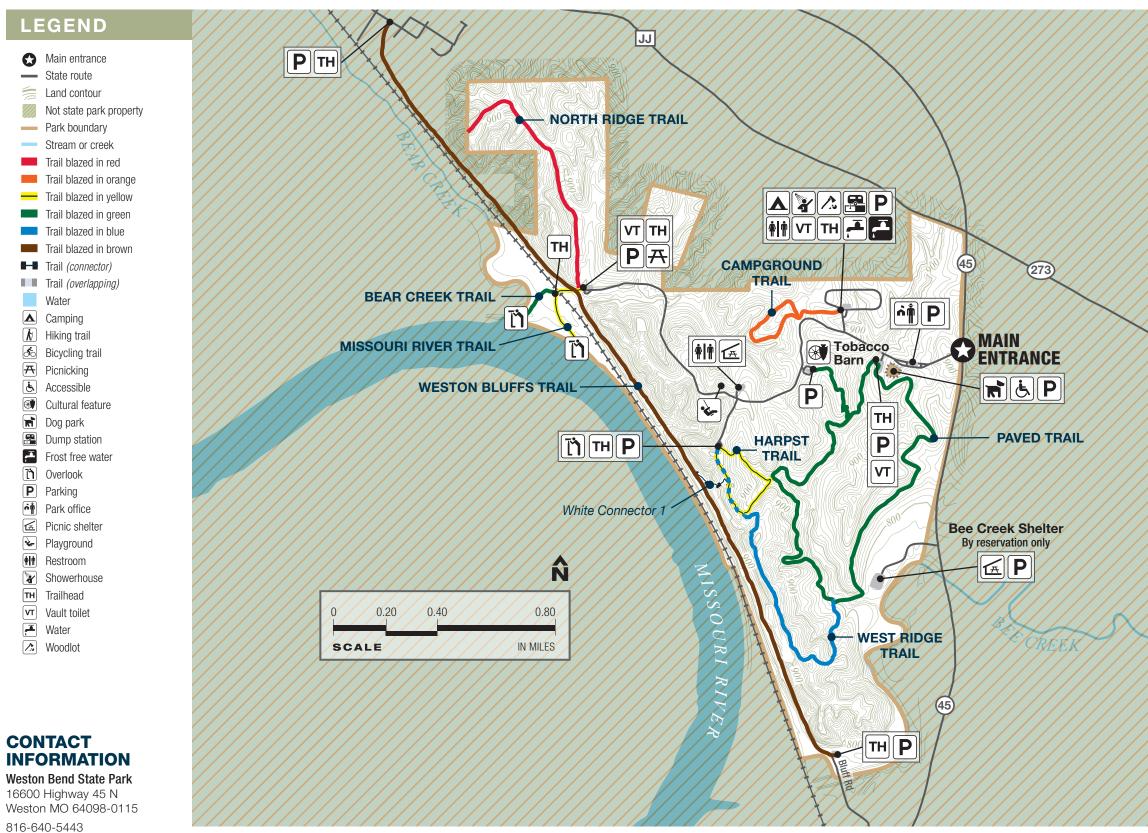
# WESTON BEND STATE PARK MAP

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#### **BEAR CREEK TRAIL**

### **0.10 miles one way** TRAIL RATING: Easy ESTIMATED HIKING TIME: 5 minutes

Bear Creek Trail is located in the flood plain of the Missouri River and is a good example of fairly common second-growth bottomland forest. It connects to Bear Creek and the Missouri River, and there are drop-offs at points along the trail. Many kinds of wildlife, including migratory songbirds, are commonly seen. The trail is accessed by crossing Weston Bluffs Trail and the Burlington Northern Railway tracks. Caution should always be exercised in accessing this trail. The trail surface is natural, with occasional stones and tree roots in the trail walkway. The area is subject to standing water in the roadway as well as occasional flood events from the Missouri River.

## **CAMPGROUND TRAIL**

### 0.80-mile loop TRAIL RATING: Moderate ESTIMATED HIKING TIME: 35 minutes

Campground Trail is a loop trail frequently used by visitors to the campground. The trail passes through second-growth forest and old farm fields. There are a few short sections where the climb can be a little steep, but generally the trail is a nice walk. The trail has a natural surface, so visitors should be aware of the possibility of rocks or tree roots in the trail. This is a favorite place for campers to get some exercise in the morning or evening.

#### HARPST TRAIL

## **0.60-mile loop** TRAIL RATING: Rugged ESTIMATED HIKING TIME: 40 minutes

Harpst Trail is a relatively short loop trail, but it can be a fairly strenuous hike in some sections. A bench about halfway along the trail provides a place to rest. The trail offers a journey through a portion of the mature river hills woods that were once common along the Missouri River in northwest Missouri. Signs along the trail provide information on the park's role as an Important Bird Area and list birds common to the park. The entire trail is a natural soil base, and portions may be covered with leaves. Tree roots and exposed rocks are common in the trail bed.

White Connector 1 (0.20 miles) links West Ridge and Harpst trails to Weston Bluffs Trail. The connector takes hikers from the scenic bluffs above the Missouri River on West Ridge and Harpst trails down to Weston Bluffs Trail, which follows the park's western border and parallels the Missouri River and the Burlington Northern Railway.



### **MISSOURI RIVER TRAIL**

#### 0.30 miles one way TRAIL RATING: Easy ESTIMATED HIKING TIME: 10 minutes

Missouri River Trail offers a short walk to an outstanding view of the Missouri River. This trail is located in the flood plain of the Missouri River and is a good example of fairly common second-growth bottomland forest. The trail is accessed by crossing Weston Bluffs Trail and the Burlington Northern Railway tracks. It ends at the Missouri River, and there are drop-offs at points along the trail. Many kinds of wildlife, including migratory songbirds, are commonly seen along the trail.

