

RIVER

TO

RIVER

TRAIL GUIDE

ACROSS SOUTHERN ILLINOIS

from

ELIZABETHTOWN

on the Ohio River to

GRAND TOWER

on the Mississippi River

A GUIDE FOR
HIKERS, BACKPACKERS
& EQUESTRIANS

5th Edition Online, 6th Rev Apr 2024



This editions trail descriptions and history written by Bill Gilmour
Thanks also go out to Gillum Ferguson and Todd Carr for editorial assistance.

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Created by the River-to-River Trail Society

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to explore the trails described.

ISBN

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John O'Dell, Mar 21, 1934 - Nov 8, 2021,
Retired and relaxing at home in photo

Before John O'Dell returned to Southern Illinois in 1988, to take up a position as Superintendent of Schools in Benton, the River-to-River Trail was little more than an idea. That idea had indeed been around since the 1930s, and there were even maps which portrayed a route from Battery Rock as far west as Route 45, mostly over country roads, but nothing resembling today's trail was in existence. Many had talked and dreamed, but John O'Dell acted.

It was John who, with the help of his wife Marilee, pored over topographic maps, pulled on his hiking boots, and went out on foot to mark a route for hikers and horsemen to follow from the Ohio River to the Mississippi. John sought out and enlisted the support of the Forest Service, and many like-minded individuals, in order to overcome the many obstacles that lay in the way of completing the Trail. On February 15, 1992, the River-to-River Trail Society held its first meeting at Marion, with John serving as Founder and first President. Since then, the Society has continued John's work in promoting, publicizing, and advocating for the Trail.

Early on, John conceived the idea of promoting not only the Trail, but all the scenic wonders of Southern Illinois, through a series of free guided public hikes every Spring and Fall. That series continues to this day, and has introduced hundreds of people to outdoor recreation in this area. Moreover, it was John O'Dell who wrote and published the four previous editions of this guide to the entire length of the River-to-River Trail. Without John O'Dell, there quite simply would be no River-to-River Trail, and this edition of the Trail Guide is dedicated to him in recognition of his tireless work for Southern Illinois.

We end with closing comments with which John O'Dell, father of the River-to-River Trail, ended previous versions of this Trail Guide:

"If you have traveled any or all of the River to River Trail, I'm certain that you have seen some things that have added to your life's memories and perhaps will compel you to return again. Whatever your direction, whether we ever meet or not, I hope that we have shared the magic of some good days and this beautiful wilderness. As I end the writing of this description, I pray for each traveler's safety and enjoyment of the trail. May you have grown and experienced some new awareness of the wonder of life. Something for the eyes, something for the smell, something for the touch, something for the heart."



Kelly Pearson, Trail Technician and Hike Leader

After numerous years of very little involvement between the Forest Service and the Trail Society, efforts were initiated in 2015 to renew our association. This started with several meetings on the status of the trail, the maps and reroute. Kelly Pearson has been instrumental in setting up meetings which included Ranger Tim Pohlman, Chad Deaton, Jeremy Vaughn and other employees of the United States Forest Service. These meetings helped re-energize our working relationship and eventually other groups supportive of the forest and R2R trail. After nearly 2 years of work by Jeremy Vaughn and the Society representatives, the Forest Service released the new trail maps in late 2017.

Concurrent with the new maps efforts, Kelly has been instrumental in setting up the semi annual summit meetings with all parties involved in the forest. This included the Society, Forest Service, Friends of the Shawnee, Shawnee Trail Conservancy, United States Fish and Wildlife Service, Illinois Department of Natural Resources (which administers the two state parks through which the Trail passes), and others. The result of these summit meetings has led to obtaining grants that have led to significant improvements within the forest and the trail to include resigning the entire trail in 2017. These summit meetings continue to be a venue for sharing information between all of the organizations involved.

Kelly has also supported the Society by being a regular leader in its program of free guided public hikes during the spring and fall months of the year.

