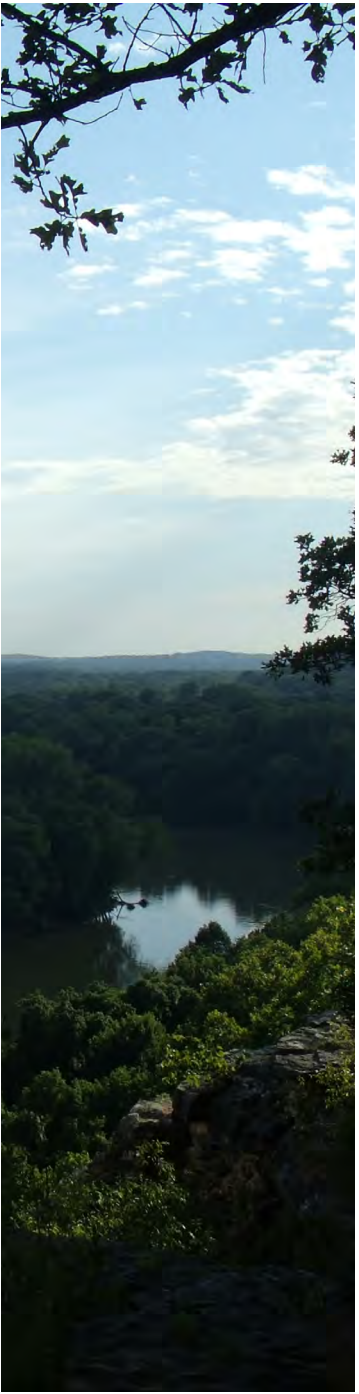
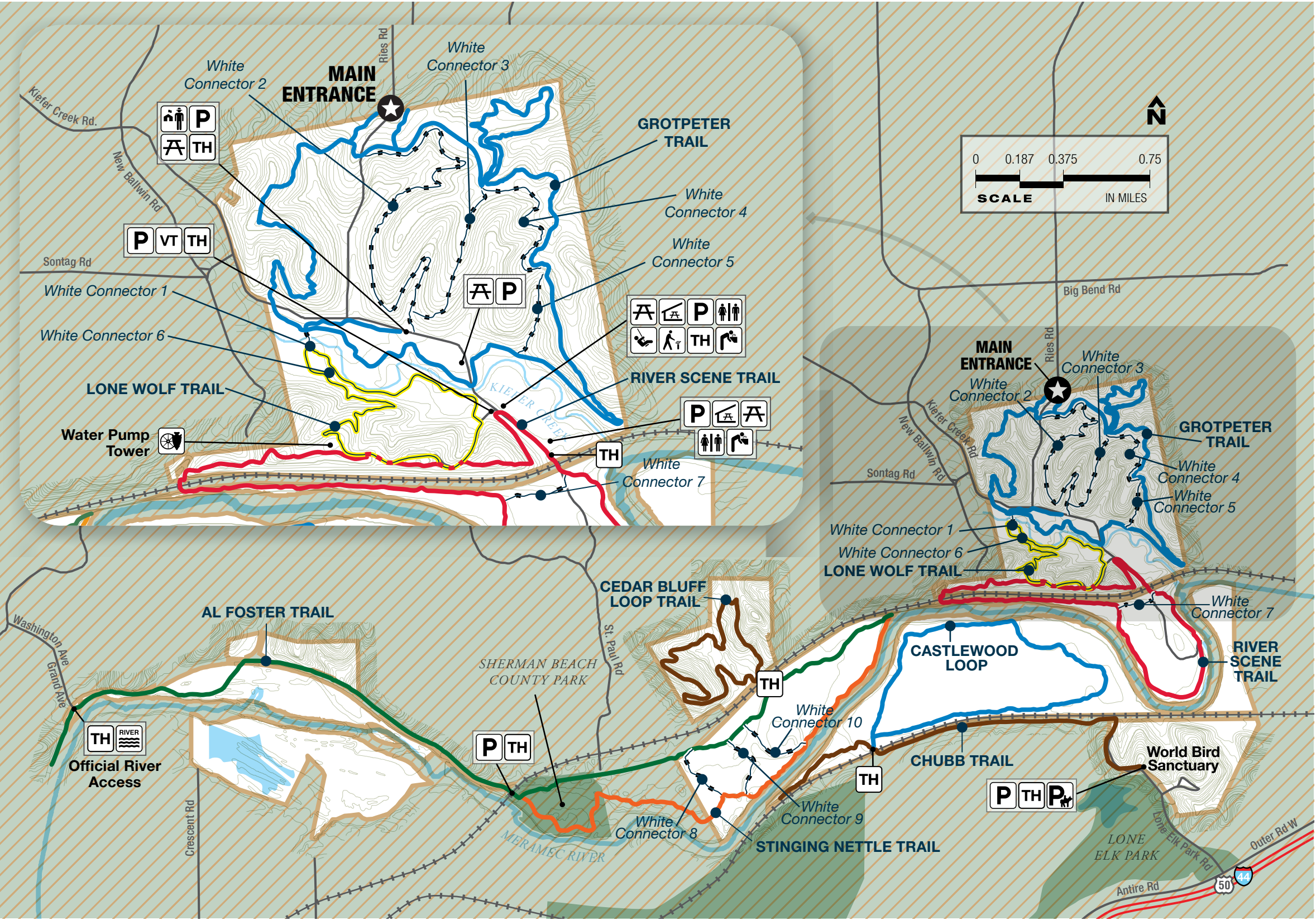


