Weston Bend State Park

WEST RIDGE TRAIL

West Ridge Trail offers some of the best panoramic views available of the Missouri River valley bordering Ft. Leavenworth, Kan. Also in view are the city of Leavenworth to the southwest and the Iatan Power Plant to the northwest. This trail offers excellent opportunities for observing native and migrating birds as well as a variety of native flowers and animals. Signs along the trail provide information on the park’s role as an Important Birding Area and lists birds common to the park.

The trail intersects with Harpst Trail and Paved Bicycle Trail and is normally accessed from the overlook parking area by using Harpst Trail. When combined with hiking times on Harpst Trail and Paved Bicycle Trail, actual hiking time could be up to 2.5 hours. Sections of the trail are steep with numerous exposed tree roots and occasionally muddy conditions. The trail surface is all natural and will usually either be bare soil or a loose leaf cover.

White Connector 1 (0.20 miles) links the West Ridge and Harpst trails to Weston Bluffs Trail. The connector takes hikers from the scenic bluffs above the Missouri River on the West Ridge/Harpst trails down to Weston Bluffs Trail that follows the park’s western border and parallels the Missouri River and the Burlington Northern Railway.

**Distance:** 1.25 Miles

**Uses:**

Hiking [X]

**Blazes:**

Blue

**Class:** Linear

**Surface Type:** Natural

**Trail Rating:** Rugged

**Estimated Hiking Time:** 1 Hour, 14 Minutes

**Trailhead & GPS Location:**

39.38778, -94.87955

**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
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.