

# Collecting Mushrooms, Nuts, & Berries in Your Wood County Park District

Collecting in Wood County Park District (WCPD) parks and preserves is limited to nuts, berries, and *fleshy* mushrooms in small amounts for personal consumption only. Leaf collection for individual educational projects is also permitted.



## Guidelines for collecting in your Wood County Park District:

**Commercial and group harvesting in WCPD is not permitted.** Your harvest is not to be sold or bartered.

**Leaf collection is limited to fallen, dead leaves on the ground for individual educational projects.** Leaves are not to be taken off trees.

**Mushroom, nut, and berry quantities should be limited to small amounts for individual consumption.** For most species, this means about one quart per person, per species, per collection day. Collecting is limited to three days per individual per season and should not occur at the same location more than once per season. Over-collecting may reduce future production. It may also have harmful consequences on wildlife that depend on these natural food sources for their survival.

**Stay on trails as much as possible.** Wood County parks have areas containing rare plants and animals. Trampling and other disturbances have negative impacts on sensitive habitats. Areas that are posted as "Sensitive" or "Under Management" should not be entered. Pets are not allowed off-trail.

**Destruction of habitat is not permitted.** Destructive activity includes but is not limited to: cutting or breaking off plants, branches, or leaves; digging up trees or other plants; cutting off perennial (tough or woody) fungi growing on trees or stumps, removing bark from trees, and busting up fallen logs. Ground disturbing devices, such as shovels, rakes or leaf blowers, are not to be used.

**Collecting any part of State or Federally Listed Rare Species is prohibited** unless permitted in writing by the Director of the Wood County Park District.

**Wood County Park District is not responsible for identification of any plant or fungi.** It is up to the individual to correctly identify the species being collected.

## Mushroom Picking Conservation, Etiquette, & Safety

There are things you can do to protect species in your favorite areas. Due to the delicate life cycle of mushrooms, these steps may help to sustain your mushroom picking pleasure into the future:

- 1) Pick only some of the mushrooms you find; leave the rest for "seeding" spores and food for wildlife.
- 2) Do not collect from previously harvested areas.
- 3) Minimize the impacts to the living fungus by not disturbing the ground or tree habitat. Harvesting a mushroom is like picking a fruit; the live structure is underground or beneath the bark. Take only enough of the stem to see if it has a "cup" at the base for identification.
- 4) Only edible species should be collected. Don't experiment. There is an old saying, "There are old mushroom hunters and bold mushroom hunters, but there are no old, bold mushroom hunters."

**Please be respectful of wildlife, your natural surroundings, and other park visitors.**

***Go to [wcparks.org](http://wcparks.org) for programs on mushroom identification and collecting.***