

Here, as you experience the meeting of two natural landscapes, you become aware that life is shaped by land and people.

Rolling hills, thick hardwood and pine forests, mountain bikers, and backpackers don't normally come to mind when thinking of southeast Arkansas. Yet these are features of the Cane Creek Lake Trail.

The trail explores both the towering timberlands of the West Gulf Coastal Plain and the flooded forests of the Mississippi Alluvial Plain, or the Delta.

Explore Cane Creek Lake Trail by foot or mountain bike, traverse a maze of small creeks that etch their way along deep draws between sloping ridges of thick forest. The trail bends around to open views of a lake filled with tall snags, water lilies, lotus blossoms, and bald cypress brakes. Sounds change from babbling brooks to the jug-a-rum call of a bullfrog.

DEVELOPMENT OF THE TRAIL

This 15.5-mile, multi-use trail was created through a partnership between Arkansas State Parks, Arkansas Game and Fish Commission, and Arkansas Department of Transportation. It provides hiking and mountain biking in the natural and diverse landscape surrounding Cane Creek Lake.

Funded by the Arkansas Highway and Transportation Department's Trails Grant Program, the trail was built by volunteers and Arkansas State Park staff. More than 550 volunteers participated in construction, many of whom were AmeriCorps and Boy Scout organizations.

TRAIL REGULATIONS

To preserve the beauty of the trail and surrounding environment please obey the following regulations:

- All park trails are limited to foot, bicycles, and eBikes (no ATVs or horses).
- Stay on the designated trail by observing the red trail blazes and signs.
- Be courteous to trail users.
- It is unlawful to disturb or remove any plants, animals, or geological formations.
- No alcoholic beverages or glass containers.
- Pets must be on leash and under control.
- Campfires may be built only at the Cane Creek Lake Trail camps/shelters (an overnight camping permit is required).
- Be alert. Bikers yield to hikers when possible. Bikers should signal with voice or bell when overtaking another trail user. Use caution when meeting and passing.
- Always control bikes in a safe manner.
- Building of ramps and jumping obstacles is prohibited.

In case of emergency, contact park personnel or 911.

SUGGESTIONS FOR ALL TRAIL USERS

Plan for your endurance level, time, equipment, and supplies. This trail requires a minimum of 8 hours to complete. Plan carefully.

- Call ahead before you travel to the park to check for trail closures.
- Tell someone where you are going and when you expect to return.
- Sign in and out at the trailhead.
- Take ample water and snacks.
- Monitor weather and dress appropriately.
- Wear hiking boots or thick-soled sneakers.
- Watch for poison ivy along the trail. It can be recognized by its three leaflets, reddish leaf stem, and hairy vine.
- It is highly recommended that cyclists wear ASTM/SEI approved protective headgear.
- Cyclists should use caution in speed. There are several quick descents that go into turns and bridges. Many timber bridges have ramps that are not meant for jumping.
- Tick, chigger, and snake season is generally April through September. Wear repellent and check for ticks frequently. If you encounter a snake, give it room. Snakes are protected in state parks.
- No trail use after sunset without state park permission. If you become lost after sunset you are easier to find if you stay where you are.

BACKPACKER INFORMATION

- Camping is only allowed at Cane Creek Lake Trail camps/shelters (after mile 6, then east 0.5 miles). A mandatory camping permit is available at the visitor center. No fee is required for the trail camps/shelters.
- Campfires are only allowed in designated fire rings at the Cane Creek Lake Trail camp.
- Although the trail has several creeks, it is not unusual for them to be dry. Cane Creek Lake and a small pond near mile marker 3 are steady water sources. Purify all water before drinking.
- Bury human waste 6-8 inches deep and at least 200 feet from the trail or a water source.
- If you pack it in, you are required to pack it out. Inspect your campsite and rest areas for trash or spilled foods. Littering or burying trash is prohibited.
- Avoid washing directly in water sources and never dump food, grease, or detergents in them. To wash yourself or your dishes, carry water 200 feet away from water source or trail and use small amounts of biodegradable soap.

HUNTING

There is no hunting allowed on property managed by Arkansas State Parks. However, hunting is allowed on property managed by the Arkansas Game & Fish Commission, and their regulations are in effect (miles 7.5 to 13). For safety, it is recommended that hunter-orange be worn during hunting seasons on the entire trail.

TRAILHEAD & ACCESS POINTS

The main trailhead for this 15.5-mile trail is in the Cane Creek State Park picnic area. However, other access points with parking areas are available. The state park has access points at the visitor center and at fishing pier #3 (mile 14.3). There are two access points on Arkansas Game & Fish Commission property along the Cane Creek Lake levee at fishing pier #1 (mile 10) and fishing pier #4 (mile 12.1).

TRAIL MARKINGS

In wooded areas, the trail is marked with a single red blaze. You may hike or ride the trail in either direction. The following comments are written as if you were traveling in a clockwise manner from the main trailhead at the state park picnic area.

- The first 1.25 miles of the trail are blazed in red and yellow due to the Cane Creek Lake Trail and the park's 2.5-mile Delta View Trail loop sharing this section.
- Directional signs are placed at critical turning points.
- Mile markers are placed at each half-mile interval.
- No trail blazes or mile markers are provided or required on the 4.6 miles of trail on the Cane Creek Lake levee (miles 8.5 to 13.1).
- Trail follows Cane Creek Road for 1.3 mile (miles 13.1 to 14.3). Be cautious of vehicular traffic.