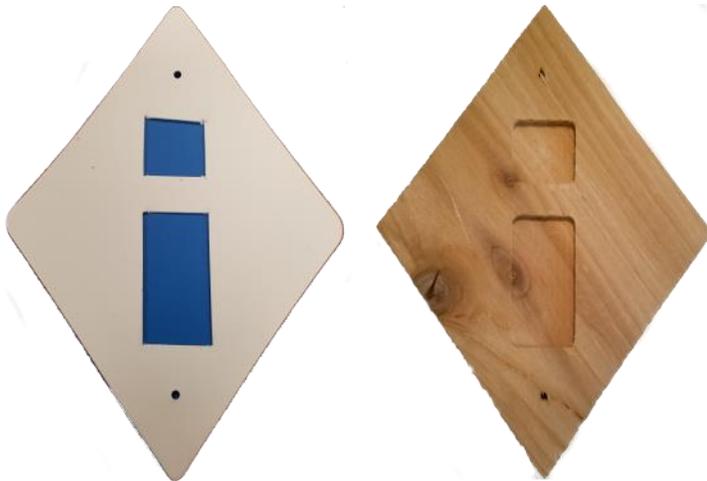
Kelly retired from the Forest Service in Spring 2022.



Battery Rock or Elizabethtown to Devil's Backbone Trail

The River-to-River Trail as a concept has been part of the Shawnee National Forest since its beginning.

The majority of the Trail is marked with sturdy plastic diamonds depicting a white field overlaid with a blue "I". However, when the Trail travels through wilderness areas the markers are cedar diamonds with the "i" chiseled into the surface. Photos of these markers follow this paragraph. The diamond with the "i" has been the symbol of the trail since the beginning. Generally, when a Trail turns, the diamond will be pointed in the direction of the turn. Interesting side trails may sometimes be marked with only the white diamond. As a result of numerous trail reroutes in the last ten years, the entire trail was remarked in 2017 using these markers. An attempt was made to remove old markers along the current trail and old abandoned trail sections, but some may have been missed so please exercise caution when relying on other markers.



The trail passes through four wilderness areas including Garden of the Gods (maps 5 & 6), Lusk Creek (maps 8 & 9), Panther Den (map 19), Bald Knob (map 25) and Clear Springs (map 25).

Most of the trail is passable all year, except for the coldest days in January or February. The average winter temperature however will be in the 40s which is good hiking or riding weather. Summer brings the usual Midwestern insects and by July and August cobwebs in the woods join the insects and the heat to make the trail uncomfortable for the less seasoned hiker. Certainly most hikers would agree that March through early May and late September through December are the best times to enjoy the River-to-River Trail.

The terrain varies from moderate to difficult. Although this trail does not have the long sustained climbs that might be found in the mountainous areas,

some of the grades are pretty rugged. You should never attempt to use the trail without a compass, or GPS, and adequate water. Frequently, a hiker will be looking down or away and miss a trail sign. If you become confused, it is better to walk back to the last marker you saw and start again from that point. There will be times when side trails go off and look as though you should turn. If there are no signs, a rule of thumb is to follow the main tread.

Southern Illinois area is a transition zone for many species of plants and animals. The division between north and south and even east to west overlaps to a considerable degree, so it is possible to see an eastern and western bluebird, a northern and southern garter snake, blue herons, cypress swamps, and mosses and lichens that have adapted from the ice age. Because trail walking is quieter than walking on leaves, it is possible to walk up on wildlife before either knows of the other's presence. Remember to bring your camera! There are poisonous snakes, both copperheads and rattlesnakes in Southern Illinois, but to encounter a poisonous snake on the Trail itself is highly unusual. There are bobcats as well as unsubstantiated reports of cougars, but it is highly unlikely that you would ever be bothered by these.

The original route of the River-to-River Trail using Battery Rock as the starting point, although still marked and passable, is no longer recommended. Its primary disadvantage is that the beginning of the trail is isolated, and complicated to get to and has frequently been un-marked because of vandalism. One of the largest disadvantages was the fact that so much of this leg is on roads. There are other good reasons as well, but the benefit of having an all weather road, with some conveniences and the chance to get into the woods much more quickly certainly favored the Elizabethtown option.

Measurement of the trail on the map yields 159 miles. Most people who have not finished the trail do so because they have sore feet, sore backs, blisters, or because they didn't ship their food ahead. A pack over 40-45 pounds should be avoided as a cause of these problems. Most hikers find they can only cover about 1 mile per hour because much of the trail goes side to side, although it is shown as a straight line. Through hikers often find that it takes at least fourteen days to complete the entire length of the trail. In the alternative, people make several weekend trips rather than trying to do the whole trail at once.

To honor the spirit of those who first immigrated to Illinois, this guide follows an east to west description. It is interesting to consider the hopes and dreams of those people as they viewed the new land and began the search for their place in this wilderness. We can still see some of the beautiful vistas and gorgeous valleys of those early days, and in some small way compare our efforts with theirs. Perhaps as we notice that all of the most beautiful places have wagon roads to them, we will realize that they too shared a spiritual need for the power of such beauty.