CASTLEWOOD STATE PARK MAP



LEGEND


- ★ Main entrance
- Interstate highway (multi-lane)
- U.S. highway (multi-lane)
- U.S. highway (two-lane)
- State route
- Railroad
- Land contour
- Not state park property
- Park boundary
- Stream or creek
- Trail blazed in red
- Trail blazed in orange
- Trail blazed in yellow
- Trail blazed in green
- Trail blazed in blue
- Trail blazed in brown
- Trail (overlapping)
- Trail (connector)
- Water
- Hiking trail
- Equestrian trail
- Bicycling trail
- Mountain biking trail
- Picnicking
- Cultural Feature
- Equestrian parking
- Interpretive exhibits
- Overlook
- Parking
- Park office
- Picnic shelter
- Playground
- Restroom
- River access
- Trailhead
- Vault toilet
- Water fountain



CONTACT INFORMATION
Castlewood State Park
1401 Kiefer Creek Road
Ballwin MO 63021-7338
Park Office:
636-227-4433
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.

AL FOSTER TRAIL

 **4.70 miles one way** TRAIL RATING: Moderate
ESTIMATED HIKING TIME: 3 hours, 30 minutes


Al Foster Trail is a gravel-based trail with little or no gradient converted from an abandoned railroad bed. The trail follows the Meramec River from the town of Glencoe west to Sherman Beach parking area, then continues northwest through Sherman Beach County Park to a native soil surface that connects to the end of the Stinging Nettle Trail.

The first 3.5 miles of trail from Glencoe to Sherman, is constructed of compacted rock. The trail follows the original route of the Pacific Railroad, constructed in 1854. The trail passes through the remains of an old gravel plant complete with sunken barge in the river before skirting the bottom of the Palisade Bluffs. Hikers and bikers will encounter four crossings of the WF&P Mini Railroad and are advised to be cautious while crossing the tracks. Not far to the east of Sherman Beach County Park the surface changes from gravel to dirt and the width narrows significantly, allowing for a wilder, more natural experience. Here, the trail goes through forested bottomland until reaching the Meramec River and a junction with Stinging Nettle Trail.

Return to the trailhead by retracing steps back along the Al Foster Trail or return via the Stinging Nettle Trail. To shorten or enhance one’s hike, white connectors 8, 9 and 10 are available. These are marked with white blazes.

