Hidden Diversity Multi-Use Trail

GPS: Townsend Ridge Access: N36 16.392' W093 58.004' or Pinny Road Access: N36 17.308' W093 58.605

Length: 24 miles Multi-Use: Equestrians, mountain bikers, and hikers. No motorized vehicles.

Difficulty: Moderate to strenuous. Elevation gain: 200-300 feet. Users have the option of four trail sections or loops. The trail follows ridge tops and ridge rims, with only a half dozen hills to climb throughout the trail system.

Features: Similar to Pigeon Roost many of the same Ozark plant and animals can be seen on this trail. The theme for this park is not one large mountain or lake or river or forest or historical event or the myriad of plants and animals above and below the ground. It is the sum of all of these. It is diversity.

"With awareness, the diversity of life here inspires wonder and discovery".

Much of the trail area has been subjected to a "prescribed burn" or controlled burn. Native Americans used fire in virgin timber to provide better access, improve hunting, and to rid the land of undesirable species so they could farm. The fire, in fact, increased the ecological diversity of plant and animal life in the area. This practice left fewer, but larger trees in the forest with native grasses and wildflowers growing between the trees. Change is biologically necessary to maintain many healthy ecosystems. The intent of prescribed burns here at the park is to reduce fuels that could lead to dangerous, uncontrolled fires, and to speed up Mother Nature's natural processes that will return the make up of the forest to that seen 200 years ago. Hikers and riders should use the Hidden Diversity Trail brochure for more detailed information. (Available at the visitor center or the trail accesses.)

- Little Cilly Creek Loop - 9 miles
- Bashore Ridge Loop - 3 miles
- Dutton Hollow Loop - 3 miles
- War Eagle Valley Loop - 6 miles
- Various Spurs - up to 4 miles total
Volunteer Opportunities
Upkeep and repair of trail tread and signs require constant vigilance. You can do your part by removing obstacles from 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 friends member then “get up, get out, get involved—be a volunteer.”

Trails of Hobbs State Park-Conservation Area

Ozark Plateau Trail
GPS: N36 17.112' W093 56.285' Length: 0.25 of a mile concrete surface inner loop and 3.0 of a mile crushed stone outer “challenge” loop. Wheelchair, baby stroller or foot traffic only. Difficulty: Easy. Wheelchair accessible and meets ADA guidelines. Features: This barrier-free trail is adjacent to the Visitor Center and the trailhead is a short walk on the paved sidewalk to your right as you leave the Center. Two loops give visitors a choice of an almost level ridge top, with a six foot wide concrete surface trail, or a slightly more challenging outer loop, with crushed stone surface. Each loop has 7 spaced resting benches with wider turnouts providing room for small groups to observe plants and animals that live on ridge tops and in the surrounding valleys or hollows. The name of the trail, “Ozark Plateau”, relates to the unique topography that encompasses the park and the surrounding Ozark region. What are commonly called “hills” or some may refer to as “mountains” are actually the remains of an eroded flat ocean floor. This ocean floor was originally uplifted by geological forces within the earth and over time it has been influenced by erosional hydrological forces – rainfall and runoff. Both trail loops traverse through a dry ridge top full of low bush blueberries, tall pines, hickory and oak trees. The lower loop also skirts the edge of two cooler, moister hollows where intermittent seasonal springs flow and in these areas plant representation changes. Glimpses of classic Ozark animal and bird species can be observed if you look closely. Through direct observation, interpretive hikes, interactive exhibits and panels, students and visitors will learn many plateau concepts and features one of which is “karst” topography, how it was formed, and why this is so important to our health and welfare today.

Sinking Stream Trail
GPS: N36 17.810' W093 57.494' Length: 0.5 of a mile. Foot traffic only and prohibited access to the Multi-Use trail. Difficulty: Easy, with one small elevation increase. Features: This nature trail is our most recent addition, opening in 2010; however, it was actually the first one planned and field designed in 1988. Over the years an attempt has been made to make this trail barrier-free, wheelchair accessible, but and panels, students and visitors will learn many plateau concepts and features one of which is “karst” topography, how it was formed, and why this is so important to our health and welfare today.

Historic Van Winkle Trail
GPS: N36 17.810' W093 57.494' Length: 0.5 of a mile. Foot traffic only and prohibited access to multi-use trail. Difficulty: Easy, wheel chair accessible. Hikers may access the historic area via tunnel under Hwy 12. (Paved parking lot with restrooms) Interpretive panels along the eight-foot wide, hard-surfaced trail describe the historic home, mill, spring and raised Antebellum garden of the Peter Van Winkle family during and after the Civil War. Only a few rock foundation stones remain of the buildings. Guided tours are available.

Shaddox Hollow Trail
GPS: N36 19.114' W093 57.730' Length: 1.5 mile loop. Foot traffic only. Difficulty: Easy to moderate. This is a good trail for school children and beginning hikers. Features: Disappearing/sinking streams, typical Ozark forest, limestone bluffs with glades above, wildflowers in season, icicles in winter, spur to Beaver Lake shoreline, ancient fossils, spice bushes, native American thong trees, dogwood, service berry, and redbud blooming in Spring time. Observe how flora competes for sun in a burn area. The trail is named after an early settler named Solomon Shaddox. Guided tours available.