

Ste. Genevieve Area Hiking Trails

Hiking Trails

Ste. Genevieve County, MO

- * Audubon Trail – Mark Twain National Forest

Hawn State Park

- * Botkins Pine Woods

- * Lamotte Sandstone Barrens

- * Hickory Canyon Natural Area

Magnolia Hollow Conservation Area

- * Brickney Hills Natural Area

- * Pickle Creek Natural Area

- * Pickle Springs Natural Area

Iron County, MO

Taum Sauk State Park

Elephant Rock State Park

St. Francois County, MO

St. Francois State Park

St. Joe State Park

Perry County, MO

Perry County Conservation Area & Lake

Cape Girardeau County, MO

- * Trail of Tears State Park

- * Vancill Hollow

Reynolds County, MO

Johnson's Shut-Ins State Park

Randolph County, IL

Randolph County Lake

Piney Creek Ravine State Natural Area

Jackson County, IL

- * Kinkaid Lake State Fish & Wildlife Area

Johnson Creek Trail

Hidden Cove Trailhead

Trail Safety & Etiquette

Trail Difficulty Rating Definitions

John J. Audubon Trail

The St. Louis Area Council of the Boy Scouts of America built and maintains this trail as a memorial to the naturalist and artist who lived in nearby Ste. Genevieve in the early 1800s. The trail follows piney ridges, winds through quiet hollows, and wanders along pristine Ozark streams.

The 12 mile trail is located in the rugged northern area of the Mark Twain National Forest and twin loops wind through hills and hollows drained by Bidwell and Coldwater Creeks. Groves of stately pines dominate the ridges. The two creeks and their tributaries trickle over rockybottom streambeds with striking waterfalls, quiet pools, and cool cascades. Creek flows are best in the winter season, but all seasons are very rewarding.

Scenery: Wooded hills, breezy ridgetops, deep hollows with rocky streams; may be muddy in bottomlands.

Trail: The trail has two separate 6-mile loops, one north and south of Forest Road 2199. The trail route is marked with 2" x 6" white paint blazes. The terrain is sometimes steep with vertical relief of up to 300 feet. Much of the route is along perennial creeks, and creek crossings are unbridged. The primary trailhead is at the Bidwell Creek ford on FR 2199. The trail is open to hiking, mountain bike and equestrian use. The trail includes some steep rocky hills and tight curves that make mountain biking challenging. Though most of the trail is forested, it does pass through some open glades or meadows. Leave no trace and pack out what you pack in.

Rating: Moderate to more difficult. Terrain is sometimes steep. Vertical rise is 300 feet.

Length: 12 miles

Best Seasons: Fall, winter, and spring.

Leave No Trace: Pack out what you pack in.

Restrictions: No motorized use.

Other Activities: Backpacking, bird watching, and primitive camping.

Safety: During temperate months, be prepared for biting insects, poison ivy and high temperatures.

Be advised of hunting seasons. Avoid using the trail during excessively wet periods.

Surface Type: Unsurfaced, native material.

Directions:

From Ste. Genevieve, MO: The Audubon Trailhead is approximately 30 miles SW of Ste. Genevieve in the heart of Wine Country. Take St Hwy 32 West to Hwy B (just past I-55, exit 150), turn Left and proceed to Coffman (follow Crown Valley Winery signs). Turn Left onto Hwy WW. Turn Right onto Forest Road #2199 (Charleville Winery road) and proceed ¼ mile, bear Left onto Bidwell Creek Road and proceed approximately 6 ½ miles to the trailhead. Use caution on back roads when the water levels are high on creeks!

From Fredericktown, MO: 9 miles north on Hwy OO, 5 miles east on Hwy T, 4.6 miles north on Forest Road #2199 to the Bidwell Creek ford.

Open year-round. No Fees. No trash containers - pack out all your trash!

