



Strouds Run State Park

11661 State Park Road
Athens, OH 45701

FEATURES

Strouds Run State Park

[NEW Rewards Card](#)

Location: 11661 State Park Road
Athens, Ohio 45701
(740) 592-2302

[Shop / Gift Cards](#)

1-866-644-6727 for camping
and getaway rental reservations

[Kids Nature Thing](#)

Contact: Burr Oak
1022 Burr Oak Lodge Rd.
Glouster, OH 45732

[What's Going On](#)

(740) 592-2302

[Parks Magazine](#)

[Park Map](#) | [Campground Map](#)



[Parks' Study Committee Report](#)

Acres of uninterrupted hardwood forest sprawl over the many hills and coves of Strouds Run State Park. The rugged terrain and scenic lake provide visitors a unique wilderness escape in southeastern Ohio.



STAY OVERNIGHT

[Make Reservations](#)

Camping



[Check Rates](#)

- 78 non-electric sites
- Latrines, waste drains, picnic tables and fire rings are provided
- 10 sites are available for campers with pets
- Group camp area is available for organized groups on a reservation basis

[Check Availability](#)

Boating

[Camping Info](#)

- Boats with a 10-hp limit are permitted on Dow Lake.
- Launch ramp and 12 tie-up stakes
- Boat rental information may be obtained at the park office

[Cottages Info](#)

[Getaway Rentals Info](#)

Fishing and Hunting

[Lodge & Conference](#)

Activity	Facilities	Quantity
Resource	Land, acres	2606
	Water, acres	161
Activities	Fishing	yes
	Hunting	yes
	Hiking Trail, miles	20
	Bridle Trails, miles	8.5
	Picnicking	yes
Boating	Picnic Shelters	3
	Swimming Beach (ft.)	900
	Boat Rental	yes
	Boating Limits	10hp
Winter	Boat Tie-Ups	12
	Launch Ramps	1
	Sledding	yes
Camping	Cross-Country Skiing	yes
	Non-Electric Campsites	78
	Campsites with Elec.	0
	Pets Permitted	yes
	Dumpstation	yes
	Group Camp, capacity	150

Centers Info

- Rainbow trout, largemouth bass, crappie and channel catfish are taken from the lake.
- Hunting is permitted in designated areas.
- Wild turkey, gray squirrel and white-tailed deer are abundant.
- A valid Ohio fishing and/or hunting license is required.



OUTDOOR FUN

Trails

RESOURCES

Find a Park

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For Kids - Park Pals

Accessible Facilities

FAQs

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Canal Lands Program

Nature Preserves

Ohio Trails Program

Other Resources

- Beaver pond Trail- Hiking- 1 Mile, Moderate
- Homestead Trail- Hiking- 1.5 Miles, Difficult
- Broken Rock Trail- Hiking- 2 Miles, Moderate
- Hickory Trail- Multi-Use- 7 Miles, Moderate
- Sycamore Valley Trail- Hiking- .5 Miles, Moderate
- Lakeview Trail- Hiking- 7 Miles, Moderate
- Indian Mound Trail- Hiking- 1 Mile, Moderate
- Excellent birdwatching and nature study can be done along the trail.
- 8-1/2 mile bridle trail has been constructed by volunteers from the Ohio Horseman's Council, Athens County Chapter, working under the Adopt-A-Trail program • The trail can be accessed from the parking lot off Township Road 21 and at locations along County Road 20

Swimming

- 900-foot sand beach on the east side of the lake is open during the summer months from sunrise to sunset.
- Change booths, drinking water and restrooms are available.
- Scuba diving with proper equipment is permitted.
- Diving alone and within the beach area is prohibited.
- Check for [water quality advisories](#)

Picnicking

- 3 Picnic areas
- Picnic tables and cooking grates are located at the north end of the lake and south of the dam.
- Most picnic areas have restrooms available, no restrooms are available south of the dam
- 3 shelterhouses, located at the north end of the lake, are available for reservation [online](#) or by calling (866)-644-6727

More To Do

- Basketball court and playground equipment
- Boat rentals are available at the beach, along with a volleyball court

Area Attractions

- The nearby town of Athens is the home of Ohio University. Tours of the university campus can be arranged by contacting the admissions office. The Anthony G. Trisolini Gallery, located on campus, houses fine art exhibits in an early Athens mansion.
- [Lake Hope, Hocking Hills](#) and [Burr Oak](#) state parks are within a short driving distance offering camping, lodge, cabins, fishing and swimming.
- [Marie J. Desonier State Nature Preserve](#) is located near Coolville. This preserve is heavily forested and contains a large variety of ferns, wildflowers and songbirds.
- Portions of [Wayne National Forest](#) are scattered through the county offering hiking, hunting and other forest related recreation.
- For additional information on local attractions, contact the [Athens County Convention & Visitors Bureau](#) (800-878-9767) or the [Division of Travel and Tourism](#) at 1-800-BUCKEYE.



Mailing Address:

Ohio State Parks
2045 Morse Rd, C-3
Columbus, OH

Nature of the Area

[Email us](#)

Strouds Run State Park is located in the scenic forested hills of Athens County, in the midst of the unglaciated Appalachian Plateau. Although untouched by the vast ice sheets that moved across portions of the state over 12,000 years ago, the effects of the glaciers can be seen today in the deep ravines and high hills of Strouds Run. Stream valleys served as outlets for torrents of glacial meltwaters. The erosion power of these waters began carving valleys and hillsides into the familiar topography Ohioans know today. Large deposits of glacial outwash, primarily sand and gravel, were deposited along these streams and strongly affected the type of biological communities present today at the park.

Sandstone, the principal bedrock outcropping in the region, is very resistant to erosion and forms the uplands and steep sides of the valleys. Twisting roads and forest trails pass through these deep ravines and lead to dense stands of beech, hickory, oak, maple and tuliptree. Seasonal displays are offered by flowering dogwood, redbud and spring wildflowers--with fall presenting a pageant of colorful foliage. These woods are home to white-tailed deer, fox, raccoon, opossum, squirrel, wild turkey and a variety of songbirds. Woodthrush, white-breasted nuthatch, scarlet tanager, pileated woodpecker and the rufous-sided towhee inhabit the forest canopy. These rugged hills and woodlands are truly reminiscent of the wilderness that characterized the Ohio country in the days of early settlers.

History of the Area

Several mounds and ancient fortifications were found in this area by early settlers telling us that the Adena Indians once lived here. In more recent history, this was home to the powerful Shawnee Nation until the Treaty of Greenville forced them to abandon their lands in southern Ohio.

The first settlers arrived in the Athens County region in 1796. Two townships of land in the area had been apportioned by the Ohio Company in 1795 for the benefit of a university. Settlers were encouraged to settle on these college lands so as to make them attractive, productive and to form a fund for the institution.

This venture led to the founding of the town of Athens and Ohio University, the first college in the Northwest Territory. Settlers came by way of flatboats from Marietta down the Ohio and up the Hocking River to an attractive bluff where the town of Athens is now located.

With the discovery of rich coal fields in the area, Athens County soon developed into one of the leading coal producers in the state. The Hocking Canal and railroads provided easy means for shipping coal to distant markets. Clay tile, brick and salt were other industries that brought prosperity to the area.

The park derives its name from the Strouds family who settled in the area in the early 1800s. The land was purchased by the state for forest conservation purposes from 1948 to 1953. The dam creating Dow Lake was completed in 1960. The lake bears the name of C.L. Dow of Ohio University who was instrumental in initiating the project.

