

Wayne National Forest – Scenic River and Greenwood Trails

Including the North Country Trail/9 Bell Trail Connector to the Archers Fork Trail

County: Washington

Nearest town: Marietta

Total distance: Scenic River Trail: 3.4 miles point-to-point, Greenwood Trail: 6.5 miles point-to-point; 9.2-mile loop using both trails from the Scenic River Trail's southern trailhead, 10.6-mile loop from the Scenic River Trail's northern trailhead; 2.6-mile connector via the North Country Trail/9 Bell Trail to the Archers Fork Trail from the Scenic River Trail's northern trailhead.

Hiking time: Approximately 5 to 7 hours, or 2 days for overnight

Trail conditions: Excellent

Blazes: Yellow diamonds for the Scenic River Trail. Yellow diamonds with a green dot for the Greenwood Trail. Blue diamonds and yellow diamonds with a red dot for the North Country Trail/9 Bell Trail connector to the Archers Fork Trail

Water: No potable water available along trails. Water drawn from area streams must be treated or filtered.

Highlights: Seclusion, well designed trails, wildlife, abundant rock outcroppings, large timber

Maps: Wayne National Forest - Hiking, Backpacking and Mountain Bike Map; BackpackOhio.com eTrailsOhio

Contact info: Wayne National Forest – Marietta Unit, phone: 740-373-9055

Internet: www.fs.fed.us/r9/wayne/

Getting there: To reach the Scenic River Trail's southern trailhead on State Route 7, travel SR 7 east for 19.6 miles from the interchange of I-77 and SR 7 in Marietta. Park in a pullout on the north side of the road near a small forest service storage building. To reach the northern trailhead of the Scenic River Trail, which also serves as an access point for the North Country Trail, travel SR 7 east for 19 miles from the interchange of I-77 and SR 7 in Marietta and turn left onto Archers Fork Road (CR-14). Travel Archers Fork Road for 2.3 miles and turn right onto County Nine Road (CR-9). Travel 1.4 miles on County Nine Road and turn right into a gravel driveway. A small parking area is located a short distance ahead. Do not block the gated forest road exiting the back of the parking area.

Trailhead coordinates: Scenic River Trail's southern trailhead on State Route 7 - 39° 26' 34"N, 81° 09' 47"W (WGS84); UTM 17 485965E, 4365731N (NAD27). Scenic River Trail's northern trailhead on County Nine Road - 39° 28' 29"N, 81° 10' 39"W (WGS84); UTM 17 484744E, 4369259N (NAD27).

Background

The Scenic River and Greenwood trails are located in far southeastern Ohio in the heavily forested and sparsely populated northeast corner of Washington County, which is part of the Marietta Management Unit of Wayne National Forest. These trails, along with the nearby Archers Fork Trail, are farther from Ohio's major metropolitan areas than other trails in the state. Getting to the trailhead may not be as convenient as some other trails, but to experience this trail network in beautiful Appalachia Ohio is worth the drive.

Historically, the region's flat ridgetops and bottomlands existed as small family farms up to the Depression Era when low crop prices and drought forced families to leave--as much as a 40% decline in population between the years of 1900 and 1930. The land, largely denuded of trees, eroded and robbed of nutrients, became subject to federal purchase in the years to follow after the Ohio State Legislature approved a bill in 1934 allowing the U.S. Government to create a national forest. Although federal ownership of land within the Marietta Management Unit of Wayne National Forest—and all units for that matter--is fragmented, a large number of federally owned contiguous tracts have allowed for the creation of a network of lightly used trails extending miles beyond the Scenic River and Greenwood trails. This trail network is a true—albeit little known--resource for Buckeye State hikers, backpackers, mountain bikers, hunters and more.

