

Ohio Power Recreation Land Area

It is here in Ohio Power Recreation land area where a rich seam of coal lies buried beneath layers of clay and limestone and shale.

Ohio Power Company through its subsidiary, Central Ohio Coal Company, removes the overburden to recover the coal, then transports the coal to Muskingum River Plant for the generation of electricity. The coal seams, some 3 1/2 to 4 feet thick, yield about 5,000 to 5,800 tons of coal per acre.

This coal helps provide electricity for Ohio Power's 620,000 customers in 53 of Ohio's 88 Counties.

The Cycle of Coal Mining:

The coal deposits found in what is now ReCreation Land probably originated more than 300 million years ago in the Paleozoic or Carboniferous era of our earth's history. Their formation occurred when the lowlands were covered by shallow seas or extensive swamps. Evidence indicates that the formation of coal in this area required some 12,000 to 15,000 years.

ReCreation Land is noted for its abundant forest area, created from seedlings planted under the watchful supervision of trained foresters. The first of nearly 40,000,000 seedlings were planted, in 1944. The trees planted were locusts, alders,, sycamore, cottonwood, silver maple, oak, ash, black walnut and poplars. And lots of pines.

Today, much of ReCreation Land's 30,000 acres is heavily forested and dotted by hundreds of man-made lakes and ponds.

Law Change Emphasis:

Since 1972, reclamation procedures have shifted from tree-planting to grass-planting on gently rolling hills. Much of the land reclaimed today is used for pasture land or hay production.

One 2,800-acre site was made available to the Ohio Division of Wildlife for the establishment of a Canada geese-raising project, and a 70-acre portion is fenced off to protect the geese from natural predators. The initial flock of 500 Canada geese, donated by a park in Canada, has since grown to several thousand.

Each year, since 1961, the Ohio Division of Wildlife stocks the area's lakes and ponds as part of a fish management program in association with Ohio Power. Today, thousands of anglers - anxious to test their skills against the many species of fish in 300 lakes and ponds - flock to ReCreation Land annually.

Here, more than 1500 acres of water support species native to this area, such as bluegill, large-mouth and small-mouth bass, white bass, channel and shovelhead catfish, sunfish, chain pickerel, northern pike, white crappie and golden shiners (minnows).

Burr Oak State Park

Park History

Quiet and remote, Burr Oak State Park reflects the essence of rural Ohio. Forested hillsides flank the shores of Burr Oak Lake and here and there open meadows blanket the sites of old farm fields. Situated in the valley of Sunday Creek, the Burr Oak area has been inhabited by Indians, and later, by white settlers. These inhabitants found an abundance of game animals and the resources necessary for survival in the Ohio wilderness. Even today, visitors to the Burr Oak region are likely to catch a glimpse of deer, grouse and the secretive wild turkey.

In 1950, Burr Oak Lake was created by the construction of the Jenkins Dam across Sunday Creek. Two years later, Burr Oak State Park was dedicated, a beautiful retreat for campers, hikers, fishermen and all those seeking a quiet vacation getaway.

Burr Oak is one of Ohio's seven resort parks and offers a wide array of overnight accommodations. Camping is available in the 100-site Class A campground and in two small primitive camping areas. There are 30 deluxe housekeeping cabins situated near the lodge in the wooded hills overlooking the lake. Each cabin sleeps six people and is furnished with linens, towels and cooking and eating utensils.