Tread lightly. The trail is a blessing to everyone, so please leave it better than you found it. Remember to bring your trail etiquette and carry out whatever you carry in.

Overview of this Guide Book

Distribution of this guidebook will be by electronic methods only and the Trail Society hopes the following benefits will be achieved:

- An electronic only distribution will allow for more frequent updates to address Trail changes and reroutes.
- An electronic guide can easily be carried on hand held devices or phones with out adding weight to the pack.
- This guide is fully hyperlinked examples of which are:
 - Clicking on sections / chapters in the table of contents will go to there.
 - Clicking on the maps in the map index will take you to the map. Similarly, clicking on the map section in the map overview section F will take you to the map.
 - When on a map, clicking on the blue "i" in the lower left corner will go back to the section F overview map.
 - When on a map, clicking on the blue arrows with the adjacent map will go to that map.

- When on a map, clicking on the feature boxes will go to the page that describes that feature, similarly clicking on the GPS coordinates in that description will return to the map.
- If advertisers facilities are on the map, clicking on ad will go to the map and clicking on the notation on the map will go to the page with the ad.
- Where appropriate, some hyperlinks may go to external sites.
- When on the maps, the points arrows for features is at the point of the feature.
- Future releases of this guide will include information on other hikes and recreational opportunities in the Shawnee National Forest.



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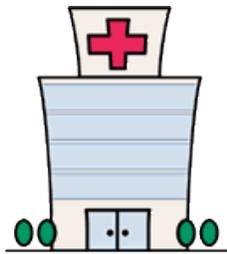
Providing Insurance and Financial Services

The River to River Trail in southern Illinois provides wonderful and scenic outdoor recreational opportunities for day hikers, backpackers, and equestrians, alike. The terrain of the Shawnee National Forest, Crab Orchard Wildlife Refuge, and state recreational areas is perfect for exploration, geological wonders and photographic pleasures. While hiking the River to River Trail offers many benefits, the vast land that the trail covers still contains wilderness, wooded landscapes, and at many times, stretches of trail that are both rugged and remote. It is important that all trail users stay safe while using the River to River Trail and safety should always be the main priority on the trail. This is an extensive guide on how to remain safe while using the River to River Trail or any other recreation area you might visit in the future.

Safety Starts Before you Hike

Before venturing out onto the River to River Trail, it is important to consider issues of safety before leaving home. Before heading to a trail, it is important to thoroughly research and learn about the trail as best as you can. Look for information about trail hazards, known trail conditions, and conditions of the roads you will take to get to the trail and the route you will be taking. You can often find such information by calling an office of the Shawnee National Forest or on the internet.

When planning a longer hike, it may also prove useful to learn about the area and communities around the trail. Look for places to get food, groceries, water, and health services. How close is the nearest hospital? If something goes wrong, how long it will take to get the injured to healthcare professionals? The same concept can go towards the nearest police agency, fire department, and emergency medical services.



Check the local weather conditions before heading out on the trail. Make sure you know and understand what the weather is supposed to be like for the duration of your visit on the trail. It is important that you dress properly for the weather conditions. Remember the key to combating the cold while outside is layering up so that you have the option of removing layers if you get too warm. Consider previous weather events as well. Did a previous flood wash out one of the forest roads you had planned to drive on? Check with the Shawnee National Forest website to be informed of any roads that might

have been washed out or of any closures for other reasons. If there is a threat of severe weather, it is preferable that you avoid the area. Lightning and flooding kill many people each year, while falls from wet and



slippery rocks above the high bluffs found in the Shawnee National Forest claim lives nearly every year.

Before heading out to the trail, check to make sure your vehicle is ready to handle such a trip. Many of the roads in the Shawnee are rough on tires. Do you have a spare? Some of these roads are accessible only to vehicles with four-wheel drive. Size up the roads before travel. And gasoline is not so readily available as in urban areas. Start with a full tank.



And lastly, probably the most important safety tip of all: tell someone where you are going before you actually leave. In some areas of the wilderness, cell phone signal is weak – if something were to happen, you might not be able to call for help. You should always try to hike or ride with another person but if you do go it alone, please make sure that others know exactly where you will be going – for the sake of your own safety.

