Watkins Woolen Mill State Park and Historic Site

EQUESTRIAN TRAIL SYSTEM

The Equestrian Trail System travels through an area of oak-hickory woodland on its west side and scattered stands of red cedar on the east side. White connector 1 on the north end follows a ridge on a gentle slope down to a creek. Multiple routes can be taken as the white connector joins the trail at several points to shorten or extend the hike or ride.

A point of interest is the eight-sided Franklin School and the Mt. Vernon Church on the north end of the trail loop. Both of these buildings date back to the early 1870s; they are separated from the equestrian trail by a fence. Feel free to tie up the horses and walk over for a closer look.

Watch for loose rocks and steep slopes over 10 percent when approaching the two creek crossings. Some trail areas may be rutted, particularly on the extreme northwest and northeast sections. Trail conditions will be muddy after moderate rain and snowfall.

The parking lot accommodates eight to 10 horse trailers and has two picnic tables nearby. There is no water; horses may be watered at two creek crossings depending on the season. A vault toilet is located in the parking lot of the nearby group camping area. The trail is open from 8 a.m. to sunset.

Equestrian camping is not available. Please stay on designated trails and do not ride on roads or paved trails. Bicycles are prohibited and state law requires dogs to be leashed. Please pack out your trash and report any downed trees or limbs to park staff.

Distance from Trailhead 1: 2.6 Miles

Uses:
Hiking [x]
Equestrian [x]

Blazes:
Red
White 1 [ ]

Class: Loop

Surface Type: Natural
Trail Rating: Rugged

Estimated Hiking Time: 2 Hours, 34 Minutes

Trailhead & GPS Location:
1) 39.39795, -94.25158
2) 39.39760, -94.25035

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%
10) Water/stream crossings without bridges
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.

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.