



Athens Area Outdoor Guide

Welcome to Athens County and all of southeast Ohio. This is a wild and scenic area that abounds in outdoor recreation opportunities. We hope that you'll check these out. There are many of us working to make these happen! We have opportunities for hiking, bicycling (road and mountain), horse-riding, rock-climbing, swimming, fishing, hunting, canoeing and kayaking, nature study, camping, and almost everything else. We've made this guide for you, the outdoor enthusiast.

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Strouds Run State Park

Riddle State Nature Preserve

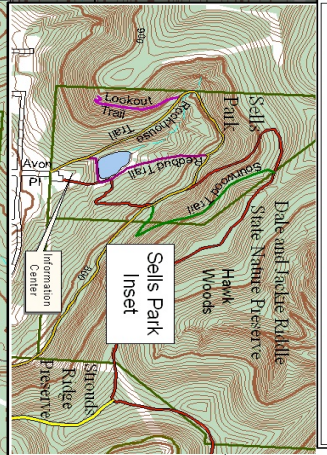
Strouds Ridge Preserve

Blair Preserve, Sells Park

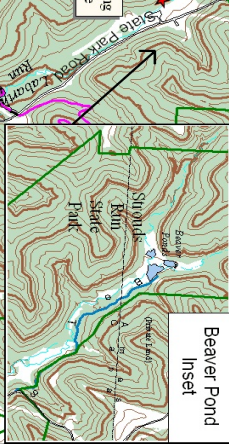
Version of 27 July 2012
 Map created for the
 Friends of Strouds Run State Park
 www.friendsofstroudsrun.org
 by the Athens Conservancy
 www.athensconservancy.org



- Stair Features**
- A: Lookout Point
 - B: Co. Camp KY
 - C: Office
 - D: Bear's Gate
 - E: Dogwood Point
 - F: Boulder Cove
 - G: Camp House
 - H: Co. Camp
 - I: Co. Camp
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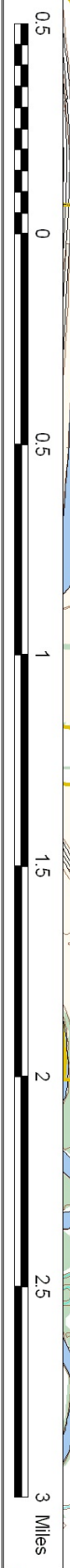
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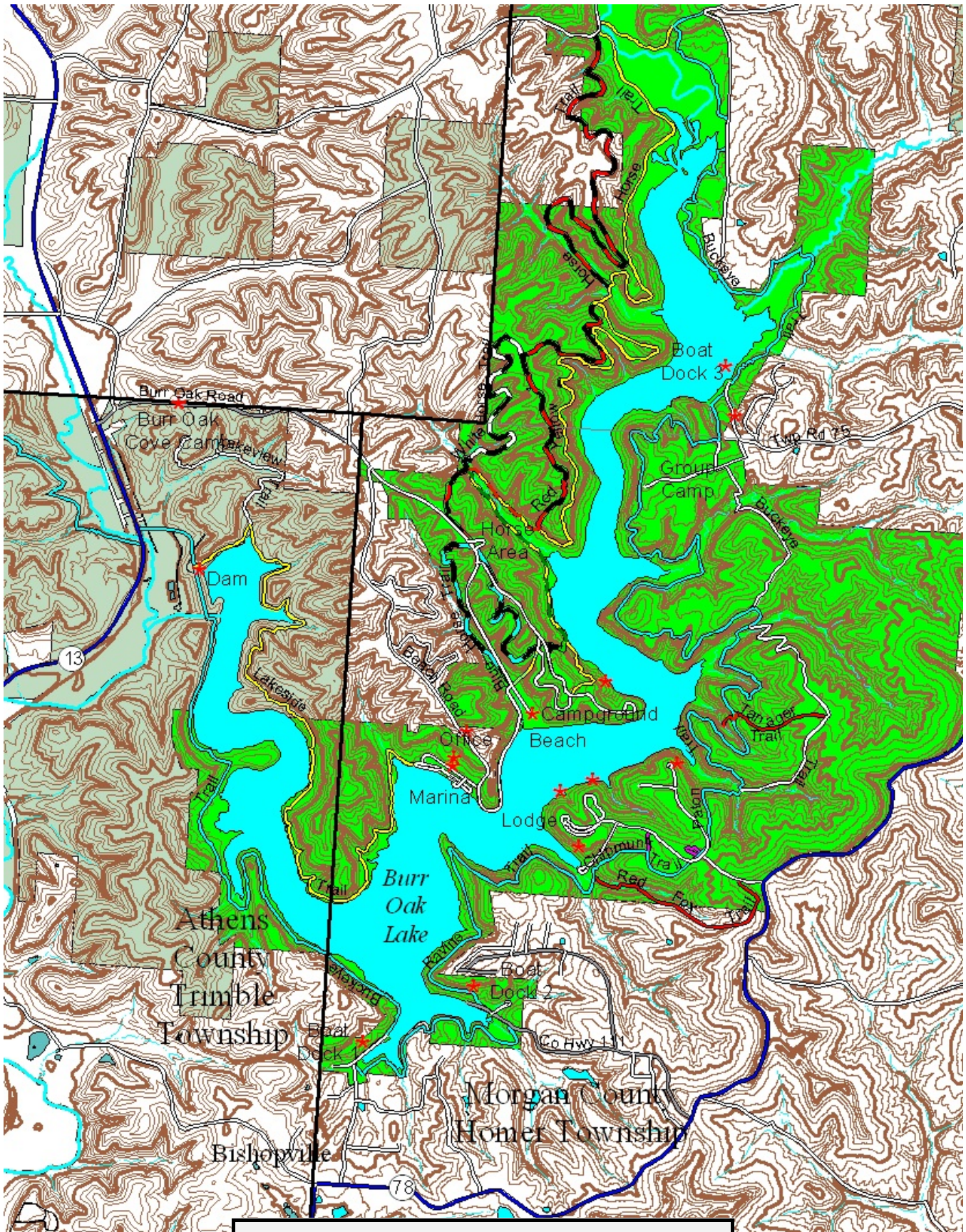
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Bicycle Usage

Bicycles are welcome on all trails north of Strouds Run State Park, except for the Lookout Trail, as well as the Thunderbunny Trail and the Sellsom Trail. Horses are allowed on horse trails northeast of the lake only, with the addition of parts of the Indian Mount Trail and the North Lakeview Trail.





Burr Oak State Park contour interval = 20'

To the users of this guide:

This is intended to be only the first edition of an ongoing project to promote outdoor recreation and ecotourism in southeast Ohio. It is hoped that this guide will be published biennially. I anticipate a new edition in spring of 2014. There will be many corrections, I'm sure, to the first edition!

This is a good time to see many of these areas. The current governor has plans to systematically log state parks, and hopes to have extensive drilling and fracking in state parks and state forests. He also plans to convert Burr Oak State Park to an ATV park, so this summer may be the last time to enjoy this park as it is.

There is more information and more and better maps at the on-line guide. Go to www.athenstrails.org and click on the menu item for the guide. The intent had been to load this guide with usable, good-quality, full-color maps of EVERY property cited, but funding limitations prevented that.

Driving distances are approximations only. These will be more fine-tuned in the next edition of this guide. Please feel free to submit your observations on distances and directions – as well as any other feedback. Send them to info@athenstrails.org.

We welcome new advertisers and sponsors.

John Knouse, editor

Sponsors of this guide



Athens Trails is a nonprofit organization dedicated to creating and maintaining a quality trail system and trail programs in the Athens area. They have been instrumental in providing a network of top-quality trails. The website has a wealth of information on trails and trail outing opportunities, and also features great maps of trail venues and other subjects. Membership is a minimum of \$10 per year per person.

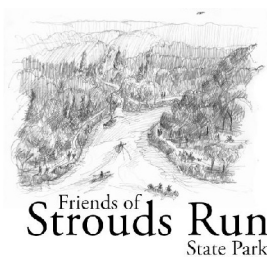
Website: www.athenstrails.org



Athens Conservancy

The Athens Conservancy is a nonprofit land trust located in Athens, Ohio. It acquires land for nature preserves, public recreation and other public purposes, assists private landowners in protecting their land through conservation easements, supports control of invasive exotic plants, provides mapping services, and otherwise supports ecotourism and outdoor recreation. Membership is a minimum of \$10 per year per person.

Website: www.athensconservancy.org



Friends of Strouds Run State Park is a friends group that supports the Strouds Run State Park through fund-raising, trail-building and maintenance, support for park activities, planning, and public information. All are welcome to join; membership is free, although contributions are certainly welcome.

Website: www.friendsofstroudsrun.org

Hocking River Commission

"Linking Fairfield, Hocking and Athens Counties through stewardship, education and recreation."



Hocking River Commission is a nonprofit organization concerned with protecting the Hocking River, preserving lands along its banks, and supporting outdoor recreation on the river. They are also building the Hocking River Water Trail.

Website: www.hockingrivercommision.org



The Athens Farmers Market provides a venue for local food producers to sell their products and produce, and an opportunity for the public to buy locally-grown, locally-produced food that is often grown as naturally as possible. It is a great element in our local economy. Open every Saturday 10-1, and Wednesdays 10-1 from April through Christmas.

Website: www.athensfarmersmarket.org

Trails

Southeast Ohio offers trails for hikers, horseback riders, mountain-bike riders, and motorized vehicles. There are three good backpacking trails within our area. The best-known is what we call in this guide the BENCAD Trail. This stands for Buckeye-North Country-American Discovery Trail, because these three long-distance trails are combined in our area. This trail passes through many tracts of public lands in the area of guide (consecutively from southwest to northeast; areas in this guide are in bold): **Shawnee State Forest**, Pike State Forest, Pike Lake State Park, Fort Hill State Memorial, Serpent Mound State Memorial, Davis State Memorial, Scioto Trail State Forest, **Tar Hollow State Forest**, **Hocking State Forest/Hocking Hills State Park**, **Lake Logan State Park**, **Wayne National Forest (Athens District)**, **Wallace H. O'Dowd State Wildlife Area**, **Burr Oak State Park**, **AEP ReCreation Lands**, **Wayne National Forest (Marietta District)**.

There is a 40-mile backpacking trail in Shawnee State Forest (page 24) and a 23.5-mile backpacking trail in Zaleski State Forest (page 24). In addition, the 37-mile combined trail system of Strouds Run State Park and the Athens Trail system features one backpacking campsite (page 27, map page 1).

The following public open-space areas have trail systems:

Wayne National Forest (page 23)

Athens District: hiking (Wildcat Hollow Trail - page 6, BENCAD Trail - page 8), horse (Stone Church Trail system, 21 miles, 10 camping sites), motorized (Dorr Run and Long Run)

Ironton District: hiking, horse (Vesuvius Horse Trails, 46 miles)

Marietta District: hiking, horse (Kinderhook Horse Trail, 12 miles)

State Parks

Strouds Run State Park (page 27, map page 1): 24 miles biking, 11 miles horse; 36 miles total

Burr Oak State Park (page 28, map page 2): hiking (including BENCAD Trail), 11.5 miles horse; 26 miles total

Lake Hope State Park (page 29, map page 30): hiking, 22 miles biking; 26 miles total

Forked Run State Park (page 29, map page 31): 5 miles hiking; 5 miles total

Hocking Hills State Park (page 31, map page 33): hiking (including BENCAD Trail), 4 miles biking, 17 miles total

Lake Logan State Park (page 34): hiking (including BENCAD Trail)

Tar Hollow State Park (page 33): hiking

State Forests

Shawnee State Forest (page 24): hiking (including Shawnee Backpacking Trail, BENCAD Trail), horse

Zaleski State Forest (page 24): 23 miles hiking (including Zaleski Backpacking Trail), 20 miles horse; 49 miles total

Tar Hollow State Forest (page 25): hiking (including BENCAD Trail), horse; miles total

Hocking State Forest (page 25): 11 miles horse, 9.5 hiking (BENCAD Trail); 20.5 miles total, also rock-climbing area

Perry State Forest (page 26): 5.6 miles horse, 12 APV; 18 miles total

Dean State Forest (page 26): 11.5 miles horse; 11.5 miles total

Richland Furnace State Forest (page 27): APV

Gifford State Forest (page 27): hiking

State Nature Preserves

Desonier State Nature Preserve (page 34): hiking; 2.4 miles

Boord State Nature Preserve (page 35): hiking; 0.7 mile

Conkles Hollow State Nature Preserve (page 35):

2.6 miles hiking, including 0.6 mile wheelchair-accessible

Rock Bridge State Nature Preserve (page 35): hiking

Lake Katharine State Nature Preserve (page 35): hiking

State Wildlife Areas

Waterloo Wildlife Research Station (page 36): hiking

Fox Lake Wildlife Area (page 37): hiking (less than a mile)

State Memorials

Buckeye Furnace State Memorial (page 39): hiking

Other areas

The Ridges (Ohio University) (page 40): hiking

Lake Snowden (Hocking College) (page 40): 8.6 miles horse, 1.1 miles additional hiking

Strouds Ridge Preserve (City of Athens) (page 27, map page 1): hiking, biking

Clear Creek Metro Park (page 41): hiking

AEP ReCreation Lands (page 41): hiking, biking, horse riding

Gavin Power Plant Hunting Lands (page 42): horse riding

There are several class 4 -5 trails for foot traffic, bicycling, and in some cases, horse riding.

Hockhocking-Adena Bikeway: This bikeway is a fully developed Class 5 bikeway that extends from the City of Nelsonville southeast through the City of Athens, for a total of about 21 miles (there is a section on the Ohio University campus that does



not meet the same modern standards as the rest of the bikeway, but is useable). All foot traffic, bicycle traffic, and other non-motorized users are allowed. In addition, motorized wheelchairs are permitted for users with relevant disabilities. Most of this rail-trail is on the former right-of-way of the Hocking Valley Railroad, later the C&O line. The bikeway loops around Athens on the banks of the Hocking River. The bikeway connects with the Athens Trail near the eastern end of both.

More information can be found at www.seorf.ohiou.edu/~xx088.

The trail may be reached from behind Rocky Boots in Nelsonville, Robbins Crossing at Hocking College, County Road 4 (Glen Ebon Road) at the Hocking River bridge, at the Beaumont parking area (Lemaster Road, 1/4 mi west of OH-682 between The Plains and Chauncey), at Eclipse Village in The Plains, from West State Street Park and East State Street Park in Athens, and from the bikeway trailhead on East State Street in Athens (adjacent to the Pepsi warehouse).

B&O Railroad Trail: This is the newest trail, and is still under development. Currently, it parallels Frost Road in Rome and Troy Townships for most of its length but with gaps of private land, and then swings eastward to Torch and the Washington County line. For detailed information on what's public and what's private, go to www.athenstrails.org. This trail is open to hikers, bicyclists and horses. No trailheads have yet been created.

Moonville Rail-Trail: The Moonville Rail-Trail is the portion of the old B&O Railroad grade that extends from the Diamond Powder Plant in Vinton County to the unincorporated village of Mineral in Athens County. However, many bridges were removed for scrap and the bridges are in the process of being replaced. So far, two bridges have been completed, enabling use of a six-mile section from the village of Zaleski to Hope School, and a third bridge is under construction at Moonville Tunnel. Users may complete the six miles of the finished section then use back roads to reach the Moonville Tunnel area. The Moonville Trail accommodates all muscle-powered users, including equestrians. It has a graveled surface.

More information can be found at www.moonvillerrailtrail.com.

To reach the Moonville Tunnel area, take OH-56 west 13 miles into Vinton County, to OH-278. Turn left on OH-278 and go 6 miles to Wheelabout Road (Co-3). Turn left and go about 1/4 mile to the trail. Go farther on Wheelabout to Hope School for parking, about 0.6 mile. Turn right at 0.15 mile to stay on Wheelabout Road.

North Bend Rail-Trail: The North Bend Rail-Trail is not within the scope of this guide, but it is a major facility located close to this area, in West Virginia. This rail-trail extends 72 miles from Happy Valley, just east of Parkersburg, WV, to Wolf Summit, just west of Clarksburg, WV. On the way, it passes by North Bend State Park, through 8 tunnels, and over 51 bridges. There are three available camping spots along the bikeway, plus two more within the state park, which also features a lodge and cabins. There is more information at www.northbendrailtrailstatepark.com.

Bicycling

Mountain Biking

Mountain biking is permitted free at Strouds Run State Park in Athens County (page 27, see page 1 for map) and at Lake Hope State Park in Vinton County (page 29, map on page 30). It is permitted on the BENCAD Trail system on the Marietta District of the Wayne National Forest, though NOT on the Athens District, but requires a free trail permit.

Summary of mountain biking trail areas:

Wayne National Forest

Marietta District: BENCAD Trail, 41 miles; Ohio View Trail, 7 miles (connects to BENCAD Trail); Scenic River Trail, 3 miles (connects to BENCAD Trail); Archer's Fork Loop Trail, 9 miles (connects to BENCAD Trail); Covered Bridge Trail, 5 miles (connects to BENCAD Trail); Lamping Homestead Trail, 5 miles

Note: The Wayne allows mountain-biking on all OHV (motorized) trails and on the Kinderhook Equestrian Trail. We strongly discourage using bicycles on these trails. Both represent hazard to bicyclists, as well as being unpleasant for bicyclists to use. In addition, bicyclists on woodland trails are likely to spook horses.

State Parks

Strouds Run State Park in Athens County, 24 miles (page 27, map page 1)

Lake Hope State Park in Vinton County, 22 miles (page 29, map page 30)

Hocking Hills State Park in Hocking County, 4 miles (page 31)

Other Areas

Hockhocking Adena Bikeway in Athens County, 21 miles (page 4)

Moonville Rail-Trail in Vinton County, 6 miles continuous with bridges, total of 16, but 10 m. missing bridges (p. 5)

B&O Rail-Trail in Athens County, 8 miles open so far (page 5)

AEP ReCreation Lands in Morgan County, 10 miles (page 41)

Road Bicycling

Southeast Ohio offers an abundance of back roads for road biking. A detailed map of these venues is available from Cycle Path on West Union Street in Athens or on-line at their website.

Hiking: An excellent resource for trail and hiking information is the Athens Trails website at: <http://www.athenstrails.org>

Summary of hiking trails

Wayne National Forest (page 23)

Athens District: Wildcat Hollow: 15 miles, BENCAD Trail (1444 miles total)

Ironton District: Vesuvius Lake Recreation Area: 26 miles

Marietta District:

State Parks

Strouds Run State Park (page 27): 37 miles, longest single trail: 3.2 miles

Burr Oak State Park (page 28): 28 miles, including BENCAD Trail

Lake Hope State Park (page 29): 22 miles, not including Zaleski trails

Forked Run State Park (page 29): 5 miles

Hocking Hills State Park (page 31): including BENCAD Trail

Lake Logan State Park (page 34): including BENCAD Trail

Tar Hollow State Park (page 33):

State Forests

Shawnee State Forest (page 24): including Shawnee Backpacking Trail (40 miles), BENCAD Trail

Zaleski State Forest (page 24): including Zaleski Backpacking Trail (23.5 miles)

Tar Hollow State Forest (page 25): including BENCAD Trail

Hocking State Forest (page 25): including BENCAD Trail

Gifford State Forest (page 27)

State Nature Preserves

Desonier State Nature Preserve (page 34): 2.4 miles

Boord State Nature Preserve (page 35): 0.7 mile

Conkle's Hollow State Nature Preserve (page 35):

2.6 miles, including 0.6 mile wheelchair-accessible

Rock Bridge State Nature Preserve (page 35):

Lake Katharine State Nature Preserve (page 35):

State Wildlife Areas

Waterloo Wildlife Research Station (page 36):

Wolf Creek Wildlife Area (page 38):

Fox Creek Wildlife Area (page 37): trail is <1 mile

State Memorials

Buckeye Furnace State Memorial (page 41)

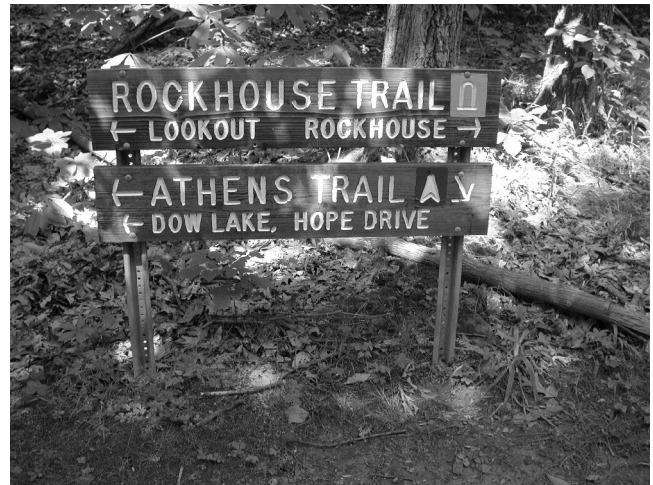
Other areas

Lake Snowden (Hocking College) (page 40): 9.5 miles

The Ridges (Ohio University) (page 40):

Strouds Ridge Preserve (City of Athens) (page 27):

AEP ReCreation Lands (page 41): 20 miles

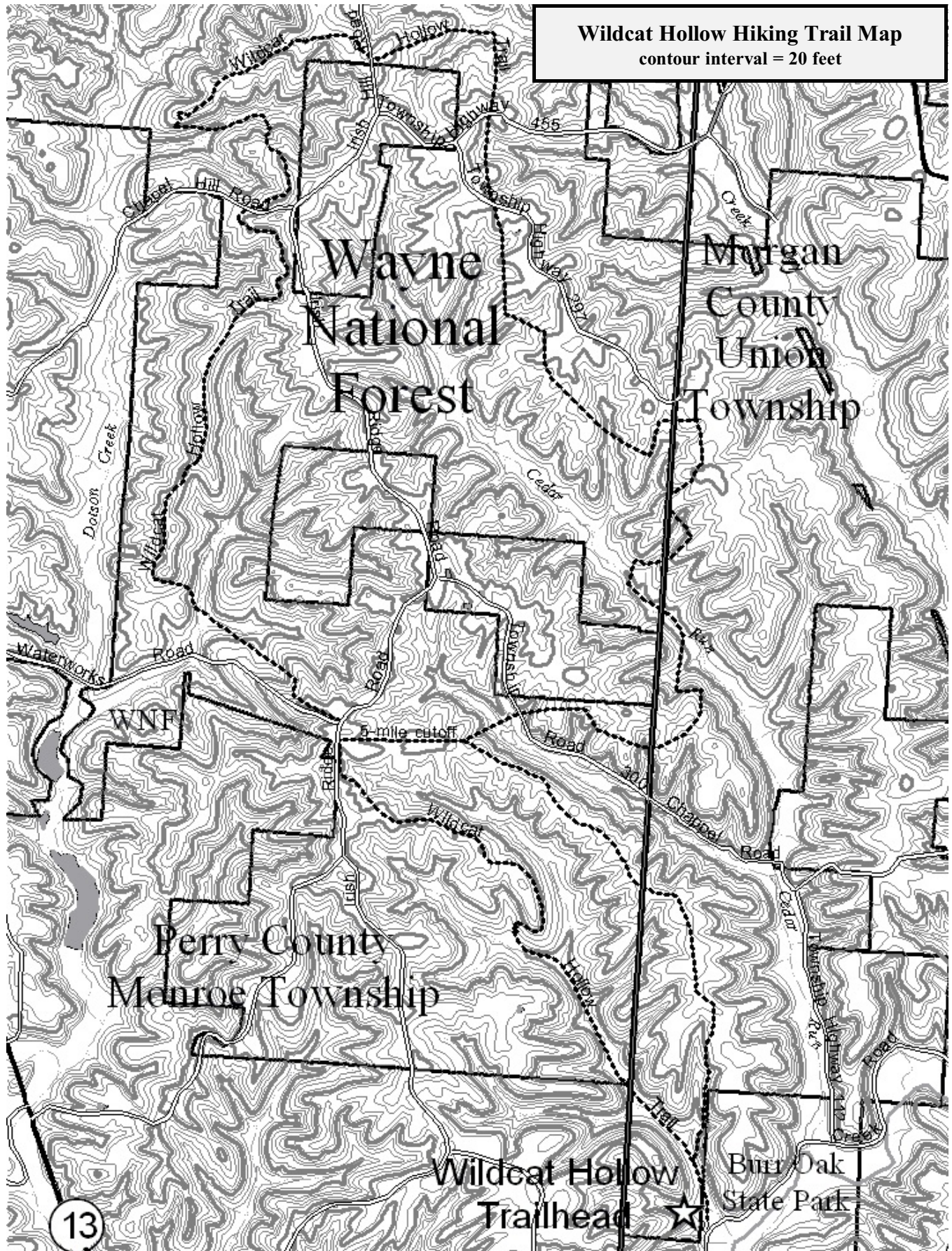


Featured Backpacking Trails

Wildcat Hollow Trail: This 15-mile hiking trail is entirely within the Wayne National Forest. It is located just north of Burr Oak State Park. It is the only pedestrians-only hiking trail other than the Buckeye Trail within the Athens District of the Wayne. This loop trail can be hiked with a 5-mile or 15-mile option. There is a pit toilet available at the trailhead, but no water, so bring your own. There are no official campsites along this trail, but you may backpack it and camp. To camp, you must be substantially off the trail, out of sight from the trail, and you must pack out all trash. If you build a fire, you must by law have a ten-foot cleared area around it, and you must completely and positively extinguish it before leaving the campsite. Check the bulletin board on entering to make sure that there are no current fire bans. There are a few campsites established by frequent usage, but these are not officially sanctioned. Usage is supposed to be "leave no trace."

To reach the Wildcat Hollow Trail from Athens, follow the directions to Burr Oak Lake State Park. Continue north on Ohio State Route 13 past the dam and turn right on Burr Oak Road, County Road 107, as you would as if going to the Burr Oak swimming beach. Go 0.9 mile on Burr Oak Road, and turn left on Beech Road (Township Road 299). At 1.5 miles, turn right to stay on Beech Road, then at a very short distance, go straight onto Dew Road. Dew Road becomes Sunday Creek Road in Morgan County; take Sunday Creek Road east to the trailhead. See Page 7 for map.

Buckeye Trail / North Country Trail / American Discovery Trail: This combined trail system passes through Morgan, Athens, Perry and Hocking Counties. All three of the trails listed below are coincident in our area. In this guide, this trailway will be referred to as the BENCAD Trail (BuckEye/North Country/American Discovery). The best-consolidated off-road sections of the trail in our area are through the Shawnee State Forest, through Tar Hollow State Forest/State Park, Hocking State Forest/Hocking Hills State Park, Burr Oak State Park, and AEP ReCreation Lands.





The **Buckeye Trail** (www.buckeyetrail.org) is a trail that wraps around the entire state of Ohio. In our area, it is coincident with both the North Country Trail and the American Discovery Trail. Its development began over half a century ago, and it was originally intended to be a linear trail connecting Lake Erie with the Ohio River. The Buckeye Trail is some 1,444 miles long with about half off-road, and the rest on roadways. The concept of a Cincinnati-to-Cleveland trail was created in 1958, and the first section opened in the Hocking Hills in 1959. The trail subsequently was charted to circle the entire state..



