

**Backpack
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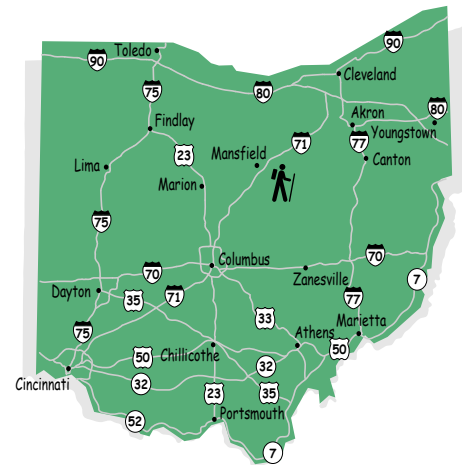
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Mohican-Memorial State Forest Park and Pack Sites

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Mohican-Memorial State Forest Park and Pack Sites

County: Ashland

Nearest town: Loudonville

Total distance: Varies based on selected park and pack site

Hiking time: 1 hour to 2 days for an overnight trip

Trail conditions: Well established

Blazes: None

Water: Available seasonally from April 1st to November 1st in Mohican State Park; also available seasonally at the Bridle Trail Area for Sites 1 through 4 and 7.

Highlights: Beautiful, secluded campsites; magnificent pine plantations; Clear Fork Gorge; access to miles of trails

Maps: USGS 7.5': Perrysville & Jelloway; ODNR Div. of Forestry Mohican-Memorial State Forest map; ODNR Mohican State Park map; Mohican Regional Trail Guide (available at the Class A Campground office on SR 3)

Contact Info: Mohican State Forest, 950 ODNR Mohican Road 60, Perrysville, Ohio 44864, phone: 419-938-6222; Mohican State Park, 3116 State Route 3, Loudonville, Ohio 44842, phone: 419-994-5125

Internet: www.ohiodnr.com & www.mohicanstatepark.org

Getting there: Park and pack users must first self-register at the forest service center kiosk on Forest Road 60. From the State Route 97 exit at Interstate 71, travel east on SR 97 through Bellville and Butler for 15.7 miles to the forest entrance on the left (Forest Road 51), just after the Memorial Shrine on the right. Immediately after turning left into the forest, turn left again and follow FR 58 for 2.5 miles to FR 60. Turn right onto FR 60 and arrive shortly at the service center.

To reach the parking area for sites 1 through 4 and 7 from the service center, return via the same route you traveled from SR 97. The parking area is located at the Bridle Trail Area on the south side of SR 97 near the forest entrance, just east of the Memorial Shrine.

Sites 5 and 6 can be reached by traveling back to SR 97 via the same route from the service center and then turning left onto SR 97 for approximately 0.5 mile to a right turn onto TR 3234. Drive 1.5 miles to the small parking area on the left side of the road.

To reach sites 8 through 10 from the service center, go north, or straight, from the service center on County Road 939 for 0.6 mile and turn right onto CR 3006. CR 3006 will turn into Township Road 3006 at an intersection with CR 917 just ahead. Go straight at this intersection and travel 0.8 mile on TR 3006 to either the lower or upper parking area. The road past the lower parking area to the upper parking area is often rutted and may not be suitable for low clearance vehicles; however, the lower parking area also serves as a turnaround for school buses, so forest administrators prefer visitors use the upper area when possible.

Trailhead coordinates: forest service center - 40.6147°N, 82.3026°W (WGS84); UTM 17 389799E, 4496587N (NAD27); UTM 17 389812E, 4496805N (NAD83)

Background

The 4500 acres of Mohican-Memorial State Forest lie in north central Ohio, just east of the farthest advancement of the Wisconsin glacier. Forest lands are located on the north and south sides of Mohican State Park, which occupies land in the roughly three-mile long, 350-foot deep Clear Fork Gorge. The scenic gorge, cut by glacial meltwater, is a National Natural Landmark and a very popular destination for outdoor enthusiasts. A large earthen dam at the head of the gorge holds back water to create Pleasant Hill Lake, an 850-acre flood control lake managed by the Muskingum Watershed Conservancy District. A large timber-framed lodge, part of Mohican State Park, overlooks the lake and provides comfortable accommodations.

