

## Nature of the Area

Located in the Appalachian foothills bordering the Scioto River, the park's rugged ridgetops and wooded valleys support a host of natural wonders. This densely forested hill country is reminiscent of the southern Appalachians supporting a magnificent stand of oak and hickory. In spring, the forest trails are lined with flowering dogwood and redbud trees. The forest floor displays woodland wildflowers including spring beauties, Dutchman's breeches, wild blue phlox and wild geranium. Ferns, mosses and lichens coat the sandstone outcroppings. Mushroom hunters delight in the abundance of the delicious morel mushroom.

The remoteness of the area and dense forest provides excellent habitat for some of Ohio's most elusive wildlife. Wild turkey populations are thriving in this region along with ruffed grouse and white-tailed deer. Small mammals of Scioto Trail include red fox, skunk, opossum, gray squirrel and raccoon among many others. Rare sightings of bobcat and black bear have been reported. Many reptiles and amphibians find the woodlands and streams of the area desirable.

## History of the Area

Scioto Trail State Park is nestled in an area rich with reminders of Ohio's prehistoric peoples. These Mound Builders left extensive earthworks throughout the Scioto River Valley and its tributaries. Serpent Mound, in northeastern Adams County, is a 1,000-foot snake effigy mound built by the Adena. Other smaller Adena mounds exist in Ross County. The Adena culture is named after the estate of early Ohio statesman Thomas Worthington. Adena, near Chillicothe, was the site of the first mound excavation attributed to these prehistoric people.

Other extensive earthworks exist north of Chillicothe on the Scioto floodplain. Mound City is attributed to a more advanced culture called the Hopewells. Other Hopewell mounds in the Scioto Trail region are Seip Mound, Spruce Hill and Fort Hill. The importance of the Scioto River to the early development of Ohio carried through from these prehistoric peoples to the Shawnee and first pioneer settlers.

The Shawnee utilized the river as their primary means of transportation from one village to another. The Scioto Trail was an Indian trail that followed the Scioto River from northern Ohio to the Kentucky hunting grounds. The trail was later used by settlers who came upriver from Portsmouth to the first capital of Ohio—Chillicothe. There is a replica of the first church in the area, Chillicothe's First Presbyterian, in Caldwell Lake Hollow. This plain log structure gives testimony to the simple lifestyle of early Ohioans.

The first European settlers came to the area in the 1790s. In 1796, General Nathaniel Massie and a small group of settlers started the town of Chillicothe. Many of these first Ohioans were veterans of the Revolutionary War. The land west of the Scioto River and east of the Little Miami River was set aside for Virginia veterans of the Revolution. Land allotments were based on time served and rank of these soldiers.

Initial purchases of land for the park and forest began in 1922. Most of the major development took place in the 1930s during the original Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) days. They constructed most of the roads, lakes and the original recreational facilities.

## Camping

The wooded campground offers 58 sites of which 40 are equipped with electricity. Pit latrines, dump stations, fire rings and picnic tables are provided. Deluxe camper cabins are available year-round, and equipped with A/C, heat, electrical outlets, a microwave and refrigerator. There is an 18-site primitive campground at the Stewart Lake Area. A campstore offering weekend hours is located at the camp check in.

## Boating

Two small lakes offer boating with electric motors only. Canoeing is excellent on these quiet waters. A launch ramp is provided at Caldwell Lake.

## Swimming

A small unguarded wading beach near the campground is open during daylight hours.

## Hunting and Fishing

Bluegill and largemouth bass provide good catches for anglers. Hunting is excellent for deer, squirrel, grouse and turkey in the adjacent state forest. A valid Ohio hunting and/or fishing license is required.

## Trails

Twelve miles of hiking trails and 17 miles of bridle trails lead to scenic overlooks and breathtaking vistas. Mountain biking is permitted on 26 miles of multiple use trails in the adjacent state forest. A portion of the Buckeye Trail which links the four corners of Ohio passes through the state forest.

## Picnicking

Several scenic areas offer excellent picnicking opportunities. Tables and grills are provided. A picnic shelter with electrical outlets is located at the Stewart lake picnic area. A picturesque gazebo is located on the island in Caldwell Lake. The gazebo and picnic shelter may be reserved for a fee. A shelterhouse in the State forest operated by the Division of Forestry is available on a first-come, first-served basis.

## More To Do

The restored Old Log Church, a replica of the oldest Presbyterian church in the Northwest Territory, has been converted into a nature center.

Basketball and horseshoe courts are located in the campground, along with a playground for children. The camp office loans games and sporting equipment to registered campers. Additional basketball and horseshoe courts, along with a volleyball court and playground, are offered in day-use areas of the park.

## Area Attractions

A monument erected in 1842 to commemorate William Hewitt is located near the Old Log Church. As a hermit, he lived for fourteen years in a cave near what is now the park and surrounding forest. Hewitt died in 1838 at the age of seventy after becoming a local legend. Eventually, the cave was whittled away by highway devel-

opment and the monument was moved 1,000 feet north of its original site to its present location.

Nearby are Great Seal State Park which is located north of Chillicothe off State Route 159, Lake White State Park which is located near Waverly on State Route 220, and Tar Hollow State Park and State Forest which are located off State Route 327 near the Ross-Hocking-Vinton county lines.

The famous outdoor historical drama, *Tecumseh*, is presented late June through early September at Sugarloaf Mountain Amphitheatre. The Ross County Historical Society in Chillicothe features exhibits of pioneer crafts, firearms, furniture, toys and clothing. The museum is open March through November. One mile north of Chillicothe on State Route 104 is the Mound City Group National Monument. The area is a prehistoric Indian complex of 23 burial mounds. A museum, visitors' center and exposed burial mound are open daily. For more information on local attractions, contact the Division of Travel and Tourism at 1-800-BUCKEYE.

## Facilities

<b>Resource</b>	Land, acres	218
	Water, acres	30
	Nearby State Forest, acres	9151
<b>Day-Use Activities</b>	Fishing	•
	Hunting	▲
	Hiking Trails, miles	12
	Bridle Trails, miles	▲
	Summer Nature Program	•
	Nature Center	•
	Picnicking	•
<b>Boating</b>	Picnic Shelter	1
	Swimming Beach	•
	Boating Limits	EMO
<b>Winter Recreation</b>	Launch Ramps, #	1
	Sledding	•
	Ice Skating	•
	Cross-Country Skiing	•
	Ice Fishing	•
<b>Camping</b>	Campsites, #	76
	Campsites with Elec., #	40
	Pets Permitted	•
	Dump Station	•
	Camp Store	•
	Camper Cabins	2*

\*2nd unit available 8/04

**FOR CAMPING RESERVATIONS CALL 1-866-OHIOPARKS**



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