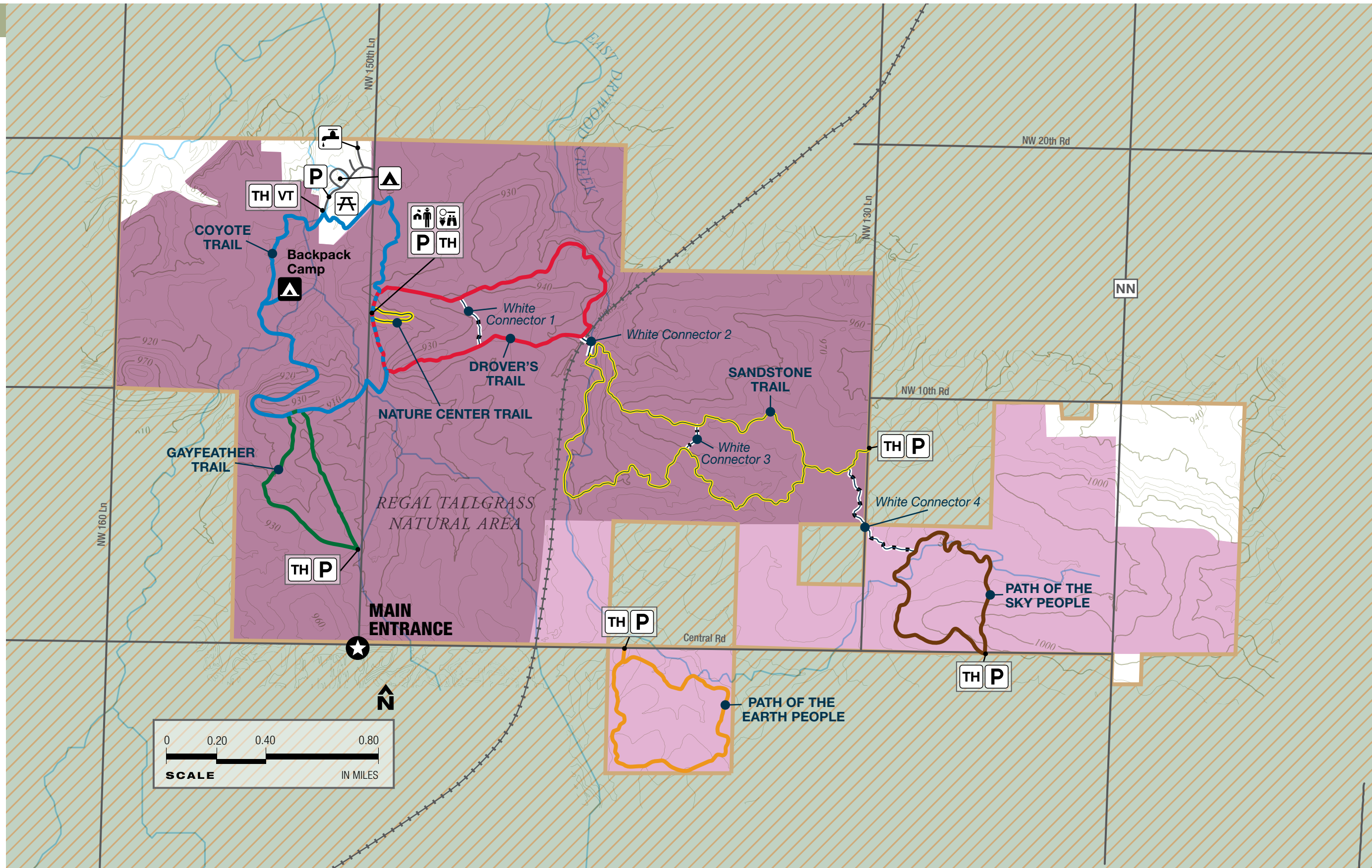


PRAIRIE STATE PARK MAP

LEGEND

-  Main entrance
-  State route
-  Railroad
-  Bison grazing area
-  Land contour
-  Natural area
-  Not state park property
-  Park boundary
-  Stream or creek
-  Trail blazed in red
-  Trail blazed in orange
-  Trail blazed in yellow
-  Trail blazed in green
-  Trail blazed in blue
-  Trail blazed in brown
-  Trail (overlapping)
-  Trail (connector)
-  Water
-  Camping
-  Backpack camp
-  Hiking trail
-  Backpacking trail
-  Interpretive trail
-  Picnicking
-  Nature center
-  Parking
-  Park office
-  Trailhead
-  Vault toilet
-  Water



CONTACT INFORMATION

Prairie State Park
128 NW 150th Lane
Mindenmines MO 64769
417-843-6711

mostateparks.com

DISCLAIMER: This map is not a legal survey. The Missouri Department of Natural Resources makes no warranty, expressed or implied, as to the accuracy of the data or related materials and is not responsible for any damage or loss resulting from its use.