Land acquisition for the forest began in 1928 after the original forests had been cleared for agricultural use. Eventually, erosion prevailed and the land became less fertile, so farms were abandoned and subsequently reverted

to brush and woodland. During the forest's infancy, planting of trees on abandoned land was a high priority activity. This resulted in over a thousand acres of white, red and mixed pine plantations being planted, mostly by the Civilian Conservation Corps. Native oak, hickory, maple, beech, ash, cherry and walnut hardwoods have reclaimed non-planted areas. Native white pines are also found in the forest with more northerly latitude plants like hemlock and yew taking up residency in the cooler gorge. A natural gas field underlies the forest and is being actively developed. As a result, gas wells and transmission lines are a common site in many sections of the forest.

Inside forest boundaries, 270 acres has been set aside for Memorial Forest Shrine Park. This park is a tribute to the more 20,000 Ohioans killed in war. The focal point of the park is the Memorial Forest Shrine, a 32-foot by 24-foot sandstone chapel-like structure formally dedicated in 1947. Two massive wood-bound books containing the hand-lettered names of 20,000 Ohio war dead serve as the centerpiece of the shrine and are preserved in a glass case within the shrine's grotto.

The forests of Mohican are some of Ohio's most beautiful, and the rolling hills equally as beautiful. Add to the mix the abundant opportunities for a variety of four-season outdoor recreational activities in and around the park and you have one of Ohio's greatest destinations for outdoor enthusiasts. Spend a summer weekend in this area and you'll see that many other Ohioans feel the same way, too.

The Sites

Mohican's ten park and pack campsites offer a much easier backpacking experience than the state's more traditional backpack trails. The sites are grouped together, but widely spaced, at three locations in the forest, with each location having a parking area that provides access to at least two sites. From each of the parking areas, only a short walk of a mile or less is needed to reach any of the ten primitive sites. All of the sites are undeveloped; the only improvement you'll find is a fire ring. Each site is marked with a numbered green Carsonite sign. The sites are popular with beginning backpackers and backpackers testing gear or preparing for a longer trek elsewhere. They are also an excellent choice for a backcountry camping experience without the long hike. The close proximity of camp to your cars means you can afford to pack a few extra luxury items you may not typically take on a longer trip.



Information/registration kiosk

Self-registration at a kiosk in front of the forest service center prior to arriving at your campsite is required. See the Getting There section above to find the service center. The registration process is setup to eliminate campers from selecting an occupied site, and will allow campers arriving after you to see that your site is taken, thus eliminating any unexpected drop-ins. No fee is required to camp. You are allowed to register for more than one night in advance and there is no limit on the number of consecutive nights allowed at any one campsite.

No water is provided at any of the ten sites. All of your water needs will have to be carried in. Water can be collected in the state park prior to arriving at your site. Water is also available at the parking area for sites 1 through 4 and 7, which is located at the Bridle Trail Area on the south side of SR 97 near the forest entrance. Water here and in the state park is normally shutoff from November through March.

From any of the ten campsites, you can reach just about any location in the state forest or state park via a network of hiking trails, bridle trails, mountain bike trails and forest roads winding throughout. The Class A campground office on State Route 3 sells for \$2.00 a nice two-sided color map showing the network of hiking, biking and bridle trails throughout the state forest and state park. The map enclosed with this document shows these same trails but does not extend to include all of the state park and forest. With a little planning, you can create your own hikes of varying distance from your campsite to points of interest in the gorge, like the covered bridge or Big and Little Lyons waterfalls, or hike to the fire tower, the gorge overlook, the state park or even Pleasant Hill Lake. The option is available to create a multi-night loop trip by staying at a different campsite each night.