Location:

Mark Twain National Forest, MO, United States

37° 43' 5" N, 90° 9' 58.55" W

General Information

Designation Date:

Acreage: NA

Owner: USDA, Forest Service, Mark Twain National Forest
County: Ste. Genevieve
Contact: Potosi/Fredericktown Ranger District
Contact Phone: 573-438-5427

Management

Managing Area: Potosi/Fredericktown Ranger District
Managing Agency: USDA, Forest Service

Web Assets

http://www.fs.fed.us/r9/forests/marktwain/recreation/sites/audubon_trail/

http://www.fs.fed.us/r9/forests/marktwain/recreation/sites/audubon_trail/audubon_trail_flyer.pdf

Foot travel

Equestrian use

Mountain bike

Botkins Pine Woods

Hawn State Park

A mature, mixed pine-oak forest within the Mississippi River Section of the Ozark Border Natural Division. Pure stands of shortleaf pine develop at the head of coves and on side slopes which also harbor flowering dogwood, black gum, sassafras and white oak.

Location:

Botkins Pine Woods Natural Area, MO, United States

37° 50' 16.6812" N, 90° 14' 2.5908" W

General Information

Designation Date: Mon, 11/30/1981

Acreage: 31

Owner: MO Department of Natural Resources

County: Ste. Genevieve

Management

Managing Area: Hawn State Park

Managing Agency: MO Department of Natural Resources

Web Assets

<http://www.mdc.mo.gov/discover-nature/places-go/natural-areas/botkins-pine-woods>

Lamotte Sandstone Barrens

Hawn State Park

Sandstone glade and xeric sandstone forest of the Mississippi River Section of the Ozark Border Natural Division. A dry sandstone forest characterized by shortleaf pine is also in the area. In addition, the rare plant species Whitlow grass occurs in the area.

Location:

Lamotte Sandstone Barrens Natural Area, MO, United States

37° 50' 16.6812" N, 90° 14' 2.5908" W

General Information

Designation Date: Wed, 03/22/1989

Acreage: 72

Owner: MO Department of Natural Resources

County: Ste. Genevieve

Management

Managing Area: Hawn State Park

Managing Agency: MO Department of Natural Resources

Web Assets

<http://www.mdc.mo.gov/discover-nature/places-go/natural-areas/lamotte-sandstone-barrens>

Hickory Canyons

Location: Hickory Canyons Natural Area, MO, United States

37° 52' 19.3296" N, 90° 18' 8.9136" W

General Information

Designation Date: Fri, 03/22/1974

Acreage: 925

Owner: MDC

County: Ste. Genevieve

Management

Managing Area: Hickory Canyons N.A.

Managing Agency: MDC

Atlas ID: 7310

Web Assets

<http://www.mdc.mo.gov/discover-nature/places-go/natural-areas/hickory-canyons>

Pickle Creek

Points of Interest:

- Enjoy a hike along a highly scenic State Outstanding Resource Water.
- Look for flowering rose azaleas in the spring.
- See ancient sandstones covered with ferns, mosses, and lichens.

Natural History:

Pickle Creek, an Outstanding State Resource Water, winds its way for two miles through narrow and scenic sandstone valleys. This high-quality Ozark stream has a sustained flow and a sandy bottom owing to its carving through the ancient Lamotte sandstone formation. Sandstone bluffs and ledges border the stream in many places. The water is often tea-colored but has good clarity. These waters support at least 20 native fish species. The fish fauna includes fishes of the prairie faunal region (e.g., red shiner, sand shiner, Johnny darter) and the Ozark faunal region (e.g., bleeding shiner, Ozark minnow, rainbow darter) and thereby is deemed as a transitional fish community composed of species spanning two regions. Along Pickle Creek ancient Precambrian igneous rhyolite and granite rocks are exposed which underlie the Lamotte sandstone above. These rocks had a volcanic origin in contrast to the sandstone which formed along the edge of an ancient sea. Also exposed is a small area of gneiss, a 1.5 billion year old metamorphic rock rarely exposed in Missouri.

Along the stream the valley slopes and ledges support rose azalea, one of Missouri's showiest flowering shrubs. The forests and woodlands along Pickle Creek are dominated by white oak, shortleaf pine, and scarlet oak with flowering dogwood and low bush blueberry in the understory. The pine and the blueberry along with bracken fern and an abundance of mosses and lichens are indicative of the acidic soils developed from the sandstone bedrock. This area supports many plant species that are more common in the forests of the eastern U.S., including cinnamon fern, royal fern, partridge berry, and a number of species considered to be relicts of the Pleistocene glaciation – rattlesnake plantain, hay-scented fern, ground pine, and smooth white violet (the last three also species of conservation concern). On the ridges and slopes above the creek park staff are restoring shortleaf pine woodlands using prescribed fires to restore a structurally varied and diverse landscape. Look and listen for the pine warbler, summer tanager, blue-gray gnatcatcher, white-breasted nuthatch, worm-eating warbler, and black-and-white warbler in the dry piney slopes above the creek. Along the creek you might spot a Louisiana waterthrush, Acadian flycatcher, or northern parula.

