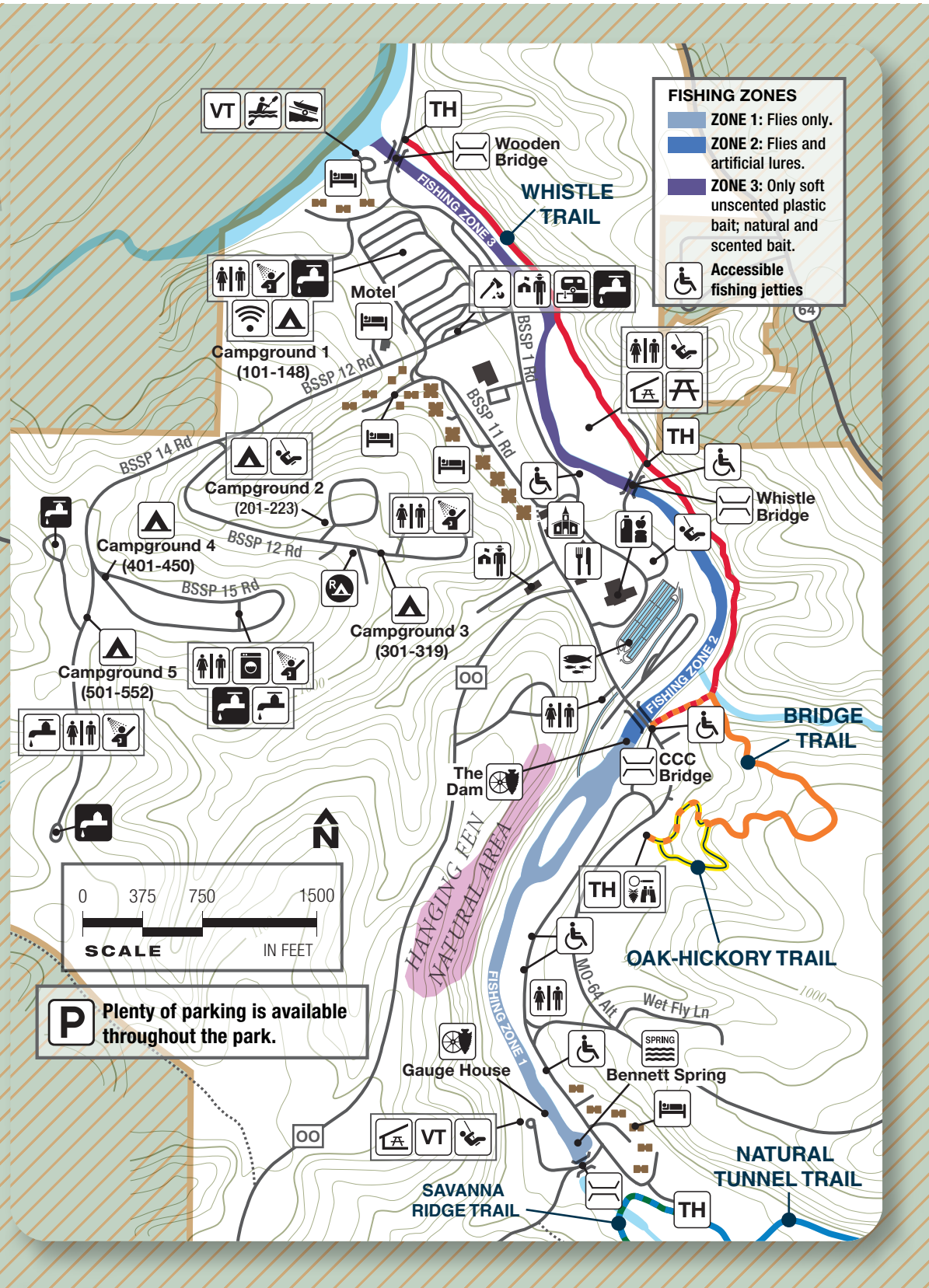


# BENNETT SPRING STATE PARK MAP



## LEGEND

- Main entrance
- U.S. highway (two-lane)
- State route
- Gravel road
- Bridge
- 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 (overlapping)
- Trail (connector)
- Water
- Cabin
- Duplex
- Fourplex
- Camping
- Store
- Hiking trail
- Picnicking
- Accessibility
- Boat ramp
- Church
- Cultural feature
- Dining
- Dump station
- Fishing
- Frost-free water
- Hatchery
- Laundry
- Lodging
- Nature Center
- Paddling
- Park office
- Parking
- Picnic shelter
- Playground
- Restroom
- Spring
- Showerhouse
- Special-use camping area
- Trailhead
- Vault toilet
- Water
- Wifi
- Woodlot



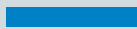









## CONTACT INFORMATION

Bennett Spring State Park  
 65250 HWY 64A  
 Lebanon MO 65536-6797  
 Park Office:  
 417-532-4338  
[mostateparks.com](http://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.