Park and Pack Sites 1 through 4

Sites 1 through 4 are located along bridle trails south of Clear Fork Gorge in the scenic valley of Pine Run. Parking for these sites is located at the Bridle Trail Area on the south side of State Route 97, across from the forest entrance. Be sure not to park in the Bridle Day Use Area on the north side of the SR 97. The Bridle Trail Area is a large, flat area extending several hundred yards south of SR 97. A gravel parking area is located near the road. Although you can drive farther into the Bridle Trail Area, park and pack users are encouraged to use the front parking area adjacent to SR 97, reserving the rest of the area for larger vehicles with horse trailers. Pit latrines and a water hydrant are located just behind a screen of pines on the south side of the parking area. In the middle of the Bridle Trail Area is a kiosk containing a bridle trail map and other information for horseback riders. Bridle trails are distinguished by colors as indicated on the map; intersections are marked by a letter. In the field at each trail junction, you will find a 4 x 4 post containing trail markers and a letter designating that intersection. Hikers will walk south from the parking area and follow the trail as it leaves the Bridle Trail Area to the right, just past the kiosk and downhill on an old road/bridle trail. The trails in this area cross Pine Run several times. Pine Run is a wide stream and difficult to cross in wet weather without removing your hiking boots.

In just over 0.3 mile from the start of the trail, you will arrive at Intersection C in the valley of Pine Run. Site 1 is to the right from here, all of the others sites are left. Site 1 is located across Pine Run about 0.2 mile from Intersection C. Pine Run has to be crossed to reach the site. You can find some logs and rocks to walk on over the stream by going left or right a few yards from the trail. Expect the stream banks to be overgrown in summer. Just past the stream, a Carsonite sign on the left marks the entrance to a short side trail leading to Site 1. The site sits above the stream just a few feet in elevation. The entrance to this site can be a little difficult to find at the height of seasonal overgrowth. The site itself will be overgrown in summer as well.

Back at Intersection C, go left for 0.3 mile to Intersection G and Site 2. At this intersection, the bridle trail forks right and also goes straight. Take the right fork and cross Pine Run to reach Site 2. Just past the stream crossing, a short side trail will take off to the left and lead you to the site. Site 2 is located right in the floodplain of Pine Run, very near water's edge. This is an attractive site, but may lack privacy as the bridle trail is in plain view as it passes by on the other side of Pine Run. If you like to be lulled to sleep by gurgling water, then camp here. Crossing Pine Run to reach the site is no problem in dry weather.

In approximately 0.25 mile past Site 2, the trail crosses Pine Run in a beautiful, hemlock-lined section of the valley. Just past this crossing, a Carsonite sign on the left announces your arrival at a side trail leading to Site 3. Site 3 is situated 50 yards down the side trail in a private and scenic spot in the stream's floodplain. Tall, straight pines surround the site. Previous campers have constructed two large stone slab tables here, which will come in handy for cooking or keeping your gear up off the ground. Although Site 3 sits back from the water approximately 30 yards, it is probably the most desirable of the three sites along Pine Run. A narrow trail leads from the campsite to a beautiful and private section of Pine Run.

After Site 3, the trail reaches Intersection F, which you'll go straight through, and then crosses Pine Run again before heading uphill to Site 4. At this crossing of Pine Run, a small side stream empties into the main stream from the right. If you are filtering water, but are concerned about equine walking through Pine Run, then this little stream may be an option for you. Flow slows to a trickle in dry weather. At the top of the hill above Pine Run, the trail switchbacks and begins to skirt the edge of a pine plantation. In 0.5 mile past the last crossing of Pine Run, you'll arrive at Site 4, sitting just to the left of the trail and above the valley. Past Site 4, the trail returns to the Bridle Trail Area, finishing the last 0.8 mile through beautiful pine plantations and a mature oak forest.



