woodland practices that support the goals of the Hocking Hills Woodland Plan. Providing field days, workshops, and one on one field assistance for interested landowners. And through developing two demonstration sites that exhibit how to complete recommended woodland activities. More Information is online at forestry.ohiodnr.gov/hockinghillsplan

DEMONSTRATION SITE LOCATIONS:

City of Logan

Old Town Creek Preserve/Trail

East of Hocking County Fairgrounds

150 N Homer Ave., Logan, OH 43138

Appalachia Ohio Alliance

Gosnell Preserve

NE side of Rockbridge A-Rd./U.S. Route 33.

Rockbridge, OH 43149

WOODLAND PLAN GOALS

The 3 overall goals of the plan are: 1) maintain healthy woodlands, 2) enhance woodland wildlife habitat, and 3) support woodland owners with assistance. For a copy of the Woodland Plan or additional information, call 614-265-6703, email Jason.VanHouten@dnr.state.oh.us, or go online at forestry.ohiodnr.gov/hockinghillsplan

CONTACTS & RESOURCES AVAILABLE FOR AREA WOODLOT OWNERS:

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE OPPORTUNITIES:

NATURAL RESOURCE CONSERVATION SERVICE – EQIP

www.oh.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/eqip/eqip2013.html

Phone: 740-653-5320

LAND PROTECTION & PRESERVATION:

APPALACHIA OHIO ALLIANCE

www.appalachiaohioalliance.org

740-817-1759, aoalt@earthlink.net

NON-NATIVE INVASIVE SPECIES:

APPALACHIAN OHIO WEED CONTROL PARTNERSHIP

www.fs.usda.gov/main/wayne/workingtogether/partnerships

CENTER FOR INVASIVE SPECIES & ECOSYSTEM HEALTH

www.invasive.org

Hemlock Woolly Adelgid (HWA)

www.hemlockhero.com

OHIO INVASIVE PLANTS COUNCIL

www.oipc.info

SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION:

FAIRFIELD SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

www.fairfieldswcd.org, 740-653-8154

HOCKING SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

www.hockingswcd.com, 740-385-3016

WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT:

ODNR DIVISION OF WILDLIFE

wildlife.ohiodnr.gov

Private Lands Biologist, Phone: 740-589-9930

WOODLAND MANAGEMENT:

ODNR DIVISION OF FORESTRY

forestry.ohiodnr.gov

- *Small Woodlot Assistance (2-10 acres)*

614-265-6703, Jason.VanHouten@dnr.state.oh.us

- *Large Woodlot Assistance (10 ≥ acres)*

Fairfield County: 614-265-6703, Jason.VanHouten@dnr.state.oh.us

Hocking County: 740-774-1596, Mark.Rickey@dnr.state.oh.us

RURAL ACTION SUSTAINABLE FORESTRY PROGRAM

ruralaction.org/programs/forestry, 740-677-4047

WOODLAND OWNER WORKSHOPS & CLASSES:

OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY EXTENSION WOODLAND STEWARDS PROGRAM

woodlandstewards.osu.edu

DAY IN THE WOODS-2ND FRIDAY SERIES

u.osu.edu/apsley.1

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES:

AMERICAN TREE FARM SYSTEM

www.treefarmssystem.org