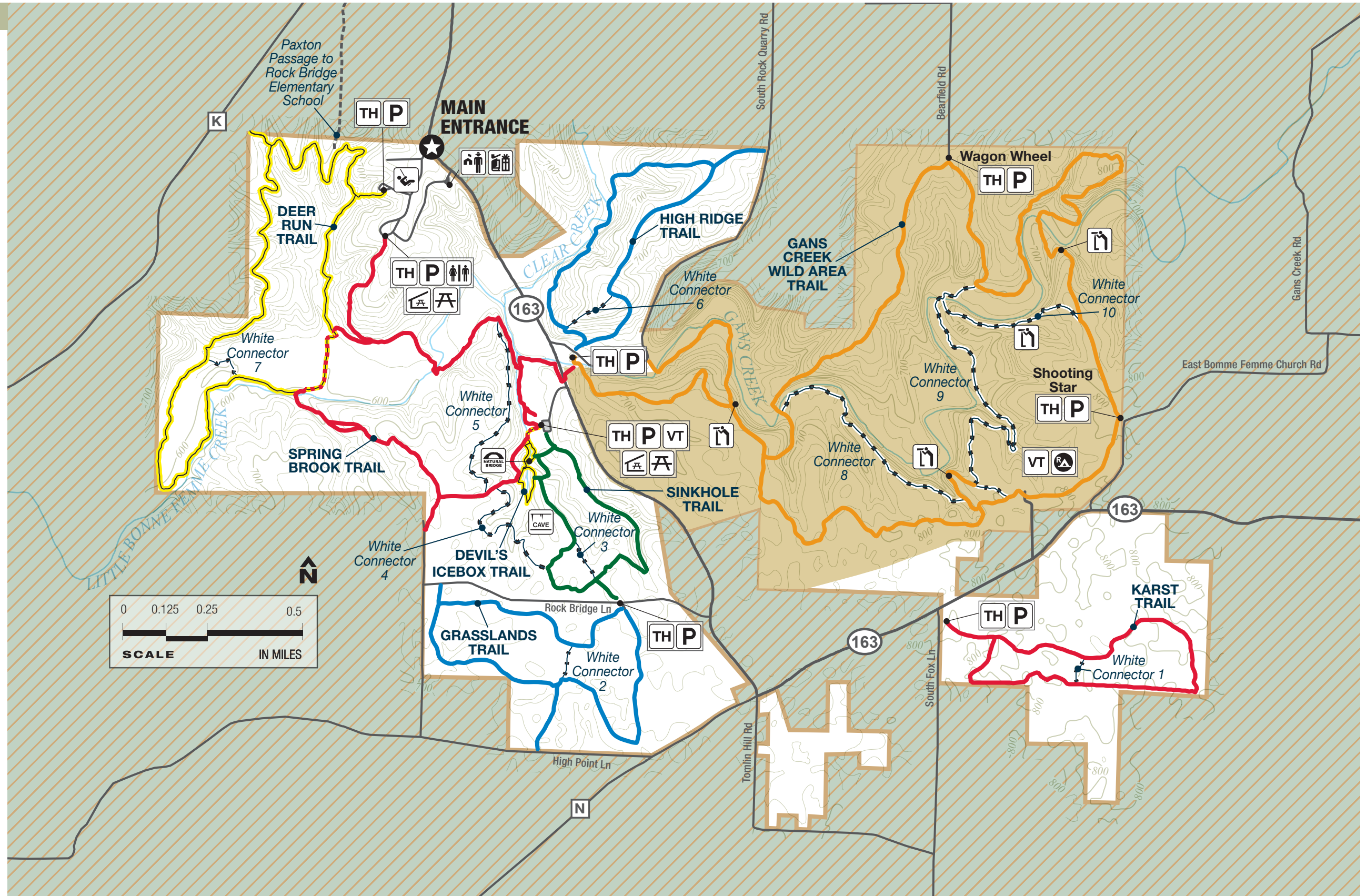


ROCK BRIDGE MEMORIAL STATE PARK MAP



LEGEND

- Main entrance
- State route
- Road lines
- Land contour
- 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
- Paxton Passage
- Trail (connector)
- Wild area
- Hiking trail
- Equestrian trail
- Mountain bicycling trail
- Picnicking
- Cave
- Gift shop
- Natural bridge
- Overlook
- Parking
- Park office
- Picnic shelter
- Playground
- Restroom
- Special-use area
- Trailhead
- Vault Toilet



CONTACT INFORMATION

Rock Bridge Memorial State Park
 5901 S HWY 163
 Columbia MO 65203-8915
 573-449-7402

mostateparks.com

If you have any questions concerning the trails or wild area, please contact the park office.

In case of an emergency, call 911 and indicate that you are at Rock Bridge Memorial State Park.

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.