The **North Country Trail** (<http://northcountrytrail.org>) is a National Scenic Trail that extends from Lake Champlain in upstate New York into North Dakota. It is 4,600 miles long, with over half off-road. Because of its national scenic trail designation, it is under the authority of the National Park Service.



The **American Discovery Trail** (www.discoverytrail.org) claims 6,800 miles coast-to-coast. It forks in western Ohio to form a north loop and a south loop that meet in Colorado. The eastern terminus is at Cape Henlopen State Park on the Delaware Atlantic coast east of Lewes, Delaware. The western terminus is at Point Reyes National Seashore on the Pacific Coast just north of San Francisco. This trail features much less in the way of off-road hiking experiences than the previous two trails, and it has urban loops, as well. The official website states "The ADT connects five National Scenic, 12 National Historic, and 34 National Recreational Trails; passes through urban centers like Cincinnati and San Francisco; leads to 14 National Parks and 16 National Forests; and visits 10,000 sites of historic, cultural, and natural significance."

Zaleski Backpacking Trail: This trail is intended to be hiked from a dedicated parking area just off OH-278 at Lake Hope, but can also be accessed from points on King Hollow Road, elsewhere on OH-278, and from OH-56. It features three dedicated backpacking campsites. The configuration of the trail provides two cut-offs so that hikers may hike varying lengths. The entire trail is 23.5 miles. There is a short loop option of 10 miles that passes by two of the campsites.

Burr Oak Backpacking Trail: This trail is 22.1 miles long, including 12.6 miles of the BENCAD Trail, with a bit over one mile on park roads. It also shares about 4.2 miles with horse trails. There are no dedicated backpacking campsites, but there are four public campgrounds at the lake that can be used by hikers: the main Burr Oak campground, smaller campgrounds at Boat Docks 2 and 3, and the Wayne's Burr Oak Cove Campground, which can be reached via the 0.8-mile Lakeview Trail.

Shawnee Backpacking Trail: This is a 40-mile backpacking trail, completely off-road, through the Shawnee State Forest, including through the wilderness area. One side of the loop is combined with the BENCAD Trail (above). There are seven backpacking campsites provided along the trail.

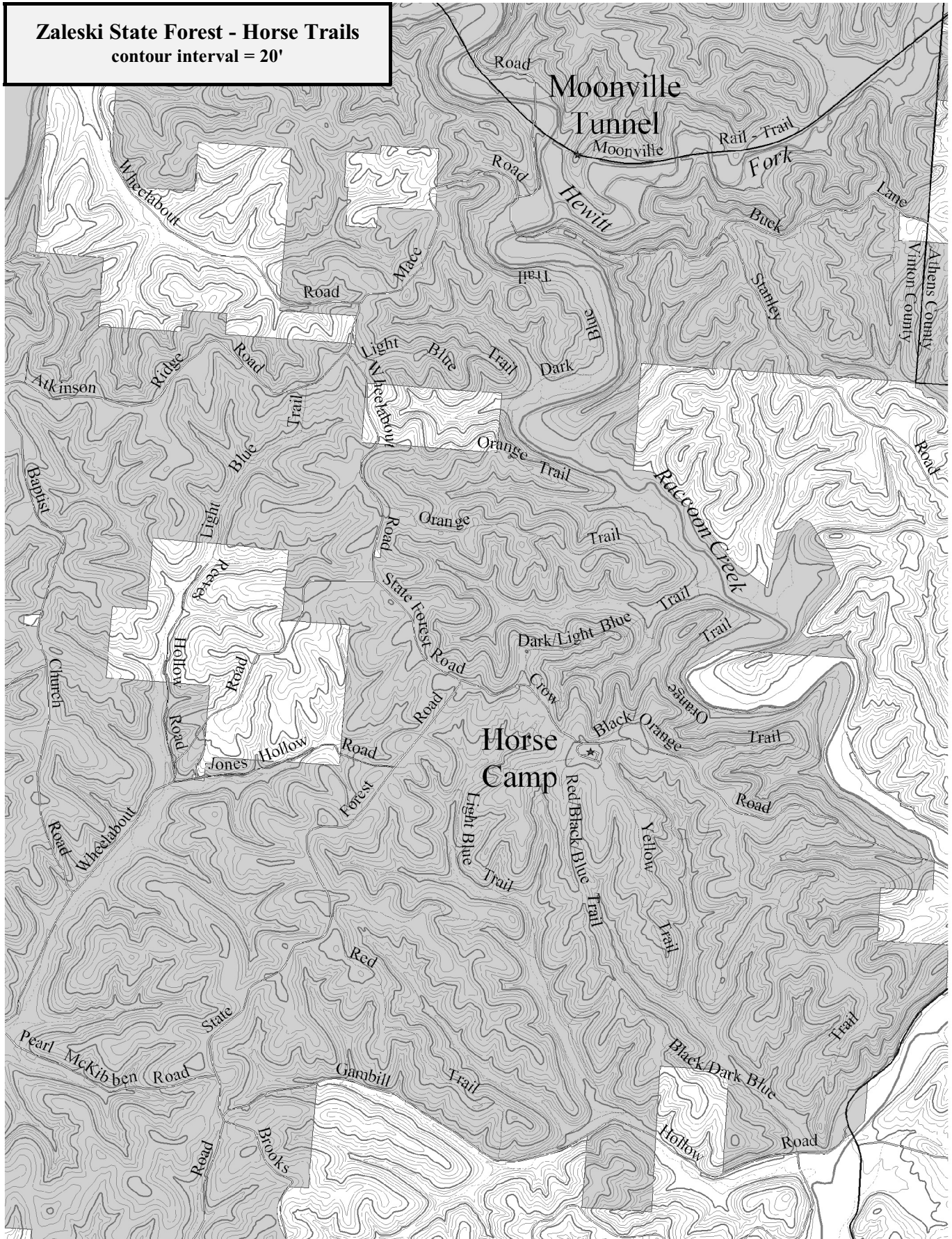
Vesuvius Backpacking Trail: This trail is 16 miles, and is located in the Lake Vesuvius Recreation Area, in the Ironton District of the Wayne National Forest. It circles Lake Vesuvius. Camping is allowed along the trail according to National Forest rules. The trail also passes close to several developed campgrounds.

Athens Trails Backpacking Route: Hikers can park at the Pioneer Cemetery Trailhead in Strouds Run State Park to backpack on this trail system, using the Athens Conservancy's backpacking campsite. Users should print out the windshield notice at: . A suggested route is: From the Pioneer Cemetery Trailhead, take the Trace Trail/Hickory Trail a short distance to the old brick house foundation, then turn right to stay on the Trace Trail. After another 0.3 mile, turn left onto the Finger Rock Trail (blazed in light blue). This will take you 1.3 miles to the Athens Trail; turn right and go 0.3 mile to the White Oak Trail. Turn left on the White Oak Trail and go 0.1 mile to the Rockhouse Trail. Turn right on the Rockhouse Trail (be sure to visit Turtlehead Cave) and go 1.5 miles to the Athens Trail. Turn right on the Athens Trail and go 0.9 mile to the Trace Trail. Turn left on the Trace Trail and go 0.6 mile to the Tunnel Rock Trail. Turn left on the Tunnel Rock Trail and go 0.2 mile to the campsite. To return to the car, return to the Trace Trail, and continue it 0.6 mile to the trailhead. This is only a 5.3-mile hike in one day, but is nonetheless good backpacking training, including three substantial uphill stretches. Backpackers can also hike around the lake, a full circuit of which is about 8 miles, including slightly more than 1 mile on roads. See page 1 for map.

Horse Riding

Equestrians can find good opportunities in our area. Two venues on the Wayne and four state forests offer horse trails with available camping. A private concern, Smokerise Ranch in northwestern Athens County, west of Glouster, offers many miles of riding opportunities that connect to the Buckeye Trail and Wayne National (although these do not provide access for horses), with camping available. Smokerise also offers lots for lease for trailers, RVs, as well as rental cabins. Another private business, Spotted Horse Ranch, is located in western Hocking County. See the directory appendix for contact information for these and for the Lake Hill cabins at Strouds Run. At Burr Oak State Park, the campground is quite close to the equestrian trail head.

Zaleski State Forest - Horse Trails
contour interval = 20'



Summary of horse trail areas:

Wayne National Forest

Athens District: Stone Church Trails in Perry County: 21 miles, 10 camping sites

Marietta District: Kinderhook Trail in Washington County: 12 miles

Ironton District: Vesuvius Trails in Lawrence County: 46 miles, dispersed camping allowed

State Parks

Burr Oak State Park in Morgan County: 10 miles

Strouds Run State Park in Athens County: 14 miles with private cabins at the trail head offering horse stalling

State Forests

Zaleski State Forest in Vinton County: 50 miles, 16 camping sites

Dean State Forest in Lawrence County: 26 miles

Shawnee State Forest in Scioto County: 60 miles, 58 camping sites

Tar Hollow State Forest in Ross County: 33 miles, 46 camping sites

Hocking State Forest in Hocking County: 40 miles, 23 camping sites

Other Areas

Moonville Rail-Trail in Athens and Vinton Counties: 6 miles open so far

B&O Railroad Trail in Athens County: 8 miles open so far

Baker Easement in Athens County: 3 miles

AEP ReCreation Lands in Morgan County: 30 miles

AEP Gavin Power Plant Hunting Lands in Meigs County

There are also horse trails available at the private Smokerise Ranch in northwest Athens County.

Motorized Trails

In addition to the trails listed below, there is a trail system at Pike State Forest in Pike County (10 miles) and one at Maumee State Forest in Henry County (5 miles). There is at least one private course in the Hocking Hills area. Users of trails must read the rules provided by the state or the national forest service, and there is always a fee for usage. These trails are expensive to keep up! ATV = all-terrain vehicle; APV = all-purpose vehicle.

Summary of motorized trail areas

Wayne National Forest

\$12/day, \$24/3-day, or \$45/season: you MUST have a current permit to ride these trails

<http://www.waynenationalforest.com/wayneatv.htm>

Athens District: Monday Creek ATV/OHM Trail System, Hocking County, 75 miles

Dorr Run Trailhead: Take US-33 west 15.5 miles from OH-550 at Athens to Company Road, T-336. Turn right to the trailhead.

Long Run Trailhead: Take US-33 west 9.2 miles from OH-550 at Athens to OH-78. Turn right on OH-78 and go 4.8 miles to Long Run Road. Turn left on Long Run Road to the trailhead.

Ironton District: Hanging Rock ATV/OHM Trail System, Lawrence County, 24 miles

Ironton District: Pine Creek ATV/OHM Trail System, Lawrence County, 17 miles

State Forests

Richland Furnace State Forest: Vinton and Jackson Counties, 8 miles (page 27)

Perry State Forest, Perry County, 16 miles (page 26)

Picnicking

Picnic grounds are provided at all state parks listed in this guide. There are also picnic facilities at Ohio highway rest stops: OH-32, just east of Lake Snowden in Athens County, and OH-550, just west of Barlow, in Washington County, US-50, near Torch in eastern Athens County, and US-33, both in Meigs County and in Hocking County northwest of Logan. In addition, there are several picnic facilities on the Wayne National Forest:

Wayne National Forest

Ironton District

Lake Vesuvius Recreation Area, Timbre Run Lake

Marietta District

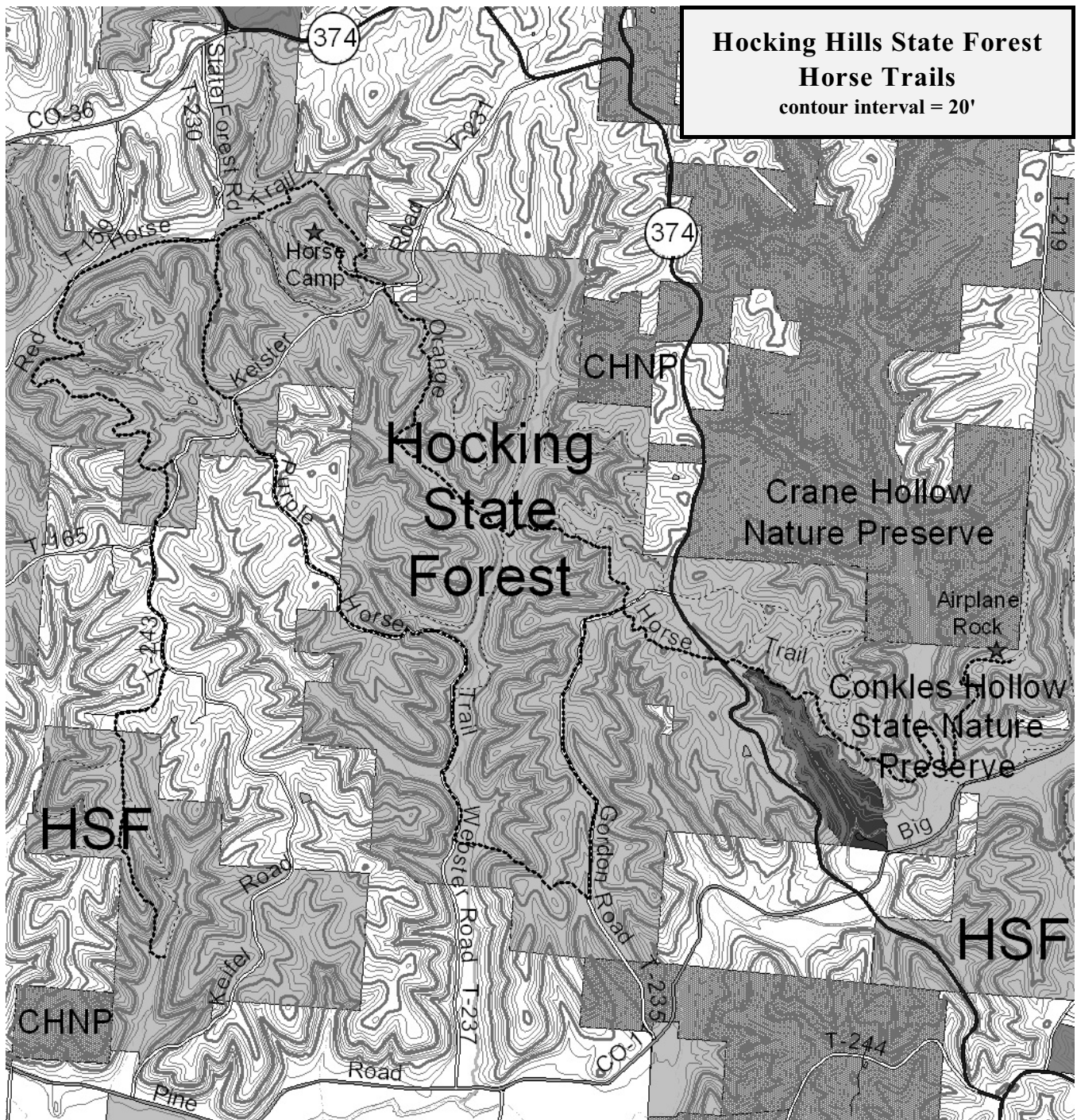
Lamping Homestead, Leith Run Recreation Area

Athens District

Sand Run Picnic Area (Hocking County), Utah Ridge Recreation Area (Athens County; The pond is currently drained and the dam is being rebuilt; are closed until this is finished), Wildcat Hollow Trailhead: (Morgan County) (page 6)

Other Areas

- All state parks
- Ferndale Park, Athens County
- Hocking River Canal, Hocking County
- Lake Snowden, Athens County
- Southside Park, City of Athens
- West State Street Park, City of Athens
- East State Street Park, City of Athens
- Hocking Canal Rest Area, in Hocking County between Nelsonville and Haydenville
- AEP ReCreation Land
- Many other community parks



Geocaching and Orienteering

Geocaching and orienteering are related activities that have a lot of participants. Orienteering is the art of traveling cross-country, the wilder the terrain the better, using only compass bearings and sightings on landmarks. Geocaching is the discovery of caches of trinkets based on using GPS coordinates or compass courses. Sometimes it's referred to as a "treasure hunt." When a participant finds the geocache, he or she is expected to take an item and to also leave an item. There are then on-line logs to record your experience. Both of these are great tools for teaching children about the outdoors and self-reliance. Geocaching at the Wayne National Forest requires special permission. Check with your local district to find out if there are any active geocaching programs in your district. There is an active geocaching program in the Strouds Run area.

For two geocaching trails created in conjunction with the local Visitors' Bureau, good for beginners:

<http://www.athensohio.com/whattodo/geocaching>

For general geocaching; select Athens from the menu:

http://www.geocaching.com/local/default.aspx?state_id=36

In orienteering, no advance preparation is required other than using a topographical map, ideally oriented to true north (as virtually as such maps are). The participant determines a goal/endpoint, and a starting point, then determines the compass bearing from start to end. The course may also be a series of bearings, with waypoints along the way. Then a compass and a sturdy pair of hiking boots are all that are required.

Camping

Both public and private campgrounds are available. Primitive walk-in camping is allowed anywhere on National Forest land with a few restrictions. Such camping is expected to be "leave no trace" camping, and campfires may be restricted by state law during high fire-risk seasons.

Wayne National Forest – Athens Unit

Burr Oak Cove Campground: 11 RV-capable non-electric sites, + 8 walk-in only; 1 site is "barrier-free"

Wayne National Forest – Marietta Unit

Covered Bridge Scenic Byway Campgrounds

Lane Farm Campground: 4 primitive

Hune Bridge Campground: 3 primitive

Haught Run Campground: 4 primitive

Ring Mill Campground: 3 primitive

Lamping Homestead Campsite: 6 primitive walk-in

Leith Run Recreation Area: 18 electric, 3 primitive walk-in

Wayne National Forest – Ironton Unit

Vesuvius Lake Recreation Area

Iron Ridge Campground: 21 electric sites, 20 non-electric; 3 sites are fully accessible

Oak Hill Campground: 24 electric sites; 3 sites are fully accessible

Pine Knob campground: 8 non-electric sites

Two Points Group Campground: up to 100 people

State Parks

Burr Oak State Park: 17 electric, 99 non-electric campsites in three locations, camper cabin, plus 2 group camps

Forked Run State Park: 81 electric, 64 non-electric, 3 camper cabins

Hocking Hills State Park: 80 electric, 92 non-electric, plus 40 cabins, plus several group camp

Jackson Lake State Park: 34 electric sites

Lake Alma State Park: 71 electric, 10 non electric, one cabin

Lake Hope State Park: 187 campsites, including 46 electric, plus 66 cabins

Shawnee State Park: 107 electric campsites, plus 25 cabins

Strouds Run State Park: 78 campsites, all non-electric, including 2 camper cabins, plus group camp

Tar Hollow State Park: 17 electric, 91 non-electric campsites, including 17 electric, plus 30 cabins

Other

Lake Snowden (Hocking College): 125 sites

Backpacking Campsites

Blair Preserve: 1 site (small group capacity, up to about 8)

Shawnee State Forest: 7 sites

Tar Hollow State Park: 8 sites in one area (actually embedded within the state forest)

Wildcat Hollow Trail: no sites per se, but camping is allowed according to National Forest rules

Zaleski State Forest: 3 sites

AEP ReCreation Lands: 2 campgrounds on the BENCAD Trail

Horse Camps

Hocking State Forest: 23 sites
Shawnee State Forest: 58 sites
Stone Church Horse Trail: 10 sites
Tar Hollow State Forest: 46 sites
Zaleski State Forest: 16 sites
AEP ReCreation Lands: 1 camp area
AEP Gavin Plant Hunting Lands: 8 sites

See the listings of businesses at the end of this guide for private campgrounds.

Hunting

Southeast Ohio is a prime area for hunters, especially deer. The deer population is extensive and current limits are fairly liberal. In the 2011-2012 gun season, the limits were eight deer, seven of them antlerless. If you have a large freezer, deer hunting can be an excellent source of food. The bag limits permit only one antlered deer because most hunters are only trophy hunters, while control of the doe population is more essential to controlling the overall deer population. Deer overpopulation is causing ecological changes that are a problem. In several places, deer EXclosures have been built to protect small areas of sensitive vegetation. These can be seen, for instance, at Lake Katharine and Riddle State Nature Preserves.

Specific hunting information and publications are available at the state Division of Wildlife office in Athens, at 360 East State Street. This is on the north side of East State.

There is a special wild turkey management area shared between Zaleski State Forest and Waterloo Wildlife Research Station. There are generally good wild turkey populations in the area.

The area has a large amount of public land available for hunting, and most of the state parks in the area allow hunting in at least part of their lands:

***Strouds Run State Park** (Athens County; see page 27, map on page 1): The whole park except for safety areas, plus much of the adjacent city preserve land and the Blair Preserve.

***Burr Oak State Park** (Athens-Morgan-Perry Counties; see page 28, map page 2): More than half the park (see map), plus large areas of adjacent Wayne National Forest.

***Forked Run State Park** (Meigs County; see page 29, map page 31): The whole park except for safety areas, plus the adjacent Shade River State Forest.

Neither Hocking Hills State Park, Lake Hope State Park nor Tar Hollow State Park allow hunting, but their adjacent state forests do. Hunting is also prohibited at Lake Logan and Lake Alma. Hunting of any kind is not allowed in any of the state's nature preserves, but is allowed in all state forests (pages 24) and wildlife areas (pages 36).

AEP lands

Free permits are required to enter AEP lands. For a permit, go to:
www.aep.com/environmental/recreation/recland/permit.aspx
or call 1-800-WILDLIFE (800.945.3543)

From the AEP website:

Hunters need only an Ohio Hunting License and their ReCreation Land Visitor's Permit.

Hunting is not permitted within 300 feet from the boundaries of the campground areas.

Hunting is not permitted in the active mining areas, on property which has been leased to others by AEP, or on other AEP property outside the boundaries of ReCreation Land.

Groundhog hunting is prohibited.

Target shooting or practice is prohibited within all AEP ReCreation Areas.

Beaver trapping on AEP lands is controlled and requires a special Beaver Trapping Permit. For additional information concerning beaver trapping, please send your name, address and telephone number to

American Electric Power, ReCreation Department, 59 West Main Street, McConnellsville, OH 43756

ReCreation land in Morgan County: about 60,000 acres in Morgan, Muskingum and Noble Counties. See page 41.

Poston Plant Public Hunting Area: 2300 acres in Athens County, in three tracts: between Poston Station Road and the Hockhocking Adena Bikeway west of The Plains in Athens and Waterloo Townships, on the south side of Poston Station Road in those townships, and in Waterloo Township bordered by Perry Ridge Road on the north, Hamley Shortcut on the south, and Grass Run Road on the west. Hamley Run Road passes through the area.

Gavin Public Hunting Lands: 6,885 acres in Meigs and Gallia Counties, west of Rutland in Meigs County and west of Cheshire in Gallia County. State Routes 124 and 325 go through it; Route 554 borders it. See Page 42 for more information.

Buckeye Furnace Mining Lands Public Hunting Lands: 1,034 acres. Open to most day uses. No permit needed. Camping is prohibited. This area extensively borders the Broken Aro and Flint Run Wildlife Areas. The Buckeye Furnace area is accessible from a parking area on Township Road 176, off Ohio State Route 124. To reach this area from Athens, go west on the Appalachian Highway, Ohio State Route 32, to Jackson County Road 38 (Hiram West Road). Turn left and go to Ohio State Route 124. Turn left on 124 and go 3/4 mile to Township Road 176 (Salem Road). Turn right on Township 176 and go to the parking lot, on your left. If you miss the turn from 32, you can continue to Ohio State Route 327 and turn left. Go to 124 and turn left. Go just over 1/2 mile to the parking area on the right, across from Frank Smith Road, T-749.

Sunday Creek Coal Company: Sunday Creek Coal allows hunting on their land with permission. Most of the land at this point has been purchased by the Ohio Division of Wildlife as part of the Wallace H. O'Dowd Wildlife Area, but there still is an extensive area in Hocking County not yet acquired. To hunt on Sunday Creek land, contact either:

Division of Wildlife
360 East State Street
Athens, OH 45701

or

Sunday Creek Coal Company
68 West Columbus Street
Nelsonville, OH 45764

Water Recreation

Canoeing and Kayaking

Canoeing and kayaking are popular on all area lakes. There are several local guide businesses that provide outfitting and guiding for these activities, both on the Hocking River and on lakes in the area. In addition, canoes and kayaks can be rented at most state parks with lakes. In addition to the water trails listed below (Muskingum River, Little Muskingum River, Hocking River, Raccoon Creek, Salt Creek, Symmes Creek), the following streams may be useable for canoeing:

Little Hocking River: Washington County
Federal Creek: Athens County
Sunday Creek: Athens County
Margaret Creek: Athens County
Shade River: Meigs and Athens Counties

Most of the information in the lists below is taken from the state ODNR websites, and is not field-checked. There are some additional notes on the Hocking River Water Trail. For some water trails, the GPS coordinates are listed.

Water Trails

The terms "river left" and "river right" refer to the banks of the river, with orientation as you face downstream. These are the same as "left bank" and "right bank." This is a long-standing river navigation convention.

Muskingum River Water Trail

<http://ohiodnr.com/Portals/4/pdfs/access/muskingumrwt.pdf>

This water trail is administered by the Ohio Department of Natural Resources. Guides and maps to the trail are available at the website.

This is a well-developed water trail, 108 miles long. All access points listed in the official water trail guide are listed here. Numbers go from upriver to downriver. Most of the lock & dam sites allow camping, but only for river travelers. The Muskingum River and the water trail begin at the confluence of the Tuscarawas and Walhonding River in Coshocton County. The Muskingum River confluence with the Ohio River is at Ohio River Mile 173.2. The interval between numbers 22 and 23 is especially wild (the riverside, not the river). Old bridge debris is present in the river between sites 9 and 10.