The Right Gear Matters for Safety

Two of the main needs that you should consider wisely while planning your trip are hydration and food supply. This might be the most important form of gear to plan for. When planning for hydration and food supply, be careful to understand the right kinds of fluid and foods to bring with you. For hydration, make sure you are drinking enough water and consider a sports drink for electrolyte replenishment, since you will tend to sweat out your body's needed salt, especially during the warm months. Bring food with carbohydrates and sugars for fuel because you will be burning a lot of calories, especially if you are making a longer hike or hiking during the warm months. Carbs and sugar may not be good for you if you are sitting on the couch, but when you are engaging in rigorous activity, it is some of the best type of food for you and your body. Also important: take enough food and water that will last you longer than the expected duration of your visit, just in case something happens and you need it. Lastly, consider a water filter device (and know how to use it) just in case you are in need of emergency hydration. This will be especially useful for through-hikers. Due to the amount of agriculture in the region, it is highly recommended that you not drink water in creeks and springs without using some type of filtering device.



Clothing is another important piece of gear to remember when visiting the trail. Based on your research beforehand, concerning the weather and temperatures for the duration of your adventure, you should be dressing for such environmental conditions. One important thing to remember is other elements that might change the situation in terms of what you are wearing. While shorts and a t-shirt sound ideal in the heat of summer, it is important to note the snake and tick populations in the Shawnee National Forest and along the River to River Trail. Make sure your clothing is not only protecting you from the weather, but also from the other hazards that will surround you during your visit to the trail. It is also wise to pack extra layers or emergency shock blankets in case you have to spend the night in the forest due to some unseen circumstance. A poncho can easily be converted into a tent for an emergency sheltering situation.



Two parts of your body that will need extra protection while you are on the trail are your hands and your feet. It is always wise to pack gloves among your gear, whether or not it is cold or not – gloves can help protect your hands when they need protection the most. Wear comfortable socks and bring an extra pair, preferably wool. There are many creek crossings on the River-to-River Trail, and your feet are likely to get wet. Proper footwear is also important – invest in some good hiking boots or sturdy shoes. If you plan to hike in the colder months and winter precipitation is around, consider investing in shoe covers that allow you to safely walk on slick conditions. While it does add extra weight, many day hiker and backpackers carry a pair of water shoes for those moments where you know your feet are going to get wet – such as during a creek crossing.



Carrying a first aid kit is also an idea for anyone who is deciding to venture out onto the trail and explore nature. The most important thing to note about your first aid kit though is that you should understand how to use each item in the kit. If there are items in the kit that you do not understand how to use, then you should take those items out of the kit to conserve weight. You really only need a basic first aid kit! The basic items you should carry are bandages, medical tape, shock blanket, gauze pads, scissors, alcohol pads, hand sanitizer and cream for poison ivy if you require it. It is also recommended that you write down your medical information and special needs and keep it in your wallet, purse or pack in case response officials need such information.

Finally, make sure you are checking the expiration dates of the supplies in your kit and replacing them as needed.

Sound and light are important as a safety tools when exploring the trails and forest. A basic whistle may be useful in calling for help. As with the need for sound, seeing is also important. Long before sunset it gets dark in the Forest, so even if you do not plan to be out after dark you should equip your pack with a flashlight that is bright and lasts awhile (bring extra batteries). One particular option that is popular among trail goers is the headlamp allowing a user to keep hands free while still having adequate lighting available.



Staying Safe on the Trail

While exploring the River to River Trail, local state parks and the Shawnee National Forest, safety should always be your main goal. The only way to have an enjoyable journey on the trail is to have a safe journey on the trail. It is critical that you return the same way you were before you started the trail – besides being tired from a great workout. The following information focuses on the main hazards that would likely be present along the River to River Trail in southern Illinois and tactics on coping with such hazards.

WILDLIFE ENCOUNTERS

Southern Illinois does not officially have bear, wolves, or mountain lions. These animals have been absent since the clearing of virgin growth forests in the 1800s. At least one mountain lion has been confirmed to have been found in southern Illinois, but this animal was deceased when found. There have been many unconfirmed reports of sightings, so in all probability mountain lions (also known as cougars or panthers) may pass through the area from time to time, but the existence of a permanent resident population of them is unlikely. However, if you were ever to encounter a mountain lion on the trail do not run, try to appear bigger than you are, and scream and yell at the animal. In most cases, it will scare the animal away. If attacked, fight back! This can also work with bobcats who might be threatening since there is a known confirmed population of bobcats in southern Illinois.