Pine Run

Park and Pack Sites 1 through 4 Trail Notes and Mileage

0.0 Start from the Bridle Trail Area on the south side of State Route 97 near the forest entrance. The trail leaves the Bridle Trail Area downhill to the right, just past a kiosk in the middle of the area.

0.3 Arrive at Intersection C on the bridle trail. Turn right for Site 1 and left for Sites 2 through 4.

0.5 (To Site 1) Just after crossing Pine Run, arrive at a short side trail for Site 1 on the left. Watch for a Carsonite sign.

The rest of this section is for Sites 2 through 4 and returning to the trailhead

0.6 Arrive at Intersection G on the bridle trail. Turn right and cross Pine Run to access Site 2. Continue straight through the intersection for Sites 3 and 4.

0.85 Cross Pine Run in a scenic section of the valley. Just past the stream crossing, a Carsonite sign marks a side trail to Site 3 on the left.

1.0 Arrive at Intersection F on the bridle trail. Go Straight.

1.1 Cross Pine Run.

1.6 Arrive at Site 4 just to the left of the trail.

1.9 The trails arrives at a T junction with an old road. Turn left.

2.4 Return to the trailhead.

Park and Pack Sites 5 and 6

Park and pack Sites 5 and 6 are located on the same network of bridle trails as Sites 1 through 4, about one mile down valley by stream, but much farther by trail. Parking for these two sites is located on Township Road 3234, about 1.5 miles off of State Route 97. The very small parking area is on the left and is only big enough for 2 or 3 vehicles; a 4 x 4 post reading "Park and Pack Parking" marks it. Hiking to these two sites from this direction will actually take you to Site 6 before 5.

To join the bridle trail, walk across TR 3234, around a cable and two posts blocking and old road, uphill to a powerline right-of-way. Meet the bridle trail in the right-of-way and follow it straight, continuing uphill through lovely pines. In approximately 0.2 mile, you will arrive at Site 6 at the top of the hill on your left. To reach Site 5, continue past Site 6 for 0.5 mile. Halfway to Site 5 the trail will become



Site 5

rutted as it descends into the valley of Pine Run. Just before reaching the valley bottom, you will arrive at Site 5 on your left, close to the trail. Site 5 was once a beautiful site but it has sustained major tree damage in recent years from storms. It remains a nice site despite the damage. This site is positioned on a bluff above a scenic side hollow of the nearby larger valley. Site 5 has a remote feel and sits opposite a large pine plantation on the opposite hillside. A scenic section of Pine Run can be reached in 0.2 mile downhill past this site.

Park and Pack Sites 5 and 6 Trail Notes and Mileage

0.0 Start from the small parking area on Township Road 3234. Cross the road and join the bridle trail just uphill in a powerline right-of-way. Continue uphill.

0.15 Arrive at Site 6, just off the trail to the left.

0.3 The trail makes a sharp left turn at an intersection. Be sure not to go straight.

0.7 Arrive at Site 5, just off the trail to the left.

Park and Pack Site 7

To reach Site 7, park at the Bridle Trail Area discussed in the section for Sites 1 through 4. Instead of heading south through the area, walk north across State Route 97 and follow a powerline right-of-way/bridle trail downhill for 50 yards. You will see Forest Road 58 straight ahead at the bottom of the hill. As you cross SR 97, you will see a 4 x 4 post indicating you are at Intersection A on the bridle trail system. At the bottom of the hill, you will see another post marking Intersection Q. At this intersection, you will go left and follow another powerline right-of-way/bridle trail for 0.25 mile and make a right onto a gas access road. A large electrical generator sits at the entrance to the access road. A Carsonite sign with an arrow pointing straight and a number 7 on it will be located at this junction. Follow the gas access road for 0.25 mile. As you approach Site 7, you will walk through a clear-cut area around a gas well. The campsite sits on the left, about 100 yards past the gas well. This site has been relocated due to the clearing around the gas well. The current site is not level and finding an appropriate spot to pitch a tent could be difficult. The qualities of this site are not nearly as desirable as those found at some of the other sites.

