Cuivre River State Park

FRENCHMANS BLUFF TRAIL

This popular trail begins and ends near the west side of the picnic shelter. The trail follows Geode Creek for a short distance before winding up a hill and emerging on top of Frenchman's Bluff. The 120-foot-high bluff, formed in Burlington limestone, offers outstanding vistas of the Cuivre River valley. After continuing along the bluff for approximately half a mile, the trail returns to the picnic shelter. Extreme care should be taken when on top of the bluff as the loose gravel can make the footing unsure. The trail is marked in a counterclockwise direction. Portions of this trail are shared with Cuivre River Trail, which is open to equestrian use, and Blackhawk Point Mountain Bike Trail.

Distance: 1.6 Miles
Uses: Hiking
Blazes: Blue
Class: Loop
Surface Type: Natural
Trail Rating: Rugged
Estimated Hiking Time: 1 Hour, 34 Minutes
Trailhead & GPS Location: 39.01027, -90.94028

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%
8) Bluffs or drop-offs next to trail
9) Bridges and/or structural crossings
12) Road/highway crossing
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 chose 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.