Under the forest canopy, the landscape of these mountain foothills is characterized by steep slopes and abundant rock outcroppings. At the head of nearly every hollow, a recess cave can be found; broken cliff lines, ranging from small to impressive, cornice the tops of area ridges. These rocky ridges attain an average elevation relief of approximately 400 to 500 feet above the nearby Ohio River. The Macksburg oil and gas field underlies this entire region, so expect to see results of active and historic exploitations of these resources.

Although not old growth by any means, the forests in this part of the Wayne are still stately with oak and hickory forests dominating upland areas. A mixed forest type of cherry, tuliptree, walnut, maple and ash can be found on many slopes. Sycamore and beech are found in wetter bottomlands. A plentiful number of individual trees representing several species, but mainly tuliptree, have avoided the chainsaw for many decades and have grown to quite impressive proportions. With a little imagination, it's not hard to picture the same scene pioneers experienced when first exploring the Ohio Territory and its virgin forests.

Many woodland animals and birds call these ridges and hollows home. As dusk approaches, it's not uncommon to hear a pair of noisy owls or the call of the whip-poor-will. Coyotes roam these hills and their howls are often heard at dusk as well. Spotting a black bear passing through the area is a real possibility, as they are known to populate this part of the state. This region is also copperhead and timber rattlesnake country, so a little extra caution should be exercised in warmer months. Not to be forgotten, deer and turkey are well represented here as well.

The Scenic River and Greenwood Trails

The 3.4-mile point-to-point Scenic River Trail (SRT) and the 6.5-mile point-to-point Greenwood Trail (GT) combine to create a pleasant backpacking experience. The GT begins and ends at the SRT, with its beginning and ending points separated by 2.1 miles. Until 2014, the GT was named the River Loop Trail. These two trails are open to hiking and mountain biking only, but closed to mountain biking from December 15th to April 15th annually. The River Valley Mountain Bike Association (RVMB) based in Marietta does a tremendous job in helping the forest service maintain these trails. Both trails have a nicely established tread. Rivulets and low spots are built up with rocks and logs to create a level path and log bridges are constructed over smaller streams. Although trail maintenance is completed with mountain biking in mind, hikers reap the benefit as well. The result is some of Ohio's finest backcountry trails. RVMB also maintains other trails linked to the SRT and GT, including parts of the North Country Trail (NCT) and the Archers Fork Trail. RVMB's hard work is commended.



Scenic River Trail trailhead on SR 7

The trip described in this document begins at the SRT's southern trailhead on State Route 7. This is the preferred trailhead as busy SR 7 traffic would likely deter any would-be vandals or thieves from bothering your vehicle. A second SRT trailhead is located to the north on County Nine Road (CR-9) in a remote location and the more likely of the two trailheads to attract evildoers, although the forest service reports a low annual number of vandalism and theft incidents. Day hikers can use either trailhead with virtually no worry of vehicle safety.

If you complete an overnight trip as outlined in this document, a mile-long section of the SRT from the northern SRT/GT junction to the northern SRT trailhead will not be utilized. Choosing to incorporate this out-and-back section of the SRT into your trip will add 2.0 miles to the total distance, for a total trip distance of 11.2 miles. Choosing to complete a trip starting from the northern SRT trailhead will make the total trip distance 10.6 miles.

From the SRT's northern trailhead, the NCT can be accessed. You have the option of traveling the NCT in either of two directions. Traveling north will take you to the Archers Fork Trail in 2.6 miles. From that point, you can complete the Archers Fork Trail loop or connect to other national forest trails, like the Ohio View Trail or the Covered Bridge Trail, via connecting trails from the Archers Fork Trail. The network of interconnecting trails in this part of Wayne National Forest offers the exciting possibility of creating a multi-night trip on lightly traveled trails in a rural corner of Ohio offering beautiful scenery and solitude.

Yellow diamonds mark the SRT while yellow diamonds with a green dot mark the GT. Fortunately, the SRT and the GT are extremely easy to follow. There are very few opportunities to stray from the official trail, so trail users just need to follow the well established tread laid out before them. The NCT connector to the Archers Fork Trail is marked with blue diamonds. Blank brown Carsonite posts may be noted along all trails. It is unknown as of this writing if any markings or signage will be added to these posts.