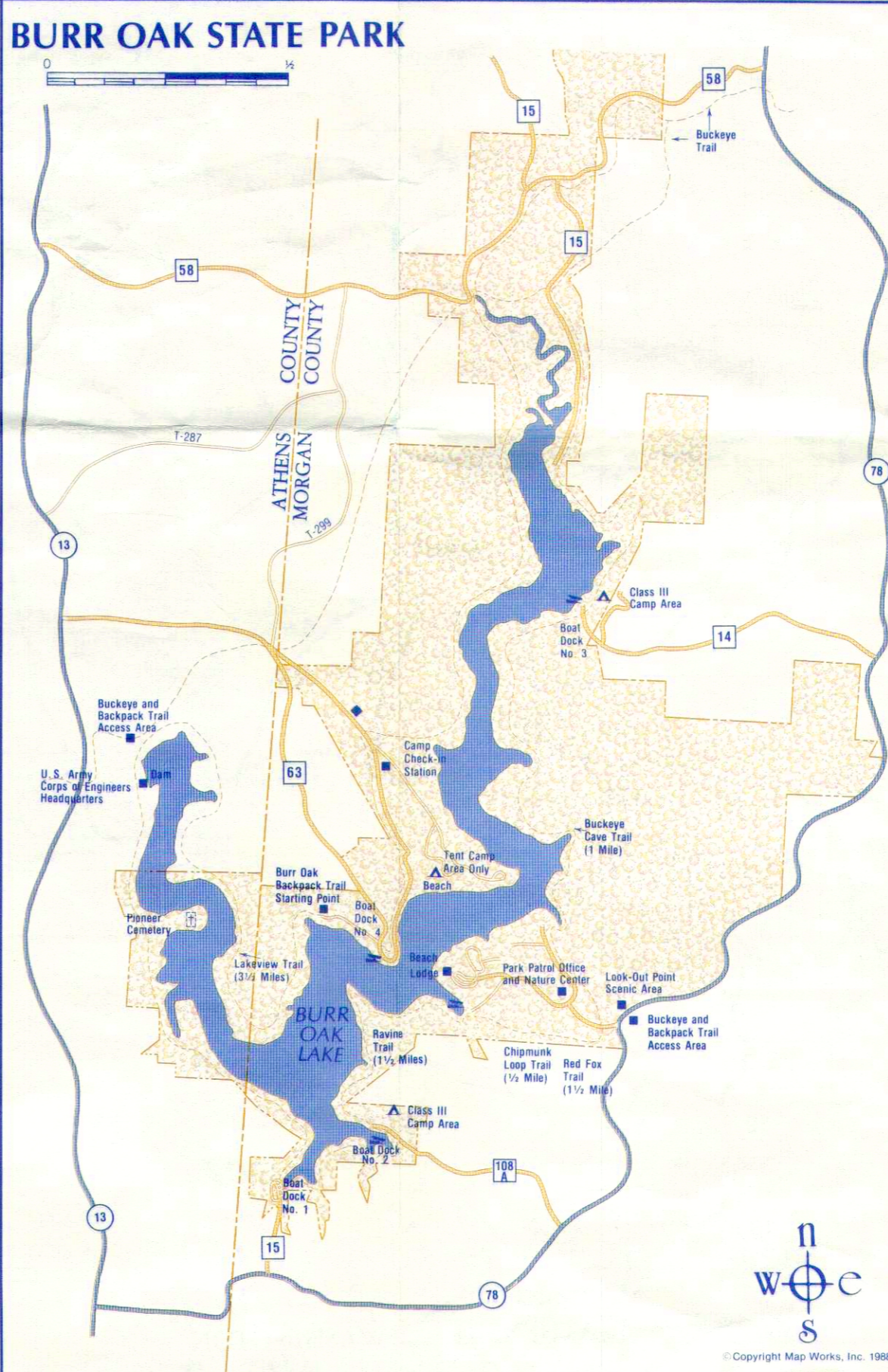
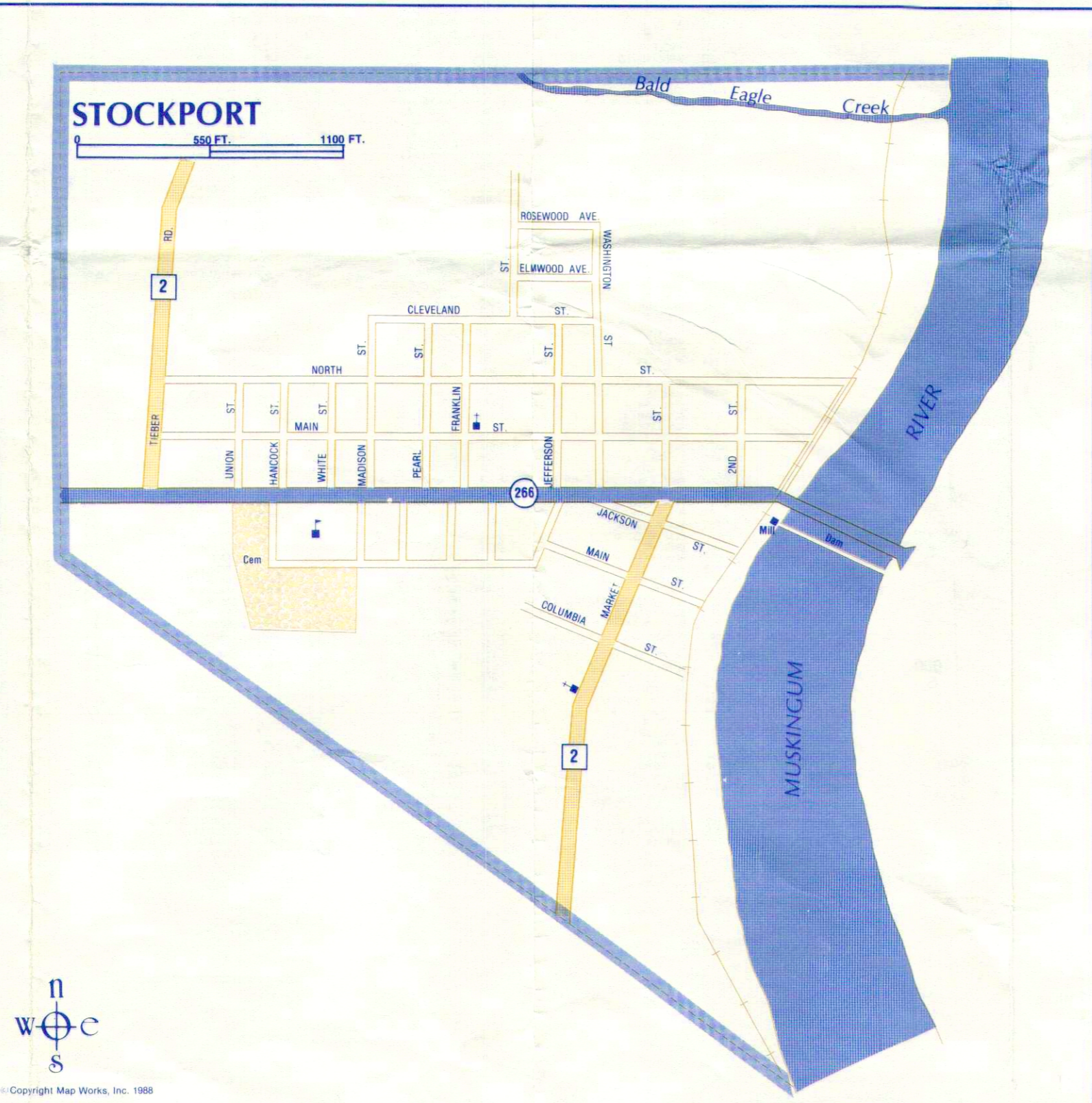
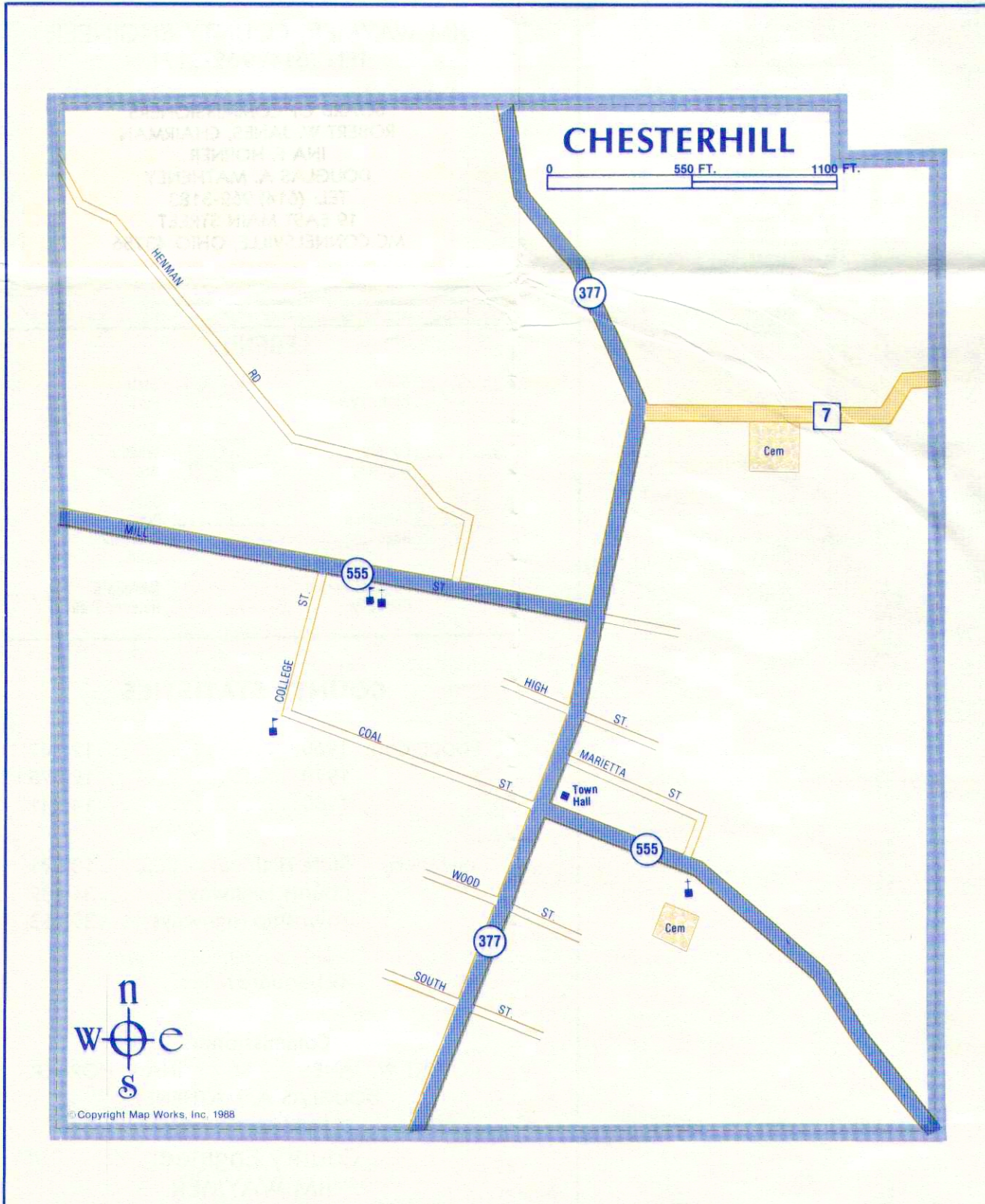
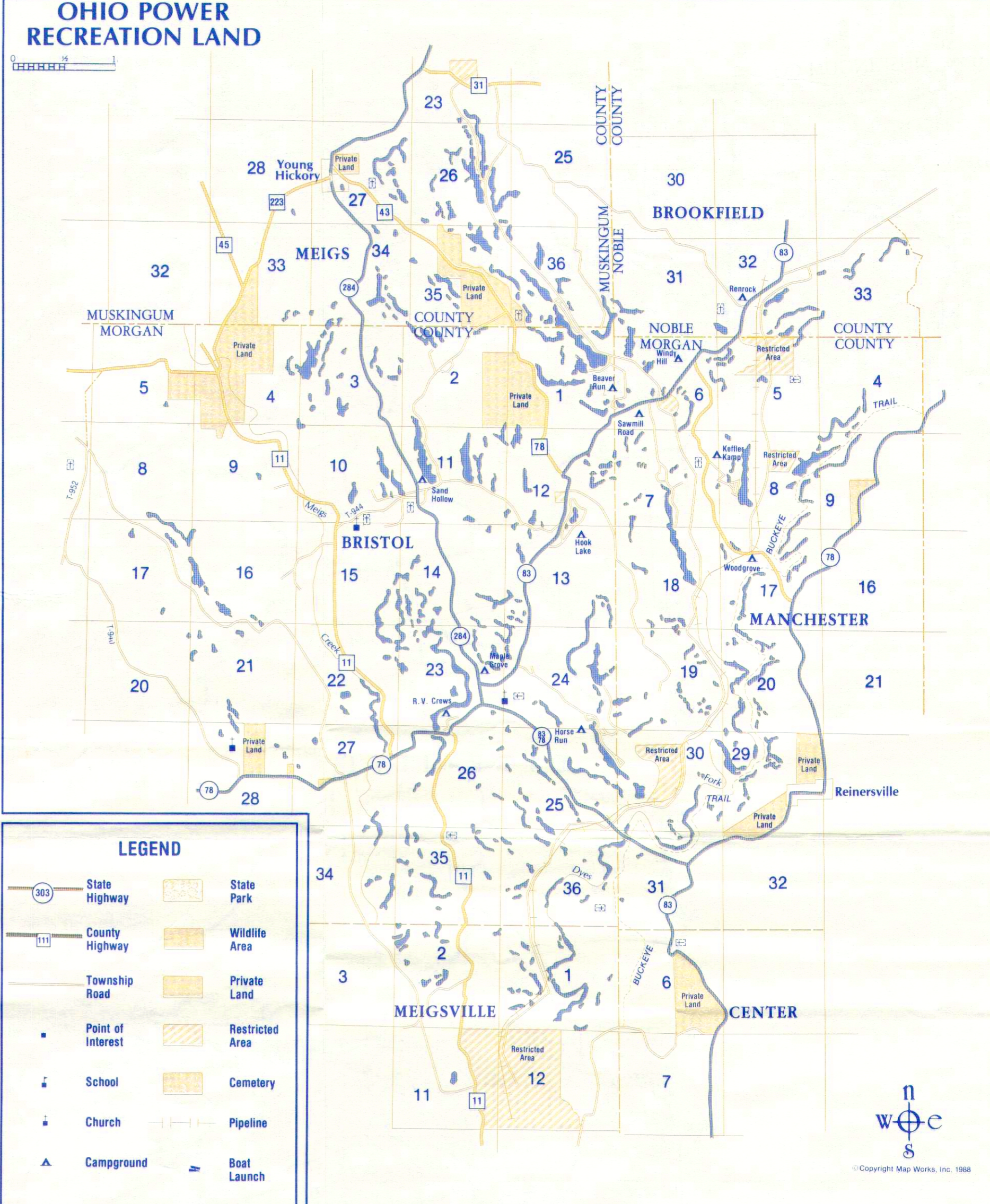
Burr Oak lodge, overlooking the lake from the east, offers 60 guest rooms, seven meeting rooms, a dining room and a gift shop. Facilities for lodge and cabin guests include a swimming beach, tennis courts, playground equipment, launch ramp and an indoor-outdoor swimming pool. Reservations for the lodge and cabins are accepted in advance and a deposit is required. To make reservations, phone the lodge at 1-800-282-7275.