COYOTE TRAIL

3.25-mile loop TRAIL RATING: Easy
ESTIMATED HIKING TIME: 1 hour, 40 minutes

Hikers on Coyote Trail may come across a den of coyotes with the pups playing nearby or hear a songbird scolding them to get away from its nest in the sumac patches. A covey of northern bobwhite quail may be seen as they scatter or an owl might be heard in the evenings. The trail shares sections with the Drover's and Gayfeather trails.

DROVER'S TRAIL

2.50-mile loop TRAIL RATING: Easy
ESTIMATED HIKING TIME: 1 hour, 15 minutes

Drover's Trail gets its name from a time when cowboys drove cattle across this prairie on their way to market. The trail starts by crossing a small stream that is frequented by prairie wildlife. It continues up a hill where the rolling prairie can be viewed. Northern harrier hawks and short-eared owls may be seen gliding overhead in the winter. The 0.25-mile White Connector 1 can be used to shorten the hike. If a longer hike is desired, White Connector 2 leads to Sandstone Trail. The trail shares a section with the Coyote and Nature Center trails.

GAYFEATHER TRAIL

1.50-mile loop TRAIL RATING: Easy
ESTIMATED HIKING TIME: 45 minutes

On Gayfeather Trail, hikers can experience what the settlers might have seen as they headed west, including bison grazing on the prairie. The trail is within Regal Prairie, which is named after the endangered regal fritillary butterfly. This butterfly and others can be seen resting on the colorful prairie wildflowers. Hikers wanting to view more of what early settlers could have observed can continue the experience on Coyote Trail.

NATURE CENTER TRAIL

0.40-mile loop TRAIL RATING: Easy
ESTIMATED HIKING TIME: 10 minutes

Be ready to admire the rolling terrain of the tallgrass prairie that is dotted with wildflowers and punctuated with songs of the meadowlark, dickcissel, sedge wren, Bell's vireo, and Henslow's sparrow. The floral display includes yellow star grass, Indian paintbrush, prairie blue-eyed grass, lousewort, pale purple coneflower, gayfeather, rattlesnake master, blue sage, ashy sunflower, sky blue aster, willow aster and downy gentian. A whole host of insects are present that feed on plants and animals while being an important food source for the various animals of the prairie.

Bison wallows and chips are prominent features in the area. They are telltale reminders that bison make this prairie their home. The prairie crayfish and the northern crawfish frog both inhabit this area, as do various snakes and lizards. Northern harriers are swooping down low to try and stir up a bird or small mammal for a meal. Snakes had better keep an eye out for the red-tailed hawk, as the snakes are frequently on the hawk's menu.



PATH OF THE EARTH PEOPLE

1.90-mile loop TRAIL RATING: Easy
ESTIMATED HIKING TIME: 55 minutes

Path of the Earth People trail travels through Hunkah Prairie, which is translated from the Osage to mean Earth People. The prairie landscape is dotted with gayfeather and white wild indigo wildflowers as well as big bluestem, little bluestem and cordgrass. The trail follows a section of East Drywood Creek as it meanders through the area. American bitterns are known to hide among the cattails and turkey vultures ride the thermals above the prairie. White-tailed deer are often spotted in the area.

PATH OF THE SKY PEOPLE


















1.70-mile loop TRAIL RATING: Easy
ESTIMATED HIKING TIME: 50 minutes

Path of the Sky People trail loops through Tzi-Sho Prairie, which is translated from the Osage to mean 'Sky People.' The path goes through a hardpan prairie where the Henslow's sparrow or an upland sandpiper can be heard. Other prairie wildlife such as badgers or whitetailed deer may be seen. White Connector 4 can be followed for about 0.50 miles, crossing the road to join Sandstone Trail to extend the trail experience.