Since this is Wayne National Forest, camping is allowed anywhere along the trail. There are no WNF established camps on the trail. A few campsites have been established by backcountry campers before you. These are included on the enclosed map. We have also included on the map a few areas noted as having the qualities of a suitable campsite, namely being reasonably flat and open. These potential campsites are included on the map as well. One established camping area with two sites was noted on the NCT connector to the Archers Fork Trail. A table of GPS coordinates for all campsites—established and potential—can be found in Appendix A.

Leith Run Recreation Area, located 0.5 mile past the SRT's southern trailhead on State Route 7, offers car camping and other amenities for non-backpacking trail users wishing to camp in a more convenient setting. This area

is normally closed in the off-season, but reopened for deer hunting season in the fall, so check with the WNF Marietta Unit office if your plans include visiting this area.

Water needs for this trip will require you to either carry it or filter/treat it from one of several streams crossed by the trail. Water could be cached pre-hike at the northern SRT trailhead, but if you stick with the route as described in this document, you'll face at least an additional 2.0 miles of walking to retrieve it. The closest place to collect water pre-trip is at the Leith Run Recreation Area mentioned above. Again, check with the forest service for seasonal dates of closure.

Collecting water on the trail from one of the many stream crossings is typically an option most of the year. Even if stream flow has ceased in dry weather, some deeper pools linger for much longer. The three largest stream crossings occur at 2.1, 3.4 and 5.2 miles, all on the GT. Several other small streams and rivulets are crossed, but will be the first to dry up. The SRT has no water; it stays high and dry. Cady Run at the 2.0-mile mark of the NCT connector to the Archers Fork Trail will be the most reliable source of water along this stretch of trail. Please note that the forest service advises against collecting and treating any water from the trail due to the regions agriculture and mining past. Water quality could be affected by residual chemicals still soil bound. No reported illnesses caused from drinking properly treated or filtered water from area streams has been reported to the forest service, however.

A trip on the SRT/GT begins from the SRT's southern trailhead on SR 7. A pullout near a small forest service storage building provides parking for 3 to 4 cars. The official trailhead is located just off the edge of SR 7 about 40 yards to the northeast of the parking area and is marked with a sign. You may notice the SRT crossing SR 7 to the south. This section of the trail terminates at the Leith Run Recreation Area. A short mowed path behind the forest service storage building will also take you to the trail, cutting off a modest few steps. An easy ascent will take you halfway up a hill to the 0.3-mile mark and a junction with the GT. You'll stay on the winding GT for the next 6.5 miles until it terminates back at the SRT.



Rock outcropping at 1.1 miles

The GT follows the contour of the land for most of its way, staying primarily at an elevation that's midway between the ridgetops and valley bottoms. The first 0.4 mile of the GT parallel the 800' elevation contour and offers vistas of the Ohio River until it swings to the north and heads away from the river and up an unnamed hollow. Buckeye trees are abundant the first few tenths of the hike. Until you approach the trip's 1.0-mile mark, traffic noise from busy SR 7 will be an annoyance. Just after the 1.0-mile mark, a house is noted downhill to the left and rock outcroppings on the upslope to the right become more frequent. At one point, near the 1.6-mile mark, a sign warns mountain bikers of a dangerous sharp right curve atop a small cliff, missing this turn would send any unfortunate biker off the cliff and to certain injury. Take note of some of the large timber here, and along the

entire length of the GT.

Near the head of the hollow the trail has been traveling in for over a mile, the trail drops to cross a stream just past the 2.0-mile mark. This stream is one of the larger ones crossed by the trail and is a reliable source of water most of the year. For the next 1.0 mile you'll be hiking out of the unnamed hollow on the opposite side, passing more rock outcroppings along the way. Just after 3.0 miles into the hike, the trail will gradual descend via a long gentle switchback and arrive near Archers Fork Road in the valley of Reas Run. The trail will pass closely by a private residence, which will send several dogs into a barking frenzy. From there, a nearly 2.0-mile walk up another unnamed hollow will transport you to a very secluded section of the forest.

