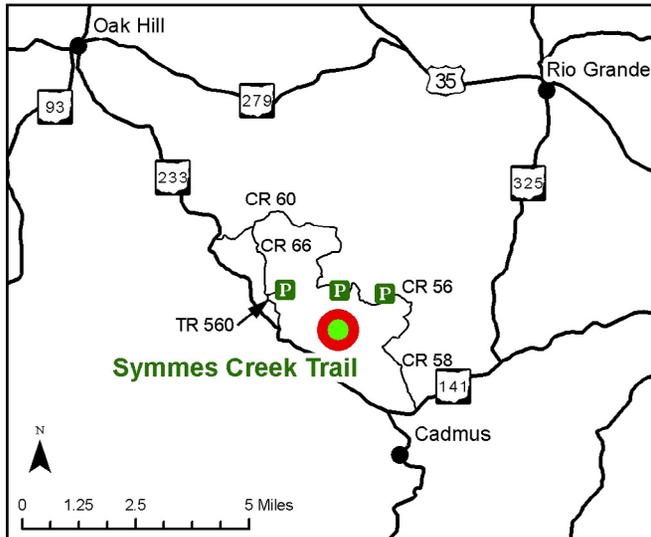


## Symmes Creek Trail

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



## Viewing Ohio's Wildlife

These are only a few of the 80 identified sites scattered across Ohio. Watchable Wildlife is a national program with sites identified in most states.

## Butterflies

The Wayne has a checklist of butterflies found on the Forest. For avid lepidopterist - the butterfly list can be found on the Wayne website or picked up at our offices.



## 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**  
27515 State Route 7  
Marietta, OH 45750  
Phone: 740-373-9055

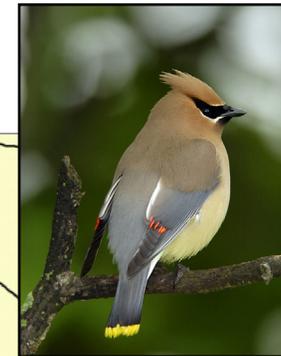
**Ironton Ranger District**  
6518 State Route 93  
Pedro, OH 45659  
Phone: 740-534-6500

Federal relay system for the deaf and hearing impaired: 1-800-877-8339  
website: [www.fs.usda.gov/wayne](http://www.fs.usda.gov/wayne)



*USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.*

# Wayne National Forest *Nature Viewing*



## Nature Watch on the Wayne NF

Opportunities abound for enjoying nature on the Wayne National Forest. Nature Watch programs are for people to experience wildlife, fish, flowers, and autumn colors in their natural settings; promote recreational viewing opportunities; facilitate learning about the environment; and to promote conservation efforts and wise use of natural resources.

### Watchable Wildlife

Several areas on the Forest offer unique opportunities to view wildlife in their natural homes. Part of the excitement lies in the uncertainty of what you might see. Unlike more predictable opportunities to view wildlife, these sites are homes to diverse species, any of which you might encounter during your visit. To improve your chances, walk quietly and slowly, walk into the wind, come early in the morning, or late afternoon, and be patient.

The abundance of wildlife on the Wayne is impressive: almost 50 species of mammals, over 150 bird species, and dozens of reptilian, amphibian and fish species, and we're finding more species all the time. Finding these animals is part of the adventure.

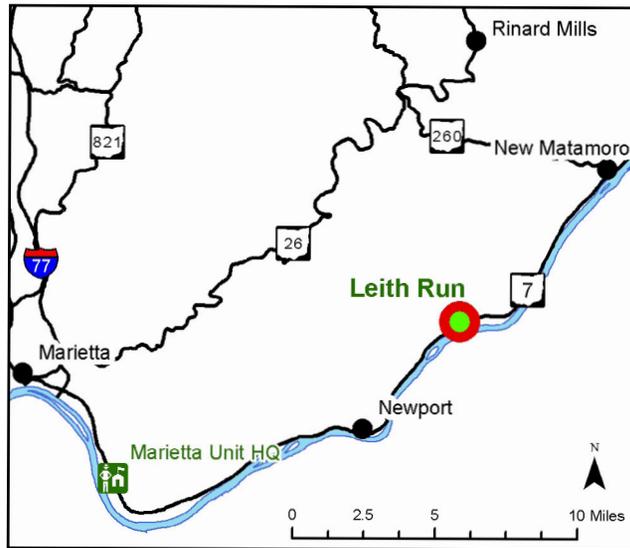
The Forest is a collage of ecosystems. Each ecosystem is unique in the types of animals who make their home there. There are five watchable wildlife sites identified to showcase some of these habitat types. Bring your binoculars and your camera, and tread softly to view the real owners of the Wayne National Forest. Each of the five sites are identified by the unit of the Wayne National Forest where they are located.

In addition to these sites, we recommend the Hocking Valley Birding Trail which is covered in a separate brochure.

