Dr. Edmund A. Babler Memorial State Park

VIRGINIA DAY MEMORIAL NATURE TRAIL

This trail was named after Virginia Day, who spent some of the last years of her life as a volunteer naturalist working at the park, encouraging people to study nature with enthusiasm. With the trailhead located just across from the visitor center, this trail provides a look into the beauty of old growth forests. On this trail is a short loop, about .5-mile in length, which provides an opportunity for a brief glimpse of the forest. From the trailhead, the trail quickly descends into a valley through a mixture of trees, predominately oak and hickory, until it reaches a pawpaw patch. From here, the short loop stays in this valley, traversing through a cedar patch and then turning back towards the visitor center. The long loop continues further south and west through the valley. The trail continues on to a ridge on the far side of the loop. At that point, a spur and connector trail branches off, which can be used to reach the bicycle path and Woodbine Trail. The trail then descends back into the valley, following a creek bed. As the trail continues through the valley, it reaches the spur that goes back to the trailhead.

This trail, like many at the park, provides ample opportunity for observing concepts such as forest layers, changes in tree diversity from ridge to valley, types of trees at various levels of available moisture, and the process of secondary succession in a recovering forest.

Distance: 1.5 Miles

Uses:
Hiking [X]

Blazes:
Red
White 2

Class: Loop

Surface Type: Natural

Trail Rating: Moderate

Estimated Hiking Time: 1 Hour, 5 Minutes

Trailhead & GPS Location:
38.61718, -90.68922

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
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.