As the trail reaches the head of this unnamed hollow near the hike's 5.2-mile mark, you'll cross another mostly year-round stream and begin to walk the opposite side of that hollow in a southerly direction. The North Country Trail intersects the GT from the north here and shares the trail briefly before heading off in a northwesterly direction. You may find enough flat ground in the head of this hollow to pitch a small camp. Take note of the stone chimney below the trail on the right at the 5.3-mile mark. As the trail approaches the 6.0-mile mark, rock outcroppings begin to reappear. The forest possesses a special scenic quality here.

The first established campsite on the GT is located ahead at the 6.25-mile mark, just before the trail swings to the north and uphill. This attractive campsite sits roughly 30 feet in elevation below the trail and requires a short but steep scramble to reach. A small, rocky wet weather stream flows behind the site and massive tuliptrees ring it. Just under 0.2 mile ahead at the 6.4-mile mark, the trail arrives at another nice campsite. This one is large and located near ridgetop level. From this campsite, the GT has just under 0.5 mile remaining. At the trip's 6.8-mile mark, the GT arrives at a T intersection with the SRT and ends. You are now over 500' in elevation above the Ohio River at this point. To complete the loop, you'll go right. Going left will take you to the SRT's northern trailhead on County Nine Road in 1.0 mile. If you wish to make the out-



Campsite on the Greenwood Trail



Trail intersection signage

and-back walk to the SRT's northern trailhead, plan on adding 2.0 miles to the total trip. The hike to the SRT's northern trailhead does not possess any special must-do qualities. Two campsites are located near the northern trailhead.

From the GT/SRT intersection, the balance of the trip is completed on the SRT. The SRT stays at or near ridgetop level for approximately 2.0 miles before descending to the trailhead. Forest Road 4345 is crossed and oil storage tanks, wells and gas lines are encountered along the SRT's early stretches. A small number of potential camping areas and one established campsite are passed along the final 1.5 miles of the trail. These areas, along with their GPS coordinates, are outlined in Appendix A.

In the last stretch of the SRT, traffic noise from SR 7—some 400' below in elevation—signals the approaching end of the hike. The final descent off the ridge first appears to be straight down as you near the juxtaposition of flat ridgetop with steep downslope. Your past experiences on Ohio trails may have you expecting a steep, straight down descent, but you'll be pleased to find that beautifully designed switchbacks gently ease you down from the lofty height and return you safely back to the trailhead.

The Scenic River and Greenwood Trails - Trail Notes and Mileage

0.0 Start from the Scenic River Trail (SRT) trailhead on State Route 7. The trailhead is located several yards north of a pullout parking area, which sits on the north side of SR 7 near a small forest service storage building. A mowed path behind the storage building leads to the trail as well.

0.3 Arrive at a junction with the Greenwood Trail (GT). Go left.

2.1 Cross a stream near the head of an unnamed hollow. If treating or filtering water, this stream has flow most of the year.

3.4 Just behind a private residence on Archers Fork Road, cross under a powerline, over a private drive and through a stream.

5.2 Arrive at an intersection with the North Country Trail. A flat area just north of this intersection has camping potential

5.3 Note the old, free-standing chimney downhill to the right.

5.5 Pass a small flat area on the right with camping potential.

6.25 Pass a scenic campsite on the right surrounded by large tuliptrees approximately 30' in elevation below the trail.

6.4 Arrive at a large ridgetop campsite on the left.

6.8 Arrive at a junction with the SRT. Go right. Going left will take you to the SRT's northern trailhead on County Nine Road in 1.0 mile. Two campsites are located near the SRT's northern trailhead.