DEER RUN TRAIL

3.75-MILE LOOP TRAIL RATING: Moderate
ESTIMATED HIKING TIME: 2 hour, 45 minutes

TRAILHEAD: Past the circle in the playground loop in the northwest section of the park; 38.88253, -92.33418

This trail traverses hills along the park's northern and western boundaries. It descends to the flat bottomlands and runs along the banks of Little Bonne Femme Creek, where it merges briefly with Spring Brook Trail before looping back to its starting point. Deer are common in the secluded woods and grassy openings. Pileated woodpeckers and other birds are often seen or heard. White Connector 7 is available to shorten the trail. The half-mile long Paxton Passage, which is owned and maintained by Columbia Public Schools, connects Deer Run Trail with Rock Bridge Elementary School. Mountain biking is permitted only when the trail is dry.

DEVIL'S ICEBOX TRAIL

0.50-MILE LOOP TRAIL RATING: Rugged
ESTIMATED HIKING TIME: 30 minutes

TRAILHEAD: Devil's Icebox parking area off Highway 163; 38.87301, -92.32589

This trail is primarily a boardwalk with several short spurs, viewing platforms and numerous stairs. It takes you to the most impressive geological features in the park, including the 63-foot-high Rock Bridge and a double sinkhole cave entrance called Devil's Icebox. Visitors may explore Connor's Cave and inside the Rock Bridge at their own risk. Also of interest are a limestone glade, Devil's Icebox Spring and a valley formed by the collapse of part of the Devil's Icebox Cave system. Displays tell you about karst geology and cave life.

GANS CREEK WILD AREA TRAIL

6.50-MILE LOOP TRAIL RATING: Rugged
ESTIMATED HIKING TIME: 6 hours, 30 minutes

TRAILHEAD: 1) At the South Rock Quarry Road parking area off Highway 163 at the Gans Creek Trailhead; 38.87571, -92.32409
2) Off East Bonne Femme Church Road off Highway 163; 38.87321, -92.29605
3) At the southern end of Bearfield Road in the northernmost part of the park; 38.88349, -92.30475

The solitude and scenic vistas of the 750-acre Gans Creek Wild Area allow you to forget Columbia is only a few miles away. Wild area terrain can be difficult; hikers are strongly encouraged to bring and follow a park map. Small streams dissect the hills and flow into Gans Creek, which is bordered by high bluffs. The bottom and sides of Gans Creek are often solid bedrock while other stretches of the stream have gravel bars. Except during heavy rain, the water flows slowly over riffles and into pools. Spring wildflowers are abundant. Basswood and walnut trees grow on moist, shaded hillsides. Scattered white oaks grace more open woodlands. The rocky bluff tops have small glade openings filled with grasses and wildflowers. Coyote and Shooting Star bluffs provide vistas of hills and trees as far as the eye can see. Horseback riding is permitted only when trails are dry from June 1 to Oct. 31. Because of the desire to keep human impact at a minimum, this

trail is not maintained at the same level as the other trails in the park. White Connectors 8, 9 and 10 are available to shorten or extend your experience.

GRASSLAND TRAIL

2-MILE LOOP TRAIL RATING: Moderate
ESTIMATED HIKING TIME: 1 hour, 30 minutes

TRAILHEAD: Off Rock Bridge Lane off Highway 163 in the southern section of the park; 38.86561, -92.32149

There are two spurs on this trail. One leads to High Point Lane and the other leads to Rock Bridge Lane west of the trailhead. Native grasses planted beginning in 1982 clothe the gentle terrain marked with scattered wooded sinkholes. Natural sinkhole ponds provide habitat for wetland plants and animals including ducks, frogs and dragonflies. White Connector 2 cuts the loop in half. Mountain biking is permitted only when the trail is dry.

HIGH RIDGE TRAIL

1.75-MILE LOOP TRAIL RATING: Moderate
ESTIMATED HIKING TIME: 1 hour, 20 minutes

TRAILHEAD: At the Gans Creek trailhead on Rock Quarry Road near the intersection with Highway 163; 38.87614, -92.32396

This trail climbs to a hilltop and follows a ridge before descending alongside Clear Creek. The ridgetop has scenic views of the surrounding park and of native grasslands. White Connector 6 reduces the distance to one-half mile. Mountain biking is permitted only when the trail is dry.

KARST TRAIL

1.75-MILE LOOP TRAIL RATING: Moderate
ESTIMATED HIKING TIME: 1 hour, 20 minutes

TRAILHEAD: On South Fox Lane near its intersection with Highway 163; 38.86501, -92.30499

The karst geology of this area is very evident in the many sinkholes that pockmark the land. What is less evident is what lies below ground: caves, cave animals and water flowing through the porous limestone. About half of the trail takes you through woodlands that contain large white oak trees. The other half takes you through native grasslands that include a three-acre prairie remnant. White Connector 1 cuts the loop in half. Mountain biking is permitted only when the trail is dry.

SINKHOLE TRAIL

1.50-MILE LOOP TRAIL RATING: Moderate
ESTIMATED HIKING TIME: 1 hour, 10 minutes

TRAILHEAD: 1) Devil's Icebox parking area off Highway 163; 38.87275, -92.32554
2) Off Rock Bridge Lane at Grassland Trail's parking area; 38.86615, -92.32199

This trail can be accessed from two trailheads. The first one is the Grassland trailhead across Rock Bridge Lane. The second and main one begins at the Devil's Icebox parking lot and follows an old road through the historic site of Rockbridge Mills. The trail continues up a forested valley

to the top of a ridge where you will find old fields and sinkholes. Two concrete silos stand as a memorial to the land's agricultural past. At the bottom of one sinkhole is a gated, 30-foot-deep pit known as Hog's Graveyard Cave. White Connector 3 is available to shorten your hike and White Connector 4 leads to Spring Brook Trail. Mountain biking is permitted only when the trail is dry.