## Leith Run

This site along the Ohio River is the place to see wetland wildlife. The area has two observation decks, one offering a panoramic view of the Ohio River and the other overlooking the backwaters of Leith Run. There are several trails in the vicinity which also provide a variety of wildlife viewing opportunities. A trail also climbs the hills to the bluffs overlooking the Ohio River. Fall colors from this spot are spectacular. This tranquil site along the bustling Ohio River is a place where wildlife, especially birds, seem to congregate.

Unit: Marietta



## Lake Vesuvius

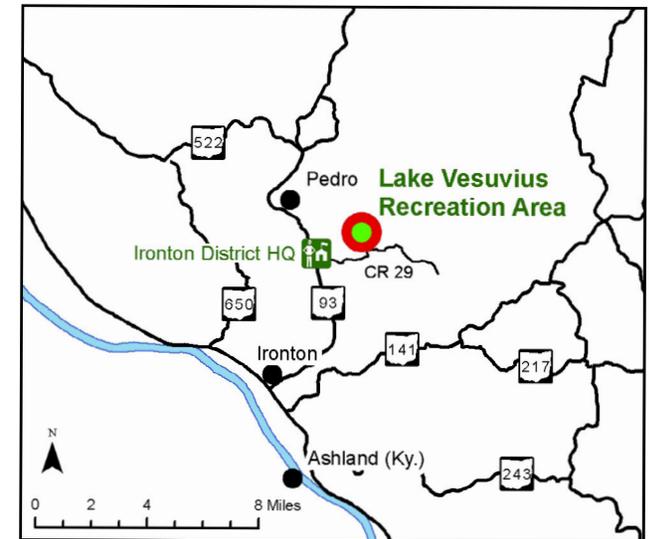
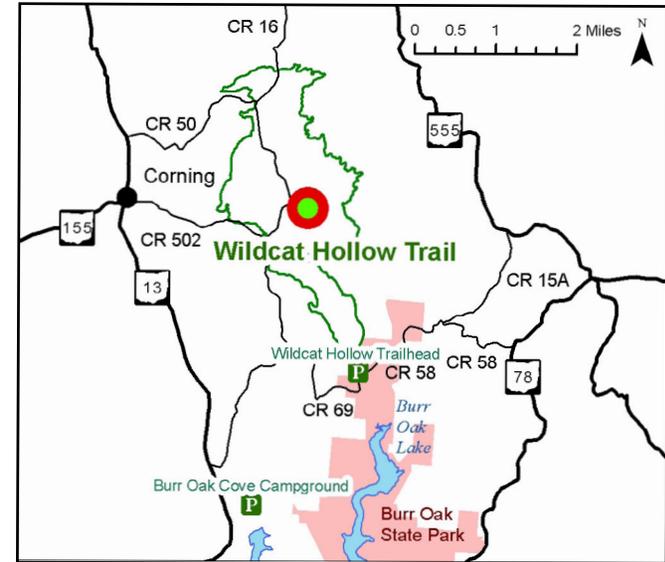
This large lake (shown at right) nestled in the wooded hills is encircled by over 25 miles of hiking trails. These trails travel through some of the most striking landscapes that Ohio has to offer with a variety of vegetation, rock outcrops, and many species of wildlife. Camping, picnicking, or fishing make this an enjoyable place to spend a weekend. Woodland songbirds, deer, beaver, and turkey are commonly seen. Soaring above the lakes or perched in shoreline trees you may also see hawks and osprey.

Unit: Ironton

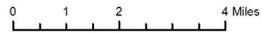
## Wildcat Hollow Trail

This 17-mile trail (map below) traverses upland forests, stream bottoms, pine plantations, and meadows. White-tailed deer, wild turkeys, forest songbirds and numerous reptiles and amphibians are likely to be seen along its route. Wildflowers are abundant during spring and summer, and autumn colors are vibrant. Bird watchers be sure and bring your binoculars.