7.0 Cross Forest Road 4345.

7.3 Pass through an oil/gas well access area. A storage tank is visible uphill on the left and active wells to the right.

7.7 Pass a large, open area with good camping potential approximately 20 yards off the trail to the left.

7.9 Pass a potential camping area on the right.

8.2 Pass a large trailside flat area suitable for camping on the left.

8.5 Pass an established campsite on the right.

9.0 Arrive at the southern junction with the GT.

9.3 Arrive back at the trailhead.

North Country Trail/9 Bell Trail Connector to the Archers Fork Trail

The 2.6-mile North Country Trail connector to the Archers Fork Trail begins from a parking area located at the northern trailhead of the SRT on County Nine Road. This section of the NCT is also named the 9 Bell Trail and is also maintained by RVMBA, the mountain biking club responsible for the excellent condition of the SRT and the GT, although you will notice this stretch of trail is a little rougher and the ascents/descents a little steeper. The connector trail travels through a peaceful section of Wayne National Forest. Rock outcroppings are noted in the early sections of the trail and then again climbing out of the valley of Cady Run at the 2.0-mile mark. Two streams, an unnamed one crossed near the 0.6-mile mark and Cady Run at the 2.0-mile mark, are the most reliable sources of water if treating or filtering. A streamside flat area at the first stream crossing contains a couple lightly used campsites.



Vista on the NCT connector

At the parking area on County Nine Road, the NCT enters from the west and follows the short parking area driveway out to the road, crosses it and then reenters the woods. The trail is marked with blue diamonds and yellow diamonds with a red dot, but you'll see blue rectangular blazes as well, mainly on sign posts. From County Nine Road, the trail immediately begins to descend and follows an old road near the bottom of the descent. Rock outcroppings can't be missed on the right starting at the 0.4-mile mark. At 0.6-mile, the trail crosses a stream and then passes a potential campsite on the left. Nearing the 1.0-mile mark, the trail will gain some modest elevation, pass through more rock outcroppings, and then level out for nearly the next 1.0 mile at an elevation 100' +/- below ridgetop level. In non-

foliage seasons, nice vistas into Cady Run valley below can be enjoyed from mile marks 1.0 to 1.5. Near the 1.7-mile mark, the trail passes under a high voltage powerline close to County Nine Road and begins a descent into the valley of Cady Run.

The trail passes through the peaceful upper end of Cady Run valley and crosses Cady Run Road, which becomes nothing more than an ATV trail to the right of the trail crossing. Take note of the impressive sandstone outcrop rimming the ridge to the north. These are some of the largest in the area. The light coloration of the rock makes them easily visible from the valley floor. As the trail climbs upward from Cady Run, it becomes steep in places and passes just to east of the large rocks. From here, a 0.5-mile walk along the west slope of an unnamed hollow leads to a final small ascent that culminates on a ridgetop and an intersection with the Archers Fork Trail on Forest Road 4346.

North Country Trail/9 Bell Trail Connector to the Archers Fork Trail - Trail Notes and Mileage

0.0 Start at the NCT parking area/SRT northern trailhead on County Nine Road. Follow the short parking area driveway out to County Nine Road and follow the trail on the opposite side of the road. Watch for signs.

0.6 Cross a stream and note the flat area on the left. A couple lightly used campsites can be found in the flat area.

1.75 Pass under an electrical transmission line. Watch for an unofficial trail forking right into the powerline right-of-way approximately 40 yards before the official trail crosses it.

2.0 Cross Cady Run and Cady Run Road in a peaceful valley.

2.6 Arrive at a junction with the Archers Fork Trail on Forest Road 4346.

Day Hikes

Given the excellent trail conditions and smartly designed switchbacks, the SRT/GT loop can be completed as a day hike by many hikers. Starting from the SRT's southern trailhead on State Route 7, the total distance for a loop hike is 9.2 mile. Add 2.0 miles if you visit the SRT's northern trailhead on County Nine Road. Starting from the SRT's northern trailhead, completing the SRT/GT loop requires you hike 10.6 miles. Also starting from the parking area at the SRT's northern trailhead on, consider hiking the NCT connector to the Archers Fork Trail and back for a very pleasant hike totaling 5.2 miles.