Access Information:

From the intersection of Highways 67 and 32 in Farmington take Highway 32 east for 12.5 miles and turn right (south) onto Highway 144. Travel 3 miles on Highway 144 to the park entrance. Follow the main park road to the park office. Because of the fragility of the sandstone soils and geologic features, visitors are asked to stay on the Pickle Creek Hiking Trail that provides access to this natural area. The Pickle Creek Trail starts near the picnic shelter between the park office and the campground. Hunting and fishing are not permitted.

Location:

Pickle Creek Natural Area, MO, United States
37° 50' 16.6812" N, 90° 14' 2.5908" W

General Information

Designation Date: Tue, 09/18/1979

Acreage: 58

Owner: MO Department of Natural Resources

County: Ste. Genevieve

Contact: Hawn State Park

Contact Phone: 573-883-3603

Management

Managing Area: Hawn State Park

Managing Agency: MO Department of Natural Resources

Web Assets

<http://mdc.mo.gov/discover-nature/places-go/natural-areas/pickle-creek>

Pickle Springs

Points of Interest:

- Explore a geological wonderland that is a National Natural Landmark.
- View scenic waterfalls and cool box canyons that harbor unusual plants and animals.
- Enjoy the blossoms of rose azalea along the sandstone valley in the spring.

Natural History:

This scenic natural area contains all sorts of fascinating sandstone rock formations including box canyons and wet weather waterfalls. The sandstone rock here is the Lamotte sandstone that was formed from sandy beaches of a shallow ocean that existed here 500 million years ago. Since then layers of limestone were buried upon this sandstone but millions of years of erosion and uplift of the Ozark plateau have exposed the sandstone we see today. Over the eons, ice, rain, wind, plant roots, and streams have worn away this sandstone to form the many unique geologic features here. Some of the interesting geologic features include a double arch that holds up a shelf of sandstone, narrow slot-like canyons, hoodoos (mound or pillar-like sandstone blocks weathered into unusual shapes), a spring flowing out of sandstone (Pickle Springs), and sandstone talus slopes.

Besides the geology, this site supports over 250 vascular plant species including many uncommon species that are considered glacial relicts. These relict species are those that were more common thousands of the years ago when Missouri's climate was cold and wet because of glaciation. Since then our climate has warmed and some of the species that were more common back then in Missouri still exist in small micro-climates that mimic the cool, moist conditions of the glacial times. Glacial relict species at Pickle Springs include the four-toed salamander, hay-scented fern, large whorled pogonia, and ground cedar, all species of conservation concern, as well as rattlesnake plantain and shining clubmoss.

The cool, moist conditions of the canyon walls support over 40 species of liverworts – one of the most diverse spots for these primitive plants in Missouri. A good number of mosses and lichens also grow on the sandstone rocks. Keep your eyes out for seven species of ferns, including cinnamon fern, and the uncommon partridge berry. On the ridge tops and upper slopes you will see dry woodlands dominated by white and black oak and shortleaf pine with low bush blueberry and farkleberry in the understory. Sandstone soils are very acidic and so plants that tolerate acidic conditions such as blueberries and dittany thrive here.

Walking along Pickle Creek you might spot a pickerel frog, green frog, or southern leopard frog jump into the water. In the waters of Pickle Springs a type of crustacean, an amphipod, has been described that is known only from here. The name Pickle dates back to the original owner of this land, William Pickle, who acquired the land in 1848. Pickle was originally from England and had immigrated to the U.S. in 1842.

Access Information:

From the junction of Highways 32 and W in Farmington, travel east on Highway 32 for 5 miles, then turn right (east) on Highway AA. Follow Highway AA east for 1.7 miles to Dorlac Road (gravel). Turn left (north) onto Dorlac Road and drive 0.4 mile to the parking lot on the right (east) side. Because of the fragility of the sandstone formations and the rare plants that grow here visitors are strongly encouraged to stay on the excellent Trail Through Time hiking trail. This 2 mile hiking trail loop leads visitors to most of the outstanding rock formations with opportunities to view the interesting plants and animals that inhabit the site's natural communities. Hunting is prohibited.

