

Trail Tips

1. The Shawnee Backpack Trail requires moderate levels of skill and endurance. Hikers may encounter greenbriars, poison ivy, ticks and/or stinging nettles along the trail. Proper clothing (shorts are not recommended), sturdy footwear and good equipment are essential for success.
2. Respect the solitude sought by other backpackers and practice good camping etiquette.
3. The main trail is marked by orange blazes and side trails with white blazes. If a hiker becomes lost, roadways can usually be located by following watercourses downhill. Always carry a map and compass.
4. For safety, hike with a partner. Disabling injuries are very dangerous when a hiker is alone.
5. The only drinking water supplies will be close to road crossings, as shown on the map. The water supply is limited so please use it wisely. Water caches may not be serviced in winter due to bad road conditions. (Water caches are serviced using water from the City of Portsmouth, Ohio.) Latrines are provided at each campground.
6. Beware of poisonous snakes. Both rattlesnakes (endangered) and copperheads inhabit the forest. High leather boots or heavy leggings afford good protection. Hikers should watch where they sit and place their hands, especially in rocky areas. If bitten, seek medical aid immediately.
7. Hikers should select and repack food so that they will have a minimum of awkward and disposable containers. A portable stove is recommended. Supplies of wood fuel may not be readily available.
8. Extinguish all smoking material carefully. Be especially careful with campground fires and smoking during March, April, May, October and November, the forest fire danger periods in Ohio. Please do not leave campfires unattended.
9. If a hiker discovers a forest fire, immediately hike the trail to the nearest road and report the fire to emergency services (dial 911).
10. For hikers' protection, they should park their vehicles only at the trailhead. Vehicles parked in the forest may attract vandalism.
11. **CAUTION:** Campgrounds situated in valleys may be flooded and stream crossings may be impassable due to rapid runoff following a severe storm.
12. Hornets and yellow jackets may be encountered particularly during late summer.
13. Shawnee State Forest is a public hunting area. Visitors should be aware of hunting seasons and are encouraged to wear bright orange colored clothing when hiking.