Coshocton County

1. Baird Concrete Access: mile 0.0, river left, in north Coshocton City
2. Coshocton City Access: mile 2.5, river left, in south Coshocton City

Muskingum County

3. Dresden Ramp: mile 20.5, river right, in Dresden Village
4. Ellis Lock & Dam #11: mile 27.0, river right, camping; very close to Tri-Valley Wildlife Area
5. Kirkbride Boating Company: mile 32.8, river right, private, in east Zanesville City
6. Riverside Park: mile 33.6, river left, in east Zanesville City
7. Zane's Landing Park: mile 35.1, river left, in south Zanesville City
8. Zanesville Lock & Dam #10: mile 35.2, river left, in south Zanesville City, adjacent to Zane's Landing Park
9. Putnam Landing: mile 36.1, river right, in South Zanesville
10. Philo Lock & Dam #9: mile 36.9, river right, in Philo Village
11. Muskingum Valley Park District Access: mile 37.5, river left; across the river from Philo Village, close to Blue Rock State Forest
12. Green Acres Campground: mile 41.7, river left, private campground
13. Muskingum River Campgrounds: mile 44.2, river left, private campground

Morgan County

14. Rokeby Lock & Dam #8: mile 48.0, river left, camping
15. Malta Ramp: mile 55.1, river right, in Malta Village
16. McConnellsville Wharf Park: mile 55.4, river left, in McConnellsville
17. McConnellsville Lock & Dam #7: mile 56.3, river left, in south McConnellsville, camping
18. McConnellsville Ramp: mile 56.7, river left
19. River's Edge Campground: mile 59.4, river right, private campground
20. Stockport Lock & Dam #6: mile 65.3, river left, across the river from Stockport Village, camping
21. Big Bottom State Memorial: mile 65.6, river left
22. Luke Chute Lock & Dam #5: mile 71.3, river right, camping

Washington County

23. Beverly Lock & Dam #4: mile 80.7, river left, in Beverly Village, camping
24. Lowell Lock & Dam #3: mile 90.8, river left, in Lowell Village, camping
25. Devola Lock & Dam #2: mile 99.5, mile 103.0, river left, just above Devola Village, camping; portage required
26. Indian Acres Ramp: mile 106.5, river left, in Marietta City
27. Marietta Harbor: mile 108.3, river left, in Marietta City

Raccoon Creek Water Trail: 109.0 miles

www.raccooncreek.org/watertrailhome.aspx

Vinton County

1. Vinton Co. Rd. 1 bridge in Zaleski State Forest off S.R. 328 north of Zaleski, roadside access river right and left; parking roadside. 39.358, -82.385
2. S.R. 278 bridge in Zaleski, roadside access river right; parking lot and roadside. 39.281, -82.391
3. Robinett Ridge Rd. (Twp. Rd 1) Bridge south of Moonville Tunnel, access river left; parking roadside. 39.303, -82.326
4. Turner Ridge Rd. (Twp. Rd. 20K), access river right; parking roadside. 39.270, -82.297
5. Knox Twp. Road 14-K off S.R. 356 south of Mineral, roadside access river left; parking lot and roadside. 39.255, -82.303
6. S.R. 50 bridge east of Prattsville, roadside access river left; parking roadside. 39.231, -82.286
7. Vales Mill Bridge (Co. Rd. 43C), access river left or right; parking roadside. 39.178, -82.315
8. Eakin Mill Rd. (Co. Rd. 38A) covered bridge in Arbaugh, access river right under bridge; parking roadside. 39.171, -82.337
9. Clarion Rd. (Co. Rd. 28) bridge, access river left; parking roadside. 39.130, -82.359
10. Vinton Co. Rd. 9-W bridge off S.R. 124 west of Wilkesville, roadside access river left or right on Vinton Co. Rd. 10; parking roadside. 39.110, -82.385
11. Minerton Rd. (Co. Rd. 26), access river right; parking roadside. 39.080, -82.396
12. Covered Bridge Rd. (Twp. Rd. 4) Humpback Bridge, access river left or right *Rock dam located approx. 60 yards downstream of bridge; parking roadside. 9.048, -82.377

Gallia County

13. State Route 160 bridge at intersection with Alice Rd. north of Ewington, access river right; parking roadside. 39.014, -82.352
14. DAM--upstream of the S.R. 160 bridge in Vinton, portage river left. 38.978, -82.340
15. Vinton Community Park off S.R. 325/S.R. 160 bridge in Vinton, access river left above bridge; parking lot, picnic area, drinking water, food. 38.978, -82.339
16. Bob Evans Farm Canoe Livery off S.R. 35 bridge in Rio Grande, access river right with permission; camping, ramp, picnic area, drinking water, food. 38.892, -82.359
17. FALLS--Cora Falls in Cora off Rodney-Cora Rd., Class 2, portage river left with permission or paddle through. 38.825, -82.369
18. Maple Grove Rd. and S.R. 141 bridge, roadside access river; parking roadside. 38.806, -82.372
19. Raccoon Creek Co. Park south of S.R. 141 bridge north of Gallipolis, access river right camp; parking lot, camping, ramp, restroom, picnic area, drinking water. 38.791, -82.347
20. DAM--Northup dam below Lincoln Pike bridge in Northup, portage river right or left with permission. 38.784, -82.283
21. S.R. 218 bridge north of Thivener; parking roadside. 38.737, -82.245
22. S.R. 7 bridge south of Gallipolis, access river left; parking roadside. 38.721, -82.196

Hocking River Water Trail: 94.9 miles

www.hockingriver.org

Fairfield County

1. Miller Park in Lancaster off S.R. 33 and Sixth Avenue, access river left; parking roadside. 39.720, -82.610
2. Sensei Lake/Mahler Park in Lancaster off S.R. 793, access river right and left; parking lot, restroom, picnic area, drinking water. 39.706, -82.603
3. Horns Mill Rd. bridge at Horns Mill off S.R. 33, roadside access river right and left; parking roadside. 39.652, -82.558

Hocking County

4. Rockbridge Road bridge in Rockbridge, roadside access river left; parking roadside. 39.584, -82.519
5. Hocking Valley Canoe Livery, Chieftain Drive northwest of Logan, access river left with permission; parking roadside, rentals, ramp, restroom, picnic area, drinking water. 39.548, -82.439
6. S.R. 664 bridge, access river right; parking, ramp, picnic area. 39.542, -82.431
7. FALLS--Natural falls under the S.R. 664 bridge in Logan, portage river right or paddle best path. 39.542, -82.431
8. Kackelmacher Park in Logan off S.R. 93 downstream of bridge, access river right; parking, ramp, restroom, picnic area, drinking water. 39.534, -82.407
9. State Route 328 Bridge, access river right; parking roadside. 39.521, -82.378
10. Wandling Rd. Bridge in Haydenville, access river right; parking roadside. 39.474, -82.330
11. Laurel Run Rd. Bridge, access river right; parking roadside. 39.459, -82.313

Athens County

12. Lake Hope Drive (S.R. 278) Bridge in Nelsonville, access river right; parking, picnic area. 39.459, -82.240
13. Fulton Street Bridge in Nelsonville, access river left; parking, ramp, restroom, picnic area. 39.458, -82.234
14. Nelsonville City Park on Watkins Street off of U.S. Route 33, access river left; parking, camping, restroom, picnic area, drinking water. 39.451, -82.229
15. S.R. 691 bridge/S.R. 33 southeast of Nelsonville, access river right; parking lot. 39.340, -82.210
16. DAM--on right side of island about 5-6 miles south of S.R. 691 in Nelsonville. River only flows over dam at high water. Take river left channel to avoid dam. 39.387, -82.150
17. Hamley Run Access Point, on Hamley Run Road, off River Road, which is off OH-682 just southeast of the Ohio River; parking area, ramp. Note: This is a high vandalism area. Use for pickup/dropoff only.
18. State Route 682 bridge, access river right; parking roadside. 39.389, -82.140
19. DAM--Old Canal Dam, Large timbers, Iron spikes, Rocks, portage river left. 39.338, -82.121
20. West State St Park in Athens, access river left; parking lot, ramp, restroom, picnic area, drinkg water. 39.333, -82.126
21. DAM--White's Mill Dam (broken) in Athens below the S.R. 56 bridge, portage river left. There is no ramp below the dam, but a fairly steep bank. Portage along the bike path. 39.330, -82.126
22. Baker Tract, South Canaan Road Bridge (County Road 24A, just off US-50), access river left; parking roadside (on east side of road), dirt ramp. 39.328, -82.005
23. Savannah Community Park by intersection of State Route 329 and Church Street, access river left; parking lot, restroom, picnic area. 39.289, -81.924
24. Beebe Road Access just downstream of Federal Creek, access river left; parking roadside. 39.320, -81.879
25. Frost Road Bridge near intersection with State Route 144, access river left; parking roadside (on north side of bridge). 39.276, -81.831
26. Army Corps of Engineers Belleville Locks & Dam River Access Area; Athens County Road 58 (Frost Road) off US-50 (OH-7, OH-32) at Coolville, access river left; parking, ramp, picnic area. 39.229, -81.795
27. River's Bend Park off OH-144 north of Hockingport, access river left with permission; parking, camping, restroom, picnic area, drinking water. 39.202, -81.773
28. Russ's RV Park and Ramp at confluence with Ohio River, access river left; parking, drinking water. 39.184, -81.754

Little Muskingum River: 69.7 miles

Monroe County

1. Jerico Road and Co. Rd. 68 north of Rinard Mills, roadside access river right
2. Ring Mill Canoe Access at Poulton off S.R. 26 (Wayne National Forest), access river left
3. Knowleton Covered Bridge Park north of Rinard Mills off S.R. 26 (Wayne National Forest), access river left (camping)
4. S.R. 26 and Monroe Co. Rd. 88 at the Rinard Mills bridge, roadside access river left

Washington County

5. Washington Co. Ludlow Twp. Rd. 136 bridge and S.R. 26 east of Bloomfield, roadside access river right
6. S.R. 26 and Co. Rd. 260 in Bloomfield, access river right and left for canoe but not for parking
7. Rinard Covered Bridge at S.R. 26 and Ludlow Twp. Rd. 406 east of Wingett Run, pulloff access river right
8. Little Muskingum Canoe Livery off of S.R. 26 in Wingett Run, roadside access river right
10. Hune Covered Bridge (Wayne National Forest) at Washington Co. Rd. 26 and Lawrence Twp. Rd. 34 bridge south of Lawrence, pulloff access river left (camping)

11. Lawrence Twp. Rd. 413 bridge and Washington Co. Rd. 26 east of Dart, roadside access river right
12. Hills Covered Bridge (Washington Co. Rd. 333) south of Hills and east of Marietta, roadside access river right
13. Washington Co. Rd. 9 and Washington Co. Rd. 333 east of Marietta and south of Dell, roadside access river left

Salt Creek: 45.4 miles

Hocking County

1. Co. Rd. 174 bridge southeast of Laurelville, roadside access river right; roadside parking. 39.464, -82.735
2. S.R. 56 bridge in Haynes, roadside access river left; roadside parking. 39.433, -82.677
3. S.R. 56 bridge southeast of Haynes river right pulloff access. 39.433, -82.677

Vinton County

4. Pretty Run Rd (Vinton Co 17) bridge in Eagle Mills, roadside access river right & left; roadside parkg. 39.331, -82.683

Ross County

5. Dixon Mill Road east of Londonderry, roadside access river left; roadside parking. 39.269, -82.766
6. S.R. 50 bridge east of Londonderry with parking about 1/4 mile northwest of the bridge at a roadside rest stop, access river right; roadside parking, roadside restroom, picnic area, drinking water. 39.256, -82.771
7. West Junction Road bridge southwest of Vigo, roadside access river right; roadside parking. 39.231, -82.779
8. DAM--broken dam upstream of the Main Street bridge in Richmond Dale. Almost washed out. Portage river right or left with permission. 39.200, -82.811
9. S.R. 35 bridge in Richmond Dale with parking at bridge or about 1/8 mile northwest of the bridge at a roadside rest stop, access river right; roadside parking, roadside restroom, picnic area, drinking water. 39.197, -82.813

Symmes Creek: 70.0 miles

There is no publicly accessible drinking water or food along this waterway. There are no public restrooms, canoe/kayak rentals, or camping areas.

Gallia County

1. Gallia Rd. east of Gallia, roadside access river right; parking lot roadside. 38.841, -82.495
2. Symmes Creek Rd. and Woodside Rd. north of Cadmus, roadside access river left; parkg lot roadside. 38.804, -82.440

Lawrence County

3. Arabia Canoe Launch at S.R. 141 bridge in Arabia, roadside access river left; parking lot roadside. 38.664, -82.473
4. S.R. 217 bridge east of Linville in Willow Wood, access river left; parking lot roadside. 38.557, -82.469
5. Public boat ramp off Symmes Creek Rd. in Chesapeake north of the confluence of Symmes Creek with the Ohio River, access river left; parking lot, picnic area, ramp. 38.430, -82.451

Boating

From the ODNR website:

Ohio law states that any watercraft operating within 300 feet of a marina, gas dock or launching area must travel at no wake or "idle speed." Boat operators are responsible for any damage that their wake may cause. Stay in the main channel of the river when operating at greater than idle speed. Most of the creek and backwater areas leading to the Ohio River are also zoned as no wake. (Check with your local enforcement agency.)

Also, be aware that most of the river is actually owned by West Virginia or Kentucky. Ohio owns the Ohio River ONLY beyond the low-water mark of 1790 on the Ohio side. So West Virginia and Kentucky state laws very much apply on most of the Ohio River adjacent to those states!

River boat ramps

This guide includes Ohio River facilities from Ohio River Mile 161 to ORM 230 (corresponding roughly to Army Corps of Engineers navigation maps 162-180).

Belleville Lake

"Belleville Lake" refers to the Ohio river impoundment upstream from the Belleville Locks and Dam, which is just upriver from Forked Run State Park in Meigs County. The normal level of this lake is 582 feet above sea level.

1. Williamstown, West Virginia Public Launching Ramp. River Mile 172.0.

This site features a picnic area as well as the boat ramp. It is directly across from the City of Marietta, Ohio, barely upstream from the Muskingum River confluence with the Ohio River. To reach this ramp from Athens by car, take US-50, which is also Ohio State Route 32, east. Ohio State Route 7 will join with this just before Coolville. Keep following the signs for OH-7, through Marietta, to the Ohio River Bridge. Take this bridge over the river, then immediately turn right after the bridge onto Front Street in Williamstown. Go one block on Front Street and turn right into the small park. This site may be closed during winter or during high water.

2. Muskingum River. River Mile 173.2.

Several boat ramps are on the Muskingum River, including one a short distance upriver from the confluence with the Ohio River. See the Muskingum River boat ramp list, below.

2. J. Cochran Boat Ramp: Riverview, West Virginia. River Mile 183.6.

This boat ramp is in a side channel of the Ohio River, behind Neal Island. It is next to the Vienna Marina.

3. Point Park Public Launching Ramp & Ferry Landing: Parkersburg, West Virginia. River Mile 184.5.

This is a boat ramp only. It is at the confluence of the Little Kanawha River with the Ohio River. However, as of this writing, it is being rebuilt and is not open.

4. Blennerhassett Island Launching Ramp. River Mile 186.0.

5. City of Belpre Public Launching Ramp. River Mile 186.2.

To reach this ramp from Athens, go east on US-50, which is also OH-32. Follow the signs for OH-32. At Belpre, you will come down to a stop sign. Turn right at the stop in onto Main Street to stay on OH-32. Go 0.9 mile to the stoplight at the foot of the bridge, which is Washington Boulevard. Go 1.4 miles on Washington Boulevard to George Street and turn left. Go about one long block to the park entrance, which will be on the right. After the turn, it's 0.2 mile to the ramp itself. The ramp is in the Belpre River Access Park.

7. WVDNR Public Launching Ramp. River Mile 192.4.

8. Athens Boat, Ski Club and Launching Ramp. River Mile 199.1.

9. Eddie's Marina and Boat Launching Ramp: River Mile 199.2.

18 Pearl Street, Hockingport, Ohio 45739; Ph: 740-667-3691

10. ACE Belleville Locks and Dam site at Coolville. Ohio River Mile 199.3.

Although this boat ramp is on the Hocking River, which mostly does not support recreational boating other than canoeing or kayaking, the ramp is within the Ohio River pool created by the Belleville Locks and Dam and is 5.9 miles from the Ohio River. The confluence of the Hocking River with the Ohio River is at Ohio River Mile 199.3. This site features the boat ramp, parking, and picnic tables and grills. To reach this boat ramp from Athens, take US-50 east to Coolville. After passing the junction for OH-144, go over the Hocking River bridge and take the first left on Frost Road, just past the bridge. Turn into the first driveway to the left; the ramp area borders US-50.

11. River's Bend Marina Hocking River. Launching Ramp. River Mile 199.3.

On the Hocking River, 1.0 mile from the Ohio River.

Racine Lake

"Racine Lake" refers to the Ohio River impoundment upstream from the Racine Locks and Dam, which is close to Letart, West Virginia. The normal level of this lake is 560 feet above sea level.

1. ODNR Public Launching Ramp. River Mile 207.9.

This ramp is across Ohio State Route 144 from Forked Run State Park, and is just downstream from the confluence of Forked Run with the Ohio River.

2. City of Ravenswood (West Virginia) Public Launching Ramp. River Mile 221.1.

Muskingum River

The Muskingum River is navigable for at least 108 miles upstream from the Ohio River for small craft. See the Muskingum River Water Trail for more information.

Public Lakes with Boat Ramps

1. Burr Oak Lake: 664 acres, elev. 721 feet, 30' deep, 4 ramps, no-wake rule, Burr Oak State Park, page 28, map page 2
2. Lake Logan: 400 acres, elev. 759 feet, 19' deep, 2 ramps, 10 horsepower limit, Lake Logan State Park, page 34
3. Lake Rupert, 325 acres, elev. 708 feet, 24' deep, 1 ramp, 10 horsepower limit, Wellston State Wildlife Area, page 38
3. Jackson Lake, 242 acres, elev. 700 feet, 12' deep, 1 ramp, electric motors only, Jackson Lake State Park, page 34
4. Hammertown Reservoir, 190 acres, 52' deep, 3 ramps, electric motors only, Jackson, Ohio, page 19
5. Tycoon Lake, 183 acres, elev. 616 feet, 19' deep, 1 ramp, electric motors only, Tycoon Lake State Wildlife Area, p. 38
6. Dow Lake: 160 acres, elev. 660 feet, 33' deep, 1 ramp, no-wake rule, Strouds Run State Park, page 27, map page 1
7. Veto Lake, 160 acres, elev. 643 feet, 16' deep, 1 ramp, 10 horsepower limit, Veto Lake State Wildlife Area, page 37
8. Lake Vesuvius: 143 acres, elev. 636 feet, 1 ramp, Wayne National Forest, Ironton District, page 21
9. Lake Snowden: 136 acres, elev. 739 feet, 37' deep, 1 ramp, no-wake rule, owned by Hocking College, page 40
10. Lake Hope: 120 acres, elev. 715 feet, 23' deep, 1 ramp, electric motors only, Lake Hope State Park, p. 29, map p. 30
11. Forked Run Lake: 120 acres, elev. 600 feet, 26' deep, 2 ramps, 10 horsepower limit, Forked Run St. Pk, p. 29, map p. 31
12. Timbre Ridge Lake: 97 acres, elev. 752 feet, 37' deep, 1 ramp, electric motors only, Wayne National Forest, Ironton District, page 24
13. Lake Alma: 60 acres, est. 12' deep, 1 ramp, electric motors only, Lake Alma State Park, page 34
14. Fox Lake: 48 acres, elev. 694 feet, 21' deep, 1 ramp, electric motors only, Fox Lake State Wildlife Area, page 37
16. Pine Lake: 15 acres, 1 ramp, electric motors only, Tar Hollow State Park, page 33

Fishing

Southeast Ohio offers three distinctly different types of fishing: pond fishing, lake fishing, and river fishing. There are many hundreds of ponds in the area, mostly on private land, and many of them stocked. However, most of them are not accessible to the public. There are, however, many lakes (see above list). The state often provides one or two free fishing days in May, when Ohio residents can fish without a license. Otherwise, licenses are required.

River Fishing

Good river fishing can be had anywhere in the Ohio River bordering Ohio, or, in our area, also in the lower Muskingum River and the lowermost Hocking River, where it is in the Belleville Pool of the Ohio River. A number of boat ramps are available. All the public boat ramps also allow riverbank fishing. In addition, there are riverbank access areas.

Swimming

All the state parks with lakes, listed in the above boat ramp list, have swimming beaches. Lake Snowden in southwestern Athens County also has a swimming beach. Public swimming pools are to be found in East State Street Park in Athens, on Washington Street downtown in Nelsonville, and in McConnellsville.

Skateboarding

Skateboarders, welcome! We've got venues for you! There are three main facilities:

1. Skatopia in Meigs County: This is a private concern, and generally these are listed at the end of this work, but this is an exception. This is the pre-eminent skateboard park in the area.

Skatopia

740.742.3169 <http://www.skatopia.org/>
34961 Hutton Rd Rutland, OH 45775

Directions: Take OH-32 west 8.0 miles from US-33 at Athens to the OH-681 exit at Albany. At the end of the exit ramp, turn right (south) on OH-681. Take it 5.3 miles to OH-692. Turn right on OH-692 and take it 1.0 mile to OH-684, on the far side of Harrisonville. Turn left on OH-684 and take it 2.9 miles to OH-143. Continue straight across OH-143 onto New Lima Road, County Road 3. Take New Lima 3 1/4 miles to the second Loop Road intersection. Turn right on Loop Road, County Road 60, and go 1/2 mile to McCumber Road, County Road 4. Turn left on McCumber Road and take it 0.6 mile to Hutton Road. Turn left on Hutton Road to Skatopia.

2. Skate park at East State Street Park, Athens County

To reach this skate park, take State Street east from US-33 in Athens. Turn right at the third stoplight east of US-33 into the parking area. The skate park is behind the community center.

3. Skate park facility at the Glouster Village Park in Trimble Township, Athens County

To reach this skate park, take OH-13 north from OH-550/US-33 through the Village of Trimble. Turn left into the park entrance which is shortly past the power transformer station on your right.

Cross-Country Skiing

If you're a die-hard downhill skier, you're out of luck in southeast Ohio. If you're a cross-country skier, however, you can be in hog heaven, given a good winter.

The best overall route is probably the Rockhouse Trail starting from Sells Park. This trail was built with an intention of accommodating skiers and is generally of gentle grade with a treadway wide enough for easy skiing. Admittedly, it is work getting up from Sells Park to the trail. You may want to carry your skis uphill from the pond to the trail itself (an accessible segment was never finished). This trail will allow you to go 2.7 miles to Turtlehead Cave. The nearby Athens Trail, when on the ridgetop, is also a good route, but it's a hard climb getting to it. Again, you may want to carry your skis up to the top before putting them on, but the ridgetop trail is mostly ideal for skiing. In fact, if you take the Rockhouse Trail to the cave, you can then go uphill on the White Oak Trail (again, carrying your skis) to the Athens Trail, and ski back to Sells Park.

In Strouds Run State Park, you can also try the Lakeview Trail from the swimming beach area to the dam, or the Hickory Trail, from the Pioneer Cemetery Trailhead on Strouds Run Road to the dam. Both are mostly skiable, although both have short, steep uphill stretches and a few gully crossings that are challenges.

The Trace Trail, from the Pioneer Cemetery Trailhead, is also eminently skiable for about a half-mile from the trailhead. Beyond that, it gets a bit challenging.

The Adena Hockhocking Bikeway is paved, but with sufficient snow, it's a cross-country addict's dream. On an old railroad grade, you can go as fast and as smooth as you can. In fact, you can go some twenty miles and back!

Then there's the Moonville Rail-Trail. As yet, this is only skiable in segments. Because of the old aggregate base, having been another old railroad, this requires a good snow base, but it's an easy ski up to the point of missing bridges, and it's as beautiful a trip as you will find in our area. Of course, if you come to either of the tunnels, you'll have to walk through because of the lack of snow, but those are relatively short stretches.

Climbing and Rappeling

This subject covers severally distinct types of activities, and four of them are available in our area: climbing walls; rock climbing, either free-climbing or assisted climbing; bouldering, and rappeling.

The best rock-climbing and rappeling venues in southeast Ohio are in the Hocking Hills. There is a 90-acre area set aside within the Hocking State Forest for these types of activities. There are also several popular areas around Athens for bouldering problems.

Climbing walls can be found at Ping Center of Ohio University, and at Hocking College. These are open to students, and may be open to non-students for a fee.

The best reference website is:

<http://www.athensbouldering.blogspot.com>

There is also:

http://www.rockclimbing.com/routes/North_America/United_States/Ohio/Southeast_Ohio

This website lists the Solution Rock Gym on State Street as a resource, but that facility is out of business.

East State Street Sites

To get to these sites, go east on East State Street from Athens. At the stoplight for Wal*Mart, turn left, by Friendly Paws pet supply, and go to the end of the small road, at the metal-sided barn, called the Dance Barn. There is parking there. This is private property, and access is by permission. If there is an event at the Dance Barn, then please be considerate and find another place to park. This access is allowed by the owner of Mac's Thrifty Store, which is located at the turn off East State Street, and sells clothing suitable for the outdoor enthusiast.

Boulder Cove and Crumley Ridge

Called "Trailer Park" by the longtime rock climbers in the area. This is one of the most popular bouldering sites in the area. It lies within the boundaries of Strouds Run State Park. From the trailhead at the Dance Barn, take the Cucumbertree Trail all the way back to the Rockhouse Trail at the long bridge over the creek. Turn right on the Rockhouse Trail and follow it up the hill, past the sign that says "Strouds Run Park." When you reach the second small footbridge (the one with handrails), you are at Boulder Cove. The ridge beyond this, along the Rockhouse Trail, is Crumley Ridge.

Named sites at Boulder Cove/Crumley Ridge:

Commitment Boulder (13 problems)

Hammer territory (2 problems)

Rockhouse (1 problem)

Silhouetted Cave (1 problem)

The Font Area (7 problems)

The Mall Boulders (2 problems)

The Ravine Boulders (2 problems)

Trailside Boulder (2 problems)

Copperhead Point

This area, called "COAD" by climbers, is on City of Athens preserve land. From the trailhead at the Dance Barn, take the Cucumbertree Trail all the way back to the Rockhouse Trail at the long bridge over the creek. Turn left on the Rockhouse Trail, cross the bridge, and follow the trail out to the point of the ridge, where the trail leaves the old roadway and continues a short distance to the climbing area.

Named sites at Copperhead Point:

Bridle Trail Rocks

Gravestone (5 problems)

COAD Boulders

Emerald Boulder (4 problems)

Lower COAD (7 problems)

Upper COAD (1 problem)

Other Strouds Run Area Sites

There is also the Dam Boulders, near Dow Lake Dam (off US-50 east of Athens), and the Death Arete Area (east of State Park Road, across from the campground).

Witches Hill

Also called Witches Rock, this area is on top of a hill overlooking the highway on the east side of Athens, Ohio, where US-33, US-50, and OH-32 are combined. It is on ODOT highway right-of-way. To reach this site, go east on Stimson Avenue from Athens. Just after the Hocking River, turn right on Rock Riffle Road. Take the first left, where Rock Riffle Road turns left. Park on the left side of the road (find a place to turn around, first, so you are parking the right way). At the foot of the off-ramp from the highway, on the south side of Rock Riffle Road, there is a rough path going up, with the first ten feet or so extremely steep. Take this path to the hilltop.

Named sites at Witches Hill: Back Section (1 problem), Front Section (10 problems)

Meigs County

Evolution Boulder

This site is apparently on the US-33 right-of-way. The highway right-of-way was established for a four-lane road, but only the two eastern lanes were built, so this area has not yet been obliterated. Directions from the website say: “Head down the new 33 (Athens to Darwin Connector) for 10 minutes until you get to Rainbow Lake Road. Continue straight for 1.4 miles past Rainbow Lake Road and park in the grassy area just in front of the guard rail on the east side of the road (or westbound, whichever makes more sense to you...). Follow guard rail along road until boulder is visible and hike down the hill where the grade is less steep. Don't forget to check out the huge cave areas on both sides of the boulder. All within state owned land.”

