
















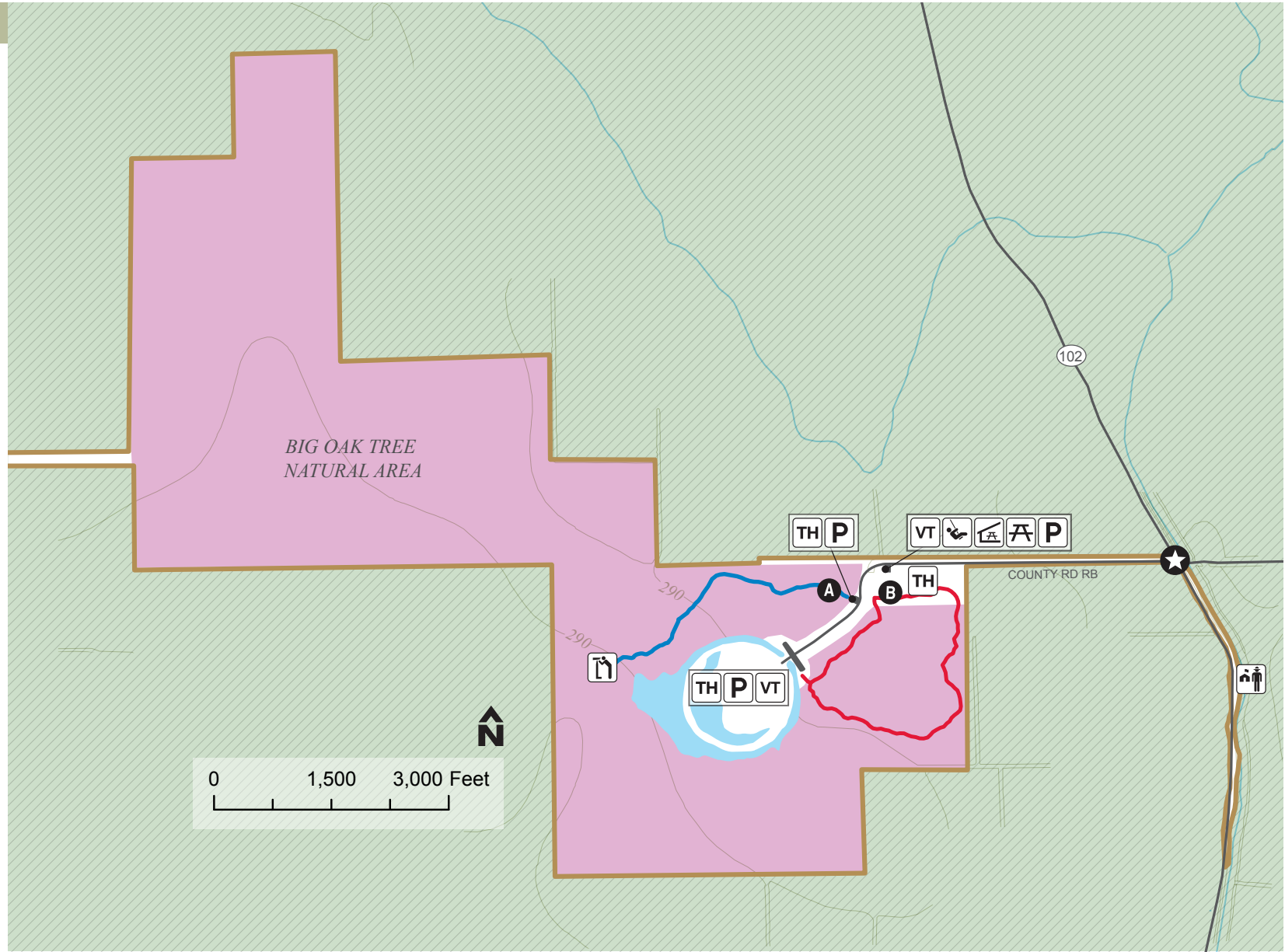


# BIG OAK TREE STATE PARK MAP

## LEGEND

-  State route
-  Road lines
-  Land contour
-  Natural Area
-  Not state park property
-  Water
-  Park boundary
-  Main entrance
-  Hiking trail
-  Overlook
-  Park office
-  Parking
-  Picnicking
-  Picnic shelter
-  Playground
-  Trailhead
-  Vault toilet