SPRING BROOK TRAIL

3.10-MILE LOOP TRAIL RATING: Moderate
ESTIMATED HIKING TIME: 2 hour, 15 minutes

TRAILHEADS: 1) NEAR GILBERT SHELTER; 38.88807, -92.33370
2) Devil's Icebox parking area off Highway 163; 38.88066, -92.33368


























Spring Brook Trail winds its way through woods and old fields, along small intermittent streams. Maples and sycamore trees grace the banks of Little Bonne Femme Creek, which is crossed twice. At the eastern crossing, a 100-foot bridge provides a dry crossing. The western crossing lacks a bridge and may require minor wading. After rains, higher water levels make it unsafe to cross. White Connector 5 is available to shorten your hike and White Connector 4 is available for access to Sinkhole Trail. Mountain biking is permitted only when the trail is dry.

Signing

All trails are marked using 3" x 4" plastic blazes nailed to trees. The blazes are about 6 feet off the ground. More than one blaze color on a tree indicates the path is shared by two trails. Additional signs may mark junctions and special features. Trail junctions in grassland areas are marked with arrows on concrete at ground level. White connector trails are numbered. Underground pipeline easements, overhead power line easements and fire lines may be mowed seasonally. While they are not designated trails, they may be used as trails. These and other paths and features that exist are not shown on this map.

Rules of the Trail

- Trails are for nonmotorized use only, with the exception of electric motor-driven personal mobility devices (PMD) for persons with disabilities. PMDs are not allowed in the Gans Creek Wild Area. ATVs, golf carts, riding mowers, snowmobiles, motorcycles, etc. are not allowed on park trails.
- Rock climbing or rappelling is not permitted.
- All pets must be leashed for their protection and that of visitors and wildlife.
- All other rules and regulations pertaining to park use are applicable to trail users.
- Children should be carefully supervised, as the natural features of the trails (bluffs, etc.) require special awareness.

TRAIL NAME	MILEAGE	BLAZE COLOR	APPROVED USAGE	RATING	TRAIL EXPERIENCE*
Deer Run Trail	3.75	 Yellow	 	Moderate	2, 3
Devil's Icebox Trail	0.50	 Yellow		Rugged	2, 3, 6, 7, 8, 9
Gans Creek Wild Area Trail	6.50	 Orange	 	Rugged	2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11
Grassland Trail	2	 Blue	 	Moderate	2, 3, 9
High Ridge Trail	1.75	 Blue	 	Moderate	2, 3, 7
Karst Trail	1.75	 Red	 	Moderate	2, 3
Sinkhole Trail	1.50	 Green	 	Moderate	2, 3, 7, 8, 10
Spring Brook Trail	3.10	 Red	 	Moderate	2, 3, 7, 8, 9, 10, 12
Connector Trail ()		 White			

Connector trails are available on some trails, are numbered and will modify your hike. See map for more information.

*** 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

Detailed Park Map Available

A more detailed color park map showing vegetation thickness, contour lines and fences is available at the park office for a fee. This map is helpful for following the non-designated trails of the Gans Creek Wild Area and is a must for those who wish to use the orienteering course.

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 6 or 8 inches; after use, fill the hole with loose soil. When possible, plan ahead to use facilities provided by the park.
- Please do not create new trails. Trails are designed to prevent soil erosion and damage to surrounding vegetation.

Mountain Biking

Ride only on designated trails when trail conditions allow them to be open to bicycling. Mountain biking is never allowed in Gans Creek Wild Area. Trails are closed to bikes when conditions are wet or muddy to prevent erosion. Please visit mostateparks.com and click on the Park and Site Status Map. Zoom into our park and click on the colored circle to view closures. You can also check the park's Facebook page for the latest trail closure status.

- Helmets are recommended.
- Yield to other trail users and ring a bell or give a verbal warning when approaching other trail users.
- Ride safely and in control.

Horseback Riding

Horseback riding is permitted only when trail conditions allow them to be open and only in the Gans Creek Wild Area from June 1 through Oct. 31. Trails are closed to horses when conditions are wet or muddy to prevent erosion. Please visit mostateparks.com and click on the Park and Site Status Map. Zoom into our park and click on the colored circle to view closures. You can also check the park's Facebook page for the latest trail closure status.

- The cutting or pruning of trees is prohibited.
- Avoid thin-soiled glades found on bluff tops to prevent exotic seed dispersal and soil erosion.

Cross-Country Skiing

Skiers are welcome throughout the park when there is sufficient snow cover. The Grassland and High Ridge trails are recommended because trail surfaces have less exposed rock and are less likely to damage skis when the snow depth is marginal. A cross-country skiing brochure is available at the park office.