

Bennett Spring State Park

SAVANNA RIDGE TRAIL

Much of the tread of Savanna Ridge Trail was originally old roads and is therefore a hard packed gravel/grass surface; other trail sections are rocky in some places. The extended trail is narrow and winds through an open woodland formerly known as savanna. White Connector 1 divides the larger loop in the middle to allow for a shorter two-mile loop.

The eastern side of this trail is combined with Natural Tunnel Trail. From the trailhead, these two trails head west crossing Spring Hollow via a low water bridge and share a fairly wide path to the first of two junctions. The hiker then gets the option of traveling west uphill on Savanna Ridge Trail, which goes up a steep hill, then down toward a small tributary. The white connector trail defines the shorter option to the loop with a more or less east-west trail defined on the south primarily by a fence. The main trail crosses the creek via stepping stones, and travels an extra mile up the hill and around in a counter-clockwise direction before rejoining the white connector trail. A short distance downhill is a junction with Natural Tunnel Trail. Continuing in a counter-clockwise direction down a steep trail, re-crossing the tributary, and traveling along Spring Hollow closes the loop.



A creek divides the loop. Frequent rains make this a pleasant stop.

Special Features: The trail winds along a ridge overlooking the east side of Spring Hollow. The open woodlands and glades are glorious with wildflowers during spring and fall. Ticks abound on the trail through the summer months.

History: The trail is a combination of roads used by people living in the area from the 1840s to present and became part of a road system that accessed ponds and grazing areas. When the park purchased the property, the road became a 1.5-mile loop trail called Spring Valley Trail. In the early 1990s (when additional property was purchased), the trail was extended across a small creek and up along the ridge of a long hill overlooking Spring Valley. At that time, the trail, renamed Savanna Ridge, became a larger loop of 2.5 miles with the original small loop becoming the white connector trail. Portions of the extension trail were constructed by seasonal labor and volunteers. Flooding in the valley has caused problems with erosion at the eastern section, especially at stream crossings and steep hills. The area is occasionally burned to enhance the complex of open woodlands.

Distance: 2.5 Miles

Uses:

Hiking 

Blazes:

Green 

White 1 

Class: Loop

Surface Type: Natural

Trail Rating: Easy

Estimated Hiking Time: 1 Hour, 14 Minutes

Trailhead & GPS Location:

37.71546, -92.85428

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%
- 9) Bridges and/or structural crossings
- 10) Water/stream crossings without bridges
- 11) Occasional water over trail

- RED
- ORANGE
- YELLOW
- GREEN
- BLUE
- BROWN
- WHITE CONNECTOR
- SHARED TREAD

- NATURAL
- GRAVEL
- PAVED
- WATER
- BOARDWALK

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.

- 1 Slippery conditions and/or downed vegetation
- 2 Natural surface: dirt, mud, gravel, shifting 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/elk
- 18 Rapidly changing weather conditions
- 19 Motorized boat traffic
- 20 Unexpected waves
- 21 Changing water levels
- 22 Surface or submerged objects

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.

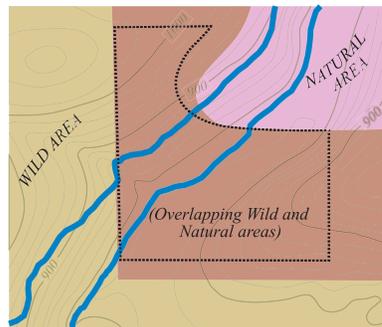
GPS COORDINATES

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.



TRAIL USE

-  Hiking Trail
-  Backpacking Trail
-  Mountain Biking Trail
-  Equestrian Trail
-  Accessible
-  Hardened-Surface Bicycling Trail
-  Paddling Trail
-  Off-Road Vehicle (ORV) Trail
-  Motorized Boating Trail
-  Wagon Suitable Trail
-  Interpretive Trail
-  Fitness Trail
-  Interpretive Water Trail
-  Wildlife Viewing Trail

POINTS OF INTEREST

-  Main Park Entrance / Park Entrance
-  Trailhead
-  Parking
-  Trail Access
-  Overlook
-  Restroom
-  Camping
-  Special-Use Camping Area
-  Check Station / Park Office / Ranger Office
-  Visitor Center / Orientation Center
-  Emergency Response / First Aid
-  Picnicking
-  Playground
-  Technical Feature
-  Natural Feature
-  Cultural Feature
-  Amphitheater
-  Backpack Camping Shelter
-  Backpack Campsite
-  Boat Ramp
-  Dining
-  Equestrian Parking
-  Interpretive Panel
-  Interpretive Shelter
-  Intersection
-  Lodging / Cabin / Camper Cabin
-  Marina / Boat Dock
-  Nature Center
-  Organized Group Camp
-  Picnic Shelter
-  Recreation Feature
-  Skills Course
-  Stables
-  Store
-  Swimming
-  Telephone
-  Water Fountain
-  Water Access