

Things You Can See

Trees and Shrubs:

Oak, hickory, and short-leafed pine dominate the canopy. Common under-story trees are dogwood, serviceberry, and redbud. Common woody shrubs include: low bush blueberries, which dominate dry ridge tops, and spice bushes found in moist hollows.

Karst Terrain:

“Karst” refers to geological features created when water dissolves limestone. In our karst environment, surface water quickly sinks downward into our underground water system, reappearing as seeps, springs, disappearing streams, and creeks, as well as forming sinkholes, fissures, etc.

Water:

Water makes all life possible, and has helped create the diverse topography above and below ground. Beaver Lake reservoir, 28,000 acres, is the final destination of the parks’ water features. The West Fork of Little Clifty Creek flows intermittently for nearly two miles to Beaver Lake. Beautiful War Eagle Creek changes to a river during heavy rain. Rain water soaks in quickly on ridge rim trails. Saturation from heavy rains will eventually cause dry stream beds to flow in the hollows. Small waterfalls appear on hillsides and pour off bluff ledges. Some of the park’s streams, springs, and seeps have water throughout the year.

Wildflowers and Ferns:

Wildflowers abound at Hobbs. Common examples: aster, rue anemone, trillium, May apple, crested iris, and fire pink. Common ferns types include: Christmas, bracken, maiden hair, and walking.

Wildlife:

White-tailed deer are plentiful. Gray squirrels are probably the most often seen critter. Bald eagles are easy to see in the winter from the Bashore Ridge Loop Trail overlook of Beaver Lake. Beavers have built a large dam across the upper section of Little Clifty Creek. Wild animals can see and hear better than we humans can, and disappear from our sight. Walk quietly.

Your safety is our main goal while protecting the park’s unique natural resources for present and future generations.

All Trail Users

- ❖ Motorized equipment, consumption of alcoholic beverages, camping, campfires and littering along the trail is prohibited.
- ❖ Removal of plants, animals, rocks artifacts etc. is prohibited.
- ❖ Pets must be on leash and under control at all times.
- ❖ Please ride or hike on designated trails only. All trail users are requested to travel in single file.
- ❖ Trails or sections of trails may be closed due to: (1) extreme wet weather resulting in unsafe trail conditions, (2) hazardous and emergency situations, (3) muzzle loading and modern gun deer seasons, and (4) maintenance. Please call in advance for trail availability.

Hikers/Cyclists

- ❖ When encountering horses, please step off the trail; horses may be frightened by bicycles and unfamiliar individuals.

Cyclists

- ❖ Are encouraged to wear a helmet for their protection.
- ❖ Always control your bike in a safe manner while on the trail.
- ❖ The construction of ramps/jumping of obstacles/trick riding are prohibited.

Equestrians

- ❖ Grazing is prohibited; many plant communities found here are both fragile and indigenous only to this area. Grazing may jeopardize this fragile environment.
- ❖ Water horses only at designated areas - three watering stations are located along the trail.
- ❖ Avoid damage to trees. Use designated hitching rails, cross-ties or pickets; instead of tying a horse directly to a tree.
- ❖ It is the responsibility of each rider to remove manure deposited at parking lots.
- ❖ Horses must be under direct physical control at all times.
- ❖ Equestrians, when encountering hikers and bikers, should be respectful by passing at a walk or stopping, if necessary. Never approach another horse, hiker, or cyclist at a gait greater than a walk.

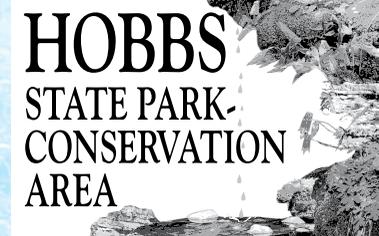
Volunteer Opportunities and Friends Information

Upkeep and repair of trail tread and signs require constant vigilance. You can do your part by removing obstacles off the trail as you go, by reporting unusual problems, and by volunteering for trail maintenance work days. Contact the park volunteer coordinator to assist. To learn more about our dedicated park support group as well as get more park information check-out www.FriendsofHobbs.com. Become a friend member, then “get up, get out, get involved – be a volunteer.”