Hocking State Forest Rock-Climbing Area

This is a 90-acre area set aside in the Hocking Hills for rock climbing and rappelling, generally between the Big Springs Waterfall and the Edison Waterfall. To reach this site, take US-33 west 24.2 miles from OH-550 into Hocking County to OH-664. Turn left on OH-664 and go 4.2 miles to Big Pine Road. Turn right and go 5.7 miles to the rock-climbing area parking (on the right). Total driving distance from downtown Athens to the rock-climbing area: 36.9 miles. From the parking area, cross the road to the trailhead, which is also a trailhead for the BENCAD Trail (page 8). There is an informational kiosk before the bridge, and one with more information after the bridge. Go over the I-beam bridge (which is an interesting feature in and of itself), and the climbing area trails go two ways. Turn right and follow Big Pine Run downstream to reach Big Spring Falls; this is a half-mile from the bridge. Go straight for about a tenth of a mile to reach a 3-way fork in the trail, which will take you to different parts of the area. The right-hand fork will connect with a trail that will loop over to Big Spring Falls, and mostly follows bluffs. Going straight or left will take you to large boulders as well as bluffs. It is possible to climb to the top of the cliff on a steep scramble two or three places along the cliff line. NOTE: When visiting this area to climb or rappel, you MUST sign in at the second kiosk. You need not sign in if you are just hiking, and this area is well-worth hiking.



Rock Feature near Rock-Climbing Area

Named sites at the Hocking Hills:

- Big Block Area (AKA The Rectangle; 9 problems): via the Buckeye Trail to the left after crossing the bridge
- Big Spring Hollow (1 problem): via the Big Spring Falls trail, to the right just after crossing the bridge
- Six Crack Area (4 problems): reached from the Big Spring Falls trail, to the right just after crossing the bridge
- Right Cliff (2 problems): reached from right fork at 3-way fork
- Center Rock Right (2 problems): reached from the center fork at the 3-way fork
- Evolution Rock: reached from the center fork at the 3-way fork
- Birthday Rock: believed to be reached from the center fork at the 3-way fork
- The Play Ground (6 problems); near birthday rock: also believed to be reached from the center fork
- Left Cliff (2 problems): reached from the left fork at the 3-way fork
- Shipwreck Rock (3 problems): reached from the left fork at the 3-way fork
- Verde Rock (1 problem): reached from the left fork
- Flap Jack: unknown location

Lake Vesuvius Recreation Area

This recreation area in the Wayne National Forest, Ironton District, has several mapped routes.

Named sites at Lake Vesuvius

- | | |
|--|----------------------------|
| Ambush Wall (1 problem) | Hidden Boulder (5 problem) |
| Baseball Field (7 problems) | The Dam (8) |
| Big Block on east side of lake (1 problem) | The Rock (8) |

Symmes Creek

This area is also within the Ironton District of the Wayne National Forest.

Named sites at Symmes Creek:

- Pebbles and Marbles, Shady Overhang, The Hemlocks, The Rock, The Symmes Creek Phase

Disc Golf

The only public disc golf course in the area is at Forked Run State Park. The course is around the picnic areas around the entryway to the park. For directions, see the park entry (page 29).

Nature Study

For some of us, a great idea of a good time is going out in the woods to see nature.

Ohio's Extension Service offers the OCVN, Ohio Certified Volunteer Naturalist Program. This program, with an \$85 fee, certifies individuals as volunteer naturalists, and includes 14 class sessions over two months. For more information, contact Neil Fosnaugh at nfosnaugh@juno.com.

Botanical Study

For an even smaller group, the fun part is going out to see plants. Sure, the outdoors is full of plants, but what turns us on is the variety – and the finding of rare plants.

For starters, there are well over one hundred species of woody plants native to Athens County. There are at least fifteen species of native orchids. Around 35 species of true ferns can be found in our area, plus another ten species of plants that are in groups that might be loosely called fern-allies. Then there are the spring wildflowers, and the mosses. And then there are the fungi, which are not plants at all, but an entirely separate group of organisms.

One of the major hotspots in the county for field botany and mycology – the study of fungi – is Strouds Run State Park and its surrounding area. For instance, a few of the rockhouses (shallow caves under sandstone bluffs) found around there harbor a rare species of fern, *Trichomanes intricatum*, that is only known as a gametophyte (which is an alternate type of sexual fern plant that looks like a moss or liverwort. Ferns have complicated sex lives). The wildflower display in Blue Ash Valley, along the Rockhouse Trail, is guaranteed to be one of the most spectacular of such displays you've ever seen. This area also includes the Riddle State Nature Preserve (page 34, map page 1), which has ancient, tall, massive trees.

Of course, a different type of flora may be seen at the Hocking Hills. Here are to be found some more southern types, mixed with more northern types. Conkles Hollow is a great place to observe. A similar mix may be seen at Lake Katharine in Jackson County. Two of the more southern magnolias, *Magnolia tripetala* and *Magnolia macrophylla*, grow there.

Birding

Birding remains one of the most popular outdoor activities, and southeast Ohio is a great place for birders. The Ora E. Anderson Birding Trail was established in part of the Wayne National Forest.

Accessible Facilities

These are the specifically-accessible facilities that we're aware of.

State Park Lodges

Burr Oak State Park, Morgan County

Shawnee State Park, Scioto County

Cottages

Lake Hope State Park, Vinton County

Burr Oak State Park, Morgan County

Shawnee State Park, Scioto County

Camping

Burr Oak Cove Campground (Wayne National Forest), Athens County (1 site)

Lake Vesuvius Recreation Area (Wayne National Forest), Lawrence County; Oak Hill Campground (3 sites) and Iron

Ridge Campground (3 sites)

Picnic Shelters

Shawnee State Park, Scioto County

Southside Park, City of Athens

Trails

Conkle's Hollow State Nature Preserve, Hocking County, 1 mile

Ash Cave unit of the Hocking Hills State Park, Hocking County, 1/4 mile

Hockhocking Adena Bikeway, Athens County, 21 miles

Shawnee State Park: Scioto County, Tree Trail, 1/2 mile

Fishing

Wayne National Forest

Lake Vesuvius

Leith Run

State Lands

Fox Lake Wildlife Area

Jackson Lake State Park

Public Lands of Southeast Ohio

Southeast Ohio has great public lands, with thickly forested hills, bluffs and streams. These areas are set aside for national forest, state forest, state parks, state nature preserves, state wildlife areas, and other areas.

Websites for all state forests, parks, wildlife areas and nature preserves can be found through <http://ohiodnr.com>.

There are seven extensive public land complexes of great interest close to Athens. Such complexes of extensive public land are critical to maintaining the great forests of our area, and to encouraging and maintaining the tourism trade.

Strouds Run Complex: Lands in central Athens County. Included are Strouds Run State Park, Sells Park, the Riddle State Nature Preserve, the Strouds Ridge Preserve, the Blair Preserve, the Tucker Run Preserve, the Baker Easement, and two small tracts of the Wayne National Forest, for a total acreage of about 3600 acres of public access lands.

Zaleski Complex: Lands in Vinton and Athens Counties. Included are the Zaleski State Forest, Vinton Furnace State Forest, Waterloo State Forest, Lake Hope State Park, Waterloo Wildlife Research Station, Turkey Ridge Wildlife Area, Moonville Rail-Trail, and an Appalachia Ohio Alliance' property, for a total of some 44,000 acres.

Trimble Complex: In Athens, Hocking, Morgan and Perry Counties. Included are part of the Wayne's Athens District, Burr Oak State Park, O'Dowd Wildlife Area, Trimble Township Community Forest, and Wolf Creek Wildlife Area.

Hocking Hills Complex: In Hocking County. Included are Hocking Hills State Park, Hocking State Forest, Conkles Hollow State Nature Preserve, Little Rocky Hollow State Nature Preserve (closed to public), Sheikh Hollow State Nature Preserve (closed to public), Clear Creek Metro Park, Lake Logan State Park, Rockbridge State Nature Preserve, Crane Hollow Nature Preserve (private), Camp Oti-Okwa (private), and Appalachia Ohio Alliance lands, including Bison Hollow Preserve.

Wayne-Ironton Complex: Lands in Lawrence, Scioto, Gallia, Jackson and Counties. Included are the Wayne National Forest - Ironton District, Dean State Forest, and lands owned by The Nature Conservancy, as well as Crown City Wildlife Area.

Shawnee Complex: Lands in Scioto and Adams Counties. Included are the Shawnee State Forest, Shawnee State Park, and lands owned by The Nature Conservancy, for a total of some 70,000 acres.

Highlands Complex: Lands in Highland and Ross Counties. Included are Paint Creek State Park, Paint Creek Wildlife Area, Lake State Park, Fort Hill State Memorial, part of Brush Creek State Forest, and Highlands Sanctuary.

Wayne National Forest

The Wayne was established by proclamation in 1935 to buy up depleted, abused and marginal farm lands to allow them to recover as forest. Today, the Wayne comprises 70,000 forested acres in twelve Ohio counties in southeast Ohio.

It is organized into three purchase districts. The Ironton Purchase District, with 30,000 acres, is mostly in Lawrence and Jackson Counties, with small areas in Jackson and Gallia Counties, and is the most consolidated. The Marietta Purchase District includes 18,000 acres, and is mostly in Washington and Monroe Counties, with some small areas in Noble Counties, and is the most fragmented. The Athens Purchase District is in Athens, Hocking and Perry Counties with smaller areas in Morgan and Vinton Counties, and is intermediate in degree of consolidation. It includes 22,000 acres.

The Wayne offers motorized recreation trails in the Athens District in southeast Hocking County, with the Dorr Run and Long Run Trailheads. The Stone Church Equestrian Trail system is in Perry County. The Wildcat Hollow Trail, also in Perry County, is just north of Burr Oak State Park and is in the process of being connected to the North Country - Buckeye Trail system. The Buckeye Trail / North Country Trail loops, in part, through the Athens District of the Wayne in Morgan, Athens and Perry Counties, and a small picnic area is provided on Utah Ridge in Athens County. The Wayne offers, in addition, a campground at Burr Oak State Park north of Tom Jenkins Dam. The Wayne has considered a plan for establishment of a system of mountain bicycle trails in Athens County, but no action has yet been taken on the plan.

Purchase of new property for the Wayne has greatly slowed in recent years, not due to decreased availability of willing sellers, but due to scarcity of funding. Some acquisition continues, nonetheless.

There is an excellent documentary on the history of the Wayne, by Jean Andrews, available at the Athens Public Library.

Recreation facilities by district

Athens District

Burr Oak Cove Campground

To reach this campground, take OH-13 miles north from OH-550/US-33 at Athens, to Burr Oak Road. Turn right on Burr Oak Road and go mile to the campground entrance, on the right.

Sand Run Picnic Area

To reach this picnic area, take US-33 miles west from OH-550 at Athens to OH-278 in Nelsonville (at the stoplight at the Sunoco station on the far side of the town). Turn right (north) on OH-278 and go miles to County Road 28, Dawley Road. Turn right on Dawley Road to the picnic area. Open April 15 to December 15.

Utah Ridge Picnic Area: This area is currently closed, but is on Utah Ridge Road near Doanville.

Stone Church Horse Trail

To reach this picnic area, take US-33 west 9.2 miles from OH-13/OH-550, to OH-78 in Nelsonville. Turn right on OH-78 and go 6.5 miles to OH-216 in Murray City. Turn left on OH-216 and take it 6.4 miles to OH-93 at Shawnee. Go straight onto OH-93 0.4 mile to Old Town Road, County Road 38, and turn right. Take it to the trailhead.

Marietta Unit (Athens District)

Leith Run Recreation Area: Take US-50 east and continue on OH-7 after US-50 turns off. Take OH-7 about another 40 miles through Marietta to the turnoff; look for signs; the turnoff will be on the right.

Lamping Homestead Picnic Area: Take US-50 east, continue on OH-7 after US-50 turns off. Take OH-7 about another 18.8 miles into Marietta to OH-26. Take OH-26 about 34 miles to OH-537 and turn left. OH-26 is a VERY winding road! Go about 1 ½ miles on OH-537 to the trailhead.

Ironton District

Timbre Ridge Lake: Follow directions to Crown City Wildlife Area, but continue on OH-790 to Lecta, and turn left on County Road 37, and go about 1.4 miles to the trailhead.

Lake Vesuvius Recreation Area: Follow directions to Dean State Forest, but continue about another 7.8 miles on OH-93 past the OH-373 turnoff, and turn left on County Road 29 to the lake.

Kinderhook Horse Trail: Same as for Leith Run, above, but continue about 36 miles on OH-7 after US-50 turns off. Turn left at County Road 25 and go about 0.8 mile to the trailhead at County Road 244.

Contact for the Wayne:

*Athens Ranger District: 13700 US Highway 33, Nelsonville, OH 45764; 740.753.0101. This office is located on US-33 about 4.6 miles west of the US-33/OH-550 intersection, between The Plains and Nelsonville (closer to The Plains).

*Marietta Unit (Athens District): 27750 Ohio State Route 7, Marietta, OH 45750; 740.373.9055. This office is located east of Marietta on OH-7.

*Ironton Ranger District: 6518 Ohio State Route 93, Pedro, OH 45659; 740.534.6500. This office is located on OH-93 in Lawrence County. Take OH-32 west from Athens to OH-93 at Jackson, then go south.

*Website: www.fs.fed.us/r9/wayne

*Local website: www.waynenationalforest.com

Ohio State Forests

Southeast Ohio is rich in state forests for the simple reason that it is the most rugged, heavily-forested area of the state, AND because it is where, historically, there was the most failed farmland. State forests allow users to gather mushrooms, berries and nuts. **Removal of any roots is prohibited. Ginseng harvesting is legally theft.**

Shawnee State Forest: 63,747 acres in Nile, Washington, Union, and Brush Creek Townships, Scioto County, and Green and Jefferson Townships, Adams County, established 1922. Shawnee State Forest is one of our older state forests, having been established in 1924. When the forest was first established, the philosophy was to create "forest parks," combining the developed recreational aspects with the forestry aspects. In 1949, Shawnee Hills State Park was split off as its own entity, and the state forest as a separate entity was created.

Shawnee is by far the largest of the state forests. Shawnee State Park, with 1,165 acres, nests in the middle of the forest. The Nature Conservancy owns over six thousand acres to the west of the forest in Adams County, which is close to but not connected to the forest, but also owns several hundred acres bordering the west side of the forest. Highlands Sanctuary also owns some land on the west side of the forest. Boy Scout Camp Oyo, 52 acres, is surrounded by the Forest. This camp was originally built during the Great Depression by the CCC (Civilian Conservation Corps). A section of the Shawnee, about one-eighth, is designated as a wilderness area, the only area so designated in any state land. An adjacent area of about the same size is designated as a backcountry management area. The Shawnee State Forests also features the 40-mile Shawnee Backpacking Trail, which has two separate loops of 23 and 27.5 miles. There are 7 backpacking camps along the trail. The BENCAD Trail (page 8) also wends through the Forest, sharing the backpacking trail for some distance. Several other trails are in the Forest and in the state park. There are also about 60 miles of horse trails in the Forest, with a horse camp of 58 camping spaces.

To get to Shawnee from Athens, take US-33 about 28 miles west from OH-550/Columbus Road at Athens to OH-180. Exit and turn left on OH-180. Take it four miles south to OH-678. Turn left on OH-678 and go four miles to OH-374.

Horse Camp: From this point, turn right on OH-374 and go 0.4 mile to Keister Road, Township Road 231. Turn left on Keister Road and go one mile to the access road to the horse camp, which will be on the right. Turn right on that road, and the horse camp is another 0.1 mile or so. Total driving distance from downtown Athens to the horse camp: 40.5 miles.

Zaleski State Forest: 26,827 acres, in Brown, Knox, Madison, Elk, and Swan Townships, Vinton County and York and Waterloo Townships, Athens County, established from Depression-era resettlement programs. Zaleski is Ohio's second-largest state forest, and is one of the oldest. It's close to Athens. It surrounds 2,983-acre Lake Hope State Park, and borders both the 2,667-acre Waterloo Wildlife Research Station and the 376-acre Turkey Ridge Wildlife Area. The Moonville Rail-Trail passes through the Forest, and the Vinton Furnace State Forest is not much more than a stone's-throw away to the south. Part of the AEP Poston Plant Public Hunting Lands is very close to the east (Perry Ridge tract). The Zaleski also features the 23.5-mile Zaleski Backpacking Trail, which may be hiked in three separate loops of 9.9, 8.1, and 5.8 miles.

There are three backpacking camps along the trail. This trail connects with the trail system of Lake Hope. There are also some 50 miles of horse trails, with a 16-site horse camp. Mountain biking trails are located in adjacent Lake Hope State Park.

To reach the Zaleski from Athens, take US-50 west 19 miles from US-33, then turn right on OH-278 once in Vinton County. Forest headquarters will be on the left at 4.0 miles, just past the village of Zaleski. The backpacking trailhead will be on the right at about 8.6 miles. An alternate route is to take OH-56 13 miles west from OH-682 at Athens to OH-278, and turn left. Then the backpacking trailhead will be 4.7 miles from OH-56, and the forest headquarters will be at 9.3 miles. Total distance from downtown Athens to backpacking trailhead: 28.2 miles.

Local forest website: <http://www.zaleskistateforest.com>

Waterloo State Forest: This is a separate state forest in name only, comprising 447 acres in Waterloo Township, Athens County and being one of the oldest pieces of the state forest system. Today, it is managed as part of Zaleski State Forest. To reach Waterloo from Athens, take US-50 west from Athens (which is at first combined with Ohio State Route 32). Turn right on Ohio State Route 356, and take it north to the Forest entrance, which is just after coming down a hill.

Tar Hollow State Forest: 16,354 acres in Eagle Township, Vinton County; Salt Creek Township, Hocking County, and Colerain and Harrison Townships, Ross County, established from Depression-era resettlement programs. Tar Hollow is Ohio's third-largest state forest and surrounds 620-acre Tar Hollow State Park. It was purchased during the Great Depression under a Federal program, and the original facilities at the park were built by depression programs. The BENCAD Trail (page 8) bisects Tar Hollow. There is a total of 22 miles of hiking trails there. The state forest also features 33 miles of horse trails with a 46-site horse camp. The forest includes a 1,700-acre grouse management area.

To reach Tar Hollow from Athens, take US-50 37 miles to OH-671. Turn right and take OH-671 4.6 miles to OH-327.

For forest headquarters and the fire tower, then turn right on OH-327 and go 4.6 miles to Clark Hollow Road (State Forest Road 2). Turn left and go about a half mile to the forest headquarters. For the fire tower, go about 3.1 miles on Clark Hollow Road to South Ridge Road (State Forest Road 1). Turn right and go about 0.8 mile to the firetower. This is also where the backpacking camp for the BENCAD Trail is (you must register first in the state park office).

For the horse camp, turn left on OH-327 and go about 1.7 miles to Poe Run Road (County Road 220). Turn right and go 3 miles to the camp. Total driving distance from downtown Athens to the horse camp: about 47 miles.

Vinton Furnace Experimental Forest: Formerly part of Raccoon Creek Ecological Management Area; 12,089 acres in Vinton, Madison and Clinton Townships, Vinton County. This was originally Mead-WestVaCo forest land, but has been used for forest research since the 1950s. It is Ohio's newest state forest, purchased in 2010. Day use only is permitted with the following exception: there are three campsites in the Forest, only for use by hunters during deer firearm season and spring turkey season. There are many old access roads that may be walked. This forest is administered through the Zaleski office.

To reach Vinton Furnace from Athens, take US Route 50 west (this begins as a shared roadway with Ohio State Route 32). Just west of Albany, turn right to stay on Route 50. Take it across Raccoon Creek and into Vinton County, then turn left on the marked access road. Total driving distance from downtown Athens: about 21 miles.

Hocking State Forest: 9,696 acres in Benton, Laurel, Perry and Salt Creek Townships, Hocking County. Hocking State Forest is one of our older state forests, having been established in 1924. When the forest was first established, the philosophy was to create "forest parks," combining the developed recreational aspects with the forestry aspects. In 1949, Hocking Hills State Park was split off as its own entity, and the state forest as a separate entity was created. In 1976, three state nature preserves -- Conkles Hollow, Little Rocky Hollow, and Sheick Hollow -- were split off because it was recognized that these were special areas.

This state forest is within the peak Blackhand sandstone region known as the Hocking Hills, featuring many cliffs and other rock features. The Forest borders the several sections of the Hocking Hills State Park, and also the Crane Hollow Nature Preserve (private) and Camp Oti-Okwa (private) as well. Clear Creek Metro Park is nearby. Three important nature preserves -- Conkle's Hollow, Sheikh Hollow and Little Rocky Fork Hollow -- were carved out of what was originally Hocking State Forest. This state forest offers 59 miles of hiking trails, 40 miles of horse trails, a horse camp with 23 sites, and a 99-acre rockclimbing/rappeling area. The BENCAD Trail passes through the Forest, as well.

The rock-climbing area is well-worth a visit for hiking around in its own right, even if you're not rock-climbing. To visit Big Spring Falls, which may be the highest waterfall in the Hocking Hills, turn right just after the I-beam bridge.

Airplane Rock is also a scenic destination that can be reached via a white horse trail from the rock-climbing parking lot. For trails, see the entry under the state park, page 30.



Big Spring Falls, Hocking State Forest

To reach the horse camp, take US-33 west 27.5 miles from OH-550 into Hocking County to OH-180. Turn left (south) on OH-180 and go 4.0 miles, then turn left on OH-678. Go 4.0 miles and turn right on OH-374 and go 0.4 mile to Keister Road, Township Road 231. Turn left on Keister Road and go one mile to the access road to the horse camp, which will be on the right. Turn right on that road, and the horse camp is another 0.1 mile or so.

Total driving distance from downtown Athens to the horse camp: 40.5 miles

To reach the rock-climbing area, take US-33 west 24.2 miles from OH-550 into Hocking County to OH-664. Turn left on OH-664 and go 4.2 miles to Big Pine Road. Turn right and go 5.7 miles to the rock-climbing area parking (on the right).

Total driving distance from downtown Athens to the rock-climbing area: 36.9 miles

To reach the BENCAD trail parking, take US-33 west 24.2 miles from OH-550 into Hocking County to OH-664. Turn left on OH-664 and go 4.2 miles to Big Pine Road. Turn right and go 4.1 miles to Kreashbaum Road. Turn right and go 0.4 mile to the parking area (on the right). Total driving distance from downtown Athens to BENCAD trail parking: 35.7 miles.

Perry State Forest: 4,567 acres in Clayton Township, Perry County, established 1961. Perry is for day use only, except for hunters under certain conditions. This state forest is one of only two state forests in our area that provide trails for all-purpose vehicle off-road riding (maximum 50-inch width), 12 miles worth (the other is Richland Furnace). There are also 5.8 miles of horse trails. Pedestrians are allowed on all trails, and mountain bikers are allowed on the APV trails.

Trails at Perry State Forest

The long APV loop uses Trails 5, 6, and 7, and totals 6.7 miles.

APV Trail 1: 2.5 miles, loop trail from entry road, providing access to Trails 3 and 4, blazed in blue

APV Trail 2: 0.6 mile, linear trail from entry road, blazed in red

APV Trail 3: 0.6 mile, loop trail off Trail 1, blazed in white

APV Trail 4: 0.5 mile, loop trail off Trail 1, blazed in orange

APV Trail 5: 0.7 mile, linear trail off parking area, providing access to Trails 6, 7, and 8, blazed in orange

APV Trail 6: 1.8 miles, loop trail off Trail 5, providing access to Trail 7, blazed in blue

APV Trail 7: 4.6 miles, loop trail off Trail 6, blazed in red

APV Trail 8: 0.7 mile, linear trail off trail 6, blazed in white

Horse Trail, Main Loop: 4.2 miles

Horse Trail, Connector: 1.6 miles

To get to Perry State Forest from Athens, take OH-13 35 miles north from US-33 at Columbus Road (OH-550) in Athens to OH-345 in New Lexington (OH-13 turns left at about 29 miles).

For the APV trails, turn right on OH-345 and go 3 3/4 miles to Township Road 154, on the left. Turn left on T-154 and go slightly more than 0.6 mile, where you will turn left into the parking area.

For the horse trails, continue on OH-13 another 2.5 miles to Township Highway 149. Turn right on T-149 and go 1.4 miles to Hollow Road (County Road 48). Turn right on Hollow Road and go 0.7 mile to the horse parking area.

There is a shortcut on OH-13 that can be taken to cut across the left turn: On OH-13, about 26.7 miles from US-33 (and just after a railroad track crossing), turn left on Jamestown Road and take it 2 3/4 miles until it comes back out on OH-13. Turn left on OH-13, and the reference point in New Lexington (junction with OH-345) will now be about 32 miles.

Total driving distance from downtown Athens to the APV parking area is 40 miles.

Total driving distance from downtown Athens to the horse parking area is also 40 miles.

Shade River State Forest: 2,859 acres in Olive Township, Meigs County, established in the 1950s. Shade River State Forest is one of the most isolated state forests, and one of the newer ones, being a little over half a century old. Forked Run State Park was carved out of this forest in , after Forked Run Lake was created. Extensive plantings of conifers were made on the state forest in the 1950s. There are no developments on the forest, but it is open to hunting and general primitive use. Open for day use only.

To get to Shade River State Forest, take US-50 east 19 miles from US-33 to OH-7, just before Coolville. Take OH-7 south 5 miles to Success Road, County road 46. Turn left on Success Road and go 3.2 miles to Number 9 Road, Township Road 265. Turn left on Number 9 Road. As soon as you turn, you will be in the forest. You will be continuously in the forest for 2 1/4 miles if you stay on Number 9 Road. At 2.0 miles, you can instead turn right on Lake Road, Township Road 277, and you will be in the forest for another mile. Stay on Lake Road, which becomes Putnam Road at 1.3 miles at the intersection with Hudson and Durst Roads. In another tenth of a mile, you will re-enter the forest and will be in it for most of the next mile (with one pocket of private property). At this point, you will enter Forked Run State Park land for 0.3 mile, then in another 0.6 mile, you will come to OH-124. This is a total of about 4.3 miles on Lake-Putnam Roads. If you turn right, the main entrance to the state park will be on your right in 0.8 mile.

Alternate scenic route (use ONLY if you have a back-roads-capable vehicle): After turning on OH-7, go 3 1/2 miles to OH-681. Turn left on OH-681 and go 5 1/4 miles to Harris Road, Township Road 266. Turn right on Harris Road, and it will become State Forest Road 4, and will take you through the heart of the forest. You will enter the forest at about 1/3 mile. At 1 2/3 miles, you will come to a "T" intersection with Number 9 Road, Township Road 265. Total driving distance from downtown Athens to the heart of the forest: about 32 miles.

Dean State Forest: 2,745 acres in Decatur and Elizabeth Townships, Lawrence County, established 1916. Dean State Forest is one of the oldest state forests in Ohio. It is now completely embedded within the Ironton District of the Wayne National Forest, and shares almost six miles of boundary with existing Wayne lands. This was almost entirely deforested land when it was first established in 1916, but it has again been widely clearcut in recent years, so trails may be problematical. There are facilities there built by the CCC (Civilian Conservation Corps) during the Great Depression. The Forest features 26 miles of horse trails.