Location: Pickle Springs, MO, United States

37° 48' 4.1292" N, 90° 18' 4.3488" W

General Information

Designation Date: Fri, 06/13/1986

Acreage: 180

Owner: MDC

County: Ste. Genevieve

Contact: Missouri Department of Conservation – SE Regional Office

Contact Phone: 573-290-5730

Management

Managing Area: Pickle Springs N.A. Managing Agency: MDC Atlas ID: 8509

Web Assets

<http://www.mdc.mo.gov/discover-nature/places-go/natural-areas/pickle-springs>

Brickey Hills

Magnolia Hollow Regional Park

Location: Brickey Hills Natural Area, MO, United States

38° 1' 18.0804" N, 90° 8' 42.0252" W

General Information

Designation Date:

Acreage: 1

Owner: MDC

County: Ste. Genevieve

Management

Managing Area: Magnolia Hollow CA

Managing Agency: MDC

Atlas ID: 8508

Web Assets

<http://www.mdc.mo.gov/discover-nature/places-go/natural-areas/brickey-hills>

Trail of Tears State Park

Trail of Tears State Park commemorates a tragic event in America's history. In 1830, responding to intense pressure from the settlers, President Andrew Jackson set a policy to relocate five tribes of southeastern Indians, including the Creek, Chickasaw, Choctaw, Seminole and Cherokee, to lands west in present-day Oklahoma.

While some of the Cherokees left on their own, more than 16,000 were forced out against their will. In winter 1838-39, an endless procession of wagons, horsemen and people on foot traveled 800 miles west to Indian Territory. Others traveled by boat along river routes. Most of the Cherokee detachments made their way through Cape Girardeau County, home of Trail of Tears State Park. While there, the Indians endured brutal conditions; they dealt with rain, snow, freezing cold, hunger and disease. Floating ice stopped the attempted Mississippi River crossing, so the detachments had to set up camps on both sides of the river. It is estimated that over 4,000 Cherokees lost their lives on the march, nearly a fifth of the population.

Legend says that Nancy Bushyhead Walker Hildebrand died and was buried within the park's boundaries. She was the sister of Rev. Jesse Bushyhead, who led one of the detachments, and the wife of Lewis Hildebrand, who led another. Her two children traveled on and made it to Indian Territory. The Bushyhead Memorial in the park is a tribute to her and all the other Cherokee who died on the trail. Trail of Tears State Park is a certified site on the Trail of Tears National Historic Trail. The park's visitor center features exhibits that interpret the forced relocation, as well as the park's many natural features.

The 3,415-acre park preserves the native woodlands much as they appeared to the Cherokee. Mature forests cover much of the park, which is characterized by sharp ridges and steep ravines. Located directly on the Mississippi River, visitors can view the plentiful wildlife, including white-tailed deer, turkeys, hawks and foxes. The large trees on the bluffs and cliffs along the river are noted as winter roosting sites for bald eagles.

The Indian Creek Wild Area features hardwood forests of white oak, black oak, tulip poplar and hickory. Floodplain forests along Indian Creek contain large sweet gums and willows, while junglelike areas thick with wild grapevines abound in the lowlands. Nearby, limestone bluffs tower more than 60 feet above the river. The 10-mile Peewah Trail, used by hikers and equestrians, winds through this 1,300-acre wild area.

The 300-acre Vancill Hollow Natural Area contains a type of forest more typical of the Appalachian Mountains than the Ozarks. This rare forest is characterized by a larger growth of trees, a greater diversity of species, and trees such as American beech, tulip poplar and cucumber magnolia. The moist ground is covered with a rich growth of luxurious ferns and wildflowers.

For visitors wishing to spend a night or more, 35 basic campsites are located in the heavily wooded area of the park. Ten campsites with electrical hookups and eight with electricity and sewer hookups are located in a campground near the river. Campground facilities include modern restrooms, laundry facilities, hot showers and a dumping station. For backpackers, a primitive camping area borders a loop of the Peewah Trail.

Trails

Trail of Tears State Park offers 14.5 miles of trail within the park's 3,415-acres.