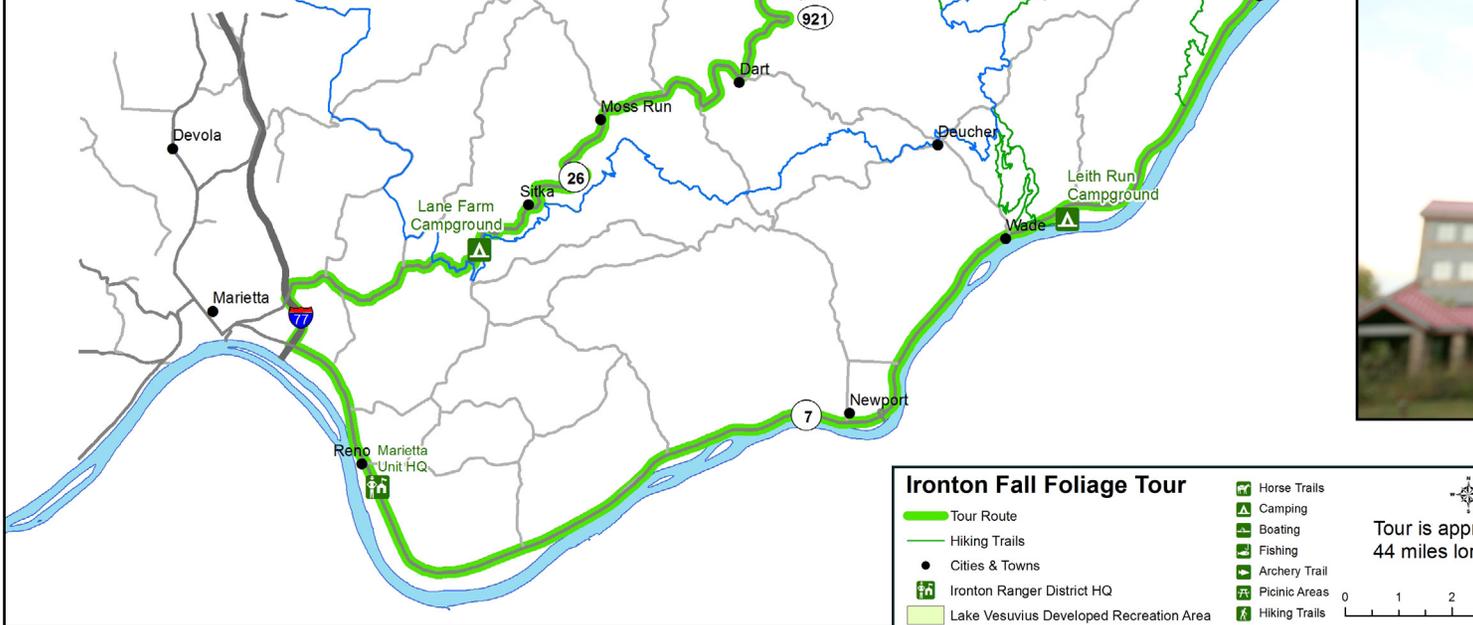
Unit: Athens



## Marietta Fall Foliage Tour



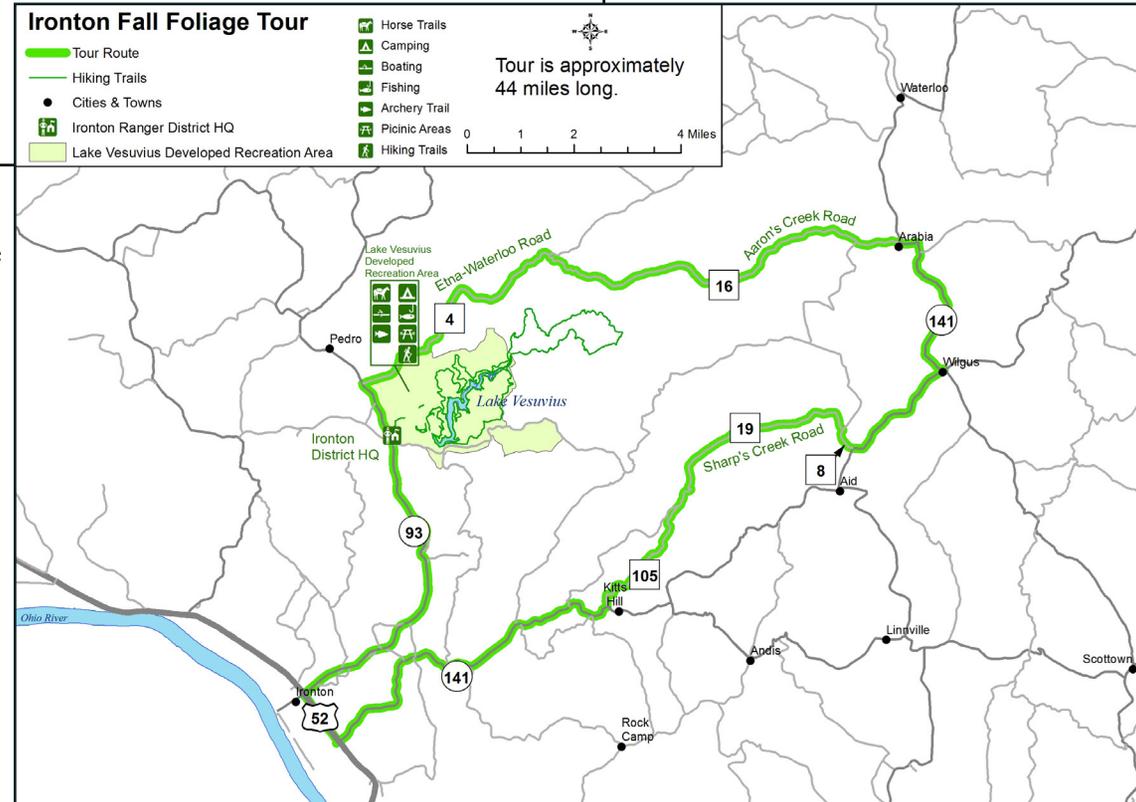
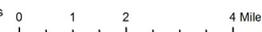
Tour is approximately 64 miles long.



## Ironton Fall Foliage Tour



Tour is approximately 44 miles long.



## 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.