Appendix A: Campsite GPS Coordinates

Scenic River and Greenwood Trails (loop)

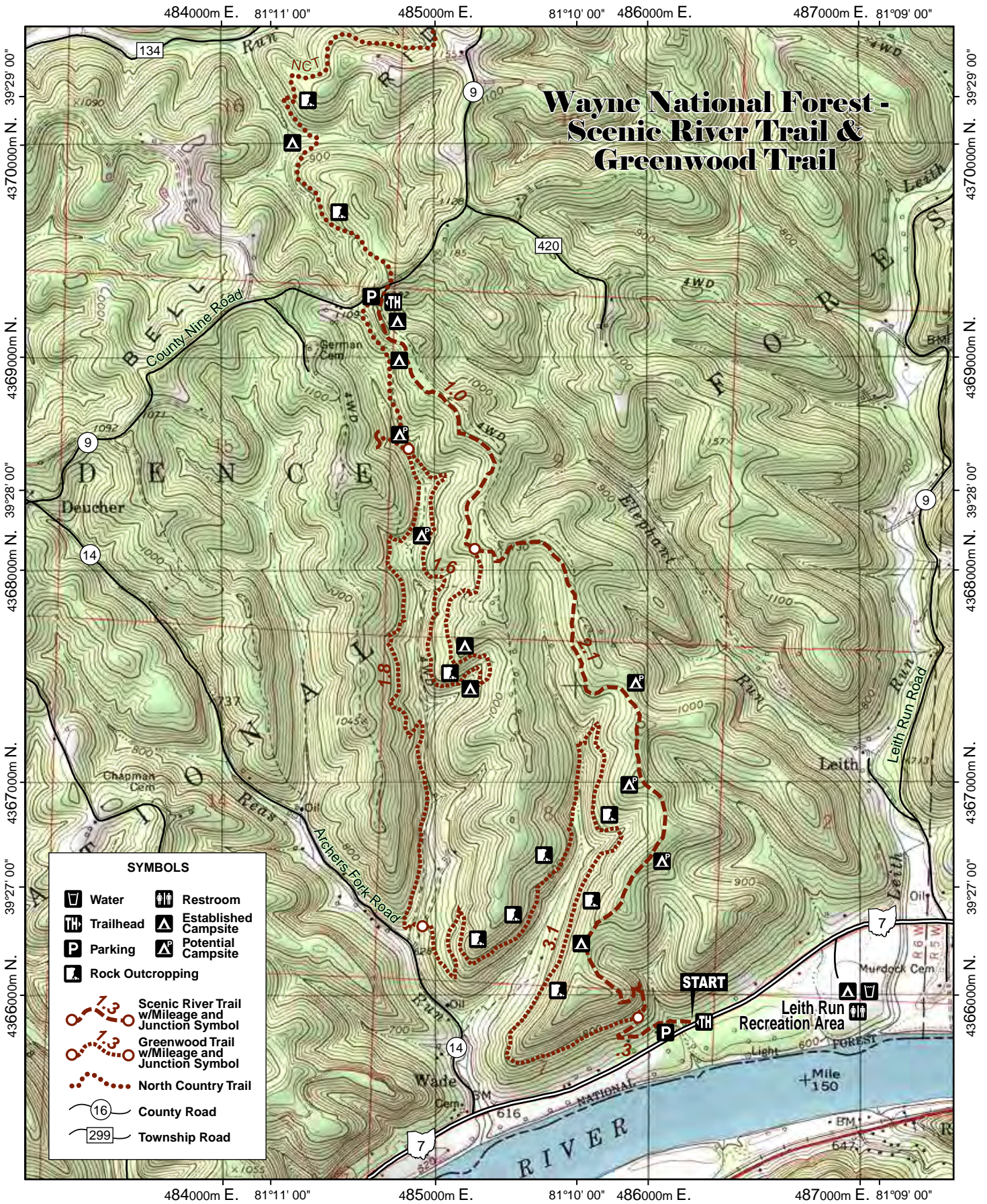
Clockwise direction of travel starting from the Scenic River Trail trailhead on State Route 7. Site # is for reference only to the order campsites appear on the map in the direction of travel. Campsites are not numbered in the field.