Hidden Diversity Trail construction, signage, and accompanying amenities were funded by your 1/8¢ Conservation Tax – Amendment 75.

Enjoy the trail, and please be courteous to others.



The Mission of Hobbs State Park – Conservation Area “to provide enriching educational and recreational experiences in harmony with resource stewardship.”

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Hidden Diversity Multi-Use Trail



of Hobbs State Park-Conservation Area



Hidden Diversity Multi-Use Trail

Description:

This multi-use back country trail contains four loops and several spur trails that would exceed 23 miles if you hiked, biked or rode a horse over its entire length. The trail was designed for family day use. It mostly follows fairly level ridge tops and rims, with only a half dozen hills to climb throughout the entire trail. Parking is available and required only at the Townsend Ridge Road Trail Access and Piney Road Trail Access. Interpretive exhibit panels are placed along the trail to enhance your experience.

- ❖ Bashore Ridge Loop – 3 miles (Blackburn Area)
- ❖ Dutton Hollow Loop – 3 miles (Blackburn Area)
- ❖ Little Clifty Creek Loop – 9 miles (Van Winkle Hollow)
- ❖ War Eagle Valley Loop – 6 miles

Planning your outing:

In calculating total distance traveled, consider the distances to and from trail heads, not just the loop mileages.

Example:

From the Piney Road Trail Access to the intersection of Dutton Hollow Loop or Bashore Ridge Loop is one-half mile one way. If you travel one of these loops, you will go a total of 4 miles. If you travel both loops, you will go a total of 7 miles.

Suggestions For All Trail Users

- ❖ Call ahead before you travel to the park to determine if the trails are closed.
- ❖ Sign in and out at the trail head.
- ❖ Be courteous to other trail users.
- ❖ Use a trail map, compass, and hiking staff.
- ❖ Take drinking water and snacks.
- ❖ Dress in layers of clothing. Keep warm, but avoid perspiring excessively. Carry rain gear.
- ❖ Wear hiking boots or thick-soled sneakers since rocks cover most of the trail.
- ❖ If lost, remember that nearly the entire trail lies within 0.5 mile of a major road. If confused, stay put. Bring a whistle.
- ❖ It's crucial to hear others approaching. Wearing ear phones can be dangerous.
- ❖ It is highly recommended that riders wear protective head gear that is ASTM/SEI approved.

What is "Hidden Diversity"?

The trail name echoes one of the interpretive themes of the park, **"With awareness, the diversity of life here inspires wonder and discovery"**. Bluffs, rocky outcrops, limestone bedrock, caves, sink holes, and even a large fault line add to the area's diversity. A wide range of plant and animal species reside on our dry south slopes and rocky glades as well as in moist, protected ravines and wet-weather steams, yet hundreds or perhaps thousands of still-to-be-discovered living creatures and plants are "hidden" both on the surface and underground. Finding them will be an on-going challenge to park staff, visitors, and volunteers for years to come.

Why Go To The Woods?

Everyone has his or her own reason. Some look for exercise or solitude. Some come because they prefer Mother Nature's "office" over their own. Once in the woods your senses are heightened. You see and smell things differently, always finding something new. Many visitors leave the woods feeling better than when they entered.

Shared Use

When traveling multi-use trails, you may encounter hikers, runners, bikers, and horseback riders. All users must make adjustments. Trail use is a privilege that cannot be abused or disrespected.

If trail users conduct themselves in an appropriate manner, and respect the environment as well as other users, the trail experience will only get better.

Keep safety and courtesy in mind. This way the Hobbs trails will stay in good condition and the privilege will remain accessible for everyone.