Peewah Trail -- 10 miles

Peewah is an Indian word meaning "come follow in this direction." This trail offers visitors access to the most remote areas of the park. Winding through Indian Creek Wild Area, this trail is approximately

10 miles long and is open to hikers, backpackers and equestrian riders. The trail is divided into four different sections by following various loops of the trail. The green section takes visitors to an overlook located along the Mississippi River and is approximately 1.5-miles round trip. The yellow loop is 3.4 miles and meanders along the Mississippi for a short distance. The red loop is a little under six miles.

Sheppard Point Trail -- 2 miles

8/24/09 -- Sheppard Point Trail remains closed for repairs from flood damage.

This trail is a two-mile loop trail that ascends to the top of a beautiful bluff overlooking the Mississippi River. The trail is considered difficult and is open only to hikers due to the rugged terrain.

Lake Trail -- 2 miles

The picturesque Lake Trail winds around the basic campground and along a portion of Lake Boutin for approximately two miles.

Location: Trail of Tears State Park's address is 429 Moccasin Springs Road, Jackson. The park is located on Missouri Route 177 about 8 miles north of Cape Girardeau, and 8 miles east of Jackson. The Mississippi River is the park's east boundary.

Hours: no restrictions.

Historical Significance: The park is located on the site where nine of thirteen groups of Cherokee Indians crossed the Mississippi River in harsh winter conditions in 1838-39. Thousands lost their lives on the trail, including dozens on or near the park's grounds. Legend says that Nancy Bushyhead Hildebrand died and was buried within the park's boundaries. The Bushyhead Memorial is a tribute to all the Cherokee who died on the trail.

Available Facilities: The park contains two trail-related resources: the site of Green's Ferry (Willard's Landing); and the commemorative site believed to be the grave of Nancy Bushyhead, a Cherokee who died on the Trail of Tears. About 2 miles of park road follow the historic Green's Ferry (Moccasin Spring) Road, the actual route of the Trail of Tears. The 3,416-acre state park also contains a wide range of facilities, including boat ramps, campgrounds, picnic areas, hiking trails, visitor center, laundry, and hot showers. Most of the park facilities are wheelchair accessible, including parking, restrooms, visitor center, and campgrounds. The State of Missouri Department of Natural Resources manages the park.

Exhibits: Visitor center exhibits interpret the Trail of Tears and the area's natural history.

Location: 429 Moccasin Springs, Jackson, MO 63755, United States

37° 26' 19.86" N, 89° 28' 50.3112" W

General Information

Designation Date:

Acreage: 3415

Owner: MO Department of Natural Resources

County: Cape Girardeau

Contact: Trail of Tears State Park

Contact Phone: 573-290-5268

Management

Managing Area: Trail of Tears State Park

Managing Agency: MO Department of Natural Resources

Web Assets

www.mostateparks.com/trailoftears.htm

Park Map

Directions to Trail of Tears State Park

From Ste. Genevieve:

Trail of Tears State Park is approximately forty-five minutes south from Ste. Genevieve. Travel south on I-55 to Exit 105 (Fruitland/Jackson). Take Hwy. 61 north for approximately one mile. Turn right onto Hwy. 177 and continue for seven miles. At the four-way stop in front of the Proctor and Gamble Plant, turn right to stay on Hwy. 177. Continue on Hwy. 177 for another 2.8 miles. The entrance to the state park will be on the left right before the Hwy. 177/Route V intersection.

Vancill Hollow

Trail of Tears State Park

Points of Interest:

- See a western extension of the eastern Appalachian forest.
- Learn how to identify the more than 25 species of trees found here.
- Enjoy a variety of wooded habitats that support many forest birds.

Natural History: Vancill Hollow Natural Area faces eastward and contains steep rugged slopes and bluffs that rise over 300 feet above the valley floor that drains to the Mississippi River. In the deep coves mesic forest on deep loamy soils support trees of greater size and species diversity than are typically found farther west in the Ozarks. This mesic forest community is the westernmost site of a community more typical in the southern Appalachian mountains, with American beech, tulip poplar, and cucumber magnolia trees. These mesic forests support abundant stands of broad beech, Christmas, maidenhair and silvery spleenwort ferns and characteristic spring wildflowers such as white baneberry, jack-in-the-pulpit, bellwort, Dutchman's breeches, and trout lily. Pennywort is a spring ephemeral wildflower found here at the western edge of its range. On the dry-mesic slopes and narrow ridges more typical Ozark forest and woodland tree species as white oak, black oak, post oak, and shagbark hickory thrive.