Deer are animals that you will probably encounter along the trail. In most cases, deer will notice you and run away or may stare at you from a safe distance. However, some deer attacks have occurred, especially if a doe is protecting her fawn(s) or deer are attempting to mate. If you see a deer, don't approach it. Make a loud noise from a safe distance to show it that you are near. Your whistle might be useful here. If a buck charges you, the goal is to get low, ball up, and protect your head and face from its antlers. In most cases, deer will likely just make you jump by startling you as they run through the trees.



Predator animals along the trail are rare but not impossible. As mentioned earlier, bobcats are present in the area and while many run away if they see us, some could attempt an attack. Wild dogs, coyotes, foxes and strays could also enhance the threat against humans using the trail. Smaller critters such as beaver, raccoons and opossums are known to become aggressive if defending their territory. The main strategy is to keep a safe distance and make noise.



As an option, you should consider carrying some kind of protection device such as a knife, pepper-spray, or other protection devices for those "just-in-case" moments. Please ensure that you adhere to all local, state and federal laws concerning the carry and use of weapons and/or protection equipment.

Snakes are present in the areas crossed by the River to River Trail. There are three venomous snakes located in the southern Illinois region: copperheads, cottonmouths and the timber rattlesnake. Each of these venomous snakes could create major health concerns if they bit humans, pets, or horses. Allergic reactions, infection, severe flu-like symptoms and even death can be the result of a venomous snake bite. If you or another person is bitten, attempt to call for help while moving towards where you started and seek medical attention as soon as possible. Do not use a snake bite kit – they completely go against logic and how venom enters the body. Snake bite kits are often said to do more damage than good. In most cases, you can avoid snake bites by looking around you and watching for snakes. If you see one, don't harm it; just walk around it at a safe distance. Snakes are not as aggressive as many people think they are; they will not chase you down. It is recommended that you read



about venomous snakes to get some basic knowledge of what they look like.

The most frequent wildlife encounters you will experience are with insects. Spiders, ticks, chiggers, and mosquitos are often present along the trail. Many of these insects can cause disease if they bite humans. It is very important that you apply tick and insect repellent on your body and clothing before going to the trail, spraying yourself while on the trail as you sweat a lot of it off and treating yourself after the trail adventure is complete. In the event of an outing when these insects are present, it is often recommended that you wear long-sleeve shirts and long pants to help mitigate the insects from biting you. Spraying your trail clothing with permethrin at least one day before wearing has proven effective in deterring ticks, but before using permethrin you should carefully familiarize yourself with proper use and the possible risks to your health.



SLIPS, TRIPS AND FALLS

Sadly the main hazard associated with hiking and outdoor recreation is injuries due to slips, trips and falls. Many of the injuries and fatalities occur when trail users climb bluffs or rock formations to get a better view and then fall in the process. It doesn't take very much height to become a damaging hazard if you were to fall.



This is where common sense comes into play. If it can kill you, easily, why do it? With that being said, make sure you are constantly looking around – leaf litter for example could be hiding holes, the edge of bluffs and rocks that might harm you. Wet rocks are slippery and dangerous. Moss, wet or dry, is slippery or dangerous. The ledge you are standing on may not be adequately supported from below. If you are ever to fall and you are still able to talk, the best thing to do is call for help or yell (whistle, sound device, etc.) until someone can rescue you. If you fall, don't try to move unless you absolutely have to because moving can cause further damage to your body. Plan and prepare for the conditions you will be hiking in, whether along the bluffs, or on ice, snow, or mud. Be prepared before you start your adventure!

SEVERE WEATHER

There are four common types of severe weather events that occur in our region. The first is severe thunderstorms and with this hazard comes heavy rains that can create flash flooding, as well as hail, severe winds, dangerous cloud to ground lightning and in some cases, deadly tornadoes. The second weather hazard that occurs during the winter months is heavy snow and dangerous ice conditions. In the past several years, there seems to be more ice events than snow events in the region. The



third form of weather to watch for is freezing cold temperatures during the winter months. It isn't uncommon to have single digits during the daylight hours and below freezing temperatures during the nighttime hours while the winter months are upon us. And finally, very hot summers with high humidity commonly take place in our region.

Understanding the local weather is an important strategy in keeping yourself safe while using the trail. You should always be checking the weather and also checking to see if the forecast has been updated – which commonly happens. You should plan and prepare for weather conditions before you start your adventure and consider aborting the outing if the weather is supposed to become severe. Make sure you pack the right gear for the right environmental conditions and have plenty of food and drinks when you need it.

Be sure to enjoy the Trail

The following tips will allow you to enjoy the trail even more as you explore it.