Trails at Dean State Forest

Note: Horse trails are intended to be used in conjunction with forest roads, which are gravel, which adds considerably to the riding trail length.

Pinkston Trail (full loop, access from OH-373 at both ends): 4.1 miles (loop)

southeastern leg: 1.6 miles

northwestern leg: 2.5 miles

Periscope Trail (linear, access from OH-373 and Loop Road): 1.0 mile

Periscope-Tar Kiln Connector (linear, access from trails only): 0.5 mile

Tar Kiln Trail (linear, access from OH-373 and Loop Road): 1.1 miles

School House Trail (linear, access from OH-373 and Loop Road): 1.3 miles

Locust Ridge Trail (linear, access from Loop Road and Texas Hollow Road, connects to Wayne): 2.0 miles

Easter Hollow Trail (linear, dead-end, access from Texas Hollow Road): 0.5 mile

Post Trail (linear, access from Loop Road and Texas Hollow Road): 0.5 mile

Bonnie Run Trail (linear, access from Wolf Road): 0.5 mile

Cemetery Trail (linear, dead-end, access from Loop Road): 0.3 mile

To get to Dean State Forest from Athens, take OH-32 37 miles west from US-33 at Athens to OH-93 at Jackson. From the OH-93 exit ramp, turn left to go south on OH-93 and take it 29 miles to OH-373, which will be on the left. Turn left on OH-373. At 0.3 mile, you can turn left on Loop Road to enter the forest; forest headquarters will be at 0.3 mile on the left. Five of the horse trails intersect with Loop Road. You can, instead, stay on OH-373, which loops through the western part of the forest, and four trails intersect with the state highway. Total driving distance from downtown Athens to forest HQ: 67 miles.

Richland Furnace State Forest: 2,524 acres in Washington and Coal Townships, Vinton Co. Its principal feature is APV (all-purpose vehicle) trails. Motor vehicles on the trails must be less than 50 inches wide and have less than 40 horsepower. This is one of only two state forests in our area that allow off-road motorized vehicles. The other is Perry State Forest.

There are approximately 7 miles of APV trails at the forest, all blazed in orange. The route designations in this list are ones applied by this guide, not designations by the state. The only official trails are the APV trails. Be sure to check the APV rules before riding these trails (trail numbers are our designations).

Trails at Richland Furnace State Forest

APV Route 1: 3.2 miles; APV Route 2: 2.0 miles; APV Route 3: 0.9 mile; APV Route 4: 0.5 mile; APV Route 5: 1.0 mile

To get to Richland Furnace State Forest from Athens, take OH-32 30 miles west from US-33 at Athens to OH-327. Turn right off the exit ramp (north) onto OH-327. You will enter the state forest at 7.5 miles from OH-32 (OH-327 turns left in Wellston at 2.5 miles). At about 9 miles, turn right on Loop Road (County Road 32) to reach the APV trailhead, which is about another 0.8 mile on that road. Total driving distance from downtown Athens to the APV trailhead: 41 miles.

Gifford State Forest: 320 acres in Bern Township, Athens County. Gifford State Forest is the smallest state forest in Ohio. It has long been used as a seed stock nursery by the state. It has been mined for coal in the past, mainly through the use of drift mines. While the trails primarily go on the ridgetop, there are many beautiful bluffs and rock formations off the trails. There are four miles of hiking trails.

To get to Gifford State Forest from Athens, take OH-550 14.4 miles northeast from US-33 at Columbus Road, to OH-377. You will pass through Amesville at 10.3 miles on the way. At OH-377, OH-550 turns right to go up a long, steep hill; OH-377 is straight ahead. Sharpsburg is to your left and a gas station is to your right. Go slightly less than ½ mile on OH-377 to the public entrance to Gifford State Forest and turn left to the parking area. Total distance from downtown Athens: 18 miles.

Ohio State Parks

This guide features eight state parks, all reachable by a short drive from Athens. Ohio has a great state park system with a lot of variety. Some parks have lodges. Most have lakes. All feature the Ohio countryside. State parks allow users to gather mushrooms, berries and nuts. **Removal of any roots is prohibited. Ginseng harvesting is legally theft.**

Strouds Run State Park: 2,606 acres in Canaan and Ames Townships, Athens County. Strouds Run started out as the Athens State Forest in 1946. Its conversion to a state park, some six decades ago, was coincident with the building of a dam to create Dow Lake, with 160 acres of water surface. This park is heavily wooded and includes several areas stands of old forest as well as scenic rock formations. It is a great spot for nature study – and it is often used for that purpose by nearby Ohio University.

Strouds Run is literally on the outskirts of the City of Athens. The city owns the 284-acre Strouds Ridge preserve system that connects with the park, and a network of hiking/mountain-biking trails connects the two. Residents of Athens' Far Eastside Neighborhood can walk up the street to Sells Park and then walk for miles on forest trails. This system includes 22-acre Sells Park and the 106-acre Riddle State Nature Preserve (owned by the City of Athens).

As can be seen from the location map, below, the park also is contiguous with the 75-acre Blair Preserve, owned by the Athens Conservancy, and is close to two outlying tracts of the Wayne National Forest and to the 264-acre Baker Easement, held by the Athens Conservancy, which provides a system of hiking and horse trails. See page 1 for a color map of this state park.



Dow Lake from Shelterhouse 1

Trailheads in the Strouds Run Area

Sells Park: At the end of Avon Place, off East State Street; turn at Larry Schey Chevrolet. Access to the Athens Trail, Rockhouse Trail, and minor trails.

Pioneer Cemetery: On Strouds Run Road in Strouds Run State Park. Coming from Athens, first parking area on the right in the park. Access to Hickory Trail, Finger Rock Trail and minor trails.

Dow Lake Dam: On US-50 / OH-32, east of the end of East State Street. Access to the Lakeview, Hickory, Sundown, Indian Mound, and horse trails.

Dow Lake Swimming Beach: On Swimming Beach Road off Strouds Run Road in the state park. Access to Lakeview, Broken Rock, Chestnut, horse trails.

Bike Path: On East State Street near the Pepsi plant. Access to the Hockhocking-Adena Bike Path and Athens Trail.

Horse Trailhead: On Lake Hill Road, off East Scatter Ridge Road (accessible from OH-690 and from Strouds Run Road).

Trails at Strouds Run State Park

Lakeview Trail: foot, part open to bike, horse: 3.0 miles (NE side of lake)

Indian Mound Trail: foot/horse: 0.7 mile (Lakeview)

Athens Trail: foot, bicycle: 3.2 miles (Sells Park)

Rockhouse Trail: foot, bicycle: 2.7 miles (Sells Park)

Hickory Trail: foot, bicycle: 2.8 miles (SW side of lake)

Trace Trail: foot, bicycle: 1.2 miles (Athens - Hickory)

Finger Rock Trail: foot, bicycle: 1.2 miles (Athens - Hickory)

Strouds Run Trail: foot, bicycle: 0.3 mile (Hickory)

Vista Point Trail: foot: 1.5 miles (Campground)

White Pine Trail: foot: 0.35 mile (Trailhead - Vista Pt.)

Beaver Pond Trail: foot: 0.7 mile (Trailhead)

Broken Rock Trail: foot: 1.5 miles (Trailheads)

Chestnut Trail: 0.25 mile (Shelter 3 - Broken Rock)

Thunderbunny Trail: bicycle, foot: 3.4 miles

Scatter Ridge Connector: bicycle, foot: 0.85 mile

Sundown Trail: bicycle, foot: 3.2 miles

Lake Hill Trail (on road): 0.7 mile (Trailhead)

Amoretto Trail: horse, foot: 0.7 mile (Lake Hill)

Cliff Trail: horse, foot: 1.3 miles (Amoretto)

Creek Trail: horse, foot: 0.6 mile (Amoretto)

Pete Smith Trail: horse, foot: 3.7 miles (Amoretto)

Boogie Trail: horse, foot: 1.4 miles (Pete Smith)

Hermit Hut Trail: horse, foot: 0.7 mile (Lake Hill - Lakeview)

Haley Trail: horse, foot: 0.5 mile (Lake Hill - Lakeview)

Hank Trail: horse, foot: 0.4 mile (Lake Hill - Lakeview)

Athens Trail connector trails: Sourwood, Pawpaw, Basswood, White Ash, and White Oak trails are all short connector trails between the Athens Trail and the Rockhouse Trail. The Lookout Trail in Sells Park is a short spur, and the Cucumbertree Trail is an access trail from East State Street. All are open to mountain bikes, except for the Lookout Trail.

To get to Strouds Run from Athens, take Carpenter Street west (turn left from Court Street or East State Street, going from downtown). Carpenter becomes Lancaster Street. Take this to the stoplight at the top of the hill and turn right. This is at first Lancaster Street, then Columbia Avenue and then Strouds Run Road. Continue to a stop sign just after road goes over US-33 on an overpass. Turn right at the stop sign (it is still called Strouds Run Road after turning) and drive 2.1 miles to enter the park. Continue about another mile before turning right to reach the swimming beach or left to reach the campground. Driving distance from downtown Athens to swimming beach: 5.4 miles.

Local website: <http://www.burroakstatepark.org/Strouds%20Home%20Page%202010.htm>

Friends website: <http://www.friendsofstroudsrun.org>

Burr Oak State Park: 2,593 acres in Trimble Township, Athens County and Homer and Union Townships, Morgan County. Burr Oak State Park has a 654-acre lake nestled forested, hilly land. The lake was originally created for flood control, on the East Branch of Sunday Creek. The park has a good trail system, with the BENCAD Trail (page 8) passing through the park. There are several nice rockhouses with small waterfalls when it rains. There are four boat docks (one a full-fledged marina) and two boat ramps. There is a main park campground, but also a nearby National Forest campground, as

well as two smaller campgrounds at boat docks 2 and 3. The park features a lodge and cabins, as well as two swimming beaches. There is also a system of horse trails. The Wildcat Hollow Trail in the Wayne National Forest is very close to the backpacking trail loop, and easily reachable by foot from it (page 6). THIS MAY BE YOUR LAST SUMMER TO ENJOY BURR OAK STATE PARK AS IT IS. Governor John Kasich plans to turn this park into an ATV park.

Trails at Burr Oak State Park

- BENCAD Trail: 12.6 mi (Sunday Creek Rd to OH-13)
- Buckeye Loop: 1.9 miles, group camp to BENCAD (3.8 miles full loop, with BENCAD)
- Tanager Trail: 0.45 mile (BENCAD to Buckeye Loop)
- Red Fox Trail: 0.75 mile (lodge road to BENCAD)
- Chipmunk Trail: 0.4 mile (ranger station to boat ramp)
- Lakeview Trail: 0.8 mile (Burr Oak Cove - Lakeside)
- Lakeside Trail: 3.2 miles (dam to marina/dock 4)
- Camp Trail: 1.2 miles (amphitheater to store)
- Blue Horse Trail: 1.5 miles (horse area south)
- Yellow Horse Trail: 3.9 mi (horse a.-Sunday Crk. Rd.)
- Red Horse Trail: 4.0 mi (horse area- Sunday Crk. Rd.)
- White Horse Trail: 1.0 mile (Red Horse Trail)
- Burr Oak Backpacking Trail: 22.1 miles

To reach Burr Oak SP, take OH-13 north 12.6 miles from US-33 to OH-78 East. Then, to go to boat docks 1, 2, or 3 or to the park lodge, turn right on OH-78; it's then 4.9 miles to the park lodge (4.2 miles to the turnoff). To go to the dam, the National Forest Service campground, the park's main campground, the equestrian trails, or the swimming beach, continue straight on OH-13; it's 3.1 miles to the dam turnoff. After the turnoff to the dam, turn right at the next opportunity on Burr Oak Road to get to the other areas. Total driving distance from downtown Athens to the Burr Oak lodge: 21.5 miles.

Local website: <http://www.burroakstatepark.org>

Lake Hope State Park: 2,983 acres in Brown Township, Vinton County. Lake Hope State Park is embedded within Zaleski State Forest, in Vinton County, and is centered around the 120-acre lake. It has a network of hiking and mountain biking trails, as well as its namesake lake. The trail system here connects with the Zaleski Backpacking Trail. Lake Hope acquired its name from the Hope Furnace, an iron-smelting furnace that still partially stands near the head of the lake, and is viewable and readily accessible from OH-278. This park used to feature an historic lodge, but it burned down several years ago. The Friends group is working to raise money to build a new one. There are a number of rental cabins available, however, as well as camping. There is a swimming beach and a boat ramp.

Lake Hope Trails: Bicycles Allowed

- Little Sandy Trail: Length: 2.0 miles
- Sidewinder Trail: Length: 2.5 miles
- Cabin Ridge Connector: Length: 0.3 mile
- Copperhead Trail: Length: 5.2 miles
- Wildcat Trail: Length: 3.5 miles
- Bobcat Trail: Length: 0.8 mile
- Yosemite Trail: 1.1 miles
- Yosemite Falls Trail: Length: 0.8 mile
- Habron Hollow Trail: Length: 1.3 miles
- Red Oak Trail: Length: 0.3 mile
- Hope Furnace Trail: Length: 3.4 miles

Lake Hope Trails: Bicycles NOT Allowed; Foot Traffic Only

- White Oak Trail: 0.3 mile
- Buzzard Roost Trail: 0.3 mile
- Peninsula Trail: 2.7 miles
- Greenbriar Trail: 0.3 mile
- Laurel Lodge Connector: 0.15 mile
- Laurel Lodge Loop
- Olds Hollow Trail: 0.7 mile
- Zaleski Backpacking Trail: 28.5 miles

To reach Lake Hope SP, take OH-56 west 13 miles into Vinton County, to OH-278. Turn left on OH-278 and the swimming beach turnoff is at 6.1 miles; the other three park entrances are sooner. This is a very scenic drive with some very sharp curves, and may also occasionally be closed due to flooding. An alternate route is to take US-50 west 19 miles from US-33, then turn right on OH-278 and the swimming beach turnoff will be at 7.2 miles.

Distance from downtown Athens: 21 miles to the swimming-beach turnoff.

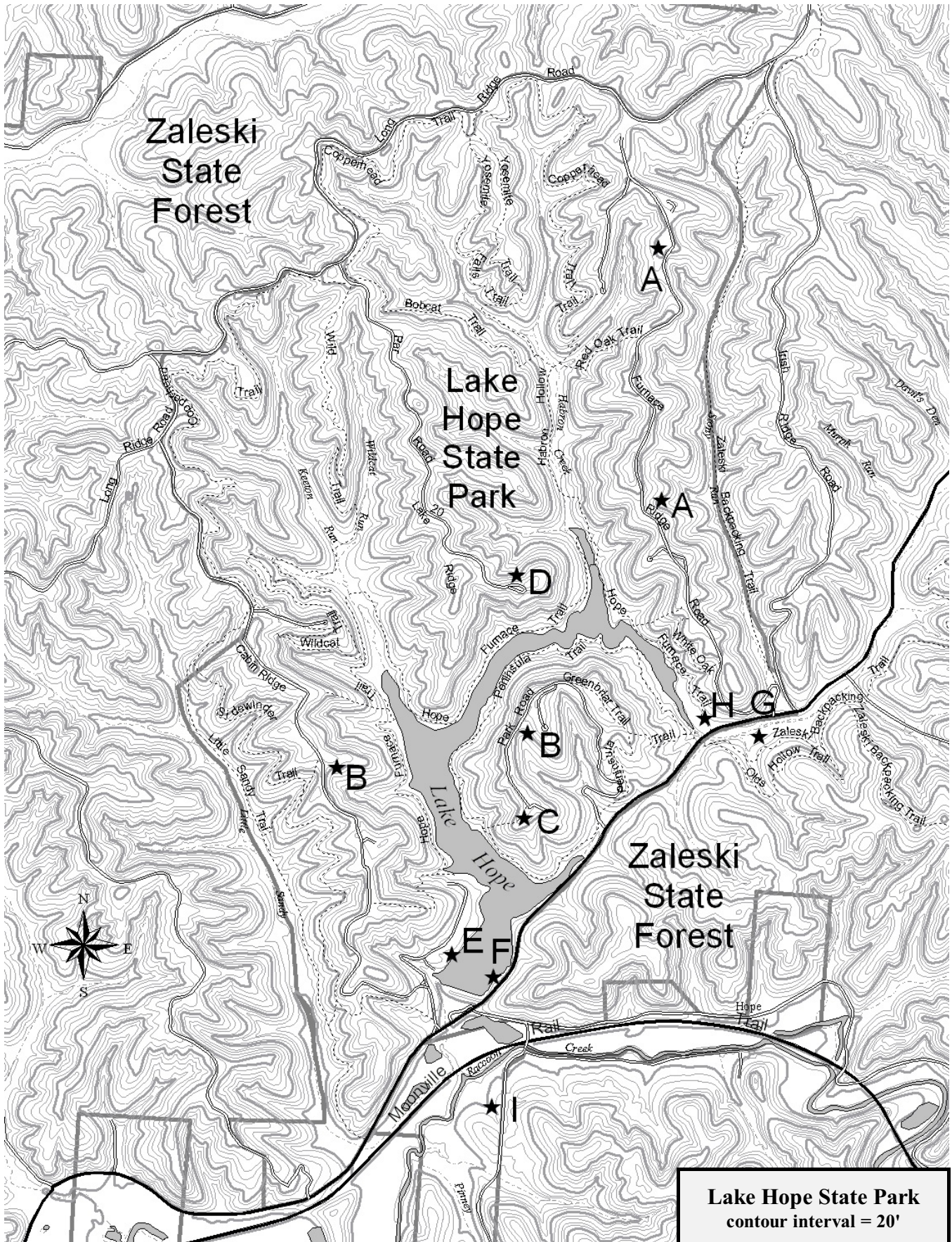
A black-and-white map of this park is on page 30.

Local park website: <http://www.lakehopestatepark.com>



Hope Furnace at Lake Hope State Park

Forked Run State Park: 967 acres in Olive Township, Meigs County. Forked Run is the only state park in Meigs County. It was split from Shade River State Forest. Forked Run Lake is 120 acres in size. The park has a well-developed, nice hilltop campground that serves as a great resource for people going on a boating vacation on the nearby Ohio River, using the Division of Wildlife Ohio River access boat ramp that's almost in front of the park (to reach the Ohio River boat ramp from the park entrance, leaving the park, turn left on the state highway and it's the second left). Forked Run Lake has a small swimming beach with an adjacent picnic area. There's also a nature center and a boat ramp in the lake. There's also a popular disk golf course. Hiking trails are not extensive, but can occupy an afternoon.



Trails at Forked Run State Park

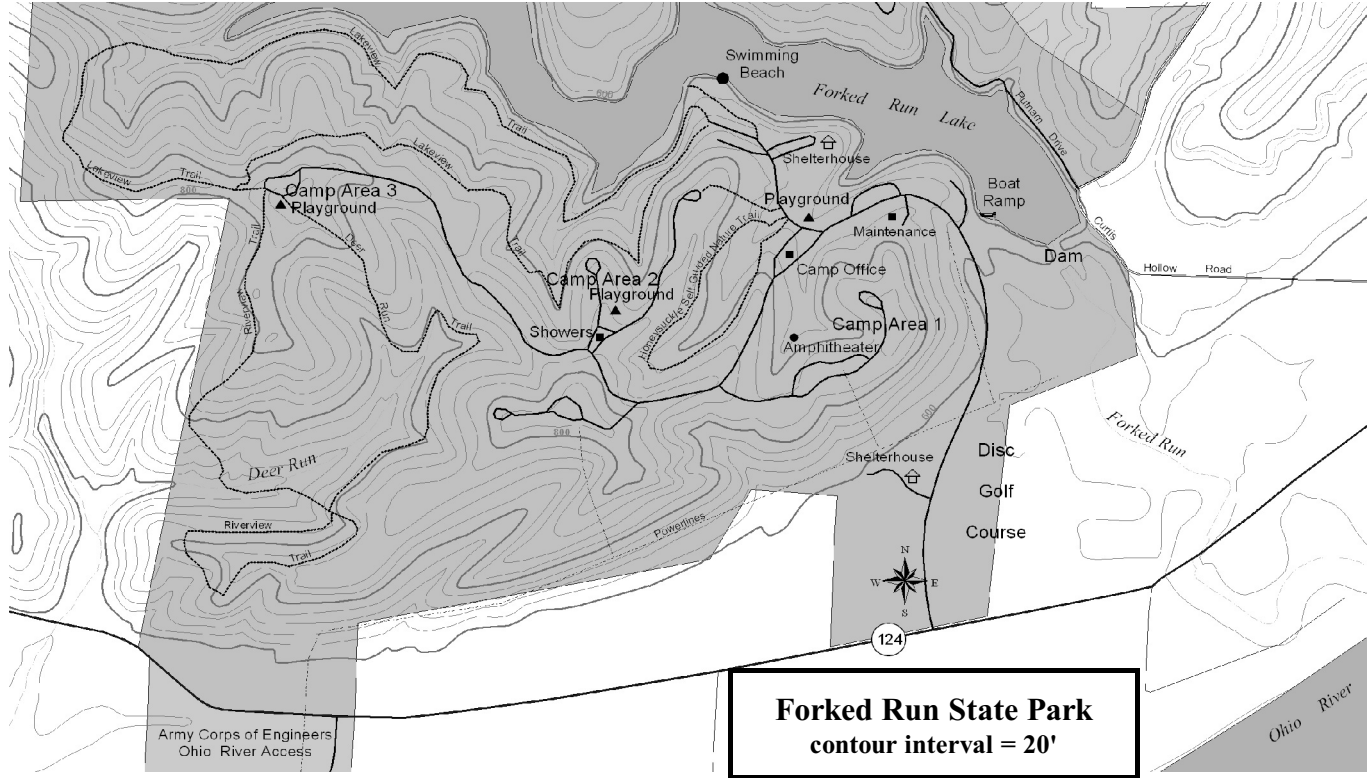
Honeysuckle Self-Guided Nature Trail: 0.5; access just west of beginning of campground road

Riverview (with no view of the river): 1.0 mile; access from end of campground road; connects with Deer Run

Deer Run Trail: 0.7 mile; access from end of campground road (through playground); connects with Riverview

Lakeview Trail: 2.2 miles; access from swimming beach parking lot and from end of campground road

To reach Forked Run SP, take US-50 east 20.8 miles from US-33 to OH-144, just past Coolville. Turn right on OH-144, and go south 4.7 miles to Hockingport and OH-124. Turn right on OH-124 and go 8.2 miles to the park entrance. Total distance from downtown Athens: 35.1 mile



Hocking Hills State Park: 2,356 acres in Benton and Laurel Townships, Hocking County. Hocking Hills is probably Ohio's most spectacular state park. It features towering cliffs, canyons, rockhouses, and waterfalls. Unlike most state parks, it is in four disconnected sections across a fairly large area of Hocking County.

This park owes its exceptionally scenic features to the blackhand sandstone, a very thick, erosion-resistant sandstone rock. This rock is named after petroglyphs found on the formation near Newark, Ohio, where it is also well-developed. The most popular area of the park is Old Man's Cave. The other sections are Ash Cave, Cedar Falls, Cantwell Cliffs and Rockhouse.

Old Man's Cave features a gorge with sheer walls and many undercuts. Ash Cave is a huge rockhouse (shallow cave) with a large overhang. Cedar Falls is a waterfall on Queer Creek into a gorge. Cantwell Cliffs is a cliff system with an intricate trail system along the cliffs. Rockhouse is the head of a gorge with a large cave with windows out onto the valley.

Although Old Man's Cave, Cedar Falls and Ash Cave are contiguous, the other sections are not. It's easiest to drive between them. Other attractions in the Hocking Hills also include Conkles Hollow State Nature Preserve (page 35), Rock Bridge State Nature Preserve (page 35), Lake Logan State Park (page 34), and Clear Creek Metro Park (page 41). Ohio State Route 374 connects all the major features. Cantwell Cliffs is the farthest to the northwest, while Ash Cave is the farthest to the southeast. Taking it from US-33, it passes by: 1. Cantwell Cliffs, 2. Rockhouse, 3. Horse area, 4. Big Pine Road (Conkles Hollow and rock-climbing area), 5. Old Man's Cave, 6. Cedar Falls, 7. Ash Cave.

Old Man's Cave can be traversed via a well-developed trail that starts at the top and descends through the gorge. You'll see several waterfalls and huge rockhouses (which give this place its "cave" name). At one point below the lower falls, you can exit the gorge via a long set of steps that ascend through a tunnel in the rock. You can also continue on the Grandma Gatewood Trail, which is also the BENCAD Trail here, down to Ash Cave, a distance of 2.5 miles. The section of this trail between Old Man's Cave and Cedar Falls (roughly half way to Ash Cave) features many scenic rock formations.

Rose Lake comprises 17 acres and is a short walk from the campground. A parking area on OH-374 on top of the hill is specifically for Rose Lake fishing, with a half-mile trail leading to the lake.

Trails in the Hocking Hills Region:

Accessible Trails: There are several fully-accessible trails (accessible to people in wheelchairs and with other disabilities):

- *Hockhocking Expedition Trail
- *Grandma Gatewood Trail, Lower Ash Cave Section
- *Conkles Hollow Gorge Trail.

Visitors' Center

Hockhocking Expedition Trail: short accessible trail with interpretive facilities

Bluebird Trail: short trail, connecting with above trail and BENCAD Horse Bypass Trail; bluebird houses

BENCAD Trail

Kreashbaum Road Section: 3.5 miles - from Starr Route Road to Kreashbaum Road parking area

Big Pine Road Section: 1.9 miles - on Big Pine Road, from rock-climbing area and up Kreashbaum Road

Rock Climbing Area Section: 2.0 miles: from Big Pine Road to Unger Road

Rock Climbing Area Trails

Rock Climbing Area Horse Bypass: 0.6 mile: from Edison Hollow to Big Spring Hollow

Culp Road Section: 1.5 miles: from Unger Road to visitor center; includes 1/3 mile on Culp Road

Grandma Gatewood Trail: 4.7 miles: from visitor center to Cedar Falls

Grandma Gatewood Trail, Old Man's Cave to Cedar Falls: 2.8 miles

Grandma Gatewood Trail, Old Man's Cave Section: 0.5 mile

Grandma Gatewood Trail, Queer Creek Section: 2.3 miles

Grandma Gatewood Trail, Cedar Falls to Ash Cave: 1.9 miles

Grandma Gatewood Trail, Cedar Falls Section: 0.7 mile

Grandma Gatewood Trail, Upper Ash Cave Section: 0.9 mile

Grandma Gatewood Trail, Lower Ash Cave Section: 0.3 mile

Hocking Hills Bypass Trail, Gorge Bypass: 2.5 miles - from archery range to parking on OH-374 at Cedar Falls

Hocking Hills Bypass Trail, Ash Cave Bypass: 2.6 miles: from OH-374 Cedar Falls parking to Ash Cave parking

Gorge Rim

Gorge Rim Trail: 3.1 miles - visitor center to Steps of Democracy at Cedar Falls

Gorge Overview Trail: 0.2 mile: section of original Gorge Rim Trail (most of it is now closed), from Grandma Gatewood Trail at the head of Old Man's Cave Gorge to the gorge bridge

Rose Lake Trails

Rose Lake Trail: 0.5 mile - from Rose Lake fishing parking on OH-374 (top of hill) to Rose Lake

Campground Connector Trail: 0.4 mile - from head of Rose Lake to campground

Rose Lake Loop Trail: 1.0 mile - from Gorge Rim Trail to Campground Connector Trail and back, around lake

Conkles Hollow Trails

Conkles Hollow Gorge Trail: 0.6 mile - accessible, up gorge from parking area

Conkles Hollow Rim Trail: 2.0 miles - from gorge trail around rim back to gorge trail

Horse Trails: 47 miles

Red Horse Trail: 5.1 miles - from horse camp, SW then S to small valley overlooking Big Pine Road

Purple Horse Trail: 4.6 miles - from Red Horse Trail W of horse camp, SE to Orange Horse Trail W of OH-374

Orange Horse Trail: 4.5 miles - from horse camp, SE to Airplane Rock, skirting NE side of Conkles Hollow

White Horse Trails: 19 miles - various trails connecting with the above; see map

BENCAD Trail for Horses: 13.8 miles - from Starr Route Road to Ash Cave - horses MUST take white-blazed bypasses around rock-climbing area and around Grandma Gatewood Trail

Mountain-Biking Trails: 3.3 miles combined 0-loop; 3.8 miles combined 8-loop

Orange Bike Trail: 1.9 miles - from group camp parking area, on north side of old township road. NOTE: This trail is significantly easier to ride clockwise than counter-clockwise.