SANDSTONE TRAIL

4.25-mile loop TRAIL RATING: Easy
ESTIMATED HIKING TIME: 2 hours, 10 minutes

Sandstone Trail leads past East Drywood Creek, which encompasses about a mile of a prairie headwater stream that is designated an Outstanding State Resource Water. The stream has rocky bottoms and deep pools lined with sandstone. Bison and white-tailed deer are often viewed along the trail. This trail is also excellent for observing prairie birds like the eastern meadowlark, dickcissel or possibly Bell's vireo. If a shorter loop is preferred, the 0.11-mile White Connector 3 can be used. White Connector 4 can be followed for 0.50 mile, crossing the road to join Path of the Sky People Trail to extend the hike. White Connector 2 connects to Drover's Trail.

TRAIL NAME	MILEAGE	BLAZE COLOR	APPROVED USAGE	RATING	TRAIL EXPERIENCE *
Coyote Trail	3.25	 Blue	 	Easy	2, 3, 9, 11, 12, 16, 17
Drover's Trail	2.50	 Red		Easy	2, 3, 11, 17
Gayfeather Trail	1.50	 Green		Easy	2, 3, 11, 17
Nature Center Trail	0.40	 Yellow	 	Easy	2, 3, 11, 17
Path of the Earth People	1.90	 Orange		Easy	2, 3, 11
Path of the Sky People	1.70	 Brown		Easy	2, 3, 11
Sandstone Trail	4.25	 Yellow		Easy	2, 3, 11, 12, 16, 17
Connector Trail ()		White			<i>Connector trails are available on some trails, are numbered and will modify your hike. See map for more information.</i>

*** YOU MAY EXPERIENCE:** ① Slippery conditions and/or downed vegetation ② Natural surface: dirt, mud, gravel, loose rocks, slippery surface, etc. ③ Rocks, roots and/or downed vegetation on trail ④ Low-hanging vegetation ⑤ Physically challenging obstacles ⑥ Wood or stone steps ⑦ Steep grades and inclines over 10% ⑧ Bluffs or drop-offs next to trail ⑨ Bridges and/or structural crossings ⑩ Water/stream crossings without bridges ⑪ Occasional water over trail ⑫ Road/highway crossing ⑬ Emergency response signs ⑭ Narrow passages ⑮ Raised or protruding obstacles ⑯ Electric fence crossings ⑰ Bison ⑱ Rapidly changing weather conditions ⑲ Motorized boat traffic ⑳ Unexpected waves ㉑ Changing water levels ㉒ Surface or submerged objects

Rules of the Trail

Please help to maintain and preserve the beauty of Missouri State Parks trails by following these rules:

- Only hikers are permitted on the park trails.
- Pets are not allowed on park trails, EXCEPT for Path of the Earth People and Path of the Sky People trails. Bison graze freely in the park, and this regulation protects both you and your leashed pet.
- Removal of plants, animals, rocks, downed timber, artifacts or relics is prohibited.
- Cutting implements such as saws and hatchets are not allowed on trails.
- No hunting or discharging of firearms is permitted.
- All other rules and regulations pertaining to park use are applicable to trail users.
- Backpack camping is only allowed at the designated campsite on the Coyote Trail. Backpackers must register before starting their trip.

NOTE: Ticks and chiggers are abundant May through mid-October. Be prepared with insect repellent.

Things to Know Before You Go

- Missouri state park trails are generally open from sunrise to sunset. Some parks have gates that close every evening.
- Know your physical capabilities when choosing a trail.
- Always carry water to ensure you stay hydrated. Watch the weather and dress appropriately.
- Read the information on the trailhead signs and maps to become oriented and aware of the trail terrain, length and special features.

The Ethics of Good Trail Use

- Plan ahead. Bring enough water. Be sure you can get back to your vehicle before it gets dark.
- Carry out what you carry in. If the trail users before you have not done this, you can help by removing their trash.
- Keep your group small. Small groups are less likely to harm the environment.
- Dispose of human waste properly. Hikers should select a spot at least 100 feet from any open water, dig a small hole no deeper than six or eight inches; after use, fill the hole with loose soil.
- Please do not create new trails. Trails are designed to prevent soil erosion and damage to surrounding vegetation.
- Avoid using a trail when wet.