Stay on the trail at all times and carry navigational equipment with you. This equipment might be a map, compass, GPS device, or all three of them. If you leave the trail, you will increase not only your chances of getting lost but also your chances of encountering some kind of safety hazard as well. It is wiser for you to stay on the trail at all times and enjoy the sights around you.

Encountering horseback riders, mountain bikers and in some cases, off road vehicles, isn't uncommon in our local forest. Good trail etiquette requires everyone to give the horseback rider the right of way. We can control our feet. Mountain bikers can control their bikes and off-road drivers can control their vehicles. Horses are animals and sometimes have a mind of their own. However, to avoid collision with any of these trail users watch and listen for them, and make enough noise that others know of your presence and prepare for the encounter.

When enjoying the forest, it is important that you Leave No Trace. This means that whatever you pack in with you on the trail, you pack out with you when you are done. Besides the criminal penalties that can happen for littering in the forest and on the trail, it is important to understand the harmful effects that littering has on natural areas. It is pollution. It disturbs the ecosystems that are present. It can kill or disrupt animals. And lastly, just as you wouldn't want people to litter in your own backyard, never leave litter in the backyard that belongs to all of us.



Happy Trails!

A big Thank You goes out to **Shawn Gossman of Hiking with Shawn** on [youtube.com](https://www.youtube.com) for Contributing this section.

<https://www.hikingwithshawn.com/>

<http://www.youtube.com/c/hikingwithshawn/>

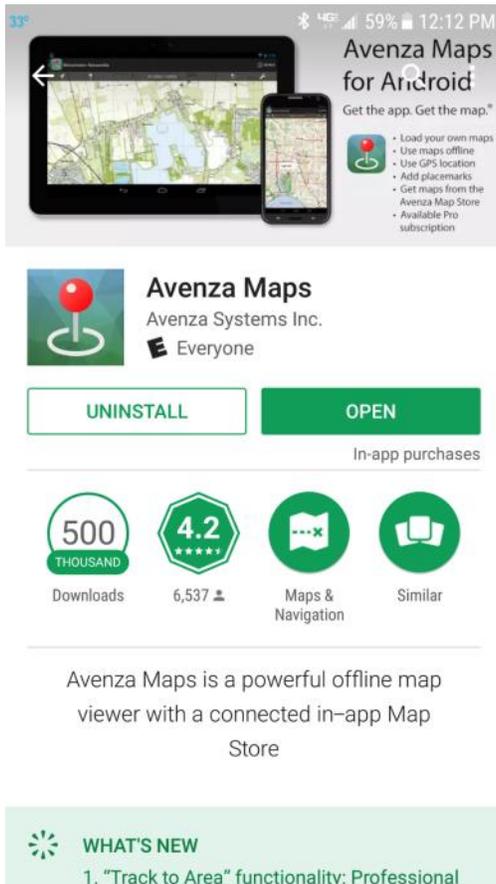


The Avenza App is available in both the Google and I stores. Avenza (www.avenza.com) is an app that is designed to display Geo Referenced PDF map files. As a result, the maps can be used even without cell service. If the maps are downloaded to the phone prior to heading out into the forest they can still be used with the GPS built into the phone.

In May 2018 the Trail Society established an account in the Avenza Map Store and have uploaded all of the maps to the store. As a result, to load trail maps to your phone, just access the Avenza store from the app and search for River to River Trail. After searching, zoom into southern IL and you will be able to select the maps for download. Users can also scan QR Code on Societies Web Site to go directly to download web page. <https://www.rivertorivertrail.net/home/trail-information/>

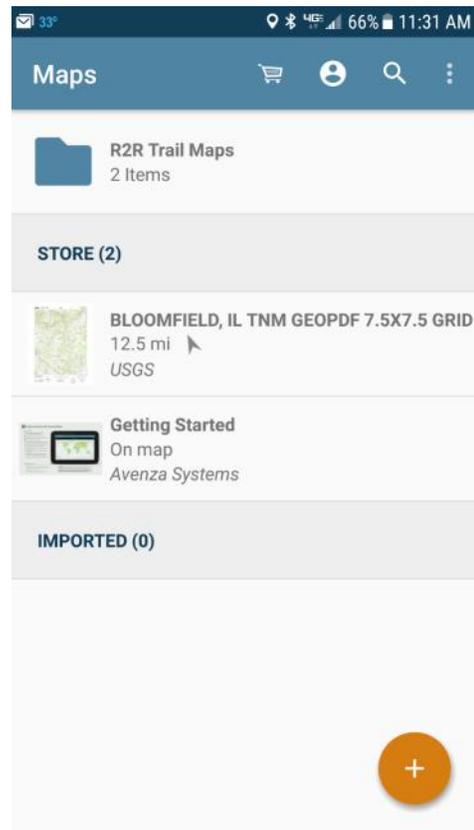
To install the R2R trail maps manually follow the following instructions which are based on a Android device.