The trail is a joint project of Missouri State Parks, the City of Wildwood, St. Louis County Parks and Recreation and The Great Rivers Greenway. Trailheads are located at Glencoe (managed by the City of Wildwood) and Sherman Beach County Park (managed by St. Louis County Parks and Recreation). The trail itself is maintained by Missouri State Parks.

CASTLEWOOD LOOP TRAIL

 **2.80-mile loop** TRAIL RATING: Moderate
ESTIMATED HIKING TIME: 2 hours, 10 minutes


Castlewood Loop can be accessed via Chubb Trail. The trail passes through old farmland that is now in various states of succession. The trail also skirts along the remnants of Lincoln Beach, a popular swimming hole and gathering place from 1915 to 1940. The entire length of the trail is in the floodplain, so some sandy areas will be encountered near the river. The trail passes through field and forest, and its seclusion from developed areas makes it an excellent place for birdwatching and wildlife viewing. Please note that swimming or wading in the Meramec River is prohibited at Castlewood State Park

 **WARNING: This section of the Meramec River is hazardous to swimming and wading.**

Note: This trail cannot be accesed from the day-use area.



CEDAR BLUFF LOOP

 **2.30-mile loop** TRAIL RATING: Rugged
ESTIMATED HIKING TIME: 2 hours, 20 minutes


Cedar Bluff Loop is isolated from any vehicular access and can only be reached from Al Foster Trail through two early 20th century tunnels under the Union Pacific Railroad. Just on the other side of the tracks, the trail splits and, either direction may be taken. Contrary to its name, the trail does not actually go along Cedar Bluff. On a clockwise path around, the trail passes through forest and meadows before climbing to the knob of a large hill, which happens to be the highest point in the entire park. The trail then plunges back into the valley, crosses a creek and then weaves up a ridge on the opposite side of the valley. It then follows the ridge back down to the start of the loop.

CHUBB TRAIL

 **2 miles one way** TRAIL RATING: Easy
ESTIMATED HIKING TIME: 1 hour

Chubb Trail is a multiuse trail that starts at Lone Elk County Park, goes through Castlewood State Park and ends up at West Tyson County Park on the south side of the Meramec River. The trail can be accessed at either county park. It is hilly at each end, especially on the West Tyson side. Through the middle, the trail passes through flat, forested bottomland and a couple of restored prairie fields


GROTPETER TRAIL

 **4.40-mile loop** TRAIL RATING: Moderate
ESTIMATED HIKING TIME: 3 hour, 20 minutes

Varied routes and the challenging terrain with numerous elevation changes make this a popular trail with all users. In addition to the main trail, four white connector trails, totaling 2.6 miles, are available to enhance, shorten or lengthen the user’s experience. White connector trails 2, 3, 4 and 5 can be used to bypass steep sections of the trail. After reaching the pinnacle, the trail follows the crest of the ridge before starting a long downhill back into the Kiefer Creek valley and back to the trailhead.

Note: There are several road crossings; always stop and check for oncoming traffic before continuing.


LONE WOLF TRAIL

 **1.70-mile loop** TRAIL RATING: Rugged
ESTIMATED HIKING TIME: 1 hour, 40 minutes

The Lone Wolf Trail provides beautiful over looks of the Meramec River Valley, as well as shaded trails through fern-covered hillsides. This loop trail can be started by Kiefer Creek or at the Lone Wolf Hill nearby. Trail users that have started at the bluffs will eventually break away to begin the descent into the valley, and separate from the River Scene Trail. Trail users can access the stream crossing in the valley that connects to Grotpeter Trail for an extended trek or keep following Lone Wolf Trail as they follow the loop. Lone Wolf Trail was named in honor of Castlewood’s notorious roadhouse tavern/speakeasy of the resort era: Lone Wolf Club. Unfortunately, all that remains of the club today are a stone fireplace and memories.

