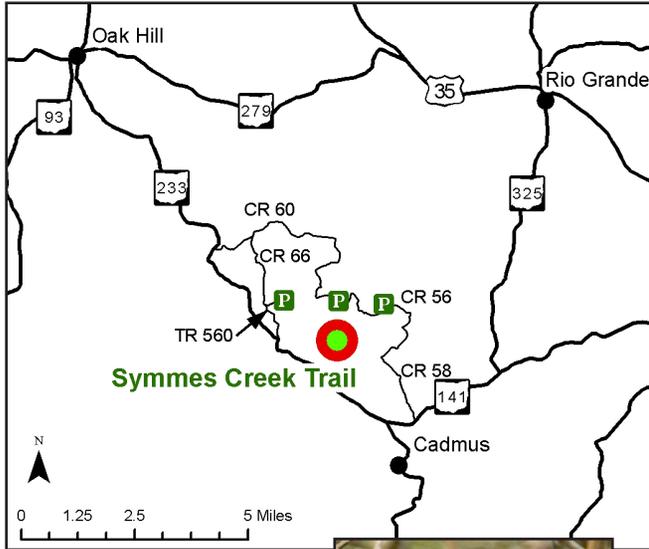


Symmes Creek Trail

This 6 mile trail near Gallipolis traverses a variety of forest types. Along this trail you'll find scenic overlooks, large rock outcrops, and natural wetlands. Spend a leisurely day in this scenic area watching birds, upland wildlife and rock dwelling creatures in the rock outcrops.

Unit: Ironton



Contact Us

The Wayne has three offices to serve visitors. Office hours are 8 - 4:30 Monday through Friday.

Athens Ranger District
13700 U.S. Hwy 33
Nelsonville, OH 45764
Phone: 740-753-0101

Marietta Unit Office
27750 State Route 7
Marietta, OH 45750
Phone: 740-373-9055

Ironton Ranger District
6518 State Route 93
Pedro, OH 45659
Phone: 740-534-6500

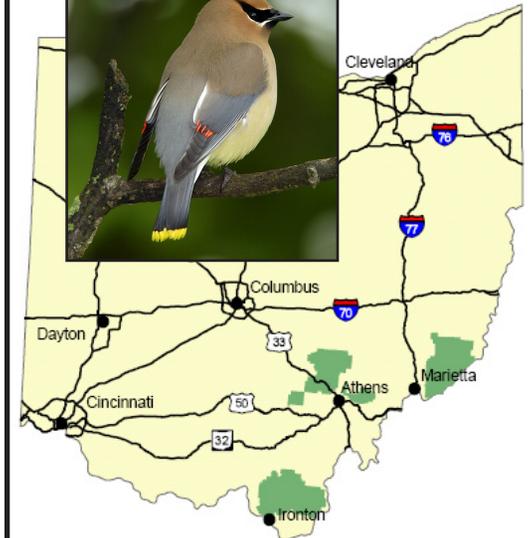
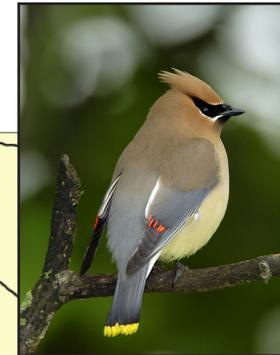
Federal relay system for the deaf and hearing impaired: 1-800-877-8339
website: www.fs.fed.us/r9/wayne



USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Updated 8/2008

Nature Viewing on the Wayne National Forest



America's Great Outdoors

Forest Service

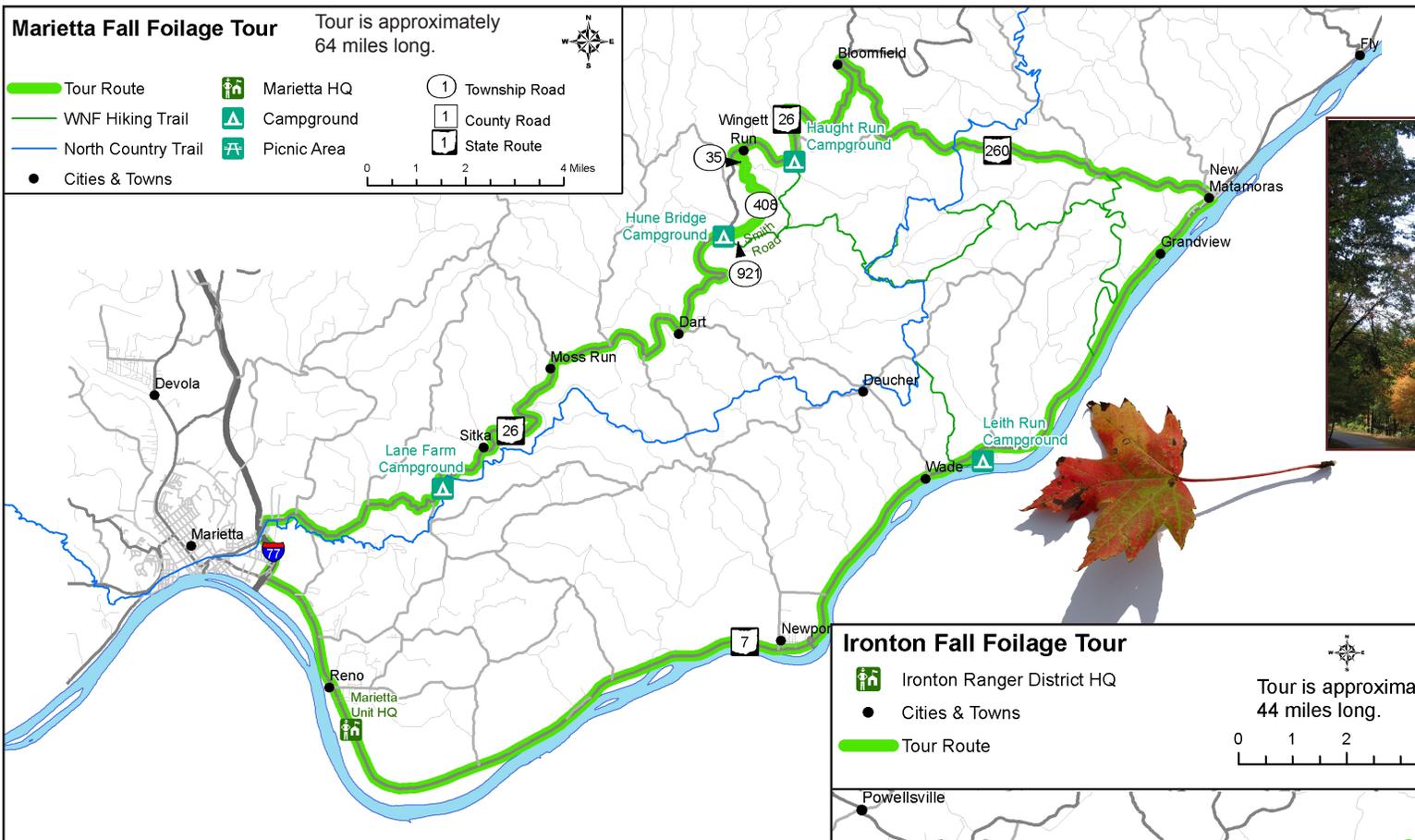
United States Department of Agriculture

Ohio Wildlife Viewing Guide

These are only a few of the 80 identified sites scattered across Ohio, and only a fraction of the limitless opportunities visitors have to view and enjoy Ohio's vast wealth of wildlife.

Ohio Wildlife Viewing Guides may be purchased for \$8.95 (plus tax is \$9.55) from any Wayne National Forest office, or ordered by mail. Watchable Wildlife is a national program with sites identified in most states.