As an alternate way to Site 7, you can meet a mountain bike trail near Intersection Q and follow it to where it passes the gas well clear-cut and turn right. The distance from Intersection Q to the gas well clear-cut going this way is 0.4 mile.

Park and Pack Site 7 Trail Notes and Mileage

0.0 Start from the Bridle Trail Area on the south side of State Route 97 near the forest entrance. Walk across SR 97 and head downhill in a powerline right-of-way/bridle trail. Just after crossing SR 97, you will see a 4 x 4 post indicating you are at Intersection A on the bridle trail. In approximately 50 yards, you will arrive at Intersection Q on the bridle trail, just above Forest Road 58. Turn left, and follow another powerline right of way/bridle trail.

0.3 Turn right onto a gas well access road. A Carsonite sign points you in the direction of Site 7.

0.4 Cross a gas line right-of-way.

0.5 Cross a mountain bike trail and then immediately arrive at a clear-cut area around a gas well. Site 7 is located approximately 100 yards past the clear-cut area.

Park and Pack Sites 8 through 10

Sites 8 through 10 are located on the north rim above Clear Fork Gorge. Parking is found at a lower and upper area at the end of Township Road 3006. The two parking areas are about 200 yards apart. The gravel road between the two becomes rutted and uneven after you pass the lower parking area and approach the upper one. Because the lower parking area is also used as a school bus turnaround, forest administrators prefer visitors park in the upper area. Visitors with low clearance vehicles may have no choice other than to use the lower area. Trails to Sites 8 through 10 leave from the upper parking area.

To reach Site 8, walk straight across a fire road that passes adjacent to the upper parking area and start following the trail that begins here. You should see a Carsonite sign directing you to Site 8 at the beginning of this trail on the opposite side of the fire road. After 150 yards, the trail will T into a mountain bike trail, take the right fork (which is more like continuing straight). In 0.15 mile, the mountain bike trail will make a sharp right turn. If you walk straight through this turn, you will walk directly into Site 8 within a few yards. The site is marked with a Carsonite sign. This site is situated in section of hardwoods and doesn't possess any qualities that make it special or unique.

To reach Sites 9 and 10, you will want to go left on the fire road passing by the upper parking area. In 0.3 mile, you will see a Carsonite sign on your right announcing your arrival at the side trail to Site 9. Turn right and follow the side trail to this large, attractive campsite. To reach Site 10, continue past the side trail to Site 9 for an additional 0.3 mile to an old roadbed forking to the right. A Carsonite sign will direct you. Follow this old road for 0.1 mile and make a right at another Carsonite sign marking the side trail to Site 10. The distance from the upper parking area to the Site 10 side trail is 0.7 mile. A few yards up the side trail sits Site 10. Site 10 is a very nice backcountry campsite



Site 10

situated at the edge of Clear Fork Gorge, with a pine grove on the north side and a nearly 300-foot vertical drop on the south. The site occupies a large area, just back from the edge of a cliff line demarcating the rim of the gorge. In winter, views into the gorge are excellent. The flattest area of the site is a few yards uphill past the fire ring, with room for one or two small tents. Campers or groups with larger tents may have no choice but to pitch tent on the sloping ground near the fire ring. Site 10 is popular with campers, so an early arrival is needed to increase your chances of grabbing this site for a night or two. Walking the old road past the side trail to this site will take you to the base of the cliffline and an old quarry area.

An alternate—and more scenic—route to Site 10 follows the same mountain bike trail Site 8 is located on. From the upper parking area, walk straight across the fire road and follow the trail that begins there. You should see a Carsonite sign pointing you in the direction of Site 8 at the beginning of this trail. After 150 yards, the trail will T into a mountain bike trail, take the left fork. Follow the mountain bike trail for nearly 0.9 mile until it emerges onto an old road. The mountain bike trail will continue to the left, but you will want to go right for approximately 50 yards until you arrive at the side trail and sign for Site 10.