TRAIL NAME	MILEAGE	BLAZE COLOR	APPROVED USAGE	RATING	TRAIL EXPERIENCE *
Al Foster Trail	4.70	<div></div> Green	<div></div> <div></div> <div></div>	Moderate	2, 3, 10, 13
Castlewood Loop Trail	2.80	<div></div> Blue	<div></div> <div></div> <div></div>	Moderate	2, 3, 4, 11
Cedar Bluff Loop	2.30	<div></div> Brown	<div></div> <div></div>	Rugged	2, 3, 5, 7, 9, 10, 13
Chubb Trail	2.00	<div></div> Brown	<div></div> <div></div> <div></div>	Easy	2, 3, 4, 9, 11
Grotpeter Trail	4.40	<div></div> Blue	<div></div> <div></div>	Moderate	2, 3, 6, 9, 10, 12, 13
Lone Wolf Trail	1.70	<div></div> Yellow	<div></div> <div></div>	Rugged	2, 3, 7, 8, 9, 13
River Scene Trail	3.40	<div></div> Red	<div></div> <div></div>	Moderate	2, 3, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13
Stinging Nettle Trail	2.50	<div></div> Orange	<div></div> <div></div>	Moderate	2, 3, 10, 13
Connector Trail (<div></div>)		<div></div> White	Connector trails are available on some trails, are numbered and will modify your hike. See map for more information.		
* 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					

RIVER SCENE TRAIL


 **3.40-mile loop** TRAIL RATING: Moderate
ESTIMATED HIKING TIME: 2 hour, 35 minutes

River Scene Trail features the park’s most spectacular views of the Meramec River valley. This 3.4 miles loop trail wraps around forested hillsides and through bottomland forests, showcasing bluff top overlooks and up close views of the scenic Meramec River Valley. Depending on whether the trail is entered approaching the bottomland forest located on the peninsula, or the bluff overlooking the Meramec River Valley, will change the experience.

Along the way, hikers will pass some old foundations that serve as a reminder of the resort era during the 1920s and 1930s. Some remnants featured include the crumbling remains of the ‘Grand Staircase’ to a tunnel under the Union Pacific Railroad, located next to the wooden staircase that bridges the altitude change from bluff top to bottomland. This area was the site of the Castlewood Railroad Depot and the steps provided access to Castlewood Hotel and resort cabins on the bluffs. While utilizing this trail, note that only hiking is allowed on the bluff portion of the River Scene Trail.

The lower portion of the River Scene Trail can be accessed under the railroad tracks at the Kiefer Creek Road underpass, or by descending the wooden stairs located on the upper portion of the trail. This trail showcases a bottomland forest that follows the Meramec, The trail remains level as it follows the for two miles, traveling through seasonally flooded woodlands and a large open field that was the past site of the hotel known as Lincoln Lodge. The lodge was across the river from Lincoln Beach, which was the prime gathering spot of fun-seekers during the resort era. In addition, White Connector 7, located near the field, and is available to shorten or enhance one’s hike.

STINGING NETTLE TRAIL

 **2.50 miles one way** TRAIL RATING: Moderate
ESTIMATED HIKING TIME: 1 hour, 50 minutes

Stinging Nettle Trail follows the Meramec River from Sherman Beach County Park, and continues to a junction with Al Foster. The trail’s up-and-down terrain is the result of gravel dredging on the site prior to state acquisition of the land. This is a great trail for getting away and communicating with nature.

Ending at benches, the trail offers up-close-and-personal views of the river that hikers and mountain bikers will appreciate. A return trip west is possible via the white connector trails 8, 9 and 10, which allow access to the Al Foster Trail to create a loop of variable distance. During warm weather, mosquitoes are plentiful, so the use of insect repellent is recommended.

Stinging Nettle Trail is a cooperative project of Missouri State Parks and St. Louis County Parks and Recreation. It is maintained by Missouri State Parks.