Vancill Hollow is a good place to see and hear a variety of forest birds, including the pileated woodpecker, barred owl, northern parula, ovenbird, worm-eating warbler, Kentucky warbler, red-eyed vireo, Acadian flycatcher, and wood thrush. Audubon considers these forested hills north of Cape Girardeau as an Important Bird Area (see: <http://mo.audubon.org/>) as they provide important stopover habitat for migrant birds along the Mississippi flyway, a major mid-continent migration corridor. These forests with abundant snags and down dead wood provide good habitat for salamanders, including the western slimy salamander, long-tailed salamander, and southern red-backed salamander.

Trail of Tears, the namesake of the state park this natural area is located in, is in reference to one of the more sad episodes of American history. At Moccasin Springs just a half mile south of Vancill Hollow the Cherokee tribe of Native Americans ferried across the Mississippi River during the winter of 1838-39 on their route from the southern Appalachian mountains to a new home in the Oklahoma territory. During that winter many Cherokee died and some are thought to be buried in and around the state park. This park and natural area owes its thanks to the people of Cape Girardeau County who authorized a bond issue in 1956 to purchase the land that became today's state park.

Access Information:

From Exit 105 (Fruitland/Jackson) on Interstate 55 take Highway 61 north for about a mile. Turn right (east) onto Highway 177 and continue for nearly 10 miles. The entrance to the state park will be on the left (east) just before the Highway 177 and Highway V intersection. Follow the park road to the visitor center. No designated hiking trails enter Vancill Hollow itself. State park roads follow the ridges on the south and north boundaries of the natural area. The scenic overlook on a 600 foot tall bluff above the Mississippi River provides fantastic views of the river, its floodplain in neighboring Illinois, and views down into Vancill Hollow. To access the natural area on foot requires a map and compass for off-trail exploration for experienced and fit naturalists. Check with park staff at the visitor center for details. Alternatively, the 2 mile Sheppard Point Trail, while not in the natural area itself, provides an opportunity to see many of the same plant species as found in Vancill Hollow for less adventuresome naturalists. Hunting is not permitted. Fishing is allowed.

Location: Vancill Hollow Natural Area, MO, United States

37° 26' 19.86" N, 89° 28' 50.3112" W

General Information

Designation Date: Fri, 10/21/1977

Acreage: 300

Owner: MO Department of Natural Resources

County: Cape Girardeau

Contact: Trail of Tears State Park

Contact Phone: 573-290-5268

Management

Managing Area: Trail of Tears State Park

Managing Agency: MO Department of Natural Resources

Web Assets

<http://www.mdc.mo.gov/discover-nature/places-go/natural-areas/vancill-hollow>

Kinkaid Lake State Fish & Wildlife Area

Kinkaid Lake, Illinois is one of the few large lakes in this region that offers a variety of recreational activities. The upper portion of the lake is surrounded by Shawnee National Forest land and contains the Kinkaid Lake Trail System. Popular activities for this area include primitive camping, fishing, hunting, canoeing/kayaking, horseback riding, biking and hiking. The trail system can be accessed in several places and is a great way to reach many scenic and remote areas of the lake.

Trail Highlights: This trail system offers opportunities for both long, linear trails and shorter loop trails. Kinkaid Lake Trail is ideal for a longer hike or horseback ride. As it winds along the shore of the lake from Johnson Creek Recreation Area to Crisenberry Dam, this trail goes into remote fingers of the lake. However, you may still encounter other users such as anglers, hunters and boaters. Both Johnson Creek Recreation Area and Hidden Cove Trailhead offer excellent starting points for short day-trips. Bicycling is permitted on the Waterfall Trail and on forest roads, but not on system trails or cross-country. Primitive camping is permitted 150 ft. off the trail and at least 150 ft. from the lakeshore with a maximum of 14-days continuous use.

The north end of the trail system offers many amenities ranging from spacious campsites with easy access to the trails, a beach and swimming area. The trailhead off Johnson Creek Recreation entrance road is large enough to accommodate equestrian trailers.

