Washington State Park

OPOSSUM TRACK TRAIL

A portion of Opossum Track Trail travels through the 68-acre Washington State Park Hardwood Natural Area, an area of land set aside for protection because of its natural beauty. Along other sections of the trail, hikers may notice depressions in the earth. Prior to the park's construction, this area was prospected for a mineral called barite and the depressions are the remains of those mining operations. Barite, locally known as tiff, is used in the production of drilling mud and paint. As visitors hike along this scenic trail, they also may enjoy several breathtaking views of the Big River valley, particularly near the CCC Overlook Gazebo, that offers wooden benches for resting. This shelter can be accessed via the hiking trail or along Highway 104 near the cabin entrance. The trail meanders through a typical Missouri oak-hickory hardwood woodland, abounding with many natural wonders including wildflowers, songbirds, native wildlife, majestic trees, and trickling water winding its way along an ancient creek bed.

Along the trail, hikers may encounter slippery conditions, rocks and roots sticking up in the trail's natural surface, steep grades, and creek crossings without bridges. The trail shares a section with Rockywood Trail.

Hikers should register at the trail registration box at the Thunderbird Lodge bulletin board (near the trailhead) prior to beginning their hike. Trail maps are located at the bulletin board as well. When arriving at the trailhead, park so multiple cars can use the parking area. Parking is also available at Thunderbird Lodge.

Distance: 2.4 Miles
Uses: Hiking [X]
Blazes: Blue [ ]
Class: Loop
Surface Type: Natural
Trail Rating: Rugged
Estimated Hiking Time: 2 Hours, 25 Minutes
Trailhead & GPS Location: 38.08418, -90.68501

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
5) Physically challenging obstacles
6) Wood or stone steps
7) Steep grades and inclines more than 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

This trail or a portion of this trail travels through: Washington State Park Hardwoods Natural Area
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 / WILDERNESSES
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.