Purple Bike Trail: 1.9 miles - from group camp parking area, on south side of old township road, to end of group camping area road, then back road to parking area. May be slightly easier to ride counter-clockwise.

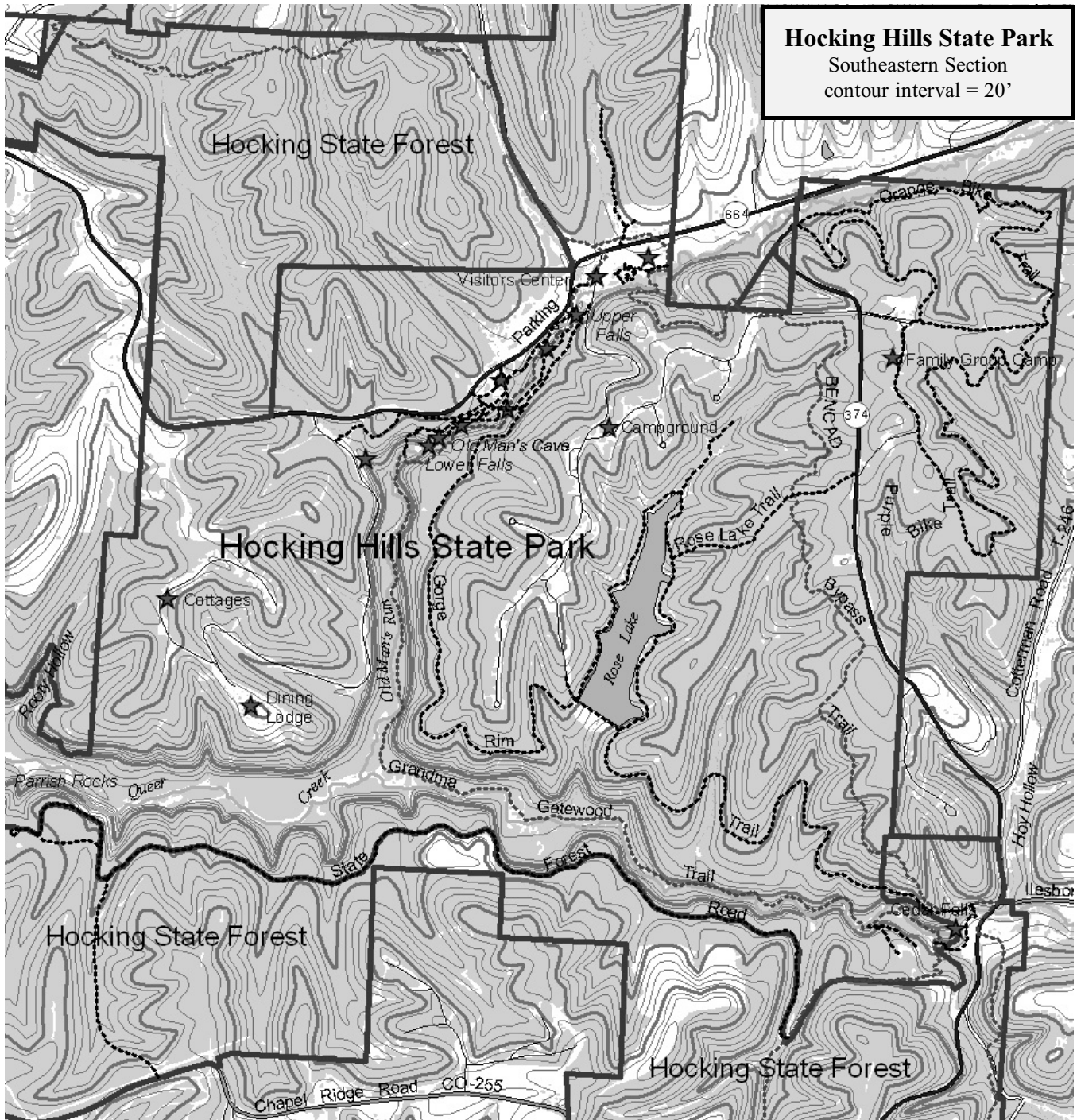
Archery Trail: 0.25 mile

To reach Old Man's Cave from Athens, take US-33 west 24.5 miles from OH-550 to OH-644 at Logan. Then take OH-644 south 10 miles to Old Man's Cave. Warning: 644 is very winding! See page 33 for a map of the southeastern area of Hocking Hills State Park. Total distance from downtown Athens: 36.9 miles.

Friends website: http://www.friendsofhockinghills.org/aws/FHHSP/pt/sp/home_page



Broken Rock Falls



Hocking Hills State Park
 Southeastern Section
 contour interval = 20'

Tar Hollow State Park: 602 acres in Salt Creek Township, Hocking County, and Colerain and Harrison Townships, Ross County. Tar Hollow State Park is embedded within Tar Hollow State Forest. Tar Hollow began as a depression-era land reclamation and employment project. The name derives from the former industry of pine tar extraction. There are three campgrounds in the main area, one of which specializes in RVs. There are another four campgrounds to the west, embedded within the state forest on top of the ridge, plus a backpacking campground for the Buckeye Trail. There is a 15-acre lake, Pine Lake, with a swimming beach at the top end. There is a boat ramp on the lake, but only electric motors are allowed. Other park amenities include group camping cabins, two amphitheatres, a miniature golf course, a game room in the park center (at the miniature golf course), volleyball courts, a pavilion (Big Shelterhouse) and picnic areas.

Trails at Tar Hollow State Park

BENCAD Trail: Traverses the Forest and the Park; miles within these lands. Foot only. Blazed in light blue.

Logan Boy Scout Trail: "Figure-8" loop; center at the fire tower. The full loop is 21 miles. Foot only. Blazed in red.

Ross Hollow Trail: 4.5-mile semi-loop trail between campgrounds, mostly in the park. Foot only. Blazed in yellow.
Bridle Trails: A network in the southern area of the state forest. 25 miles total. Horse and foot. Blazed in white.
Homestead Trail: A short loop trail, southeast of the lake, mostly within the park. Bicycle and foot.
Pine Run Bike Trail: A 2.5-mile mountain bike trail, beginning at the camp store.

To reach Tar Hollow SP, take US-50 west 37.3 miles from US-33 to OH- 671. Turn right on OH-671 and take it 4.7 miles to OH-327. Turn right on OH-327 and take it 6.8 miles to the park entrance. Total distance from downtown Athens: 60 miles.

Lake Alma State Park: 292 acres in Clinton Township, Vinton County and Milton Township, Jackson County. The park is situated around the 60-acre lake, and exists primarily to provide recreational access to a waterfront, as well as picnicking options. It's in southernmost Vinton County, on the border of Jackson County near Wellston.

Trails at Lake Alma State Park

Old Pine Trail: 0.4 mile (north side of park); Sassafras Trail (east side of park): 0.6 mile; Acorn Trail: 1.0 mile

To reach Lake Alma SP, from Athens, take OH-32 west 19.8 miles from US-33 to OH-160. Turn right on OH-160 and go 9.4 miles, then turn left on OH-349 at Hamden. You will enter Lake Alma on OH-349 after less than a mile. Total driving distance from downtown Athens: 32 miles.

Local park website: <http://www.zoomnet.net/~alma>

Lake Logan State Park: 741 acres in Falls Township, Hocking County. Like Lake Alma, this park exists because of the human-made 311-acre lake after which the park is named. There are a few outlying wild areas, but the park mostly consists of the lake and waterfront. This lake is readily accessible from Athens. Bald Eagles are sometimes seen at Lake Logan.

Trails at Lake Logan State Park

Pine Vista Trail: 1 mile, loop, close to park office on north side of lake

South Hiking Trail: 0.5 mile, loop, from end of Blosser Road (County Road 53) on the south side of lake

To reach Lake Logan SP, take US-33 west 24.5 miles from OH-550 to OH-644 at Logan. Turn left from the exit and go about a half-mile to the park entrance. Total distance from downtown Athens: 27.1 miles.

Jackson Lake State Park: 378 acres in Jefferson Township, Jackson County. Jackson Lake State Park is a very small park, with two well-separated state-owned areas fronting on Jackson Lake. The main attraction at the park is certainly the lake, which is wholly owned by the Division of Parks, although only small portions of the shoreline are. The main activities at the park are boating, fishing, swimming, picnicking, and camping. The campground, with 34 spaces, is RV-friendly. No trails.

To reach Jackson Lake SP, take OH-32 west from OH-682 37.7 miles to OH-93. Turn left off the end of the ramp, and go 11.5 miles to OH-279 West in the village of Oak Hill. Turn right to the park; you will enter the park at 1.1 miles. The boat ramp is on the left. Go another quarter mile and turn right on Tommy Bean Road (County Road 8) to reach the swimming beach, picnic areas, and campground. Total driving distance from downtown Athens to the campground: 52 miles.

State Nature Preserves

Nature preserves in Ohio have strict rules. Visitors MUST stay on trails. No dogs are allowed, even on leash. No collecting of any kind is permitted, not even of nuts, berries, or mushrooms. Please observe the rules if you visit these special places!

Athens County

Marie J. Desonier State Nature Preserve: 502 acres in Carthage Township. The preserve is in Deep Hollow, drained by Jordan Run. It was donated to the state by Ms. Desonier's family after her death. Locally, it's pronounced "des-a-NEER". The preserve features a loop trail.

To get there, go east on US-50 16.3 miles from US-33 to Brimstone Road, County Road 56, and turn left (a state sign is posted on the highway). Loop around on Brimstone Road 0.5 mile and take your second left, which is unmarked, on Deep Hollow Road, County Road 65, which is a gravel road. The parking area will be at about 0.7 mile on your left. Total distance from downtown Athens: 19 miles.

Dale and Jackie Riddle State Nature Preserve: 106 acres (owned by City of Athens, Ohio) in Athens Township. This preserve includes most of an 85-acre old-growth forest remnant known as Hawk Woods, a forest area which has not been materially disturbed for some century and a half. There are no trails within the old-growth forest, although there are trails traversing the southern part of the preserve. This preserve borders Sells Park and the Strouds Ridge Preserve, both owned by Athens, and the Strouds Ridge Preserve in turn connects with Strouds Run State Park (see page 27, map page 1). The Athens Trail traverses this preserve on the ridgetop and the Rockhouse Trail traverses it farther down, with the Sourwood Trail connecting the two within the preserve.

To get there from Athens, take East State Street east from US-33, to Avon Place, and turn left. Avon Place is after the Maplewood Inn, between two sections of Larry Schey dealerships, and directly across from the exercise room at the Community Center. Go to the end of Avon Place to Sells Park, and from there, you can hike into the preserve. Total distance from downtown Athens: 2.0 miles.

Washington County

Boord State Nature Preserve: 127 acres in Fairfield Township. This nature preserve has a small parking area and a short loop trail. It features a small hemlock-sandstone gorge with a waterfall. It borders a girl scout camp on the west side, but is otherwise surrounded by farmland.

To reach Boord, take OH-550 east from US-33 24.7 miles to Burnett Road, Washington Co-6 (turn right at 14.4 miles to stay on 550; turnoff is past Bartlett and before Barlow). Turn right on Burnett and go 0.6 mile to Falls Run Road, Twp-69. Turn right and go 0.2 mile to the parking area. Total distance from downtown Athens: 28 miles

Hocking County

Conkle's Hollow State Nature Preserve: 87 acres in Benton and Laurel Townships. Conkle's Hollow is part and parcel of the Hocking Hills complex, with spectacular cliffs formed of the Blackhand sandstone. These are some of the highest cliffs in the state. Conkle's shelters many more northern-type plant species. This preserve features a paved handicapped-accessible trail that extends most of the way up this deep canyon from the parking area. There is also a rim trail. Very close by are two other publicly-owned preserves, Sheikh Hollow State Nature Preserve and Little Rocky Fork Hollow State Nature Preserve, both of which are closed to the public. All three of these preserves are embedded within the Hocking State Forest (and were carved out of the Forest).

Conkles Hollow Trails: Conkles Hollow Gorge Trail: 0.6 mile; Conkles Hollow Rim Trail: 2.0 miles

To reach Conkles Hollow, take US-33 27.5 miles west from OH-550 to the OH-180 exit. Turn left onto OH-180 and take it 3.8 miles to OH-678. Turn left on 678 and take it 4.0 miles to OH-374. Turn left on OH-374 and take it 3.4 miles to Big Pine Road, Co-11. Turn left to the entrance to the preserve, 0.2 mile. Total distance from downtown Athens: 41 miles.

Rock Bridge State Nature Preserve: 202 acres in Good Hope and Marion Townships. 2.75 miles of trails. This preserve features the largest natural bridge (a sandstone arch) in the state of Ohio. The preserve fronts on the Hocking River, with the natural bridge on a side stream close to the river. Rockbridge Preserve is close to and generally considered part of the Hocking Hills complex.

To reach Rock Bridge, take US-33 28.5 miles west from OH-550 to Dalton Road, Twp-503. Turn right and go a little less than a mile to the parking area. Total distance from downtown Athens: 32 miles.

Kessler Swamp State Nature Preserve: 20 acres, Marion Township. This is one of the smallest preserves, saving a natural swamp area. There is a small parking pulloff and observation platform there. An interesting variety of wildlife may be seen at this preserve, including beaver.

To reach Kessler, take US-33 24.5 miles west from OH-550 to OH-664. Turn right off the ramp and take 664 8.3 miles to Hide-a-Way Hills Road, Co-82. Turn left and go 2.7 miles to the preserve. Total distance from downtown Athens: 38 miles.

Jackson County

Lake Katharine State Nature Preserve: 2,019 acres in Liberty Township. Six miles of trails. This preserve is in a sandstone gorge system similar to the Hocking Hills area but smaller. The gorge system harbors several species of plants that are rare in southeastern Ohio. Unusual plants include the bigleaf magnolia (*Magnolia macrophylla*), umbrella magnolia (*Magnolia tripetala*), and wolf's-foot clubmoss (*Lycopodium clavatum*). The preserve borders the northwest border of the city of Jackson, Ohio. It includes a human-made lake that may be used by special permit, but only muscle-powered boating is allowed (and boats must be carried to the water).

From the state's official website: "Reservations for permits may be obtained by telephoning the preserve office (740-286-2487) on the LAST Friday of each month between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m. Each caller may make only one permit reservation per call and not more than one reservation in their name per month. Dates for the following month will be filled on a first call basis, until all available times have been reserved."

Trails at Lake Katharine

Calico Bush Trail - 1 mile, along the south rim of the main gorge

Pine Ridge Trail - 2 ½ miles, across the gorge, and on the south rim

Salt Creek Trail - 2 mile, along Salt Creek, on the east side of the preserve - CURRENTLY CLOSED

To reach Lake Katharine, take OH-32 west from OH-682 37.7 miles to OH-93. Turn right off the ramp and go 1.3 miles through Jackson to Bridge Street, where 93 takes a right turn. Turn left (Bridge Street becomes State Street) and go 1.9 miles to Lake Katharine Road, immediately after a railroad crossing. Turn right and go 1.5 miles to the parking area. Total distance from downtown Athens: 45 miles.

Lawrence County

Compass Plant Prairie State Nature Preserve (Ora E. Anderson Prairie): 16 acres in Mason Township. This is the only place in Ohio where the usually-western compass-plant (*Silphium laciniatum*) may be found. The preserve is undeveloped. Visitors may park along the roadside of Ohio State Route 141.

To reach this preserve, take US-33 18.2 miles east (south) from US-50 to OH-7. Turn right (west) on OH-7 and go 18

miles to US-35. Turn right on the ramp for 35 west (north) and go 13.2 miles to OH-325. Turn left (south) and go 7.1 miles to OH-141. Turn right and go 19.0 miles to the preserve (turn right at 17.7 miles to stay on 141). This is a very curvy road. Total distance from downtown Athens: 77 miles

State Wildlife Areas

Unlike state parks, state forests and state nature preserves, state wildlife areas make contributions to local property tax systems through contributions made possible by hunting and fishing licenses. State wildlife areas are considerably more in number than state forests, state parks or state nature preserves. However, camping is not allowed in state wildlife areas, and few of them have usable trails or will allow new trails to be established.

This is a list of all the wildlife areas in the state over five thousand acres (those in **bold** are described in this guide):

Salt Fork Wildlife Area: 20,542 acres, Guernsey County
Woodbury Wildlife Area: 19,050 acres, Coshocton County
Egypt Valley Wildlife Area: 18,011 acres, Belmont and Guernsey Counties
Tri-Valley Wildlife Area: 16,200 acres, Muskingum County
Crown City Wildlife Area: 11,171 acres, Gallia and Lawrence Counties
Paint Creek Wildlife Area: 11,024 acres, Highland and Ross Counties
Killdeer Plains Wildlife Area: 9,230 acres, Wyandot and Marion Counties
Deer Creek Wildlife Area: 8,662 acres, Fayette, Madison and Pickaway Counties
Berlin Lake Wildlife Area: 8,518 acres, Stark, Mahoning and Portage Counties
West Branch Wildlife Area: 8,002 acres, Portage County
Grand River Wildlife Area: 7,453 acres, Trumbull County
Delaware Wildlife Area: 6,875 acres, Delaware, Marion and Morrow Counties
Wallace H. O'Dowd Wildlife Area: 6,696 acres: Athens and Hocking Counties
Big Island Wildlife Area: 5,722 acres, Marion County
Killbuck Marsh Wildlife Area: 5,671 acres, Wayne and Holmes Counties
Cooper Hollow Wildlife Area: 5,421 acres, Jackson County

State wildlife areas allow users to gather mushrooms, berries and nuts. **Removal of any roots is prohibited. Ginseng harvesting is legally theft.**

Athens County

Waterloo Wildlife Research Station: 2,667 acres in Waterloo Township. This wildlife area is part of the Zaleski complex, and occupies most of the area bounded by the Athens-Vinton County line on the west, Ohio State Route 56 on the north and the east, and King Hollow Road on the south. It extensively borders the Zaleski State Forest, and with the forest shares a wild turkey management area. This wildlife area was increased in size by about fifty percent within the past decade, buying old coal company lands. This property has a few gravel access roads as well as 35 trails -- but those trails are no longer maintained. Many of these trails were former fire access lanes. Penrod Lake is a small fishing lake (or large pond) on the property, just west of Buckeye Rocks, which is one of the larger cliff faces in the county. Buckeye Rocks features some spectacular poison ivy vines! Waterloo Wildlife was originally known as the Waterloo Wildlife Experiment Station, then became Research Station, and once featured wildlife offices and a laboratory. These facilities are no longer housed there, but the building now houses the Raccoon Creek

To reach Waterloo Wildlife Research Station, take OH-56 8.2 miles west from OH-682 at Athens, to OH-356. Turn left. This is on a sharp and blind curve on OH-56, so proceed with caution. After turning left on OH-356, turn right almost immediately into the entrance. At the building complex, going straight leads to Buckeye Rocks and the ponds. Going right goes up on the ridge to the trails area. Total distance from downtown Athens: 9.9 miles

Wallace H. O'Dowd Wildlife Area: 6,696 acres in Trimble Township, and Ward Township, Hocking County. This area includes areas formerly known as the Sunday Creek Wildlife Area, when it was owned by Sunday Creek Coal Company and made available through a cooperative agreement with the state Division of Wildlife, and the Trimble Wildlife Area. It is completely undeveloped but has a few through roads and a few ponds. The BENCAD Trail (page 8) passes through the northern part of this area, partly on a gravel through-road, partly on an old closed roadway.

To reach this area from Athens, go out Columbus Road to Ohio State Route 13. Turn left on Ohio State Route 13, then turn right in Chauncey to stay on 13.

Then, for the northern part of the area (the former Trimble Wildlife Area), go 8.8 miles to Glouster from the turn in Chauncey. At the stoplight in Glouster, turn left on Ohio State Route 78. Go 2.35 miles to Hunterdon Road and turn right. Go 1.3 miles on Hunterdon Road to a fork, where the right-hand fork goes steeply uphill. Take that right-hand fork (the left-hand fork quickly dead-ends).

For the southern part of the area, go 3.7 miles on OH-13 from the turn in Chauncey to Truetown Road to the left (to the right the same road, the old route 13, is Main Street for Millfield). Turn left on Truetown Road and go 1.6 miles to Ohio State

Route 685. Turn left on 685 and go 0.7 mile to Greens Run Road. Turn right on Greens Run (County Road 96), which will eventually become Goose Run Road (County Road 67), and you will enter the wildlife area at 2.1 miles and exit it at 4.1 miles. If you continue on this road, it will tee into OH-78 at 4.5 miles. To get to the Hocking County portion of the area, turn right on OH-78 and go 0.6 mile to your first left, which is Jobs-New Pittsburgh Road (Hocking County Road 22). Turn left, and you'll enter the wildlife area at 0.4 mile and exit it at 2.7 miles. Total distance from downtown Athens (southern area): 11 miles; (northern area): 17 miles.

Fox Lake Wildlife Area: 421 acres in Waterloo Twp. Fox Lake is nestled in its own valley, ringed by sandstone bluffs. The area is centered around a 48-acre lake. The upper end of the lake, off Fox Lake Road, has a paved parking area, boat ramp and accessible fishing dock. The dam end of the lake, off Brown Road, features a gravel parking area only. This wildlife area had its origins in 1966 and the dam, built as one of six flood-control dams on Margaret Creek, was built in 1967-1968. There is a trail on the south side of the lake. It is most easily reached from the upper parking area. The trail continuously overlooks the lake, under low sandstone bluffs. There are some higher bluffs on the north side of the lake near the dam.

To reach Fox Lake from Athens, take Union Street west to Ohio State Route 56 (this is a continuous roadway). From the stoplight with Whites Mill Road (Ohio State Route 682), go 1.7 miles to Radford Road. Turn left on Radford and take it 1.25 miles to Baker Road. Turn right on Baker Road. Brown Road, for access to the dam, is a right turn at 1.25 miles, with the dam parking area at 1.1 miles on Brown Road, while the upper end of the lake is reached at 2.0 miles on Baker Road. At this point, turn right onto Fox Lake Road and go 0.7 mile to the parking area. Total distance from downtown Athens: 7.3 miles (to upper end); 6.9 (to dam end).

Washington County

Acadia Cliffs Wildlife Area: 112 acres in Decatur Township, with a very small area in Rome Township, Athens County. This is an area of beautiful cliffs and rock formations. The area includes an aborted millstone quarry, and visitors can still see piles of round sandstone millstones in various stages of finishing. This area was originally acquired as a nature preserve was established to protect populations of the state-listed Bradley's spleenwort (*Asplenium bradleyi*), an uncommon, small rock fern that grows only on acid bluffs. This is the only nature preserve in southeast Ohio that is open to hunting. Acadia Cliffs is completely undeveloped.

To reach Acadia Cliffs, take US-50 east 9.8 miles from OH-33 to OH-329. Turn left on 329 (there is a Marathon station on the corner) and take it 2.4 miles to OH-144. Turn right on 144 and take it 2.6 miles to Jewell Hollow Road, Twp-189 (also known here as Beebe Road). Turn left on Jewell Hollow and go 0.1 mile to the next intersection, and turn right on Beebe Road, Co-109. Turn left at 0.5 mile to stay on Beebe Road. Go a total of 0.8 mile to the Washington County line (where Beebe Road becomes Two Mile Run Road), and the area starts on the left side of the road, then begins on the right side at 1.0 mile. The area ends at about 1.4 miles. Total distance from downtown Athens: 17.1 miles.

Veto Lake: 462 acres in Dunham and Barlow Townships (official acreage is 433 acres). This area is not featured on the Division of Wildlife's website, but is, nonetheless, one of their properties. The property is mainly the 160-acre lake, with minimal lakeside land area – but enough to provide a boat ramp and some picnic facilities. This lake is popular for fishing.

To reach Veto Lake, take US-50/OH-32 east about 30 miles from US-33 to OH-339 (when US-50 splits from OH-32, stay on OH-32). Turn left (north) on OH-339 and go 4.2 miles to Veto Road (Co-3). Turn right and go 1.0 mile to Lake Road (Twp-268). Turn left on Lake Road to the boat ramp, about a mile. Total distance from downtown Athens: about 38 miles.

Meigs County

Wilson Wetlands Wildlife Area (ODNR): 12.5 acres, Salisbury Twp, on OH State Rte 7, near Ohio River. No development.

Vinton County

Turkey Ridge Wildlife Area: 376 acres in Brown Township. One of the most recent acquisitions by the state Division of Wildlife. It's not listed on any websites, but is located on the western edge of the Zaleski State Forest, and generally functions as part of the state forest. There are no trails nor any other development on this property.

To reach Turkey Ridge, take OH-56 west 19.6 miles from OH-682 to OH-328. Turn left. The wildlife area is on the left from about 4.2 to 5.1 miles from OH-56. Total distance from downtown Athens: 26 miles.

Superior Wildlife Area: 2,442 acres in Richland Township. Adjacent to the Richland Furnace State Forest (page 27). This property is a cooperative project between the Division of Wildlife and the Superior Land Group, and is managed for timber production. Current harvest areas are marked as off-limits. Like many of Ohio's wildlife areas, Superior Wildlife Area consists of former coal-mining lands.

To reach Superior Wildlife Area, take US-50 31 miles west from US-33 at Athens to OH-683 west of McArthur in Vinton County. Turn left on OH-683 and go 3.5 miles to Murphy Remy Road. Turn right on Murphy Remy Road and go 1.6 miles to Township Road 13, Wilbur Road, which becomes Township Road 8. This road passes through the wildlife area from mile 0.0 to 0.5 and from mile 1.3 to Richland Furnace Road. Total distance from downtown Athens: 38 miles.