Location Map



Shawnee State Forest Shawnee State Park

Emergency Phone Numbers

EMERGENCIES: 911

Forestry Office: 740-858-6685

Adams County Sheriff's Office: 937-544-2314

Scioto County Sheriff's Office: 740-354-7566

Additional Information

SHAWNEE STATE FOREST

13291 US Highway 52 West

Portsmouth, Ohio 45663

740-858-6685

SHAWNEE STATE PARK

4404 State Route 125

West Portsmouth, Ohio 45663

740-858-6652

SHAWNEE STATE PARK RESORT AND CONFERENCE CENTER

P.O. Box 189

Friendship, Ohio 45630-0189

740-858-6621

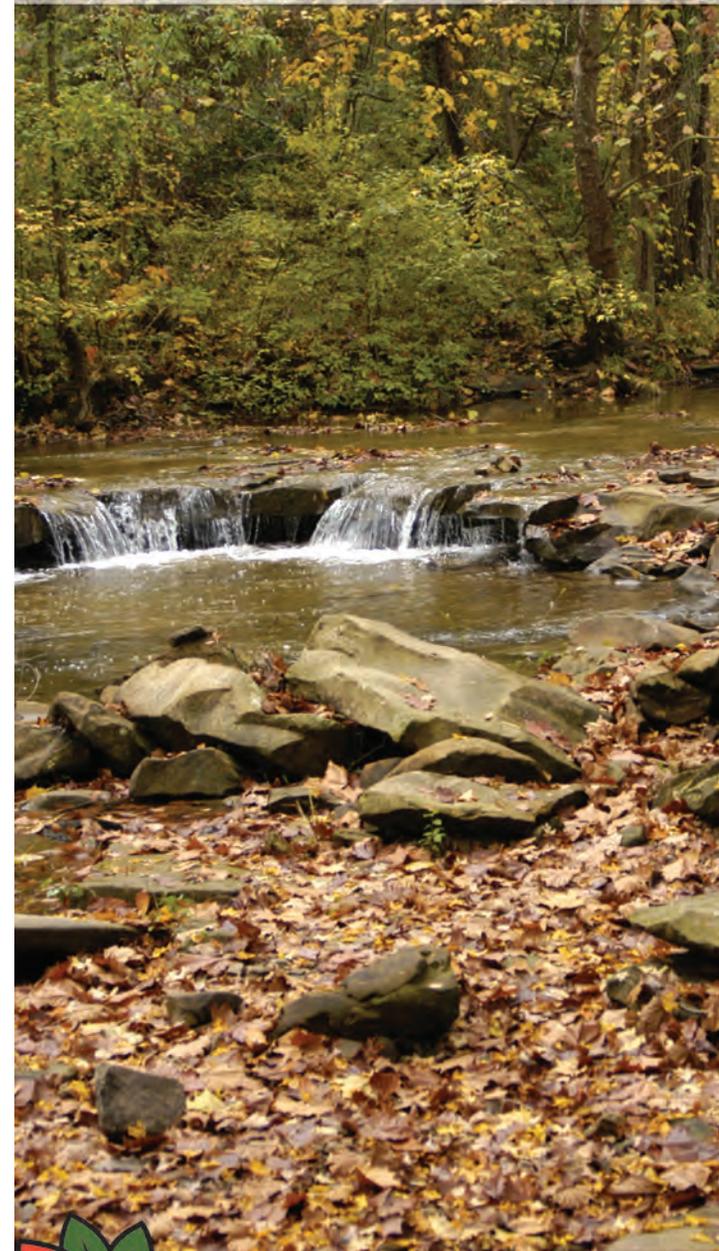
forestry.ohiodnr.gov



Ohio Department of Natural Resources
Division of Forestry
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SHAWNEE STATE FOREST

BACKPACK TRAIL



Ohio Department of
NATURAL RESOURCES
DIVISION OF FORESTRY

Welcome to Shawnee State Forest

Backpack Trail

Acquisition of the first state forests began in 1916, originally to be used as testing grounds for reforestation of tree species. Land acquisition later broadened to include land of scenic and recreational values and to restore forest cover to land that had been abandoned and abused. Today, Ohio's 24 state forests cover over 200,000 acres and provide an abundance of benefits for everyone to enjoy. With the advantage of decades of management, Ohio's foresters are enhancing nature's growth cycle and continuing to produce some of the finest hardwood trees in the world on state forest lands. Forest management activities such as timber stand improvement, prescribed fire and harvesting are employed to enhance the health, vigor and natural regeneration of the forest. But the concerns of foresters go well beyond the trees. Evaluations of water, soil, wildlife habitat, age and condition of the vegetation, recreational opportunities and aesthetics are considered in preparation of area management plans. This process ensures that visitors may enjoy many outdoor activities, including camping, hiking, horseback riding, wildlife watching, hunting and scenic touring.

History of Shawnee State Forest

In 1922, the State of Ohio purchased 5,000 acres of cleared and fire-ravaged land once inhabited by the Shawnee Indians. This initial land acquisition established what is now known as Shawnee State Forest. During that same year, land purchases started for the nearby Theodore Roosevelt Game Preserve. In the 1930s, six Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) camps were located in the forest. The CCC constructed many roads in the inaccessible area. Five small lakes were also constructed by the young men of the CCC, and these lakes are still enjoyed by visitors. After the creation of the Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) in 1949, the recreational facilities at Roosevelt Lake were transferred to the Division of Parks. In 1951, an agreement between the divisions of Forestry and Wildlife transferred the remaining 11,000 acres of the Roosevelt Game Preserve into Shawnee State Forest. Shawnee State Forest, also called "the Little Smokies of Ohio," has developed into the largest of the state forests, with more than 63,000 acres.

Shawnee Wilderness Area

In 1972, nearly 8,000 acres of Shawnee State Forest were designated as wilderness. This designation minimizes human influence by prohibiting vegetative manipulation and all mechanized activity. A section of the Wilderness Side Trail traverses a portion of this area. Camping is allowed through a "special use" permit process, which must be submitted in advance.



Hunting and Fishing

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

The use of bait to attract or hunt wild birds or deer on state forest land is prohibited. Deer stands must have a waterproof tag at all times identifying the user and user's address in legible English. Game cameras are not permitted, unless they bear a waterproof, legible tag identifying the owner's name, phone number and address in English.

Forest Rules

1. Shawnee State Forest is open to visitors between 6 a.m. and 11 p.m. daily. Legal hunters and anglers may be present during other times.
2. Operation of motor vehicles is restricted to roads provided for such travel. Speed limit on state forest roads is 30 mph unless otherwise posted. Vehicles may not be parked where traffic or access to division service roads or trails is obstructed.
3. Horses may be ridden along forest roads or on designated bridle trails.
4. Fires are not permitted except in grills or fire rings provided, or in portable stoves. Fires must be attended to at all times.
5. Trash must be disposed of in receptacles provided or "pack-it-in/pack-it-out."

