

Battle of Athens State Historic Site

SNOW TRILLIUM TRAIL

This trail starts in an upland forest that is fairly level and dry. At the apex of where the trail first splits, there is a small stream crossing. This stream only runs in rainy weather and is easily forded. The right side of the loop runs in the upland forest and stays on fairly level terrain. A few hundred yards before the right side meets with the white connector trail, there are steep drop offs and cliff areas that drop into Stallion Branch. A wide variety of native woodland plants can be viewed in this section which is at its best early to mid spring. The dominant trees are hickory, walnut and oak. This is one of the most scenic portions of the trail. In the spring, small waterfalls cascade down the rock walls to Stallion Branch and during winter these form cascades of ice. The white connector has a large stream to ford with many rocks to traverse. During high amounts of rain, it cannot be forded. The white connector ascends a steep valley leading onto the historic battlefield.



If you wish to bypass the white connector and continue along the main trail path, you will find yourself traversing the most rugged portion of Snow Trillium Trail. Carpets of snow trillium and other woodland plants hug the slopes of this portion of the trail along with a diverse group of ferns. Deer and turkey, plus the occasional glimpse of owls and bobcats, can be seen in this section. This portion has several small ravines with dry stream beds that only flow during heavy rains. Two of the ravines are steeper than 10 percent and require a short, strenuous hike out of the stream bed.

Once on the bluff tops, the views up and down the Des Moines River valley are extensive. This area was home to the Sac and Fox tribes through the early part of the 19th century. Halfway through this section on top of the river bluff is a series of sinkholes that the trail passes within a few feet. Sinkholes are created when a portion of limestone in a cave system collapses creating a surface depression. Continuing on, you will reenter the upland forest before rejoining the main entry section and heading back to the parking area.

Distance: 2.0 Miles

Uses:

Hiking 

Blazes:

Orange 

White 1 

Class: Loop

Surface Type: Natural

Trail Rating: Moderate

Estimated Hiking Time: 1 Hour, 28 Minutes

Trailhead & GPS Location:

40.59170, -91.71132

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
- 7) Steep grades and inclines more than 10%
- 8) Bluffs or drop-offs next to trail
- 10) Water/stream crossings without bridges

This trail or a portion of this trail travels through: Des Moines River Ravines Natural 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.

- 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

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.

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.

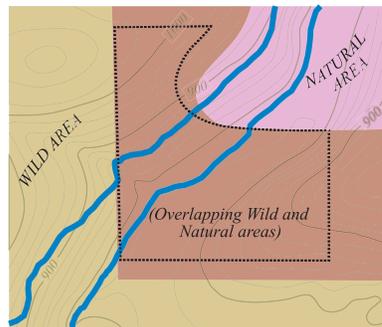
GPS COORDINATES

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