THE RICHNESS OF VARIETY

The Cane Creek Lake Trail offers wonderful opportunities to observe a wide variety of birds, plants, animals, and geological formations where these two natural landscapes meet. Take your time when hiking or biking and absorb the natural beauty.

Your help is needed to protect this park of yours. If we leave no trace, it is possible for the thousands of people that travel our trails to leave this natural area just as they found it – a remarkable back country with a single path woven through it.



Cane Creek State Park

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HIKING & Biking

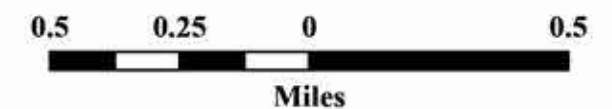


@ Cane Creek Lake Trail



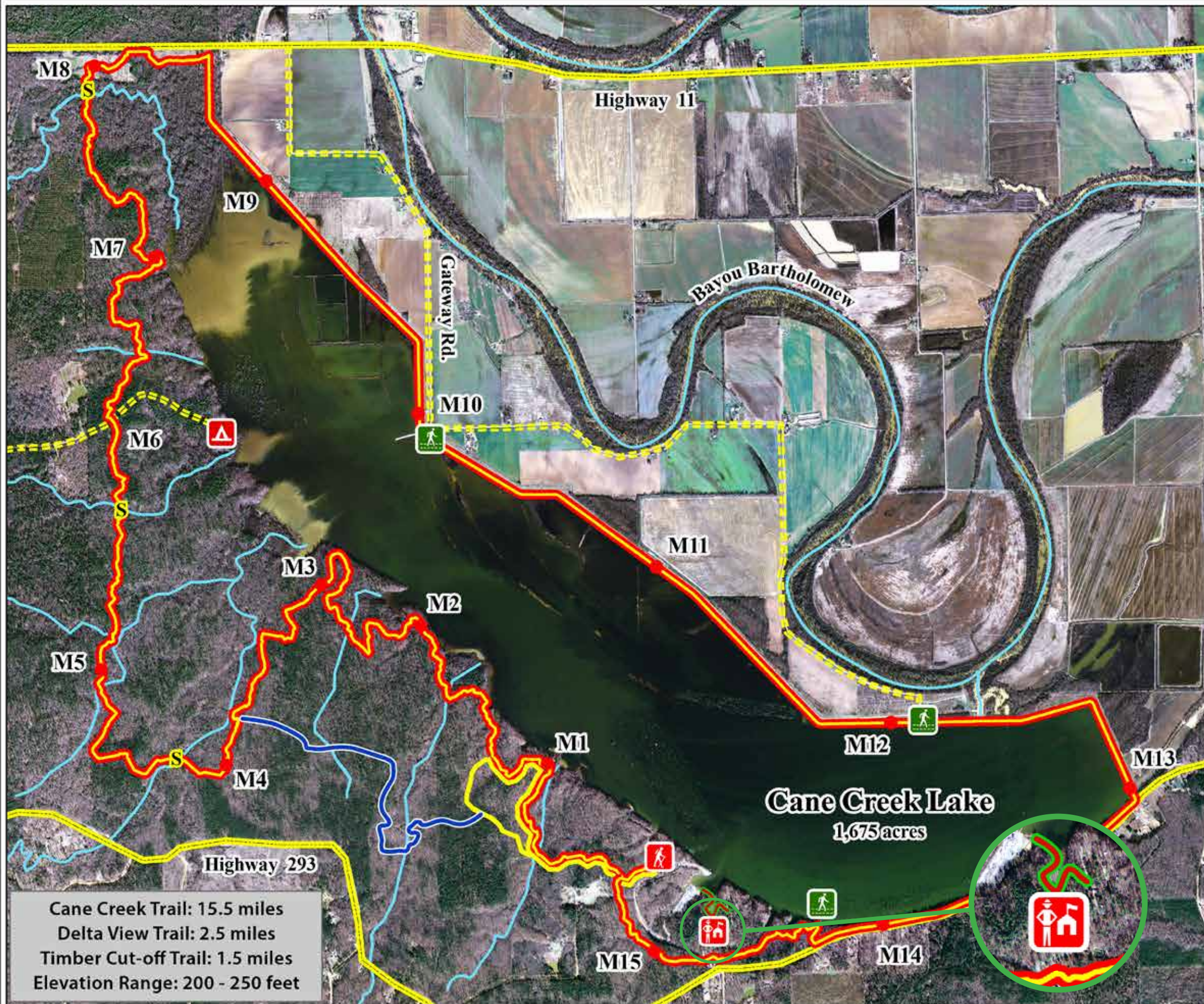
Cane Creek Lake Trail Guide

-  Visitor Center
-  Trailhead
-  Cane Creek Trail
-  Delta View Trail
- M1** Mile Post
- S** Suspension Bridge
-  Access Points
-  Permit Camping
-  Paved Road
-  Gravel Road
-  Major Waterways
-  Connector Trail
-  Timber Cut-off Trail



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

This map was created by the Spatial Analysis Laboratory (SAL) in the School of Forest Resources, University of Arkansas at Monticello (UAM), Arkansas



Cane Creek Trail: 15.5 miles
 Delta View Trail: 2.5 miles
 Timber Cut-off Trail: 1.5 miles
 Elevation Range: 200 - 250 feet