Burr Oak Lake offers water sport enthusiasts numerous recreational opportunities. The lake is well-known for its catches of largemouth bass, crappie, bluegill and catfish. A public beach, located on the west side of the lake, has facilities including a bathhouse, showers and a snack bar.

Several hiking trails, including a portion of the state's Buckeye Trail, are established in the park. Backpacking enthusiasts, whether beginners or experts, will find the Burr Oak Backpack Trail challenging and enjoyable. This 29-mile loop trail winds its way around the shore of the lake.

For More Information

Call or write the park office for more information. Call or write to the Division of Parks and Recreation's Information Center for statewide vacation advice and brochures on fees, facilities and special programs. Phone (614) 265-7000.



WOLF CREEK WILDLIFE AREA

This 3638-acre wildlife area lies 9 miles southwest of McConnellsville on State Route 78. The nearest Wildlife District Office is located at 360 East State Street, Athens, Ohio 45701; telephone (614) 594-2211. The scenic rolling hills are dissected by Wolf Creek and several of its tributaries. Old fields comprise nearly half of the area. About half of these old fields are being allowed to revert to forest, and the other half are being maintained in a mixture of shrubby coverts and native grasses. One-third of the area is wooded. Oak and Hickory dominate the drier slopes. Maple, beech, elm, and ash are most common on the lower slopes and along the streams. Grain crops and meadows, comprising more than 10 percent of the area, are found on the ridge tops and in the valleys.

History and Purpose

Initial purchasing of land began in 1947 for the construction of a public fishing lake. The newly created dam, impounding a 152-acre lake, was destroyed by a flash flood in 1950. Because restoration of the dam was impractical, the area has been expanded and managed principally for upland wildlife.

Management work has included the protection and improvement of existing woodland, selective maintenance of shrubby coverts and permanent grassland, and management of small portions of open land by cropping.

Fish and Wildlife

Cottontail rabbit, bobwhite quail, grey squirrel, ruffed grouse, and white-tailed deer are the principal game species, with lesser numbers of fox squirrel, woodcock, and woodchuck. Beaver are abundant along Wolf Creek and its tributaries. All the furbearers common to the region are found on the area.

Wood ducks are common on ponds and streams. Mallards, blue-winged teal, and occasionally other waterfowl occur, mostly migrants. A rich variety of song birds are found on the area in association with the diversified mixture of habitat types.

Hunting and fishing are the major recreational uses. Popular secondary uses are nature study and hiking.

