

## 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 towering forests of sugar maple, tuliptree, and American beech. *Special care is needed while riding these trails, because the environment is very fragile.*

Village Creek State Park is situated entirely upon the unique natural division known as Crowley's Ridge. Crowley's Ridge has a very delicate 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 soil conditions. Please call ahead for trail closings.

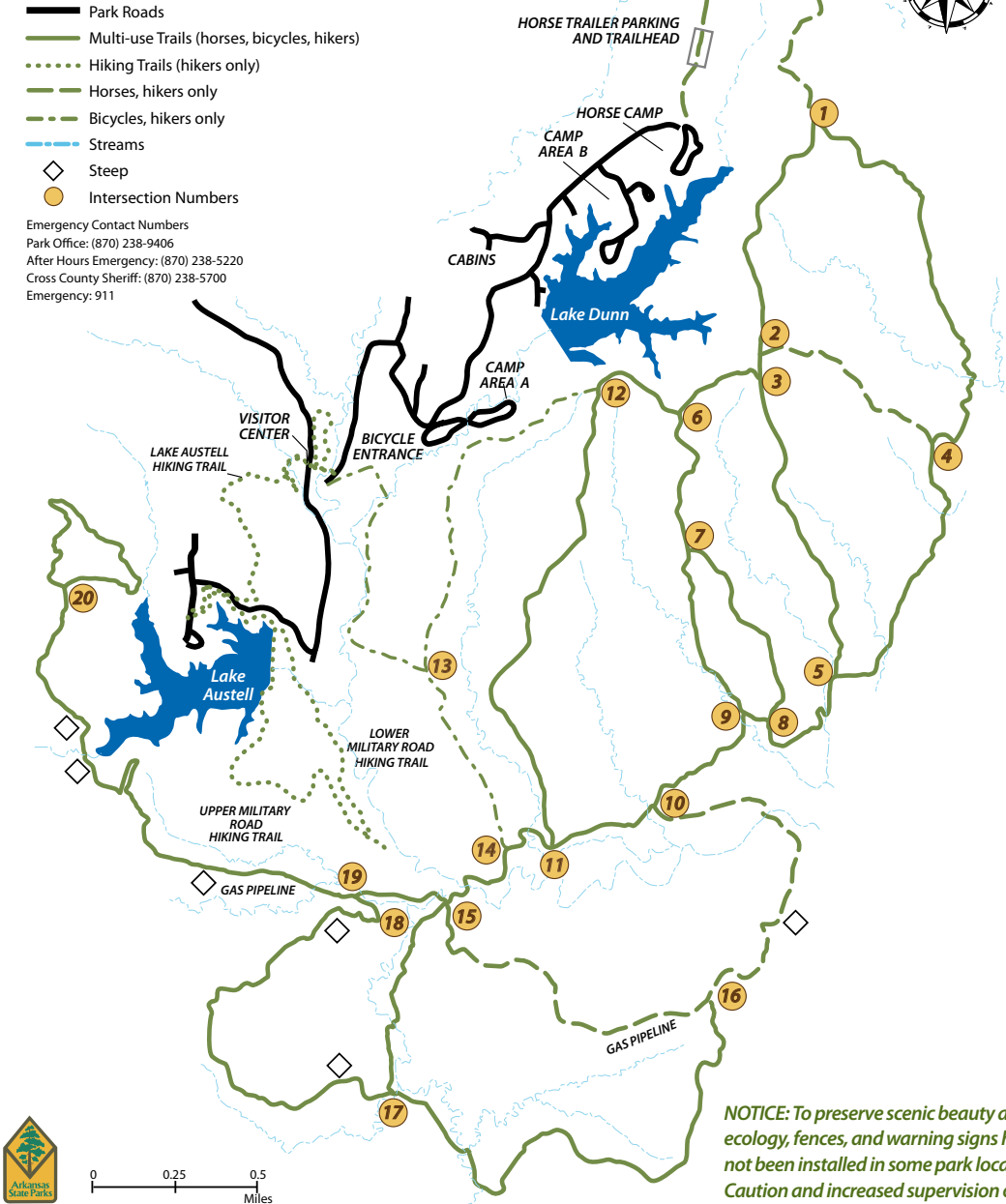
## MULTI-USE TRAILS (BLAZED IN WHITE)

### 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



**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 while visiting these areas.

# Bicycle Guide



## The Story of Crowley's Ridge

To understand the fragile nature of Crowley's Ridge, one must first understand its fascinating geologic history.

The unique environment of Crowley's Ridge owes a significant portion of its origin to an ancient ocean that covered most of eastern Arkansas—some 50 million years ago. Ocean levels were much deeper then because the global climate was warmer. At that time, ocean waters of the ancient Gulf of Mexico extended into Arkansas. Layers of marine sediments deposited from this ocean formed the foundation of Crowley's Ridge.

Eventually the ocean receded from Arkansas leaving behind a wealth of sediment and fossils contained within the sediment. The result was a gently rolling landscape made of sand, gravel, and clay. At this point in time, the surrounding rolling landscape was as elevated as Crowley's Ridge.

Around 11,700 years ago, glaciers were located north of Arkansas. As the weather warmed again the glaciers melted, and torrents of meltwater drained southward towards Arkansas. These meltwater rivers created massive erosional forces washing away the sediments of the previous rolling landscape. Two destructive meltwater rivers on either side of the ridge eroded away much land except for the thin strip we call Crowley's Ridge.

The distinctive 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 meltwater. 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 sights along the trails.

## Trail Rules and Guidelines

- For your safety, mountain bikes or hybrid bikes are recommended on these trails.
- All bicycles must enter and exit from the designated bicycle entrance. 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 encountering oncoming traffic, keep right.
- Please use helmets for your protection.
- Control your bike in a safe manner.
- 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.

VILLAGE CREEK STATE PARK  
201 CR 754  
Wynne, AR 72396  
villagecreek@arkansas.com  
www.ArkansasStateParks.com