## CONTACT INFORMATION

**BIG OAK TREE STATE PARK**  
13640 S Hwy 102  
East Prairie MO 63845-8768  
573-649-3149

[mostateparks.com](http://mostateparks.com)

**DISCLAIMER:** This map is not a legal survey. The Missouri Department of Natural Resources makes no warranty, expressed or implied, as to the accuracy of the data or related materials and is not responsible for any damage or loss resulting from its use.







## BOARDWALK TRAIL

**0.70-mile loop** TRAIL RATING: Easy  
ESTIMATED HIKING TIME: 45 minutes

Boardwalk Trail showcases many of Big Oak Tree State Parks' natural communities and a champion pumpkin ash tree. The boardwalk is an elevated walkway constructed in 2006. The trail begins near the day-use area within a fire-maintained, wet mesic woodland community of oak, hickory and sugarberry trees, and giant cane, then passes through a bottomland forest of bald cypress and pumpkin ash trees. The trail ends at an observation deck overlooking a marsh/shrub swamp community with swamp privet, buttonbush, swamp locust and large black willows. The observation deck and elevated boardwalk afford the opportunity to be in the middle of a swamp without getting your feet wet.

Benches are located approximately half-way along the boardwalk and at the observation deck. These areas provide visitors the opportunity to rest and observe the wildlife found in Big Oak Tree State Park.

TRAIL NAME	MILEAGE	BLAZE COLOR	APPROVED USAGE	RATING	TRAIL EXPERIENCE *
Boardwalk Trail	0.70	 Blue		Easy	1, 9
Bottomland Trail	1.50	 Red		Rugged	2, 3, 9, 11

\* YOU MAY EXPERIENCE: ① Slippery conditions and/or downed vegetation ② Natural surface: dirt, mud, gravel, loose 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 ⑱ Rapidly changing weather conditions ⑲ Motorized boat traffic ⑳ Unexpected waves ㉑ Changing water levels ㉒ Surface or submerged objects

## BOTTOMLAND TRAIL

**1.50-mile loop** TRAIL RATING: Rugged  
ESTIMATED HIKING TIME: 45 minutes

Bottomland Trail lies within Big Oak Tree Natural Area and this portion of Big Oak Tree State Park is recognized as a National Natural Landmark. The trail gives visitors a glimpse of the old-growth, bottomland hardwood forests that once occurred along portions of the Mississippi River. The trail loops through an oak-hickory forest and gradually meanders into a forest community of more wetland and swamp species, such as bald cypress, overcup oak and pumpkin ash trees, plus many others. Slight differences in soils and elevation, where the lower portions retain more water or are seasonally inundated, allow these water-tolerant species to thrive, while at the same time inhibiting the growth of other species.

The trail passes beneath some of Missouri's tallest trees and past a state champion tree, the swamp chestnut oak. Old age, disease, storm damage and a change in hydrology have taken their toll on many of the parks' largest trees. Several magnificent giants can still be observed along Bottomland Trail and a few of these great trees may one day be state champions, joining three additional state champion trees within the park.

A short spur connects the trail to a picnic area.

## Rules of Boardwalk Trail

- Boardwalk Trail is for hiking only. Bicycles and all-terrain vehicle equipment are prohibited on all trails at Big Oak Tree State Park. Because the boardwalk is elevated and has an abrasive metal surface, running is also prohibited.
- Keep properly hydrated during warmer weather and carry enough water for a one- to two-hour hike. Water fountains are located at the beginning of the boardwalk and in the picnic area.
- Mosquitoes are common and can be very abundant during the late spring, summer, and early fall. Insect repellent, long-sleeved shirts and pants will help make their disturbance minimal during your hike.
- Please help keep state parks natural by discarding waste items in trash receptacles located at the beginning of the boardwalk. Cans and plastic bottles should be placed in recycle bins to help minimize the impact on landfills and preserve natural resources.
- All other rules and regulations pertaining to park use are applicable to trail users.