

## Rockclimbing & Rappelling Area

The Hocking State Forest Rockclimbing and Rappelling Area, located off Big Pine Road in Spring Hollow, is the only facility on state land in the county that permits rockclimbing and rappelling. Nearly a mile of cliff, ranging up to 100 feet, along with numerous slump blocks, cracks, chimneys, and overhangs provides a variety of challenges to the rockclimber and rappeller.

**Your safety is our main concern.** Novices are encouraged to work with an experienced climber or rappeller who “knows the ropes.” Because the area is comprised of soft sandstone, use of climbing aids such as pitons and chocks is strongly discouraged. It is much safer to top-rope.

The area closes at dark, campfires are prohibited, and please dispose of your litter properly.

### Additional Information

**Hocking State Forest**  
19275 State Route 374  
Rockbridge, Ohio 43149

1-877-247-8733

OR

[ohiodnr.com/forestry](http://ohiodnr.com/forestry)

#### NON-EMERGENCIES

Hocking Emergency Medical Services  
(740) 385-3000

#### EMERGENCIES

Call 911



Division of Forestry • 2045 Morse Rd., H-1  
Columbus, Ohio 43229-6693  
Equal Employment Opportunity Employer M/F/H

## Hocking State Forest History

A visit to the Hocking State Forest can take you back to the past and provide a glimpse of the future. The sandstone cliffs reveal a time 300 million years ago when rivers to the east flowed into a shallow sea covering what is now called Ohio. Over geologic time, the land rose and small streams cut through the rock leaving the spectacular cliffs and waterfalls present today.

Remnant communities of birch and hemlock tell of times when the climate was much colder and glaciers threatened (but were stopped by hills just to the north). Large diameter 400 to 500 year old trees tell of simpler times and primitive technology. Most recent changes are exhibited by old road beds, abandoned homesites, and stands of pine trees now growing in what were 19 century corn, wheat, and hay fields.

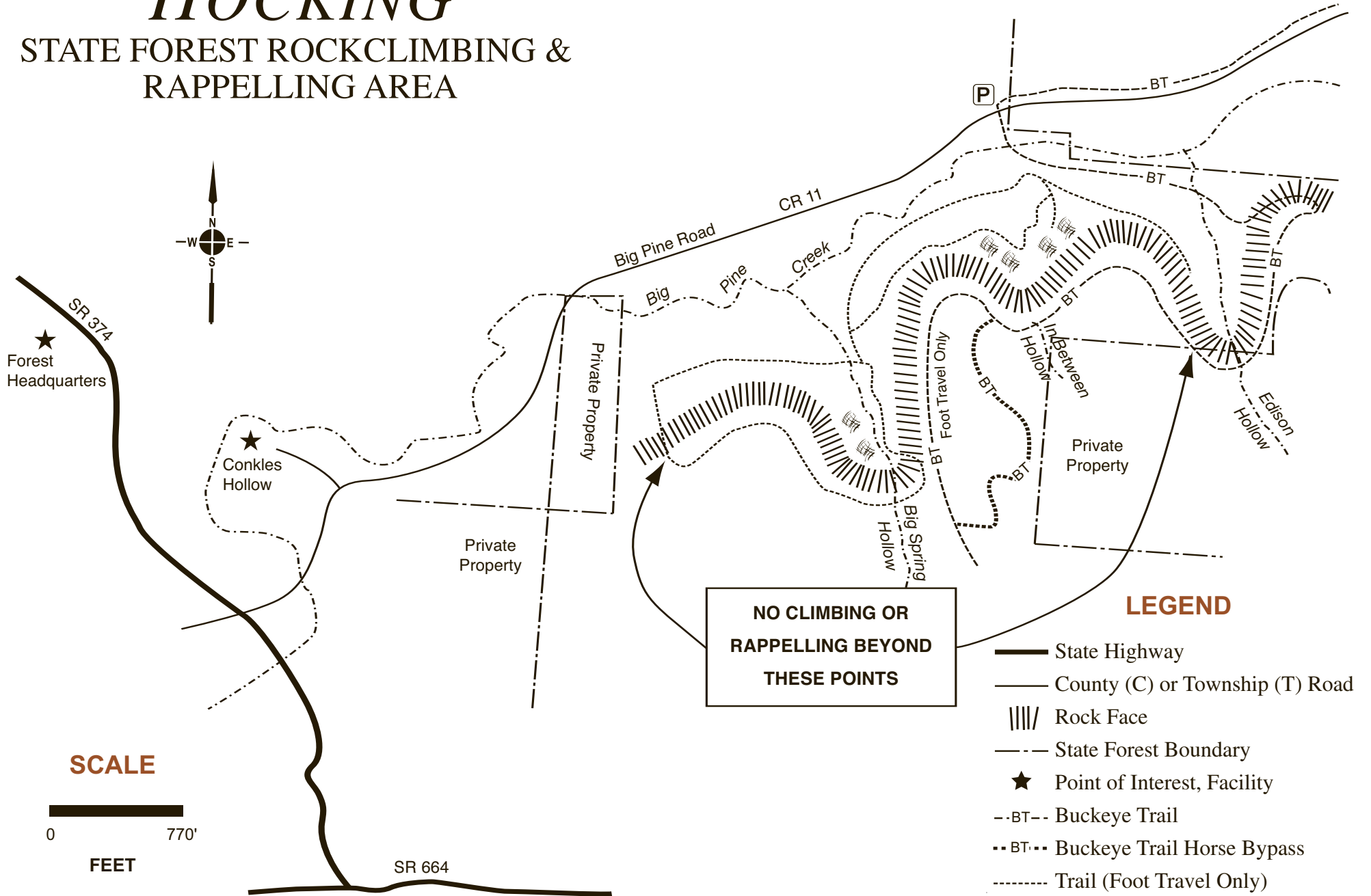
The Ohio Agricultural Experiment Station, predecessor to the ODNR, Division of Forestry, started buying Hocking County land in 1924. Timber harvests were regulated, parks were developed, erosion was controlled, abandoned fields were planted to trees, species like beaver and turkey were reintroduced, and Depression era people were given work. In 1949, the Ohio Department of Natural Resources was formed and the Hocking Hills State Park was separated from the Hocking State Forest. In 1976, three state nature preserves were also designated on the state forest.

Today, Hocking State Forest is managed for a variety of objectives including examples or demonstration areas of sound scientific sustained multiple-use management. Timber harvesting is closely monitored so it does not exceed the rate of growth. Erosion is actively controlled. Outdoor recreation is developed and encouraged. Habitat is provided and managed for game and non-game species. The ODNR Division of Forestry state forest system is dedicated to providing an example of sound multiple-use land stewardship.



# HOCKING

## STATE FOREST ROCKCLIMBING & RAPPELLING AREA



**NO CLIMBING OR  
RAPPELLING BEYOND  
THESE POINTS**

### LEGEND

- State Highway
- County (C) or Township (T) Road
- Rock Face
- State Forest Boundary
- Point of Interest, Facility
- Buckeye Trail
- Buckeye Trail Horse Bypass
- Trail (Foot Travel Only)
- Parking
- Slump
- Creek

Map reviewed and approved by David Lytle, Chief,  
ODNR-Division of Forestry 09/07