Caution should always be exercised in accessing this trail and the Missouri River. The trail surface is natural, with occasional stones and tree roots in the trail walkway. The area is subject to standing water as well as occasional flood events from the Missouri River.

#### NORTH RIDGE TRAIL

#### 0.90 miles one way TRAIL RATING: Moderate ESTIMATED HIKING TIME: 40 minutes

North Ridge Trail offers great views of the Missouri River valley, including remnants of an old farmstead. The trip out on the trail can be strenuous because of the steep grade, and sections can be quite slippery when the trail is wet. Along this trail are an 1830s barrel vault cellar, a 1900s corn picker and an 1880s Missouri River survey marker. The trail ends near private property; please be respectful of the private property. This trail has a natural soil surface with numerous exposed tree roots and rocks.

## **PAVED TRAIL**

#### **2.80-mile loop** TRAIL RATING: Moderate ESTIMATED HIKING TIME: 2 hours, 5 minutes

Paved Trail has an asphalt surface and is very popular with both hikers and bicyclists. If traveling in a counter clockwise direction, the trail goes through a section of mature river hills hardwood forest, complete with pawpaws, white oaks, sycamores and more. The second half of the trail gradually climbs back to the starting point and travels through a stand of maple trees that gives way to old farm fields. These have been reverting to cedar trees and a mix of prairie grasses, wildflowers and shrubs. This area offers a good lesson in plant succession. There are no natural obstacles except for a few steep grades in one section of the trail.

The 0.30-mile natural surface access spur begins at the park's day-use area and is a short, easy way to connect to Paved Trail. The day-use area also offers additional parking if the main trailhead parking is full. For hikers and bikers already on Paved Trail, the spur leads to the park's important cultural feature; the historic tobacco barn. The trail intersects with Harpst and West Ridge trails.

MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

TRAIL NAME	MILEAGE	BLAZE COLOR	APPROVED USAGE	RATING	TRAIL EXPERIENCE *
Bear Creek Trail	0.10	Green	<b>k</b>	Easy	2, 3, 8, 11
Campground Trail	0.80	Orange	<u>ل</u>	Moderate	2, 3, 7
Harpst Trail	0.60	Yellow	<u>ل</u>	Rugged	2, 3, 7, 8
Missouri River Trail	0.30	Yellow	Ŕ	Easy	2, 3, 8, 11
North Ridge Trail	0.90	Red	<u>ن</u>	Moderate	2, 3, 7
Paved Trail	2.80	Green	<b>k</b> 5	Moderate	7, 9
Weston Bluffs Trail	3.10	Brown	<b>k</b>	Easy	2, 8, 9
West Ridge Trail	1.25	Blue	<b>k</b>	Rugged	2, 3, 7, 8
Connector Trail (	Connector Trail (				'

\* 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 1 Water/stream crossings without bridges 1 Occasional water over trail 2 Road/highway crossing 3 Emergency response signs **(B)** Narrow passages **(B)** Raised or protruding obstacles **(B)** Electric fence crossings **(D)** Bison **(B)** Rapidly changing weather conditions 19 Motorized boat traffic 20 Unexpected waves 21 Changing water levels 22 Surface or submerged objects

## WESTON BLUFFS TRAIL

#### **3.10 miles one way** TRAIL RATING: Easy ESTIMATED HIKING TIME: 1 hour, 35 minutes

Weston Bluffs Trail follows the western border of the park and runs parallel to the Missouri River and the Burlington Northern Railway. This trail is popular with hikers and bicyclists looking for a pleasant, non-strenuous outing. Along with occasional glimpses of the Missouri River, it is possible to see migrating birds and waterfowl.

The trail connects the state park to the city of Weston on the north and an Important Bird Area and list birds common to the park. with the village of Beverly to the south. From the park's picnic area, it is 1.25 miles to Weston and 2 miles to the trailhead near Beverly. With The trail intersects with Harpst Trail and Paved Trail and is normally the trail's direct connection to downtown Weston, Weston Bluffs Trail accessed from the overlook parking area by using Harpst Trail. When is often used by park visitors wishing to make a trek to shop or dine in combined with hiking times on Harpst Trail and Paved Trail, actual town without taking a motor vehicle. The north half of the trail is paved hiking time could be up to 2 hours, 30 minutes. Sections of the trail are with asphalt while the southern half is a fine gravel surface. Although steep and have numerous exposed tree roots and occasionally muddy generally flat, there are gentle grades and changes of elevation. conditions. The trail surface is all natural and will usually be either bare soil or a loose leaf cover.

White Connector 1 (0.20 miles) links West Ridge and Harpst trails to Weston Bluffs Trail. The connector takes hikers from the scenic bluffs above the Missouri River on West Ridge and Harpst trails down to Weston Bluffs Trail, which follows the park's western border and parallels the Missouri River and the Burlington Northern Railway.

and will modify your hike. See map for more information.

# WEST RIDGE TRAIL

### **1.25 miles one way** TRAIL RATING: Rugged ESTIMATED HIKING TIME: 1 hour, 15 minutes

West Ridge Trail offers some of the best panoramic views available of the Missouri River valley bordering Fort Leavenworth, Kansas. Also in view are the city of Leavenworth to the southwest and the Iatan power plant to the northwest. This trail offers excellent opportunities for observing native and migrating birds as well as a variety of native flowers and animals. Signs along the trail provide information on the park's role as

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