

Sam A. Baker State Park

MUDLICK HIKE ONLY TRAIL

Mudlick Trail provides an intimate journey into one of the oldest mountain regions of North America: the St. Francois Mountains. This loop trail climbs from 415 feet above sea level in Big Creek Valley to 1,313 feet above sea level at the top of Mudlick Mountain. Most of the trail is located in the Mudlick Mountain Wild Area, one of the most significant, undisturbed natural landscapes in Missouri. Mudlick Trail is divided into two sections: 'Equestrian and Hike' and 'Hike Only.'

After hiking .3 mile, there will be a three-way intersection. At this point, hikers have the option to travel one of two ways. Either take the south linear section, which crosses the rugged eastern slope of Mudlick Mountain and connects with the southern portion of the Equestrian/Hike Section of Mudlick Trail, or the north linear section, which ascends the mountain to the bluffs above Big Creek, where three stone hiking shelters, constructed by the Civilian Conservation Corps in the 1930s, offer outstanding seasonal views of the surrounding countryside and the 'shut-ins' valley below. Continuing north, there will be an opportunity to access Mudlick Hollow. Mudlick Hollow is a shut-in in the Mudlick Creek headwaters, which has little pools, rare plants, and small waterfalls, which may dry to a trickle in the summer. The trail crosses the creek three times, which can be difficult to traverse during high water. There is also a spur to backpack camp #1 for overnight hikers. Eventually, the trail will head out of Mudlick Hollow to connect with the northern portion of the Equestrian/Hike Section of Mudlick Trail.



The three stone hiking shelters may be used by backpackers on a first-come, first-served basis during the winter hiking season, Oct. 1 - May 15. They can be used overnight, but not as a base camp.

Distance: 5.8 Miles

Uses:

Hiking 

Backpacking 

Blazes:

Orange 

Class: Loop

Surface Type: Natural

Trail Rating: Rugged

Estimated Hiking Time: 5 Hours, 46 Minutes

Trailhead & GPS Location:

37.26033, -90.50733

Elevation profile is not available

You may experience:

- 2) Natural Surface-dirt/mud/gravel, shifting rock, slippery surface, etc.
- 3) Rocks, roots and/or downed vegetation on trail
- 4) Low-hanging vegetation
- 6) Wood or stone steps
- 7) Steep grades and inclines more than 10%
- 8) Bluffs or drop-offs next to trail
- 9) Bridges and/or structural crossings
- 10) Water/stream crossings without bridges

This trail or a portion of this trail travels through: Mudlick Mountain Natural Area

This trail or a portion of this trail travels through: Mudlick Mountain Wild Area

- RED
- ORANGE
- YELLOW
- GREEN
- BLUE
- BROWN
- WHITE CONNECTOR
- SHARED TREAD

- NATURAL
- GRAVEL
- PAVED
- WATER
- BOARDWALK

TRAIL BLAZE COLORS & SURFACE TYPES

The maps on this website indicate the blaze colors for each trail. If more than one trail shares tread, that portion of the trail is identified by more than one color. The surface type of a trail is indicated on the maps generated by this website by a pattern overlapping the blaze color of the trail.

TRAIL TYPE – Loop, Multi-loop, One Way, System or Multi-section

A **loop** trail is one that will return you to the trailhead. **Multi-loop** trails offer two or more separate loops, ex. a trail having a north and south loop. A **one-way** trail takes you from the trailhead to the farthest point on the trail and you will have to retrace your steps to return to the trailhead. If you plan to return to your starting point on a one-way trail, you will have to double the distance to calculate your estimated mileage and/or hiking time.

A **trail system** is a series of interconnected trails that allow you to choose your own route.

A **Multi-section** trail offers two or more separate sections, ex. Katy Trail State Park, and distances are shown both for the entire trail and the sections.

YOU MAY EXPERIENCE

These conditions are all things you may encounter while on a Missouri state parks trail. Trailhead signs at the start of each trail also indicate which conditions exist on that trail.

- 1 Slippery conditions and/or downed vegetation
- 2 Natural surface: dirt, mud, gravel, shifting 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/elk
- 18 Rapidly changing weather conditions
- 19 Motorized boat traffic
- 20 Unexpected waves
- 21 Changing water levels
- 22 Surface or submerged objects

ESTIMATED HIKING TIME

The estimated hiking time was determined by considering the average user's speed and the conditions that might be experienced on a specific trail. Your speed may be slower or faster than the time listed.

GPS COORDINATES

There are several methods of communicating GPS coordinates. Most GPS units will convert from one coordinate system to another. If you require a different coordinate system for your unit, visit dnr.mo.gov/gisutils/ to convert the coordinates shown on this map to another version.

NATURAL AREAS / WILD AREAS

Natural areas are identified in pink. Natural areas are recognized as the best remaining examples known of Missouri's original natural environments. These natural areas are managed and protected for their scientific, educational and historical values. Missouri state parks have 38 designated natural areas, encompassing almost 22,000 acres.

Wild areas are identified in brown. The Missouri Wild Area System is made up of large tracts of land set aside as wilderness, which make the perfect setting for hiking and backpacking. A wild area must be 1,000 or more acres in size, show little impact from humans, and possess outstanding opportunities for solitude. They are strictly protected for their wilderness benefits as well as for their use for environmental education and scientific study.



TRAIL USE

-  Hiking Trail
-  Backpacking Trail
-  Mountain Biking Trail
-  Equestrian Trail
-  Accessible
-  Hardened-Surface Bicycling Trail
-  Paddling Trail
-  Off-Road Vehicle (ORV) Trail
-  Motorized Boating Trail
-  Wagon Suitable Trail
-  Interpretive Trail
-  Fitness Trail
-  Interpretive Water Trail
-  Wildlife Viewing Trail

POINTS OF INTEREST

-  Main Park Entrance / Park Entrance
-  Trailhead
-  Parking
-  Trail Access
-  Overlook
-  Restroom
-  Camping
-  Special-Use Camping Area
-  Check Station / Park Office / Ranger Office
-  Visitor Center / Orientation Center
-  Emergency Response / First Aid
-  Picnicking
-  Playground
-  Technical Feature
-  Natural Feature
-  Cultural Feature
-  Amphitheater
-  Backpack Camping Shelter
-  Backpack Campsite
-  Boat Ramp
-  Dining
-  Equestrian Parking
-  Interpretive Panel
-  Interpretive Shelter
-  Intersection
-  Lodging / Cabin / Camper Cabin
-  Marina / Boat Dock
-  Nature Center
-  Organized Group Camp
-  Picnic Shelter
-  Recreation Feature
-  Skills Course
-  Stables
-  Store
-  Swimming
-  Telephone
-  Water Fountain
-  Water Access