

Dr. Edmund A. Babler Memorial State Park

EQUESTRIAN TRAIL

From the parking lot, head southwest through a patch of eastern red cedar before reaching a paved road. Cross over the road and continue straight. Look for oak and hickory trees common in this dry mesic forest. In summer and early fall, patches of butterfly weed, Ohio horsemint and black-eyed Susan can be found. The trail continues parallel to the road, past a picnic area. This area is dominated by redbud and sassafras trees. Cross over another road and continue on a ridge, where there is a white oak canopy with an understory of sassafras and dogwood. After passing some deep ravines, the trail will level out and pass through patches of sumac, where maples and spicebush are dominant the understory, making this a beautiful area in the fall. Crossing over Hawthorne Trail (hiking only), the trail continues north as it begins to decline.

Here you will find ferns, mosses and more dense understory trees. As the trail levels, look for views of Wildhorse Creek. After passing through some pawpaw trees and shrubs, the trail crosses over a cement bridge. Just after the bridge, look to the right for a giant sycamore tree with a diameter measuring more than 18 feet and a bridge built by the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) in the 1930s. Continue straight up a steep hill.

At the top of the hill, the trail passes the historic stables, another example of the stonework and woodwork done by the CCC. Continue past the barn and stables. Woodpeckers and other birds are common sights. At the bottom of the hill, the trail crosses a wet-weather creek bed (after rain, you may cross through some water). The trail continues straight, past a turn on the left for an old equestrian entrance to the park.

Continue past Bates Picnic Area just before going under a CCC stone tunnel. Up the hill, you will intersect with Dogwood Trail (hiking only). From here, you can continue straight or turn right on the white connector trail. Staying straight is the equestrian loop through the mature forest known as Cochran Woods. At the top of the hill is the Cochran Picnic Shelter, built by the CCC. Past the shelter, there are dolomite limestone outcroppings on the hillside. Continue parallel to the road to an intersection. To the left is the spur to the equestrian entrance on Route BA; straight is the main trail. After a short distance, there is another intersection. Straight ahead is the white connector trail. To the left, the trail continues on the equestrian loop towards the equestrian parking lot.


After a right turn, the visitor center will be at the top of a hill. Here, there will be a distinct difference in the type of trees, including oaks and hickories, and understory growth. Just after passing through some eastern red cedars, the trail is parallel to Woodbine Trail (hiking only) until the paved path is reached. Continue on the paved path, going slightly left and passing under another CCC tunnel. After the tunnel, a trail to the right heads to the equestrian parking lot.



Distance: 6.1 Miles


Uses:

Hiking 

Equestrian 

Blazes:

Brown 

White 1 

Class: Loop

Surface Type: Gravel, Natural, Paved/Concrete

Elevation profile is not available

You may experience:

- 2) Natural Surface-dirt/mud/gravel, shifting rock, slippery surface, etc.
- 3) Rocks, roots and/or downed vegetation on trail
- 7) Steep grades and inclines more than 10%
- 9) Bridges and/or structural crossings
- 12) Road/highway crossing



TRAILS OF MISSOURI STATE PARKS

Trail Rating: Rugged

Estimated Hiking Time: 6 Hours, 7 Minutes

Trailhead & GPS Location:

38.61227, -90.69460

- RED
- ORANGE
- YELLOW
- GREEN
- BLUE
- BROWN
- WHITE CONNECTOR
- SHARED TREAD

- NATURAL
- GRAVEL
- PAVED
- WATER
- BOARDWALK

TRAIL BLAZE COLORS & SURFACE TYPES

The maps on this website indicate the blaze colors for each trail. If more than one trail shares tread, that portion of the trail is identified by more than one color. The surface type of a trail is indicated on the maps generated by this website by a pattern overlapping the blaze color of the trail.

TRAIL TYPE – Loop, Multi-loop, One Way, System or Multi-section

A **loop** trail is one that will return you to the trailhead. **Multi-loop** trails offer two or more separate loops, ex. a trail having a north and south loop. A **one-way** trail takes you from the trailhead to the farthest point on the trail and you will have to retrace your steps to return to the trailhead. If you plan to return to your starting point on a one-way trail, you will have to double the distance to calculate your estimated mileage and/or hiking time.