6. Camping is not permitted except in designated areas. Limited road-side camping is permitted during deer and turkey hunting season when camps are registered at the Shawnee State Forest headquarters.
7. Public display or consumption of any alcoholic beverage is prohibited.
8. Disturbance, defacement or destruction of any property, material, natural feature or vegetation is prohibited. Berries, nuts and mushrooms may be gathered and removed except from posted areas. Root digging is prohibited.
9. Swimming and motorized boats, except with electric motors, are prohibited in state forest lakes.
10. State forest boundaries are indicated with yellow blazes on the trees and/or posted signs.

Backpack Trail Rules

1. People may camp only in the designated campground areas shown on the map.
2. A self-registration permit (no fee) is required of all hikers. The permit, which must be filled out prior to entering the trail, is available on the trail parking area 24-hours a day, and at Shawnee State Forest headquarters (open 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. on weekdays). Hikers should place the completed permit in the registration box provided and carry the stub with them on the trail.
3. No person is permitted to camp more than 14 days in any 30-day period. Camps must be moved to a different backpack campground each day.
4. Backpack groups are limited to a maximum of 10 people per party at any one backpack campground.
5. Persons may bring domestic cats and dogs to campgrounds, provided they are leashed or under control at all times and under the following conditions: the owner must have proof of current rabies inoculation for the animal. A collar or tag bearing the owner's name and address must be attached to the animal, and the owner or handler must clean up and dispose of any excrement left by his or her pet in the campground.
6. Fires are prohibited, except in designated fire rings or in portable stoves. Cutting of live trees is prohibited.
7. Camps must be maintained in a clean and sanitary manner and condition. All refuse must be packed out for proper disposal.
8. No person may disturb the peace and quiet of other people in the campgrounds in any manner between the hours of 11 p.m. and 8 a.m.

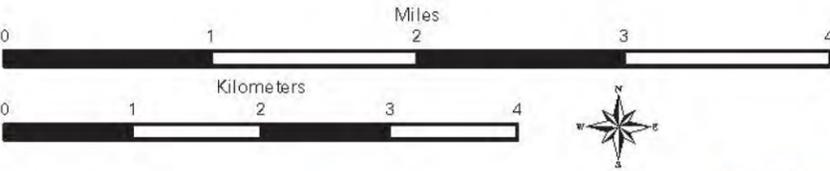
SHAWNEE STATE FOREST

Backpack Trail

All data included in this map are representative and believed to be correct but not warranted. State forest boundary lines on the ground are identified with signs and/or yellow paint marks on trees. Bridle trails are indicated in green for map clarity only. On the ground, bridle trails are marked in a variety of colors.

Map reviewed and approved by Daniel Balsler, Chief, ODNR Division of Forestry, 4/2020

Data provided by ODNR Forestry, ODNR GIMS, US Census Tiger, ODOT



- | | | | |
|--|---------------------------|--|---|
| | Camp | | Lakes / Ponds |
| | Firetower | | Streams |
| | Lodge | | Roads |
| | Boy Scout Camp Oyo | | Backpack Trail (orange blazes) |
| | Trailhead | | Day Hike Trail (blue blazes) |
| | Water | | Side Trail (white blazes) |
| | Shawnee Wilderness | | Bridle Trail (blaze colors vary) |

TRAIL DISTANCES (MILES)

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Backpack Trailhead - Camp 1 : 6.1 | West Side Trail : 0.7 |
| Camp 1 - Camp 2 : 5.2 | East Side Trail : 0.6 |
| Camp 2 - Camp 3 : 3.3 | Hiking Trail West Loop : 3.7 |
| Camp 3 - Backpack Trailhead : 5.0 | Hiking Trail East Loop : 6.4 |
| Camp 3 - Camp 4 : 4.0 | Backpack Trail Wilderness Loop : 9.9 |
| Camp 4 - Camp 5 : 4.5 | |
| Camp 5 - Camp 6 : 3.4 | |
| Camp 6 - Camp 7 : 4.8 | |
| Camp 7 - Backpack Trailhead : 4.9 | |