TRAIL NAME	MILEAGE	BLAZE COLOR	APPROVED USAGE	RATING	TRAIL EXPERIENCE *
Bridge Trail	0.70	 Orange		Moderate	2, 3, 5, 6, 7, 8, 10, 11
Natural Tunnel Trail	7.40	 Blue		Moderate	2, 3, 7, 10, 11
Oak-Hickory Trail	0.30	 Yellow		Moderate	2, 3, 6, 10, 11
Savanna Ridge Trail	2.50	 Green		Easy	2, 3, 7, 9, 10, 11
Whistle Trail	0.90	 Red		Moderate	2, 3, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11

**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

## BRIDGE TRAIL

 **0.70-mile loop** TRAIL RATING: Moderate  
ESTIMATED HIKING TIME: 30 minutes

Bridge Trail is almost entirely in an upland, white oak-dominated woodland. The trail overlaps with Oak-Hickory Trail as it leaves the nature center and follows a gentle grade up and along the hillside to the east. At the top of the hill, the trails divide with Oak-Hickory Trail going to the right. Bridge Trail continues up the slope and around the ravine, eventually intersecting and sharing tread with Whistle Trail.

## NATURAL TUNNEL TRAIL

 **7.40-mile loop** TRAIL RATING: Moderate  
ESTIMATED HIKING TIME: 5 hours, 30 minutes

The trail's signature feature is the Bennett Spring Natural Tunnel, which is 296 feet long and forms an S curve through the hill. Formed from Gasconade dolomite, the tunnel contains a large gravel creek bed. On its way to the tunnel, the trail crosses Spring Hollow and passes through many different habitats, including bottomland forests, upland woodlands, tall bluffs, sunny glades, small and large streams, and old farm fields. The trail is a combination of roads used by people living in the area from the 1840s to present and rugged wooded areas crossed by small streams. The wooded areas support abundant wildlife including deer, squirrels, chipmunks, many woodland birds, insects and ticks. Several bluffs have interesting geologic features, tiny caves, sheer rock faces and deep overhangs with vines and other foliage.

The trail passes near a small cemetery that dates from the late 1880s and holds the graves of two families who lived in the area. Upstream from the natural tunnel is a large overhang that may have been used as shelter by earlier travelers. The trail overlaps with Savanna Ridge Trail for a mile along the west side of Spring Hollow.

## OAK-HICKORY TRAIL

 **0.30-mile loop** TRAIL RATING: Moderate  
ESTIMATED HIKING TIME: 15 minutes

Oak-Hickory Trail is named because of the many different kinds of oak and hickory trees in the area. The trail overlaps with Bridge Trail as it leaves the nature center and follows a gentle grade up and along the hillside to the east. At the top of the hill, Oak-Hickory Trail continues to the right. Much of the tread is narrow and rocky while other areas are grassy.

## SAVANNA RIDGE TRAIL

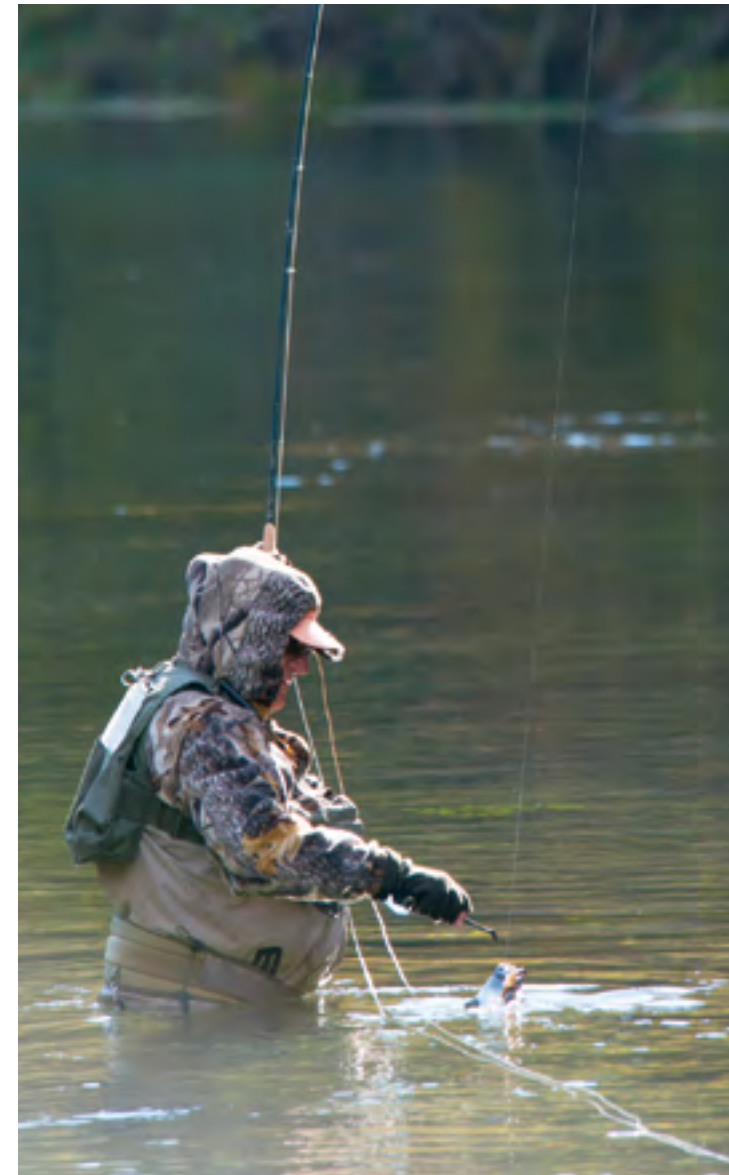
 **2.50-mile loop** TRAIL RATING: Easy  
ESTIMATED HIKING TIME: 1 hour, 15 minutes