The mountain bike trail to Site 10 follows the contour of the hill above the gorge, through pines and even passes within a few feet of the gorge rim. Approximately 0.5 mile east of Site 10 on the mountain bike trail, an old trail heads downhill and links up with foot trails in the gorge near the Class A campground. This provides the quickest access to the beautiful gorge from the sites on the north rim.

Park and Pack Sites 8 through 10 Trail Notes and Mileage

To Site 8

0.0 Start from the upper parking area; walk to the upper parking area if parked in the lower one. Walk straight across a fire old road that passes adjacent to the upper parking area and start following the trail that begins here. You should see a Carsonite sign directing you to Site 8.

150 yards The trail will T into a mountain bike trail, take the right fork (which is more like continuing straight).

0.25 The mountain bike trail makes a sharp right turn. Walk straight through the turn and into Site 8 in a few yards.

To Sites 9 and 10

0.0 Start from the upper parking area; walk to the upper parking area if parked in the lower one. Walk left on a fire road that passes adjacent to the upper parking area.

0.3 Arrive at the side trail leading to Site 9. A Carsonite sign marks the trail. Site 9 is approximately 0.1 mile down the side trail.

0.35 Cross a gas line right-of-way.

0.6 Arrive at a fork in the fire road. Take the right fork and start heading slightly downhill toward the gorge. A mountain bike trail will cross the road, actually running coincident with it for approximately 200 yards.

0.7 Arrive at the side trail leading to Site 10 on the right. It is marked with a Carsonite sign. Site 10 is located about 50 yards up the side trail, near the rim of the gorge.

Day Hikes

The combined area of Mohican State Forest and State Park is a day hiker's paradise. There are many wonderful trails leading to all of the sites in and around the Clear Fork Gorge. Foot traffic is permitted on mountain bike and bridge trails, bringing the total number of trail miles available to hikers to over 50. State forest and state park maps show all of the trails throughout the extent of the area, which extends beyond the borders of the map enclosed with this document. If not occupied, any of the park and pack sites provide nice a spot for a snack or quick break.

Loop hikes of varying distance can be created from the network of bridge trails in the valley of Pine Run; start at the Bridle Trail Area on State Route 97. Park and pack Sites 1 through 4 are located in this area. You will cross Pine Run

at least twice, so plan accordingly. In the state park, trails pass through the entire length of the scenic gorge, from the Pleasant Hill Lake Dam to the Class A Campground on State Route 3. Along the way, you'll have the opportunity to visit a covered bridge and two waterfalls. You may also choose to hike uphill and visit a restored fire tower for a panoramic view of the entire region.



Vista of Clear Fork Gorge

389000m E.

390000m E.

391000m E.

392000m E.

Mohican Park and Pack Sites

4498000m N.

4498000m N.

4497000m N.

4497000m N.

4496000m N.

4496000m N.

4495000m N.

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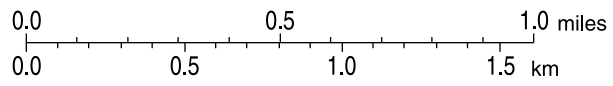
4493000m N.

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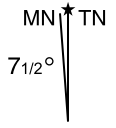
SYMBOLS

Parking	Point of Interest	Foot Trail
Campsite	Water	Bridle Trail w/Mile Marker
Picnic Area	Forest Office	Mountain Bike Trail
Restroom	Diamond mile markers represent trail miles on map only and are not field identifiable features.	

388000m E. 389000m E. 390000m E. 391000m E. 392000m E.



1000-Meter UTM 17 Grid NAD 27



Base map created with TOPO!
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1" = 2000'