Site #	Mile	Latitude/Longitude	UTM 17 (NAD 27)	Notes
1	5.2	39° 28' 06"N, 81° 10' 33"W	484875E, 4368556N	Potential campsite just north of the intersection with the North Country Trail
2	5.5	39° 27' 53"N, 81° 10' 29"W	484970E, 4368155N	Small potential site adjacent to trail on right
3	6.25	39° 27' 31"N, 81° 10' 18"W	485231E, 4367476N	Nice established site downhill from the trail
4	6.4	39° 27' 33"N, 81° 10' 23"W	485112E, 4367538N	Nice established ridgetop campsite
5	7.7	39° 27' 30"N, 81° 09' 48"W	485948E, 4367444N	Large, open potential camp area 20 yards off the trail to the left
6	7.9	39° 27' 16"N, 81° 09' 47"W	485971E, 4367012N	Potential campsite to the right of the trail
7	8.2	39° 27' 04"N, 81° 09' 43"W	486066E, 4366642N	Large flat area off to the left of the trail suitable for camping
8	8.5	39° 26' 51"N, 81° 09' 57"W	485731E, 4366242N	Established campsite to the right of the trail
Two additional campsites near the Scenic River Trail's northern trailhead not passed on the SRT/GT loop				
		39° 28' 21"N, 81° 10' 34"W	484837E, 4369010N	Small established site 0.2 mile south of SRT's northern trailhead; site downhill from the trail; approach site from the north
		39° 28' 25"N, 81° 10' 37"W	484766E, 4369133N	Established campsite 200 yards south of the SRT's northern trailhead; very near a gated forest road

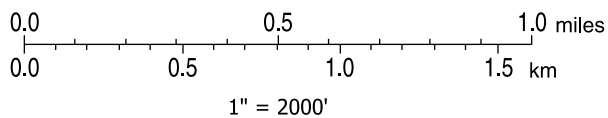
North Country Trail/9 Bell Trail Connector to the Archers Fork Trail

South to north direction of travel. Site # is for reference only to the order campsites appear on the map. Campsites are not numbered in the field.

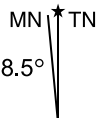
Site #	Mile	Latitude/Longitude	UTM 17 (NAD 27)	Notes
1	0.6	39° 28' 54"N, 81° 10' 55"W	484339E, 4370030W	two sites in area near stream