Vinton Furnace Wildlife Area: 3,405 acres. Formerly part of REMA, the Raccoon (Creek) Ecological Management Area, before that Mead-WestVaCo timber land. This area was purchased a few years ago by Ohio, when it was one of the largest remaining consolidated tract of private forest land left in the state. The rest of the REMA area became the Vinton Furnace Experimental Forest. This total area occupies much of the space between Ohio State Route 32 and US Route 50 in eastern Vinton County, and is directly south of the Zaleski State Forest, which is very close to it at the closest point.

To reach Vinton Furnace, take OH-32 west from US-33 19.8 miles to OH-160. The wildlife area will be on the left from about 0.6 to 5.2 miles from OH-32. Total distance from downtown Athens: 23 miles.

Morgan County

Wolf Creek Wildlife Area: 3,911 acres mostly in Union Township, small areas in Penn Township. Much of the land of Wolf Creek Wildlife Area was originally purchased to create a flood-control dam, which was built around six decades ago. The year after it was built, it was destroyed by a flash flood. The area has an archery range.

To reach Wolf Creek Wildlife Area, take OH-13 12.9 miles north from US-33 at Athens to OH-78 East, which is just after Glouster. Turn right, or east, on OH-78 and go 12.2 miles to the main entrance, where the maintenance complex and archery range are located. Total distance from downtown Athens: 27.5 miles.

Gallia County

Crown City Wildlife Area: 11,171 acres in Guyan and Harrison Townships, and also in Mason and Windsor Townships, Lawrence County. This is the state's fifth-largest wildlife area, and is close to the Wayne National Forest, Ironton District. This area was extensively stripmined in the past, and is today still only about two-thirds forest. Not developed.

To reach this area, take US-33 18.2 miles south from US-50 on the south side of Athens to OH-7. Take the exit ramp to go west/south on OH-7. Take OH-7 25.3 miles south through Cheshire and Gallipolis to OH-218. Turn right on OH-218 and go 8.6 miles to OH-790. Turn right on OH-790. You will pass into and out of the wildlife area several times from 1.6 to 5.3 miles. You can reach the interior via a network of county roads, including Sandersville Road, County Road 178, and Scottown-Lecta Road, County Road 37 (turn left on either). Total distance from Athens: 56 + miles.

Samuels Wildlife Area: 83 acres in Morgan Township. One of the newest wildlife areas, split by OH-160. If you approach the area from the west (by the directions), there is a stream valley paralleling the highway to your right.

To reach Samuels Wildlife Area, take OH-32 19 3/4 miles west from US-33 at Athens to OH-160 in Vinton County. Turn left on OH-160 and go 15.3 miles, through the villages of Wilkesville (where the highway takes a right turn) and Vinton. The wildlife area will be on both sides of the road for the next quarter-mile. Will Grey Road, Township Road 719, to the right, goes through the area. Total distance from Athens: 38 miles.

Tycoon Lake Wildlife Area: 684 acres, 183-acre lake, in Raccoon Township. Tycoon Lake is a small wildlife area centered around a lake. The land area is 684 acres, while the lake comprises 183 surface acres. As at Lake Alma, the lake was built on an old meander of Raccoon Creek, and so required two dams. The lake is both relatively wide and relatively shallow.

To reach Tycoon Lake Wildlife Area, take OH-32 19 3/4 miles west from US-33 at Athens to OH-160 in Vinton County. Turn left on OH-160 and go 13.2 miles, through the village of Wilkesville (where the highway takes a right turn) and into the village of Vinton. In Vinton, turn right on OH-325 and go 2.4 miles to Woods Mill Road. Take a left on Woods Mill Road and take it 0.6 mile to Deckard Road. Turn right on Deckard Road and go 0.9 mile to Eagle Road. Turn left on Eagle Road, and you will enter the wildlife area after 1/3 mile. To reach the boat ramp, go on Eagle Road a total of 2/3 mile and turn right on Tycoon Road. The road to the boat ramp will be on the right in one mile. Total distance from downtown Athens: 38 miles.

Jackson County

Cooper Hollow Wildlife Area: 5,421 acres in Madison and Bloomfield Townships. Features almost twenty miles of trails. Symmes Creek and its tributary, Sugar Run, both pass through this wildlife area. Much of the area is savannah-like, with many old fields. Regional wildlife offices are in this wildlife area, on County Road 2. The ruins of the Madison Iron Furnace are near the offices.

To reach this area from Athens, take OH-32 west about 30.6 miles from US-33 to OH-327. Turn left on 327 and take it 7.1 miles south to US-35. Turn left on 35 and take it 6.5 miles east (south) to Moriah Road, Co-5. Turn right on Moriah, which passes through the area. Once you have passed through the area, you can then turn right on Cooper Hollow Road, Twp-119 at about 1.2 miles to re-enter the area. CH&D Road, Co-2, also passes through the area. Total distance from downtown Athens: about 50 miles

Wellston Wildlife Area: 1,298 acres in Clinton and Richland Townships. This area is centered around 325-acre Lake Rupert, which features a boat ramp. Around half the land area is forested, and most of it is quite hilly. This area is close to Lake Alma State Park, Vinton Furnace Wildlife Area, Vinton Furnace Experimental Forest, Superior Wildlife Area, and Richland Furnace State Forest.

To reach the Wellston Wildlife Area, take OH-32 west 20 miles from US-33 to OH-160. Turn right on OH-160 and go 10.0 miles, then turn right on OH-93 at the end of OH-160 in Hamden. Go 1/2 mile north to OH-683 and turn left. The area

will be on the right from 0.4 - 3.0 miles, and on the left from 0.9 - 2.3 miles. Lake access areas can be accessed at 1.2 and 1.6 miles, and the boat ramp at 1.5 miles, all on the right. Another lake access can be reached by going 2.2 miles on OH-93 north from OH-160, then turning left on T-25C, dead-ending in a parking area at 0.6 mile. Total distance from downtown Athens to boat ramp: 34 miles.

Liberty Wildlife Area: 145 acres in Liberty Township. This area is completely undeveloped except for one roadside pull-off. It is located at the southernmost end of the Blackhand sandstone, which forms the spectacular features of the Hocking Hills. Dry Run passes through the area.

To reach this area, take OH-32 west 35.8 miles from US-33 to Jackson, to US-35. Take 35 north 9.5 miles to Savageville Road, Co-26. Go west on Savageville 2.2 miles to Limerick Road, Co-25. Turn right on Limerick and go a very short distance to Poplar Road, Twp-219. Turn left on Poplar Road 1.0 mile to Big Run Road, Twp-226, which borders the wildlife area at about 1.2 to 1.5 miles from Poplar Road. Total distance from downtown Athens: About 52 miles.

Broken Aro and Flint Run Wildlife Area: 3,480 acres in Bloomfield and Milton Townships; adjacent to Buckeye Furnace Mining Lands Public Hunting Area (1,034 acres; see p. 14). South of Ohio State Route 124 and east of State Route 327. This area is undeveloped except for former logging roads. Tick Ridge, J C. Cobb and Tar Camp Roads all dead-end into this area.

To reach these, take OH-32 west 29 miles from US-33 to Hiram West Road, Co-38. Turn left, go 1.0 mile to OH-124. Turn left on 124 and go just over 0.5 mile to the parking area on the right, across from Frank Smith Road, T-749. Total distance from downtown Athens: About 32 miles.

Coalton Wildlife Area: 1,729 acres, Coal & Liberty Townships. Undeveloped except for public roads and old logging roads. To reach this area, take OH-32 west 35.8 miles from US-33 to Jackson, to US-35. Take 35 north (to the right) 4.0 miles to Chillicothe Pike, Co-84. Go south (to the left) 0.7 mile on the pike to Sunnysdale Road, and turn left. Take Sunnysdale Road 0.2 mile to Jackson Hill Road and turn left. Take Jackson Hill Road 0.9 mile to Raysville Road and turn left. Raysville Road passes through the area. Total distance from downtown Athens: About 47 miles.

Ohio River Wildlife Access Areas

There are several small riverside areas that provide fishing access, all on the Ohio River. They are under the state Division of Wildlife. These are listed north to south. Mileages are from the US-50/OH-7 junction at Coolville.

Ohio River Lock & Dam 18 Wildlife Access Area: 10.8 acres in Dunham and Warren Townships, Washington County, on Ohio State Route 7. Shoreline access only, no on-site parking. 18.5 miles north.

Ohio River Forked Run River Access: 49.6 acres in Olive Township, Meigs County, on Ohio State Route 124. Boat ramp, parking, shoreline access. 14.9 miles south. Across the highway from Forked Run State Park.

Ohio River Shade River Access: 28.9 acres in Olive Township, Meigs County, on Ohio State Route 124. Limited parking (may be closed in the near future), shoreline access. 17.4 miles south.

Portland Wildlife Access Area (Ohio River Lock & Dam 21): 11.5 acres in Lebanon Township, Meigs County, on Township Road 69 (off Ohio State Route 124). Shoreline access only, limited parking. 21.7 miles south.

Apple Grove Wildlife Access Area (Ohio River Lock & Dam 23): 9.6 acres in Letart Township, Meigs County, on OH-124. Small boat ramp, limited shoreline access, limited parking.

Ohio River Old Town Creek Wildlife Access Area: 35.2 acres in Lebanon Township, Meigs County, on Ohio State Route 124. Shoreline access, canoe/kayak launch. 28.8 miles south (best to take US-33 east to OH-124, turn right).

Ohio River Racine Wildlife Access Area: 18.4 acres in Sutton Township, Meigs County on Ohio State Route 7. Boat ramp, parking, shoreline access. 43.1 miles south (best to take US-33 to OH-7 at Pomeroy and take OH-7 east to site).

K. H. Butler Wildlife Area: 10.2 acres in Ohio Township, Gallia County on Ohio State Route 7. Boat ramp, parking, shoreline access. 86 miles south (best to take US-33 to OH-7 at Pomeroy and take OH-7 west to site).

State Memorials

Big Bottom State Memorial

This small area is on the banks of the Muskingum River in Morgan County, just southeast of the village of Stockport. It commemorates a battle between settlers and Native Americans that took place at this site.

Buckeye Furnace State Memorial

Buckeye Furnace is a restored iron furnace. The site, in Milton Township in Jackson County, is developed as a museum and inn. Take OH-32 19.8 miles west to OH-160, turn left and go 5.3 miles. Turn left on OH-124 in the village of Wilkesville and go 8.2 miles. Turn left on Buckeye Furnace Road, Co-58, then go 2.3 miles and turn right on Buckeye Park Road, T-167.

Buffington Island State Memorial

Buffington Island is an island in the Ohio River, but this memorial is on the Ohio bank, at the community of Portland. It commemorates a Civil War battle that took place on the island.

Leo Petroglyph State Memorial

This state memorial is centered around a small gorge in the blackhand sandstone in which are located 37 petroglyphs, or rock art from ancient native Americans. The site is located in Jackson County, northwest of Lake Katharine State Nature Preserve.

Other Open-Space Areas

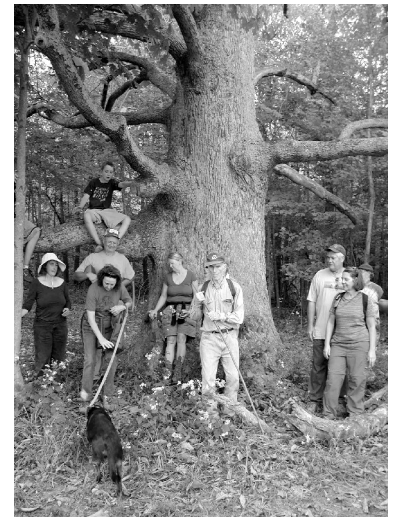
Lake Snowden: 684 acres in Lee Township, Athens County, with a small area in Alexander Township. This is a public-access lake and recreation area owned by Hocking Technical College, with a 136-acre lake. It is named after Margaret Snowden, the first woman settler in the Ohio Territory.

Lake Snowden was one of several lakes originally created by the Margaret Creek Conservancy District for flood control in the Margaret Creek watershed. It became a source reservoir for Le-Ax Water Company. Later, it was given to Hocking College to manage. In the later years of President John Light's tenure, an attempt was made to create a private residential enclave on the property, but that was legally prohibited.

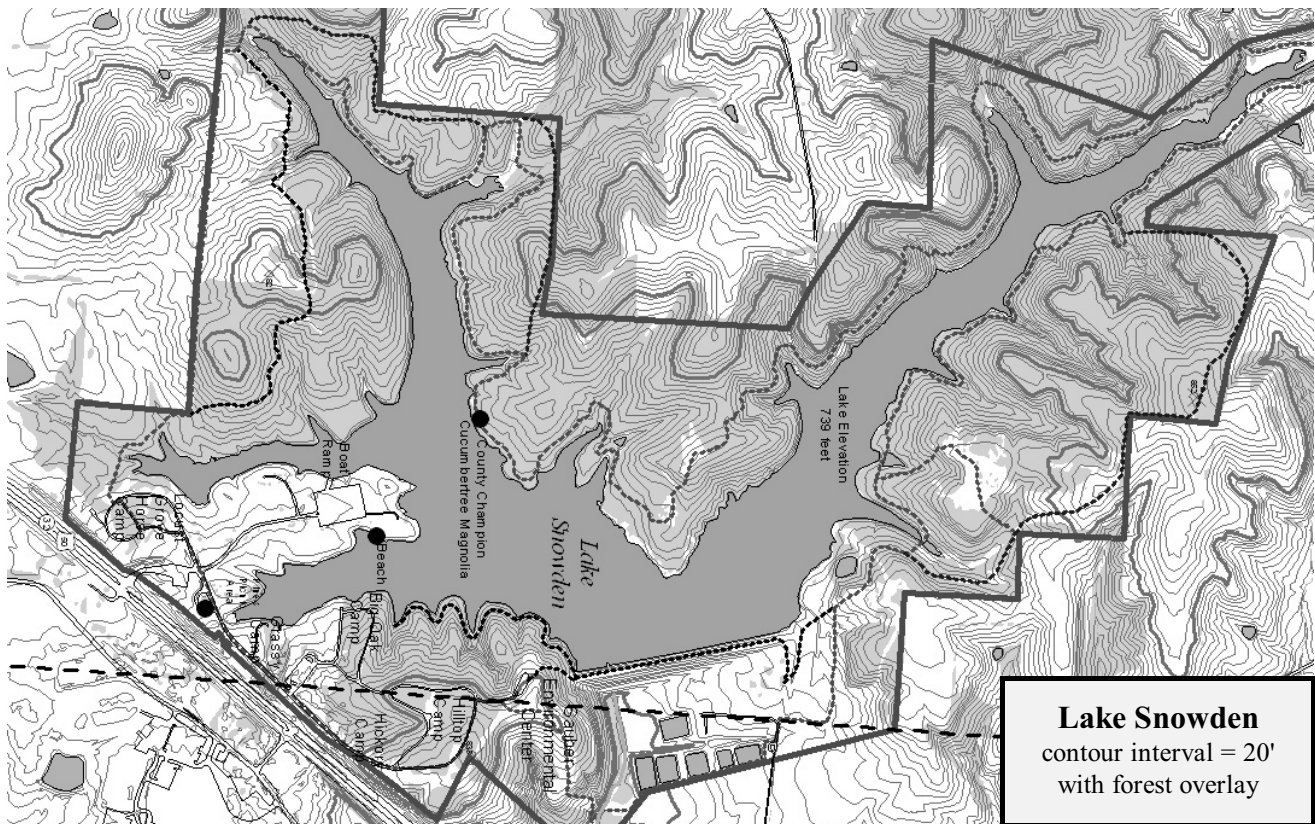
Today, the lake features a small swimming beach, a boat ramp, five campground areas with 125 sites, including a horse camp, horse/hiking trails, picnic grounds, an environmental center, and a small camp store. The campgrounds are RV-friendly. The county's champion cucumbertree magnolia (*Magnolia acuminata*) is located on the north shore of the west branch of the lake, along the orange trail. The Ohio Pawpaw Festival is held at Lake Snowden the second full weekend in September each year.

The main trail circles the lake, with some side trails, for a total of 9.5 miles. Most trails are open to horses. The main trail is the orange trail, aka Lakeside Horse Trail, marked by orange paint blazes and orange plastic diamonds. A full circuit of the lake on this trail is 7.1 miles, but requires use of park roads for three-quarters of a mile. Outlooks from this trail are blazed in blue. These are known as the Boundary Trail, because it follows the park boundary. There is another short connector trail, the 0.3-mile "Green Trail." There are also two short foot-only trails; the dam is also foot-only. The Lakeside Family Trail is 0.4 mile, and extends to the southwest from the dam's south end. The Red Family Trail is another loop-out from the orange trail just west of the horse camp, with another 0.7 mile. The champion cucumbertree may be reached by hiking the orange trail clockwise from the horse camp for 1.9 miles.

To get to Lake Snowden, take US-50 west 6.5 miles from US-33 in Athens, and turn right into the park entrance. It is just 0.6 mile after the rest stop and 0.4 mile before the stoplight at Albany. Total distance from downtown Athens: 7 miles.



Cucumbertree at Lake Snowden



The Ridges: About 420 acres in Athens Township, Athens County (open-space area), 490 acres total. The Ridges comprises the grounds of the former Athens State Mental Hospital. The area includes a massive building complex on the east side, but it is otherwise mostly undeveloped. It is a popular spot for walkers, with a network of trails. Trails include the River Valley Nature Trail, with a small parking area along Whites Mill Road (OH-682), and The Ridges Cemetery Nature Walk.

To reach the nature trail, take OH-682 west from Richland Ave 3/4 mile to parking pulloff on the left. To reach parking area for other trails, take Richland Ave out to Dairy Lane (1st street past OH-682) and turn right. Parking area is 0.9 mile on the right.

City of Athens Parks: West State Street Park is also known as “Jaycee Fields.”

East State Street Park: Community center, skate park, tennis courts, soccer fields, ball field, playground, access to Hockhocking Adena Bikeway, swimming pool

West State Street Park: Ballfields, canoe/kayak ramp, dog park, playground, shelters, access to Hockhocking Adena Bikeway

Highland Park: picnic shelter, playground

Southside Park: picnic shelters, miniature golf course, ball field, playground, access to trails at The Ridges

Sells Park: picnic facilities, trail head for Athens Trails - Strouds Run trail system; part of the Strouds Ridge Preserve system

Ferndale Park: This is a 62-acre park in Troy Township, Athens County. Facilities include ball fields, picnic shelter, playground, restrooms, and a walking path. To reach Ferndale Park, take US-50 east 23 miles from US-33 on the east side of Athens, to Torch Road, County Road 63. Turn left on Torch Road and go 0.6 mile to North Torch Road, County Road 62. Turn left on North Torch Road and go a quarter-mile to the park entrance, on your left.

Total distance from downtown Athens: 25 miles

Trimble Township Community Forest: 1200 acres, Trimble Township, Athens County. This is a nature preserve property, owned by the Appalachia Ohio Alliance, featuring trails and a land lab for Trimble local schools.

To reach the Trimble Township Community Forest, take OH-13 miles north from US-33 to OH-78 west in Glouster. Turn left on OH-78 at the stoplight, and go 1.2 miles to Derthick Road, County Road 95. Turn left on Derthick Road and you will enter the forest at about 0.1 mile (after the right turn). If you go straight on Derthick and over the hill, where it becomes Taylor Ridge Road, the forest extends all the way to the end of Taylor Ridge Road at Goose Run Road.

Total distance from downtown Athens: 16 miles.

Clear Creek Metro Park: 5,080 acres in Good Hope Township, Hocking County and Madison Township, Fairfield County. This is a park area owned by Columbus-Franklin County Metro Park District, on the northwest fringe of the Hocking Hills, north of Cantwell Cliffs. The bluffs are lower than in the core of the area, but the park is nonetheless quite beautiful and worthy of a day’s outing in its own right. A Campfire Girls camp borders the park. The park has a hiking trail system. Off-trail use of the park is prohibited except within 50 feet of Clear Creek itself.

Trails at Clear Creek Metro Park, central area
(Fern and Creekside Meadows Picnic Areas):

Cemetery Ridge Trail: 2.5 miles

Creekside Meadows Trail: 2 miles

Fern Trail: 2.1 miles

Hemlock Trail: 1.5 miles

Trails at Clear Creek Metro Park, western area
(Ironwood and Valley View Picnic Areas):

Lake Trail: 1 mile

Prairie Warbler Trail: 0.6 mile

Tuliptree Trail: 0.75 mile

Other Trails:

Chestnut Trail: 3 miles - connects the two above areas

Pet Trail: 1 mile; on a portion of the Chestnut Trail

To reach Clear Creek Metro Park, take US-33 west 32 miles from OH-550 at Athens to Clear Creek Road, County Road 116 (there is an abandoned Sunoco station on the corner on the left). Turn left, and go a short distance to enter the park. Go about 2 miles for the Creekside Meadows Picnic Area, about 3 miles for the Fern Picnic Area, and about 5 miles to the turnoff on the right for the Ironwood and Valley View Picnic Areas.

Total distance from downtown Athens: 35 miles.

The Wilds: Actually in Muskingum County, just outside this guide’s scope, but included because it is an exceptional feature. It is a former strip-mine coal land that has been reclaimed and is being used as a vast outdoor zoo, with extensive free-range habitat. Opened in 1994, it occupies about 9,140 acres, and extensively borders the AEP ReCreation Lands on the west and south. The Wilds also offers a mountain-bike trail network. Yurts, cabins, and lodge rooms are available for rental.

740-638-5030; information@thewilds.org; www.thewilds.org; 14000 International Road, Cumberland, OH 43732.

To reach The Wilds, follow the directions under AEP ReCreation Lands for the bicycle trails, but continue going north on OH-284 into Muskingum County.

AEP ReCreation Lands: AEP ReCreation Lands comprise 60,000 acres in northeast Morgan, Muskingum and Noble Counties. This is former coal-mining land, reclaimed from strip-mining. They offer hunting, fishing, hiking trails, mountain bike trails, horse trails, a dog-training area, and campgrounds. According to the AEP, around 300 campsites are available. A free permit is required. The permit may be obtained via the website: <http://www.aep.com/environmental/recreation/recland>

Permits are also available at state or regional AEP offices, from Division of Wildlife offices, or from sporting goods and bait stores in the vicinity of the ReCreation Lands. Some areas may be posted as being off-limits. Please respect these postings. Maps are available at the website.

These lands also host an off-road stretch of the BENCAD Trail almost 20 miles long. Miner’s Memorial Park is off OH-

78 just before OH-83 and Windy Hill is off OH-83; these are both day-use areas only. Campgrounds are Sand Hollow and Maple Grove, reached via OH-284; Hook Lake and Sawmill Road, both off OH-83; and Wood Grove and Bicentennial, both on the BENCAD Trail. According to AEP, there are some 350 ponds and lakes, totaling about 1,500 acres of surface water. There is also a horse camp in the horse area.

From the AEP website:

Hunters need only an Ohio Hunting License and their ReCreation Land Visitor's Permit.

Hunting is not permitted within 300 feet from the boundaries of the campground areas.

Hunting is not permitted in the active mining areas, on property which has been leased to others by AEP, or on other AEP property outside the boundaries of ReCreation Land.

Groundhog hunting is prohibited.

Target shooting or practice is prohibited within all AEP ReCreation Areas.

Beaver trapping on AEP lands is controlled and requires a special Beaver Trapping Permit. For additional information concerning beaver trapping, please send your name, address and telephone number to American Electric Power, ReCreation Department, 59 West Main Street, McConnellsville, OH 43756

Horse trails include the Main Trail, Beaver Trail, Hornet Hill Trail, Licking Loop Trail, Tree Top Trail, Gas Line Trail, and T & A Trail. All these trails connect to the main trailhead except for the Gas Line, Beaver and Licking Loop Trails.

To reach the ReCreation Lands, take OH-13 12.9 miles north from US-33 at Athens to OH-78 East, just after Glouster. Turn right, (east) on OH-78 and go 19.8 miles where the highway crosses the Muskingum River, then turns right to combine with OH-60 at McConnellsville. Go 0.6 mile on the combined road, then turn left in McConnellsville to continue on OH-78.

For the horse area, go 7.3 miles to Weaver's Haul Road. Turn left on Weaver's Haul, and go 1.9 miles to the horse area.

For the dog-training area, go 4.4 miles on OH-78 from the turn in McConnellsville to Carmel Ridge Road, Township Road 952. Turn left and take T-952 about 2 miles to the dog-training area. There are two other dog-training areas, one each in Muskingum and Noble Counties.

For the mountain bike trail, go 9.0 miles on OH-78 from the turn in McConnellsville to OH-83. Turn left on OH-83, go 0.2 mile, and turn left on OH-284. Go 2.2 miles on OH-284 to Bristol Church Road, Township Road 944, and turn left. Go 0.9 mile on T-944 to Cloud Hollow Road, County Road 11. Turn right and go 1/4 mile to the trail.

For the Wood Grove Campground on the BENCAD Trail, go 15.5 miles on OH-78 from the turn in McConnellsville to Wood Grove Road, County Road 27. Turn left on Wood Grove Road and go 0.6 mile to the camping area.

Total distance from downtown Athens to the horse trail area: 45 miles. To the dog-training area: 43 miles. To the bicycle trail: 48.5 miles. To the Wood Grove Campground and Buckeye Trail: 52 miles.

AEP Gavin Power Plant Lands: 6,885 acres in Meigs and Gallia Counties. These lands are open for hunting by free permit (see hunting section, page 13), and also feature a new horse camp and trail system, developed on an 850-acre tract in Meigs County, about five miles east of Wilkesville. This trail system is still under construction, and is being developed by the Ohio Horseman's Council. See the previous entry, AEP ReCreation Lands, for other information about rules.

To reach the horse trails, take OH-32 19 ¾ miles west from US-33 at Athens to OH-160 in Vinton County. Turn left on OH-160 and go 13.2 miles to OH-124 in the village of Wilkesville, then continue 6.2 miles on OH-124 to the trailhead, which will be 0.1 mile on the right after a small bridge and curve just after the entrance to S. OH Coal Co. Meigs Mine 31.

Avondale Wildlife Area: 4,919 acres in Perry and Muskingum Counties, owned by AEP. This area is under lease to the Ohio Division of Wildlife, and features 122 small lakes. Fishing, hunting and day hiking is permitted here. No camping; walk-in only. A free recreational user's permit is required, from the Division of Wildlife, 360 East State Street, Athens. Reached from OH-345 or OH-669 in Perry County.

Hammertown Lake (Jackson City Reservoir): About 1,600 acres, with a 190-acre lake, just west of Jackson, in Liberty Township, Jackson County. It has three boat ramps; electric motors only. A 15-mile horse trail is blazed in red.