A **trail system** is a series of interconnected trails that allow you to choose your own route.

A **Multi-section** trail offers two or more separate sections, ex. Katy Trail State Park, and distances are shown both for the entire trail and the sections.

YOU MAY EXPERIENCE

These conditions are all things you may encounter while on a Missouri state parks trail. Trailhead signs at the start of each trail also indicate which conditions exist on that trail.

- 1 Slippery conditions and/or downed vegetation
- 2 Natural surface: dirt, mud, gravel, shifting rocks, slippery surface, etc.
- 3 Rocks, roots and/or downed vegetation on trail
- 4 Low-hanging vegetation
- 5 Physically challenging obstacles
- 6 Wood or stone steps
- 7 Steep grades and inclines over 10%
- 8 Bluffs or drop-offs next to trail
- 9 Bridges and/or structural crossings
- 10 Water/stream crossings without bridges
- 11 Occasional water over trail
- 12 Road/Highway crossing
- 13 Emergency response signs
- 14 Narrow passages
- 15 Raised or protruding obstacles
- 16 Electric fence crossings
- 17 Bison/elk
- 18 Rapidly changing weather conditions
- 19 Motorized boat traffic
- 20 Unexpected waves
- 21 Changing water levels
- 22 Surface or submerged objects

ESTIMATED HIKING TIME

The estimated hiking time was determined by considering the average user's speed and the conditions that might be experienced on a specific trail. Your speed may be slower or faster than the time listed.

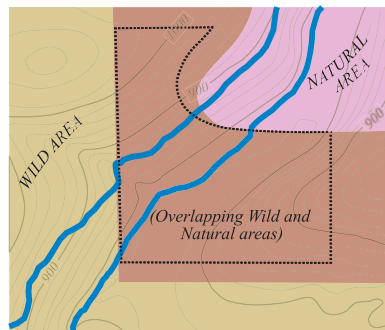
GPS COORDINATES

There are several methods of communicating GPS coordinates. Most GPS units will convert from one coordinate system to another. If you require a different coordinate system for your unit, visit dnr.mo.gov/gisutils/ to convert the coordinates shown on this map to another version.















NATURAL AREAS / WILD AREAS

Natural areas are identified in pink. Natural areas are recognized as the best remaining examples known of Missouri's original natural environments. These natural areas are managed and protected for their scientific, educational and historical values. Missouri state parks have 38 designated natural areas, encompassing almost 22,000 acres.







































Wild areas are identified in brown. The Missouri Wild Area System is made up of large tracts of land set aside as wilderness, which make the perfect setting for hiking and backpacking. A wild area must be 1,000 or more acres in size, show little impact from humans, and possess outstanding opportunities for solitude. They are strictly protected for their wilderness benefits as well as for their use for environmental education and scientific study.



TRAIL USE

-  Hiking Trail
-  Backpacking Trail
-  Mountain Biking Trail
-  Equestrian Trail
-  Accessible
-  Hardened-Surface Bicycling Trail
-  Paddling Trail
-  Off-Road Vehicle (ORV) Trail
-  Motorized Boating Trail
-  Wagon Suitable Trail
-  Interpretive Trail
-  Fitness Trail
-  Interpretive Water Trail
-  Wildlife Viewing Trail

POINTS OF INTEREST

-  Main Park Entrance / Park Entrance
-  Trailhead
-  Parking
-  Trail Access
-  Overlook
-  Restroom
-  Camping
-  Special-Use Camping Area
-  Check Station / Park Office / Ranger Office
-  Visitor Center / Orientation Center
-  Emergency Response / First Aid
-  Picnicking
-  Playground
-  Technical Feature
-  Natural Feature
-  Cultural Feature
-  Amphitheater
-  Backpack Camping Shelter
-  Backpack Campsite
-  Boat Ramp
-  Dining
-  Equestrian Parking
-  Interpretive Panel
-  Interpretive Shelter
-  Intersection
-  Lodging / Cabin / Camper Cabin
-  Marina / Boat Dock
-  Nature Center
-  Organized Group Camp
-  Picnic Shelter
-  Recreation Feature
-  Skills Course
-  Stables
-  Store
-  Swimming
-  Telephone
-  Water Fountain
-  Water Access