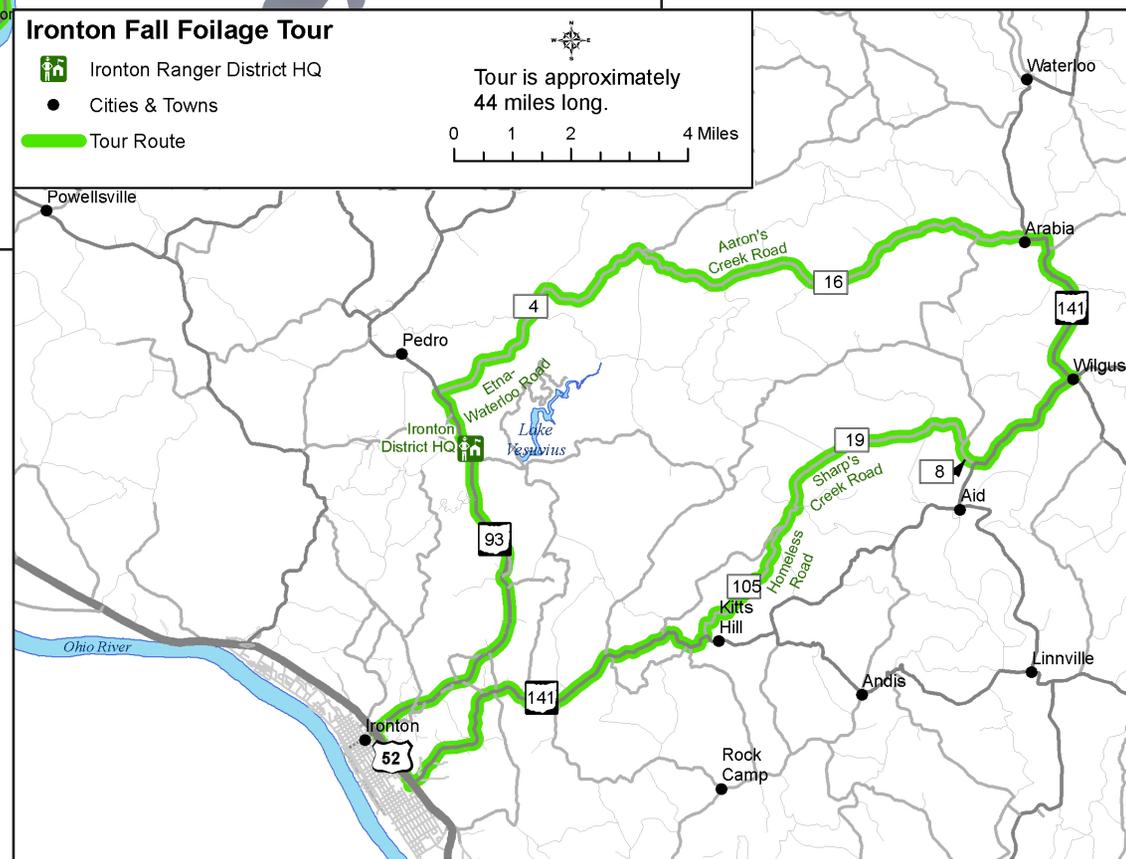




Why Leaves Change Color.

Most people suppose fall frosts are responsible for the color change in trees, but this is not the case. Many years the leaves change colors long before we have a frost.

Trees change color as a result of chemical processes. All during spring and summer a green pigment in the leaves, called chlorophyll, absorbs energy from the sunlight and uses it to transform carbon dioxide and water to carbohydrates. Along with the green pigment, the leaves also contain yellow and orange pigments. Most of the year these pigments are masked by the greater amount of green chlorophyll. But in the fall, partly because of changes in the period of daylight and changes in temperature, the green pigment breaks down; the green color fades; and the yellowish colors become visible.



At the same time, other chemical changes occur causing the formation of additional pigments that vary from yellow to red to blue. These pigments are responsible for the reddish and purplish fall colors of leaves, such as dogwoods and sumacs. Others give the sugar maple its brilliant orange or fiery red and yellow. The various colors result from different amounts of the pigments in various tree species during the fall season.



Fall weather conditions favoring the formation of brilliant red colors are warm, sunny days with cool nights of temperatures below 45 degrees. Sugars are made in the leaves during the daytime, but cool nights prevent the sugars from moving from the leaves. The red pigment is formed from the trapped sugars. The degree of color may vary from tree to tree. Leaves directly exposed to the sun may turn red, while those on the shady side of the same tree, or on other trees, may be yellow. Depending on weather conditions, the colors on one tree can vary from year to year.

Color changes are not the only changes taking place in the leaves in autumn. A layer of cells are laid down at the base of the leaf stalk to gradually sever the leaf. The layer also acts as a healing scar once the leaf drops. The oaks and a few other species may keep their dead leaves until growth starts in the spring.

The leaves still provide a function to nature even after they've fallen. Leaves contain relatively large amounts of valuable elements, which when decomposed return to the soil.

Driving Tours

Come enjoy a pleasant day viewing the fall colors on the Wayne National Forest. We have proposed routes on each of the three units, primarily on hard surface roads. They follow major ridges and offer panoramic views of the countryside.

The Wayne has many recreational opportunities. We hope you'll enjoy the fall colors and visit the Forest often.