A portion of Savanna Ridge Trail makes use of roads used by people living in the area as early as the 1840s to access ponds and grazing areas. The extended trail is narrow and winds through an open woodland and along a ridge overlooking the east side of Spring Hollow. The open woodlands and glades are abundant with wildflowers during spring and fall, and the area is occasionally burned to enhance the open woodlands. The white connector divides the larger loop in the middle to allow for a shorter two-mile loop.

## WHISTLE TRAIL TRAIL RATING: Moderate

 **0.90 miles one way**  
ESTIMATED HIKING TIME: 40 minutes

Whistle Trail is named for the low water bridge with large tubes that resemble whistles. The trail travels in a generally north-south direction and follows the east side of the stream branch as well as allowing access to bluff tops. The trail route divides at the south end of the bluffs, with one side of the trail traveling along bluff tops and the other side traveling along the base next to the water. These two trails reconnect at the north end and ascend a second steep bluff. The trail continues on the north side of the picnic area through a bottomland forest along the spring branch before ending near the Niangua River.





## Things to Know Before You Go

The trails in Bennett Spring State Park are yours. Please help to maintain and preserve their beauty by following these rules:

- Only hikers, as designated, are permitted on the park trails.
- All pets must be kept on a leash for their protection and that of other visitors and wildlife. Also pick up pets waste for other visitors to enjoy their walk
- Cutting implements such as saws and hatchets are not allowed on the trail.
- All other rules and regulations pertaining to park use are applicable to trail users.

*NOTE: Ticks, chiggers and mosquitoes are common in Missouri April through October. Be prepared with insect repellent.*

## Fishing

  The thrill of filling your skillet with fresh-caught rainbow trout awaits fishermen at Bennett Spring State Park. The spring branch is stocked daily during the regular fishing season from a hatchery operated by the Missouri Department of Conservation. Regular fishing season runs from March 1 through Oct. 31. Fishing is allowed during the daylight hours, times vary per month during the on season.

Daily trout tags are required to fish and are available only at the park store. A valid fishing license, also available at the store, is required for anyone except those 15 years of age and younger or Missouri residents age 65 and older. The park store is also the place to inquire about fly-fishing lessons, including free general classes and private lessons.

To help anglers of all abilities easily reach the water, three accessible fishing piers have been constructed reaching into the spring branch.

If you can't be at the park in person, you can watch all the action online with a trout cam located near one of the park's most popular fishing spots. Follow along at [mostateparks.com/trout-cam](http://mostateparks.com/trout-cam).

For more information on fishing hours and regulations as well as a link to current fishing conditions, visit [mostateparks.com](http://mostateparks.com).

## Fishing Zones

The spring branch is divided into three zones and different kinds of lures are allowed in each (*see map inside for fishing zone indicators*).

Any kind of pole can be used but only a single pole or rod is permitted at one time.

### ZONE 1

From the spring to the dam, only flies with or without spinners are allowed.



### ZONE 2

From the hatchery dam to the Whistle Bridge, only flies and artificial lures are allowed.

### ZONE 3



From the Whistle Bridge to the Niangua River, only soft plastic bait, natural and scented bait are allowed.

## Dining

  During trout season, the restaurant serves breakfast, lunch and dinner. The restaurant specializes in family dining with a menu that varies from soups and sandwiches to full-course meals. Staff will even prepare your fresh-caught trout once you have cleaned it.

The dining lodge also includes a meeting room that is perfect for meetings, conferences, reunions and wedding receptions.

## Store

  The park store features everything you need for a successful fishing trip, including bait and tackle, supplies such as hats and sunglasses, and daily trout tags. It can also supply the last-minute items you need for camping or picnicking such as food and snacks. Be sure to inquire about fly fishing lessons, perfect for both beginners and experienced anglers.