Base map created with TOPO!
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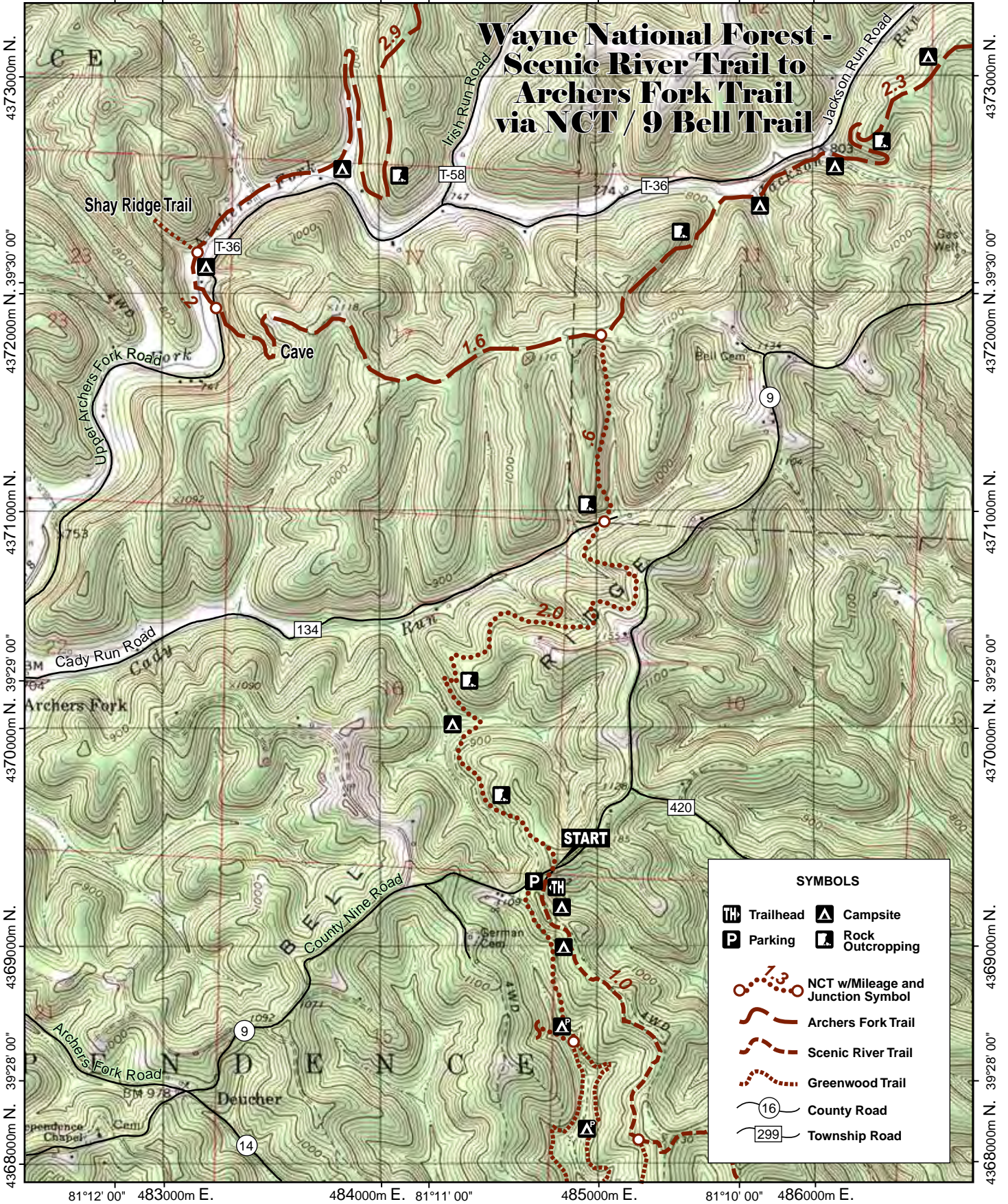


1000-Meter UTM 17 Grid
NAD 27
contour interval 20'



81°12' 00" 483000m E. 484000m E. 81°11' 00" 485000m E. 81°10' 00" 486000m E.

Wayne National Forest - Scenic River Trail to Archers Fork Trail via NCT / 9 Bell Trail

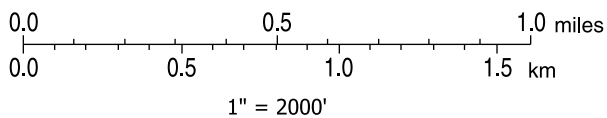


SYMBOLS

Trailhead	Campsite
Parking	Rock Outcropping
NCT w/Mileage and Junction Symbol	
Archers Fork Trail	
Scenic River Trail	
Greenwood Trail	
County Road	
Township Road	



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1000-Meter UTM 17 Grid
NAD 27
contour interval 20'

