

DETERMINING & MARKING YOUR PROPERTY BOUNDARIES

DO YOU KNOW WHERE YOUR WOODS START AND END?
ARE THE BOUNDARIES MARKED?

This is an important first step when embarking on your woodland stewardship journey.

WORKING WITH A PROFESSIONAL

PROFESSIONAL LAND SURVEYOR

Working with a professional might be the right option if you have a large woodland or are planning to complete stand improvement activities or harvest timber.

A professional land surveyor can complete a **BOUNDARY SURVEY** for the purpose of locating, describing, monumenting and mapping exact boundaries and corners of a given parcel of land. This involves record and field research, field measurements and computations with the findings shown on a survey plat that is given to landowners.

Search the Ohio Society of Professional Surveyors directory at ohiosurveyor.org

FORESTER

If you are working with a forester to develop and implement a land management plan for your woodland, they may be able to help you with aspects of marking your boundaries. Be sure to check in with the forester you are partnering with to ensure this service is something they offer.

DOING IT YOURSELF

If your woodland is small and you want to determine and mark your boundaries yourself, there are some resources that might be helpful:

- Gather together property deeds, maps, and other records.
- Check out your county auditor's website or use online satellite images to help you walk and mark.
- Learn more at **go.osu.edu/boundaries** - there are videos, a recorded webinar, and how-to documents!

DETERMINING AND MARKING PROPERTY BOUNDARIES IS IMPORTANT

It can help you understand what's your responsibility within continuous forest, avoid trespassing, and keep you clear of timber theft problems.

Clearly determining and marking your boundaries is also required before entering or retaining your land in programs like the **OHIO FOREST TAX LAW PROGRAM**.

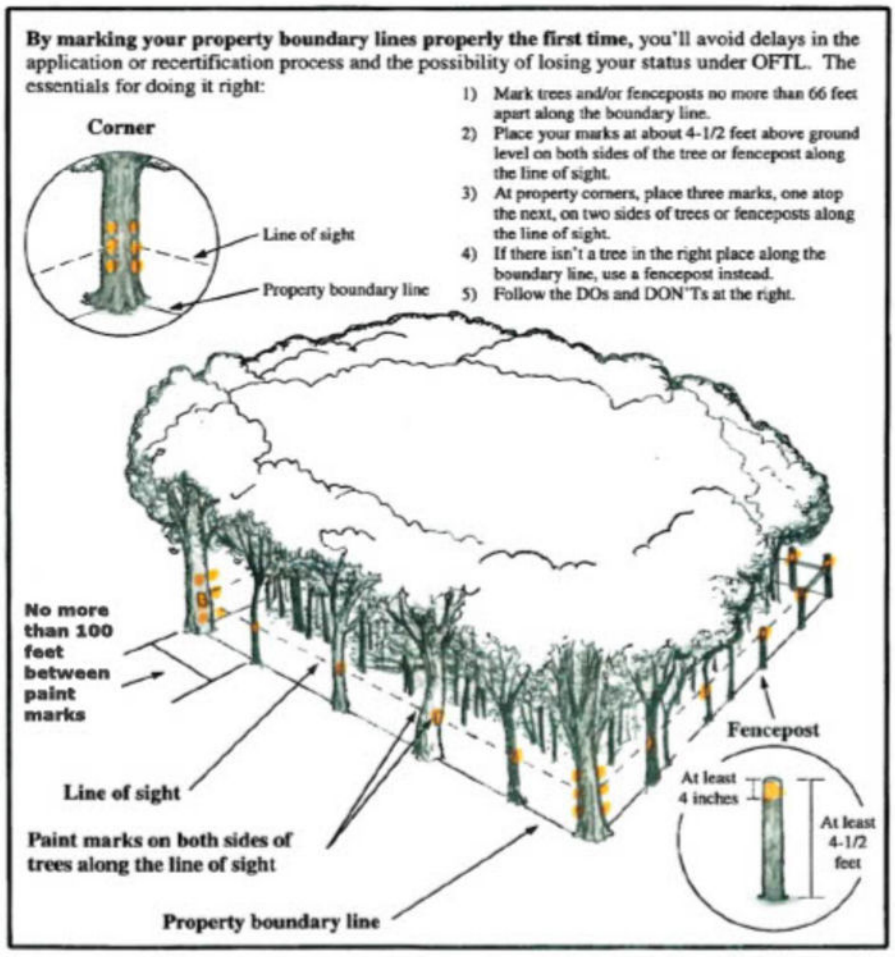
Although having the boundaries of your property surveyed professionally is not specifically required, if you are unsure of exactly where your boundaries are, working with a professional could save you expensive litigation in the future.

See the reverse of this document to review the **MARKING PROPERTY BOUNDARIES OHIO FOREST TAX LAW PROGRAM** information shared by The Ohio State University Extension Office.

MARKING PROPERTY BOUNDARIES
OHIO FOREST TAX LAW PROGRAM

It is highly recommended that mark your woodland property boundaries especially before completing woodland stand improvement activities or harvesting timber. In fact, it is required by law before your property is entered or retained under the OHIO FOREST TAX LAW Program.

Boundary marking is for your protection, to avoid trespassing and timber theft problems. If you are unsure of exactly where the boundaries are located, first contact your neighbor for assistance. If it is still unclear, or if there is a discrepancy, then you should have a surveyor locate the lines for you. Having the boundaries surveyed is not specifically required for this program, but it could save you expensive litigation in the future.



Do:

- Use good quality high visibility oil-based paint.

- If using spray paint, use tree marking paint.

- Mark Close enough to see from mark to mark **during the summer.**

- As a courtesy, notify your neighbors that you will be marking line for the OFTL Program.

- No more than 100 feet between marks. Surveyor stakes are generally placed too far apart for this program and are easily removed.

Don't:

- Don't mark dead trees.

- Don't use cheap spray paint.

-Don't use ribbons, flags, wire flags, or anything easily pulled down, off, or out of the ground.

Paint on boundary trees is considered the minimal "permanent" marking allowable. Ribbons or flagging does not qualify as permanent marking of boundaries for OFTL. Posts can also be used but avoid stakes that can easily be pulled out of the ground. Boundaries of the perimeter of the property need marked. Existing roads that are property boundaries do not need to be painted along the road, but any intersection of the property boundary with a road should be marked and easily seen from the road.

Purchase quality oil based paint. Machinery yellow is recommended, but blue, orange, and red work also. Boundary marking paint is available through some major paint suppliers, forestry supply companies, or farm supply stores. Don't use inexpensive aerosol cans of spray paint as they do not often last for very long.

Place the marks on either side of the tree in the direction the line is going. If there is no tree on the line, locate a tree that is within 6 feet of the property line without going over on your neighbor or place a post on the line and paint it.

You will probably have to refresh these marks after five years, but after the second painting, the marks may last for ten years.

THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY EXTENSION

HOLDEN FORESTS & GARDENS
WORKING WOODS