- Download and install the Avenza App from the Google or I-Phone store. The following is what the Google store will look like.

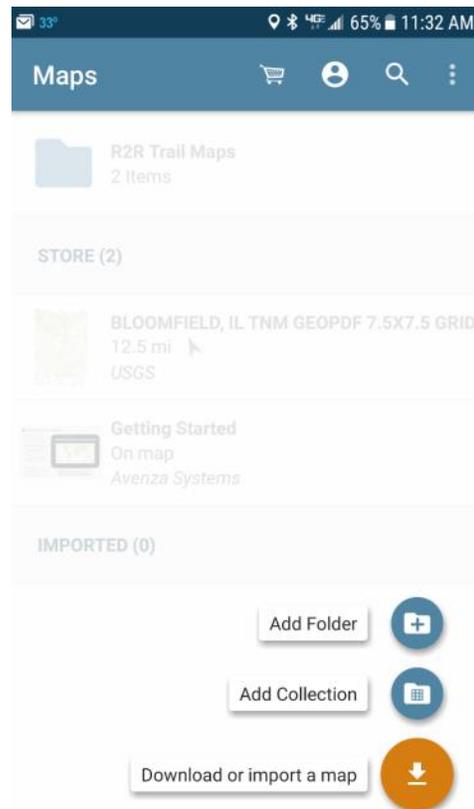


- Once the App is loaded it can be started and it will look very similar to the following picture. The R2T Trail Maps folder and Bloomfield maps

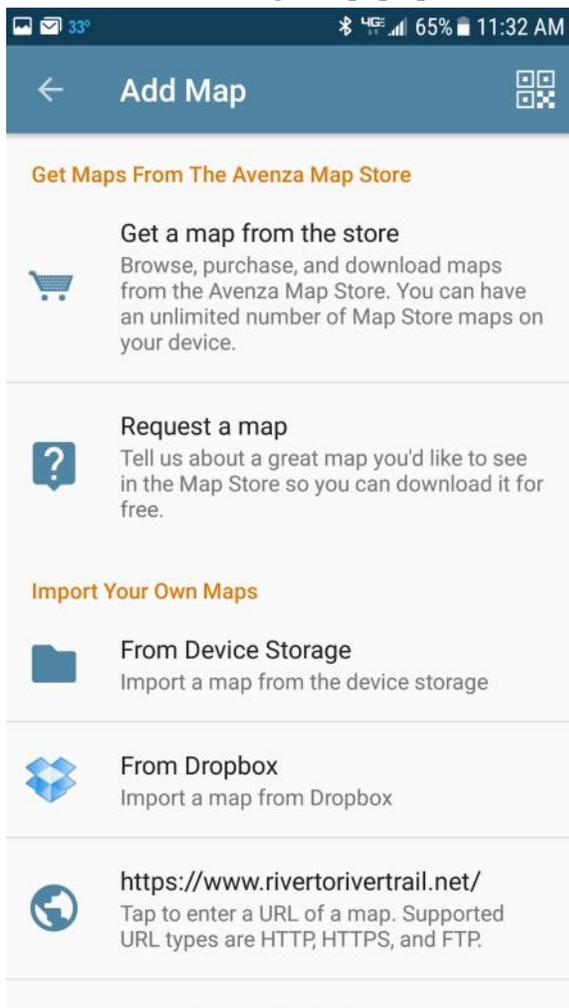
will not exist for your installation.



- Once installed, clicking the plus in the lower right corner will pull up the following menu. On this menu you can add a folder for the R2R Trail maps such as I did if you desire.



