

Bicycle Guide



The Story of Crowley's Ridge

To understand the fragile nature of Crowley's ridge, you must first understand its fascinating geologic past.

The unique environment of Crowley's Ridge owes its origins to the ancient ocean which covered most of what is now eastern Arkansas some 50 million years ago. The global climate patterns were much different then and the ocean levels were much deeper. An extended arm of the Gulf of Mexico, known as the Mississippi Embayment, covered the entire area. Layers of marine sediments deposited by the ocean formed the foundation of Crowley's Ridge. Eventually, this ancient ocean retreated from Arkansas, leaving behind a wealth of marine sediments and fossils contained within them.

Evidence indicates that a gently rolling plain made of layers of clay, sand and gravel, extended from Little Rock, AR, to Memphis, TN. During the decline of the Ice Age, massive trenches were scoured out by the two major river systems, the Ohio River to the east of the ridge and the Mississippi River to the west. Carrying the large torrents of glacial melt-water, these rivers carried off most of the ancient marine sediments that had been deposited in what is now the Delta. Left standing between the two parallel running rivers, stood a thin strip of land, which became known as Crowley's Ridge.

The unique topsoil that caps the ridge is called "loess" and is a wind blown deposit. This soil was

created by glacial rock grinding during the Great Ice Age and was carried downstream by the glacial melt-water. When this fine "rock flour" or silt dried, it was picked up by the prevailing westerly winds and deposited on the ridge.

Unlike the other ridges and mountains of Arkansas, which have a foundation of solid bedrock, Crowley's Ridge has a foundation of clay, sand, and gravel. The erosive nature of the soil creates some unusual terrain. Steep ravines and hog-back ridges as well as sheer-sided bluffs are typical and common sights along the trails.

Rules on the Trails

- For your safety, mountain bikes or hybrid bikes are recommended on these trails.
- All bicycles must enter and exit from the designated bicycle entrance at the visitor center parking lot.
- Ride on designated trails only.
- Riding is permitted from sunrise to sunset only, riders must be off the trails before dark.
- When stopping for breaks, remember to pack your trash out with you.
- When passing oncoming bicycles, keep to the right.
- Please use helmets for your protection.
- Control your bike in a safe manner while on the trail.
- Before your trip, calculate the total distance traveled by considering the distances to and from the trailhead, not just the loop mileage.
- Building ramps, jumping obstacles, trick riding, and racing is prohibited.

- When encountering horses, please stop and step off the trail; horses may be frightened by bicycles and unfamiliar individuals.
- Some parts of the trail are closed to bikes for safety reasons (these areas are posted).
- It is crucial to hear others approaching. Wearing ear phones can cause serious safety hazards between user groups.
- If you stop on an uphill, it is considered good trail etiquette to allow those cycling uphill to have the right of way.

Remember, the way you care for and use the trails will influence trail management decisions and policies. Thank you.

TO REACH THE PARK: From Interstate 40, take exit 242 (near Forrest City) and travel 12 miles north on Hwy. 284. Follow the signs to the park.

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C • R • E • E • K
S T A T E P A R K

Village Creek State Park

201 CR 754

Wynne, AR 72396

villagecreek@arkansas.com

www.ArkansasStateParks.com

NOTICE: To preserve scenic beauty and ecology, fences, and warning signs have not been installed in some park locations. Caution and supervision of your children are required while visiting these areas.

Village Creek State Park



Trail Condition Notice:

The multi-use trails at Village Creek State Park encompass some of the most scenic areas of eastern Arkansas. The park offers incredible beauty with the towering forests of sugar maple, tuliptree and American beech, but the environment is very fragile and *special care is needed while riding these trails*.

Village Creek State Park is situated entirely upon the unique natural division known as Crowley's Ridge. Crowley's Ridge has a very fragile soil known as "loess" which was glacially created and blown in by the wind. This type of soil is extremely erosive in nature. For this reason, the multi-use trails are subject to closing to horses and bicycles at anytime during the year, depending on wet conditions. Please call ahead for trail closings.

Trails and Distances

BICYCLE ENTRANCE: (4.5 mile loop) From the entrance, a beginners loop can be accessed by going through intersections 11, 12, 13, and 14. This includes a portion of the Lake Dunn hiking trail.

CENTER RIDGE TRAIL (A,C): (4.5 miles) This trail traverses over some high ridge tops and treats the rider to some of the most scenic areas of the park. Most of this trail is rated as intermediate.

BEECH VALLEY TRAIL (D,E,F,G): (4 miles) The trail passes near Lake Dunn and deep into the forests of Crowley's Ridge. Most of the trail is rated as intermediate.

DEER RUN TRAIL (M,N,P): (4.6 miles) A portion of the trail (1.2 miles) runs along the gas pipeline and is rated as difficult. Nice views of Lake Austell are accessible from this trail. Most of the trail is intermediate.

Distance Between Intersections

Trail Sections	Distance
Bicycle entrance to Intersection 13	.7 miles <i>(closed to horses)</i>
Horse parking lot to Intersection 1	<i>(closed to bicycles)</i>
Intersection 1 to Intersection 2	.7 miles
Intersection 1 to Intersection 4	1.6 miles <i>(crosses stream, no bridge)</i>
Intersection 2 to Intersection 3	.1 miles
Intersection 2 to Intersection 6	.5 miles
Intersection 3 to Intersection 4	<i>(closed to bicycles)</i>
Intersection 3 to Intersection 5	1.1 miles
Intersection 4 to Intersection 5	1 mile
Intersection 5 to Intersection 8	.4 miles <i>(crosses seasonal stream, no bridge)</i>
Intersection 6 to Intersection 7	.5 miles
Intersection 6 to Intersection 12	.3 miles
Intersection 7 to Intersection 8	.7 miles
Intersection 7 to Intersection 9	.6 miles
Intersection 8 to Intersection 9	490 feet
Intersection 9 to Intersection 10	.5 miles
Intersection 10 to Intersection 11	.4 miles
Intersection 10 to Intersection 16	<i>(closed to bicycles)</i>
Intersection 11 to Intersection 12	1.6 miles
Intersection 11 to Intersection 14	.6 miles
Intersection 12 to Intersection 13	1.2 miles <i>(closed to horses)</i>
Intersection 13 to Intersection 14	.6 miles <i>(closed to horses)</i>
Intersection 14 to Intersection 15	.4 miles <i>(crosses creek, no bridge)</i>
Intersection 15 to Intersection 16	<i>(closed to bicycles)</i>
Intersection 15 to Intersection 17	.7 miles <i>(crosses creek, no bridge)</i>
Intersection 15 to Intersection 19	.4 miles <i>(crosses creek, no bridge)</i>
Intersection 16 to Intersection 17	2 miles <i>(crosses seasonal streams, no bridge)</i>
Intersection 17 to Intersection 18	1.5 miles
Intersection 18 to Intersection 19	.3 miles
Intersection 19 to Intersection 20	2 miles <i>(crosses creek, no bridge)</i>
Loop at Intersection 20	1.3 miles

Village Creek State Park Multi-Use Trail System