Area Amenities: Parking, Toilets

Surface Type: Dirt and gravel

Facilities: Johnson Creek Recreation Area trailhead will accommodate equestrian trailers; Buttermilk Hill Picnic Area (hike-in or boat access only) has a vault toilet but no drinking water. Other trailheads offer small parking lots.

Length: Total – 31.4 miles

Kinkaid Lake Trail – 14.8 miles (1 1/2 days)

Waterfall Trail – 3.1 miles (3 to 4 hours)

Directions: Kinkaid Lake Trailheads are accessed from either Hwy 151 on the west side or Hwy 3 on the south side.

From Murphysboro:

For Buttermilk Hill trailhead take Hwy 149 west 7 miles to Hwy 3, then north 2.75 miles on Hwy 3 to Buttermilk Hill Rd. Turn north on Buttermilk Hill Rd. then east on Taylor Rd.

For Hidden Cove trailhead take Hwy 149 west 7 miles to Hwy 3, then north 4.5 miles on Hwy 3 to Hwy 151. Go north 1.2 miles on Hwy 151 to Gum Ridge Rd., turn right onto Gum Ridge Rd., go 2 miles and turn right onto Bluebird Lane and proceed to trailhead.

Location: 52 Cinder Hill Drive, Murphysboro, IL 62966, United States

37° 26' 19.86" N, 89° 28' 50.3112" W

General Information

Designation Date:

Acreage:

Owner:

County:

Contact: Kinkaid Lake State Park

Contact Phone: 615-684-2867

Management

Managing Area: Trail of Tears State Park

Managing Agency: MO Department of Natural Resources

Web Assets

<http://dnr.state.il.us/lands/Landmgt/parks/r5/Kinkaid.htm>

Trail Safety & Etiquette

Trail etiquette and Right-of-Way guidelines

- Stay on established routes.
- Respect others' desire for solitude and a peaceful experience.
- On trails where multiple use is permitted, hikers should stay to the right and yield to faster modes of transportation.
- Hikers, cyclists, and ATVers always yield to horses.
- Pack out what you pack in. Leave vegetation intact -- stop to smell the wild roses, but don't pick them. Tread lightly and LEAVE NO TRACE!
- Abide by trail use restrictions. They are to keep you safe, as well as to protect the environment.

Safety considerations

Before you go, study maps of the area and get any necessary permits. Learn the terrain, and try to anticipate any events that could affect your trip. Know your options if weather or time becomes a problem.

Watch the weather

Keep in mind the fewer hours of daylight during Fall and Winter; remember the effects of heat and sun in Summer, and cold and wind in Winter. Dress in layers. Bring a jacket; weather can change.

Wear sturdy, comfortable shoes or boots.

Know area hazards (poisonous snakes, plants, insects)

Travel with a first aid kit, map, compass, whistle, and information about the area. Know how to use these things. Carry high-energy snacks and enough water.

ALWAYS tell others where you are going and when you expect to return.

Keep in mind the fewer hours of daylight during Fall and Winter; remember the effects of heat and sun in Summer, and cold and wind in Winter. Dress in layers. Bring a jacket; weather can change.

Wear sturdy, comfortable shoes or boots.

Travel with a first aid kit, map, compass, whistle, and information about the area. Know how to use these things. Carry high-energy snacks and enough water.

If you do become lost or disoriented, STOP! where you are and wait for help to come.

No drinking water is available for most trails, bring what you will need or be prepared to sterilize water you find.

Trail Difficulty Rating Definitions

· **Easy** If you're not up to a strenuous hike or a day spent wondering where you are, these trails are for you. They are mostly level, with some short up/downhill sections. They have good walking surface and good clearance from overhanging and side branches. There are no navigational difficulties on these trails.

· **Moderate** These trails are level to sloping, with longer up/downhill sections. They have good to fair walking surface, and clearance from branches and other vegetation. There may be a few minor navigational difficulties.

· **More Difficult** These trails are level to sloping, with longer up/downhill sections. They have good to fair walking surface, and clearance from branches and other vegetation. There may be a few minor navigational difficulties.

· **Most Difficult** If you like lots of steep hiking or bushwhacking, these trails provide just what you want. They are mostly steep with long up/downhill sections. There may be poorly defined to no prepared walking surface. Branches and vegetation may be dense. You may encounter long sections involving significant navigational hazards on these trails.



Foot travel

Equestrian use

Mountain bike

All-terrain vehicle (ATV)