To reach Hammertown Lake, take OH-32 west from OH-682 37.7 miles to OH-93, and turn right off the ramp. For the main usage area south of the lake, go 0.7 mile to South Street, and turn left. This street becomes OH-139, OH-776, then West Road, Co-10. Turn left after the railroad tracks and follow another 1.9 miles to Hammertown Reservoir Road, on the right, which will take you into the usage area. For the east-side area, after crossing the railroad tracks, go straight instead of left. For the north side of the lake, go 1.3 miles through Jackson to Bridge Street, County Road 76, where OH-93 takes a right turn. Turn left (Bridge Street becomes State Street) and go 3.4 miles on Co-76 to Hammertown Road, T-349, and turn left.

Athens Conservancy Preserves: The Athens Conservancy has 5 preserves in Athens County: The Plains Preserve, 13.5 acres on Johnson Road in The Plains; the Bluebell Preserve, 64.5 acres along the Hockhocking Adena Bikeway west of The Plains; the Baker Preserve, 264 acres accessible from OH-690 ½ mile north of US-50; the Blair Preserve, 66 acres adjoining Strouds Run State Park and accessible from the Trace Trail, and the Tucker Run Preserve, 50 acres also adjoining Strouds Run.

Business Guide

Businesses that have supported this guide with their advertising have boxed listings. Please support them!

Private Campgrounds - Athens County

Carthage Gap Campground

740.667.3072; email@carthagegaprvpark.com
22575 Brimstone Road (Co. Rd 56), Coolville, OH 45723
135 electric RV sites

Indian Mound Campground

740.664.3525 New Marshfield 55 sites, RV friendly

Ketchum's Marina

740.667.3630; Fax: 740.667.6636; ketch@frognet.net
479 State Route 124, P.O. Box 55, Hockingport, OH 45739
100 non-electric RV sites

Gallia County

Shawnee Village RV Park & Campground

Phone: 740.858.2409; Fax: 740.858.1930;
shawneevillage@sciotowireless.net
13610 U.S. Highway 52, West Portsmouth, OH 45663
100 sites (49 electric)

Hocking County

At Boulders Edge Tipi Retreat

740.385.0707; www.atbouldersedge.com

Campbell Cove Camping

740.385.2994
30775 Lake Logan Road. Logan, OH 43138
10 electric site, on Lake Logan

Happy Hills Campground

740.385.2994; www.happyhillsfunpark.com
22245 State Route 278 South, Nelsonville, OH 45764

Hocking Hills Campground

800.686.0386

Hocking Hills Canoe Livery Camping

740.385.0523; 800.634.6820
at Rempel's Grove, 12789 State Rte 664 S, Logan, OH 43138

Hocking Hills KOA

740.385.4295, 800.562.0251; www.hockinghillskoa.com
29150 Pattor Road, Logan, OH 43138

Hocking River RV Park

740.331.4840, 866.966.1367

Resort at Blackjack Crossing

740.352.0312; blackjackcrossing.com

Scenic View Family Campground

740.385.4295; 866.592.6149; Fax: 740.385.8304;
camp@scenicviewfamilycampground.com
29150 Pattor Road, Logan, OH 43138

92 sites, 24 electric

Top O' The Caves

Reservations: 800.967.2434; reservations@topothecaves.com
26780 Chapel Ridge Rd, South Bloomingville, OH 43152
16 full hookup sites,, 9 electric-only Rv sites,, 100+ tent sites.

Jackson County

Lazy Dog Camp- Resort

740.384.3060; 800.282.2167; Fax: 740.384.4269;
noah@zoomnet.net; 80 sites electric
1527 McGiffins Road, P.O. Box 703, Jackson, OH 45640

Meigs County

Wisteria, Inc.

740.742.4302; info@wisteria.org
39617 State Route 684, Pomeroy, OH 45769
by reservation for groups only; 165 sites non-electric

Vinton County

Hawks Landing Retreat Center (formerly Niches)

740.596.4288; www.hawkslanding.biz
29361 Locust Grove Road, McArthur, OH 45651

Horse Camps and Riding Stables

Equestrian Ridge

740-603-2523
26711 Pumpkin Ridge Road, New Plymouth, OH 45654

Happy Trails Horseback Rides

740.380.6372; markh@hthorsebackrides.com;
www.hthorsebackrides.com
25851 Big Pine Rd, Rockbridge, OH 43149

Hocking Valley Ranch

740.385.8361

Horse Lover Lodge

419.544.2146

Palmerosa Horseman's Campground

740.385.3799

Smoke Rise Ranch

800.292.1732; smokeriseranch.com; smokerise@eurekanet.com
6571 Hunterdon Road, Glouster, OH 45732

Spotted Horse Ranch

740.332.7433
17325 Deffenbaugh Road, Laurelville, OH 43135

Three Reasons Farms Horse Camp

740.380.2729; www.hockinghills.com/threereasons
17599 Cream Ridge Road, Rockbridge, OH 43149

Uncle Buck's Riding Stable and Dance Barn

740.664.2428, 800.221.1122 (OH/bordering states)
www.unclebuckstable.com, info@unclebuckstable.com
73930 Buck Lane • New Marshfield, Oh 45766

Cabins, Cottages, and Lodges - Athens County

Lake Hills Cabins - 2 structures (7)

740.594.7296, 888.542.2246; www.lakehillcabins.com
Lake Hill Road, Athens, OH 45701

Spirit of the West Cabins - 1 structure (7)

740.385.6591

Stafford Hill Cabins - 1 structure (2)

740.438.0590

Wood Spirit Getaway - 1 structure (4)

740.593.5628, 877.593.5628

Hocking County

Acorn Acres Lodging - 2 structures (7)

740.385.7472; 888.995.8099

Agape Ridge - 2 structures (4)
740.969.9816; 877.297.4037

American Heartland Cabins - 7 structures (8)
740.380.2418; 800.833.0262

Antlers Grove - 1 structure (8)
740.270.9621

Ash Ridge Cabins - 4 structures (6)
740.332.1015; 866.834.3447; www.ashridgecabins.com
Laurelville

Ashby Cabins - 2 structures (5)
740.927.4651; 888.486.9296; www.ashbycabins.com

At Boulders Edge - 3 structures (4)
740.385.0707

At Trails End - Cabins in Hocking Hills - 4 structures (14)
614.361.1981

Autumn Ridge Cabins - 4 structures (8)
also **Barton Meadows** - 1 structure (12)
740.385.6077; 888.340.3444

Barringer Ridge Cabins - 4 structures (12)
740.385.9770; 866.385.9770

Bear Run Inn Cabins & Cottages - 8 structures (12)
740.385.8007; 800.369.2937

Bear's Den Cottage & lodge - 2 structures (2/10)
614.505.6437

Bella Luna Log Cabin - 1 structure (6)
614.571.8861

Bellevue Retreat & Cabins - 3 structures (9)
740.380.3400; 888.380.3401

A Bend in the Road Cabins - 2 structures (6)
740.385.6081; 866.658.2363; www.abendintheroadcabins.com

Bent Creek Cabins - 2 structures (2)
740.380.2994; 888.222.4674

Bentree Lodge - 1 structure (16)
740.385.9365; 866.857.6952

Best Nest Cabins - 3 structures (12)
740.385.4073; 800.213.8780

Beverly Hills Cabin - 2 structures (6)
740.596.3900; 877.282.2246

Big Maple Log Cabin - 1 structure (6)
740.887.3183

Big Pine Cabins - 1 structure (4)
740.385.5419

Big Pine Lodge - 1 structure (17)
740.549.2614

Big Pine Retreat - 3 structures (14)
740.380.6810; 866.474.5660

Bit of Country Cabins & B&B - 2 structures (8)
740.385.4910; 888.881.2572

Black Bear Getaway - 1 structure (4)
740.603.6881

Black Ridge Cabins - 3 structures (20)
614.327.1946

Blackberry Hill Cabin - 1 structure (7)
740.332.6322

Blue Rose Cabins - 9 structures (10)
800.426.6149

Bluebird Ridge Cottages - 2 structures (2)
740.385.0958; 877.754.2467

Brimstone Ridge - 1 structure (6)
740.412.3391

Buckeye Cabins - 4 structures (12)
614.638.6795; 800.344.3456

Buffalo Lodging Company - 3 structures (32)
740.808.3714

The Cabins at Clear Creek - 2 structures (8)
614.873.4424, 866.433.8818

Cabins at Hickory Ridge - 3 structures (12)
740.385.0615; 877.584.6637

Cabins by the Caves - 6 structures (10)
614.322.2283; 877.322.2283

Cabins in Hocking - 22 structures (27)
740.331.4840; 866.966.1367

Cabins in the Pines - 6 structures (10)
740.380.6670/ 800.551.6670

Cabins with a View - 1 structure (4)
419.351.3916

Campbell's Hollow Cottages - 5 structures (6)
740.385.0662; 877.465.5697

Canterbury Cabins - 1 structure (5)
614.322.9192; 877.322.9192

Castaway Cabin - 1 structure (4)
740.385.5800; 866.389.2830

Cherry Ridge Retreat - 7 structures (4)
740.380.7777; 877.380.7771

Chestnut Grove Cabins - 3 structures (6)
740.332.7122; 866.332.7122

Clay-Bryn Castle - 1 structure (12)
740.385.1952; 800.763.1474

Clear Creek Ridge Cabins - 3 structures (14)
740.386.9365; 866.857.6952

Clover Retreats - 4 structures (6)
740.972.9054

A Cola View Cabin - 2 structures (6)
740.332.6982

Comfort in the Woods - 3 structures (5)
740.654.3853

Conner Homestead Lodge - 1 structure (14)
740.385.5872

Cool Bush Lodge - 1 structure (16)
740.385.9360

Corban Cabin Getaways - 1 structure (12)
614.863.3648

Cottage at Scenic Way - 1 structure (4)
740.596.1913; 888.892.8640

Cottages on the Ridge - 4 structures (6)
740.385.9795

Country Cottage - 1 structure (4)
740.332.8305, 800.213.8117

Creek's Crossing Cabins - 2 structures (16)
740.739.7878

Crockett's Run - 5 structures (20)
740.385.4740, 800.472.8115

Crooked Mile Cabin - 1 structure (4)
740.385.8485

Cut Above Cabins - 1 structure (8)
877.839.9983

Deer Ridge Cabin and Lake - 1 structure (2)
740.385.0472

Deer Run Manors - 3 structures (6)
740.380.2369, 877.296.1022

Deer Watch Cabins - 3 structures (2)
740.385.7132

Dewberry Cottages - 3 structures (4)
740.385.5713; www.dewberriecottages.com

Discover Hocking Hills - 4 structures (8)
740.385.5949

Dixie's Getaway Cabin - 1 structure (2)
740.380.9758, 866.230.7278

Eagle Wings Lodge - 1 structure (20)
614.354.4313, 866.398.9206

Eagle's Nest Cabins - 1 structure (6)
740.420.8920, 866.858.6096

Evergreen Place - 2 structures (5)
740.385.5892, 866.342.7771

EZ Living Cabins - 1 structure (8)
740.380.6541, 800.654.4307

Fawn Creek Retreat - 1 structure (6)
614.833.1776, 888.973.8732

Fernwood Log Cabin - 1 structure (4)
740.385.4630

Four Seasons Cabin Rental - 2 structures (6)
740.385.1687, 800.242.8453

4 Seasons Hideaways - 4 structures (14)
740.583.9771

Foxglove Lodge, Retreat & Cabin - 3 structures (20)
740.380.1245, 866.369.4568

Frontier Log Cabins - 4 structures (2)
740.332.6747, 866.369.4568

Getaway Cabins - 13 structures (8)
740.385.3734, 888.587.0659

Glenlaurel Scottish Inn - 19 structures (3)
740.385.4070, 800.809.7378

Good Earth Cabins - 18 structures (8)
740.385.3795

Grahams' Walnut Valley Cabin - 1 structure (6)
740.746.8233

Grand Bentley Lodge - 1 structure (22)
614.873.4424, 866.433.8818

Grand Tara Lodge - 1 structure (24)
740.385.5657

Great Escape Cabins - 4 structures (6)
740.380.2606

Happy Hills Cabins - 4 structures (12)
740.385.6720

Harvest Moon Cottages - 5 structures (10)
740.380.1566, 866.212.8411

Haven Inn the Hills - 1 structure (14)
614.648.3000

Heart of the Country - 1 structure (4)
740.385.3382

Hem Loch Ridge Cabin - 1 structure (11)
614.206.1175

Hemlock Log Cabins - 2 structures (8)
740.974.4685

Heritage Cabin - 4 structures (15)
740.681.5689, 888.484.8104

Hickory Grove Cabins - 2 structures (6)
740.385.0700, 877.745.0040

Hidden Falls Retreat - 1 structure (6)
740.454.3237

Hidden Hills Log Cabins - 1 structure (6)
740.380.2804

Hidden Valley Cabin - 1 structure (4)
740.380.2606

Hiding Place Cabins - 2 structures (6)
614.322.9192, 877.322.9192

High Rock Hideaways - 7 structures (4)
740.385.9851, 888.385.9851

Hocking Hills Backwoods Retreat - 3 structures (4)
740.385.4171

Hocking Hills Cabins - 7 structures (6)
740.380.3322, 800.385.4161

Hocking Hills Country Vista Cabins - 3 structures (6)
740.385.3511, 877.972.2246

Hocking Hills Cozy Cabins - 3 structures (4)
740.332.1564, 800.249.1892

Hocking Hills Dreamscape Hideaway - 1 structure (6)
740.215.9875

Hocking Hills Homestead Lodging - 2 structures (8)
740.385.3795

Hocking Hills KOA - 3 structures (6)
740.385.4295, 800.562.0251

Hocking Hills Resort - 9 structures (10)
740.332.1902, 800.222.4655

Hocking Hills Serenity Cabins - 1 structure (6)
740.380.9998

Hocking Hills State Park - 40 structures (6)
740.385.6841, 866.644.6727

Honey Fork Run Cabins - 7 structures (8)
740.385.1952

Honey Ridge - 1 structure (4)
740.332.1364

Honeybee Cabins - 1 structure (6)
740.216.6393

Humm Inn Haven - 1 structure (16)
740.596.5599

Hummingbird Hill - 6 structures (12)
740.380.3242

Inn & Spa at Cedar Falls - 17 structures (6)
740.385.7489, 800.653.2557

Inn a Cabin - 2 structures (4)
740.596.5856

Innisfree Cabin - 1 structure (4)
740.216.0222

The Iris Villa - 1 structure (4)
740.380.6449

JD's Cabins - 2 structures (9)
740.753.3249

Koinonia Cabin - 1 structure (2)
740.332.9541

Lake Logan Country Cottages - 6 structures (6)
740.503.1879

Lazy Lane Cabins - 31 structures (10)
740.385.3475, 877.225.6572

Liquid Light Center - 2 structures (6)
740.385.1384

Little Cola Cabins - 2 structures (4)
740.216.6173

Love Shack Cabins - 2 structures (2)
740.969.4127

Majestic Vacation Homes - 2 structures (6)
740.596.1900, 866.566.1900

Marsh Hollow - 1 structure (4)
740.332.9202

The Merlot - 1 structure (8)
740.412.8718

Mesa Vista Lodge - 1 structure (18)
740.380.9051

A Natural Place Cabins - 2 structures
740.332.8511; anaturalplacecabins.com

Nature's Pointe Cabins - 5 structures (4)
614.837.0310, 800.456.3083

Nature's Retreat Cabins - 2 structures (4)
740.332.6364

Nestled In Cabins & Cottages - 5 structures (6)
740.380.8965

Noah's Ark Cabins - 1 structure (6)
740.385.6959

Old Man's Cave Chalets - 50 structures (20)
740.385.6517, 800.762.9396

Old Man's Haven - 4 structures (4)
740.380.2296, 800.274.5616

Persimmon Hill - 1 structure (4)
740.385.4536, 877.385.4536

Pleasant Valley Cabins - 2 structures (4)
740.380.6960

Queen Bee Cabins & Cottages - 1 structure (4)
740.655.3333, 866.633.1879

Red Rock Cabins - 3 structures (4)
614.276.9715

Red Wolf Falls Log Cabin - 1 structure (6)
330.494.2948

Restoration Retreat - 1 structure (4)
740.654.4501

Rushcreek Country Cabin - 1 structure (4)
740.569.0234, 888.569.0234

Rustic Ridge Retreat Cabins - 1 structure (8)
740.746.8146

Settle Down Cabin - 2 structures (6)
877.278.8926

Spirit of the West Cabins - 1 structure (7)
740.385.6591

Springwood Hocking Hills Cabins - 6 structures (8)
740.385.6143, 888.612.2246

A Stone Cottage - 1 structure (6)
614.557.2559

Studio in the Woods Accommodations - 2 structures (4)
740.332.6076, 877.788.3462

Summit Haven Retreat - 3 structures (6)
614.875.5167

Sunrise Log Cabins - 5 structures (12)
740.385.8722, 888.601.3085

Three Reasons Farms Cabin - 1 structure (6)
740.380.2729

Timber Creek Lodge - 1 structure (10)
740.415.3571

Top of the Hock - 1 structure (6)
740.548.4657

Tranquil Retreat Cabins - 3 structures (8)
740.596.5003, 877.274.2283

Turtle Hill Cabins - 2 structures (6)
740.363.0755

Two Trees Inn - 1 structure (12)
740.385.2628

Valley View Cabins - 14 structures (20)
740.746.8704, 888.222.4691

Wade with a Rose Log Cabin Getaway - 2 structures (2)
740.385.7532

WaterSong Woods Cabins - 2 structures (4)
740.380.6363, 877.966.3788

Way to Go Cabins - 1 structure (8)
740.369.3277

Whiskey Creek Cabins - 1 structure (11+)
937.477.2934

Vinton County

Brookside - 2 structures (14)
216.475.5325

Country Charm Lodging - 1 structure (6)
740.596.8748

Gingerbread Haus - 1 structure (8)
740.707.9738

Hawk's Landing Retreat Center - 1 structure (4)
740.596.4288

Historic Host Vacation Rentals - 3 structures (10)
740.596.2408, 877.364.4786

Lily of the Valley Cabins - 1 structure (4)
740.775.1531

Oakwood Cabins - 4 structures (2)
740.596.2211, 877.596.2211

Plymouth Rock Cabins - 1 structure (4)
740.380.2910

Bed & Breakfast

Athens County

Bittersweet Farm Bed and Breakfast
740.664.6011
6070 Scott Rd, New Marshfield

Good Works, Inc. Country Bed and Breakfast
740/594-3336; <http://www.good-works.net/B&B.htm>
On Luhrig Road near Athens, OH

The Mead House
740.596-2408, 877.364.4786; historichost@gmail.com;
www.nelsonvillebedandbreakfast.com
138 Fort Street, Nelsonville, OH 45764

Sand Ridge B&B
740.797.4701; www.sandridgebandb.com,
info@sandridgebandb.com
10404 Sand Ridge Road, Athens, OH 45701

Hocking County

Thunder Ridge Cabins B&B
740.385.1386, 800.600.0584

Meigs County

The Carpenter Inn
800.644.2422; www.carpenterinn.com;
info@carpenterinn.com
39655 Carpenter-Dyesville Road, Carpenter, OH 45769

Vinton County

Ravenwood Castle

740.596.2606, 800.477.1541; www.ravenwoodcastle.com,
ravenwoodcastle@hughes.net
65666 Bethel Road, New Plymouth, OH 45654

Hotels & Motels - Athens County (all 740 area code)

Baymont Inn: 20 Home St., Athens, 564.3000

Budget Host Coach Inn: 100 Albany Rd, Athens, 594.2294

Carpenter Inn & Conference Center: 39655 Carpenter-
Dyesville Rd, Carpenter, 698.2450

Days Inn: 330 Columbus Rd, Athens, 593.6655

Fullbrooks Lodge: 1149 SR 278, Nelsonville, 753.3391

Hampton Inn: 986 E. State St, Athens, 593.5600

Highlander Hotel: 420 W. Union St, Athens, 593.6449

Holiday Inn Express: 11 East Park Dr, Athens, 592.4640

The Inn at Hocking College: 15770 SR 691, Nelsonville,
753.3531

Ohio University Inn: 331 Richland Ave, Athens, 593.6661

Outfitters and Outings Leaders

Earth-Water-Rock Adventures

740.664.5220; www.ewroutdoors.com

Touch the Earth Adventures

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740.591.9094; www.hockinghills.com/earthtouch;

mimi@eurekanet.com

Hocking Hills Adventure Trek

740.777.2579; trek@hockinghillsadventuretrek.com

www.hockinghillsadventuretrek.com

Hocking Valley Canoe Livery

800.686.0386; www.canoerental.com

31251 Chieftain Drive, Logan, OH 43138

Southeastern Ohio Kayaking

740.767.3780; cell 740.818.7885

<http://s.o.kayaking.tripod.com>; tony_mcnickle@yahoo.com

Equipment

Athens Bicycle

Bicycles and supplies, "Where to Ride" on website

740.594.9944, 866.594.9944; <http://athensbicycle.com>;

pete@athensbicycle.com

4 W. Stimson Avenue, Athens, OH 45701

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1-740-592-4630 or 1-888-9GO-DIVE;

<http://www.pedaler.com>; info@pedaler.com

432 Richland Avenue Athens, Ohio 45701

Athens Cycle Path

Bicycles and supplies, useful maps at store and at website

740.593.8482; <http://www.athenscyclepath.com>

104 West Union Street, Athens, Ohio 45701

Zip Lines

Hocking Hills Canopy Tours

740.385.9477, www.hockinghillscanopytours.com

10714 Jackson Street, Rockbridge, Ohio 43149

Hocking Peaks Adventure Park

740.592.2500, www.hockingpeaks.com/index.html

15103 State Route 664 South, Logan, Ohio 43138

ATV Tracks

Ohio ATV World

740.592.2500, 740.380.1775; ohioatvworld.com

15155 Sauerkraut Road, Logan, OH 43138

Fast Traxx Motoplex

740.767.3740, Fax: 740.767.3660; www.fasttraxxracing.com
shawnabickley@hotmail.com

5999 Warren Drive, Nelsonville, Ohio 45764

Wildwood Lake Raceway

740.331.5163, 989.2866, www.wildwoodlakeraceway.com

2392 Wildwood Lake Road, Little Hocking OH 45742-5072

Hospitals and Clinics

Athens County

Doctors Hospital at Nelsonville

740.753.7300

1950 Mount Saint Mary Drive, Nelsonville, Ohio 45764

O'Bleness Memorial Hospital

740.593.5551; obleness@obleness.org

55 Hospital Drive, Athens, Ohio 45701

Gallia County

Holzer Health Systems

740.446.5000; info@holzer.org

100 Jackson Pike, Gallipolis, Ohio 45631

Hocking County

Hocking Valley Community Hospital

740.380.8000, 800.479.2351; www.hvch.org

601 State Route 664 North, Logan, OH

Jackson County

Holzer Medical Center Jackson

740.288.4625; info@holzer.org

500 Burlington Road, Jackson OH 45640

Washington County

Marietta Memorial Hospital

740.374.1400, Fax 740.374.1787

401 Matthew Street, Marietta, Ohio 45750

Selby General Hospital

740.568.2000

1106 Colegate Drive, Marietta, OH 45750



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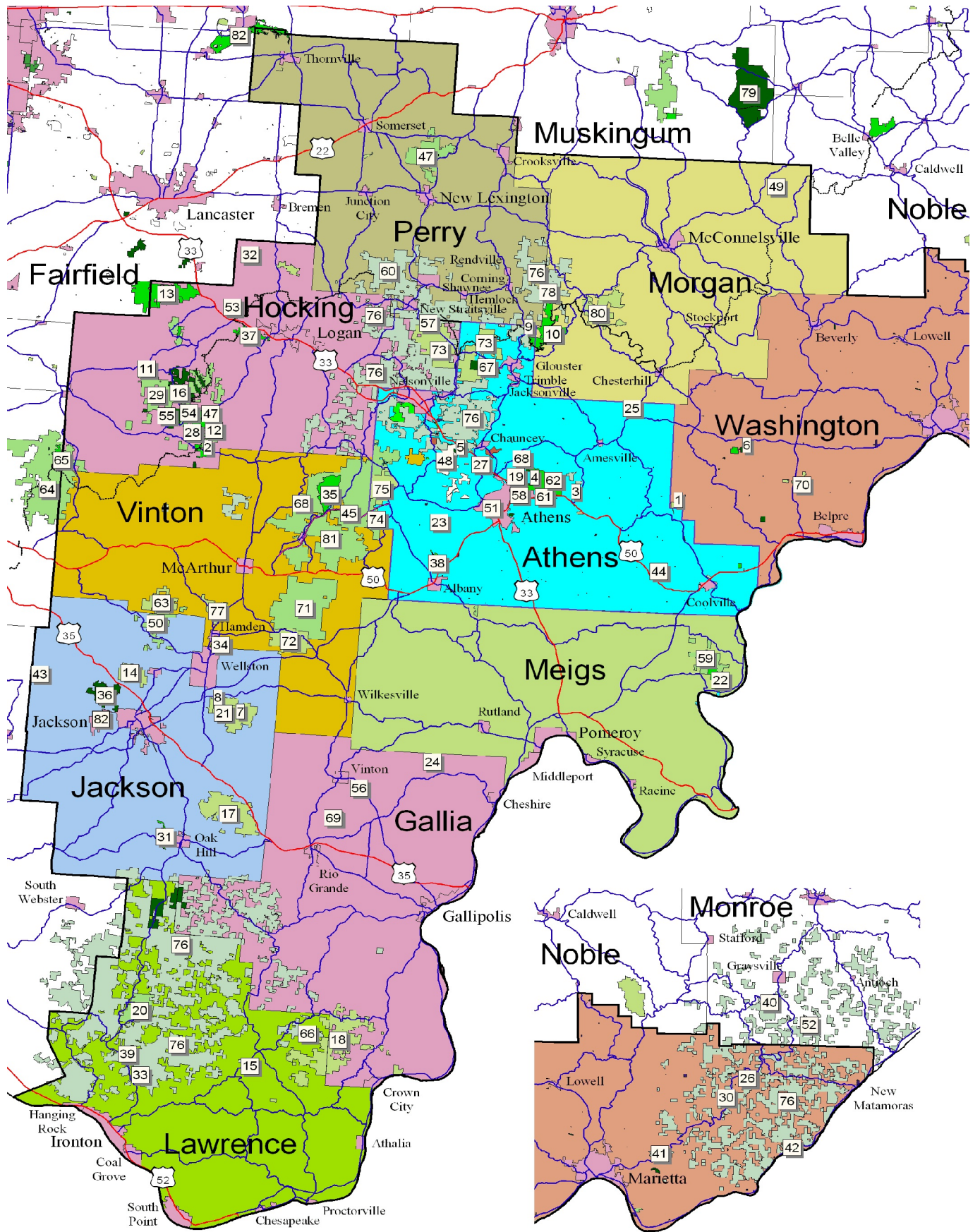
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SP=state park; SF=state forest; SWA=wildlife area; SNP=state nature preserve. Numbers in parentheses key to index map →

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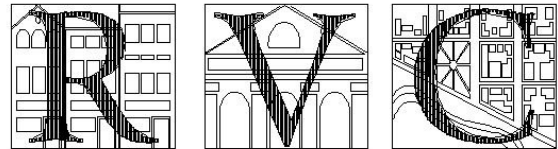
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