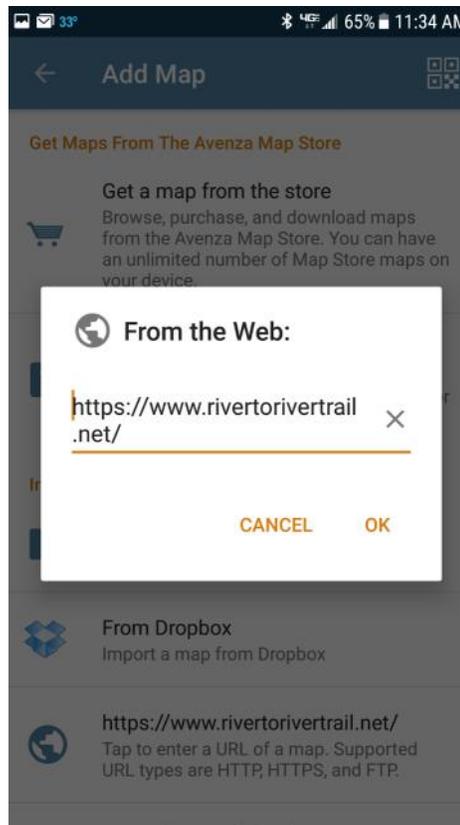
- When you are ready to add a R2R Trail map simply click on the “Download or Import a Map” menu choice in the previous screen. The screen similar to the following will pop up.



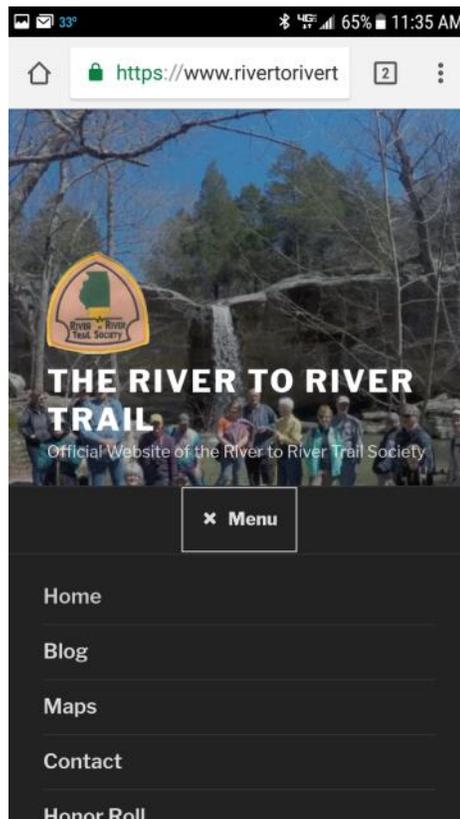
- To install a map, the Internet (Globe) Icon on the bottom of the screen will be selected and it will pop up an input screen. In this screen you will need to enter the address of a website to download the maps from. This can be either the Shawnee NF or the River to River Trail Society websites as shown below.

- Trails Society Address:
<https://www.rivertorivertrail.net/>

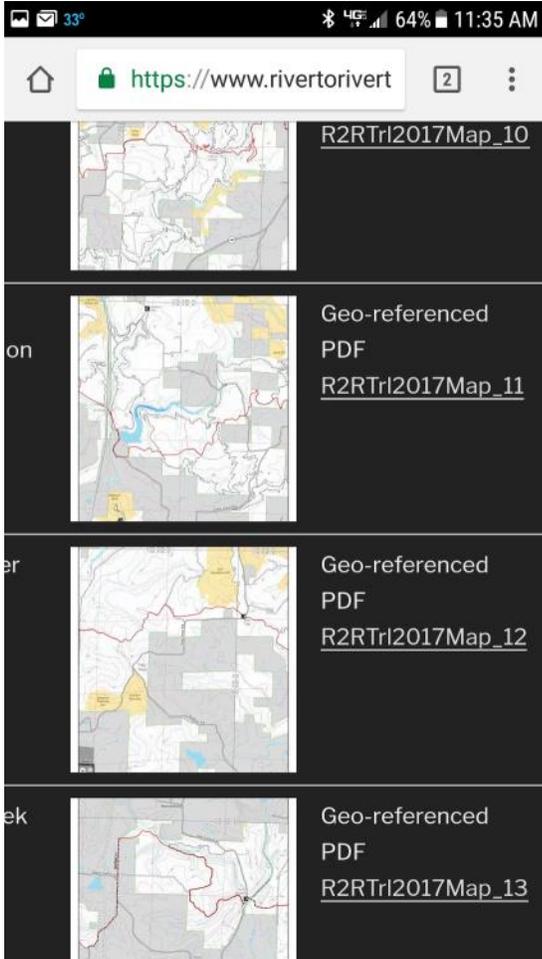
- Once the address is entered it will look like the following screen shot.



- Clicking on OK above will open up the default browser on your phone and the address entered above. For the Trail Society website the screen may look like this.



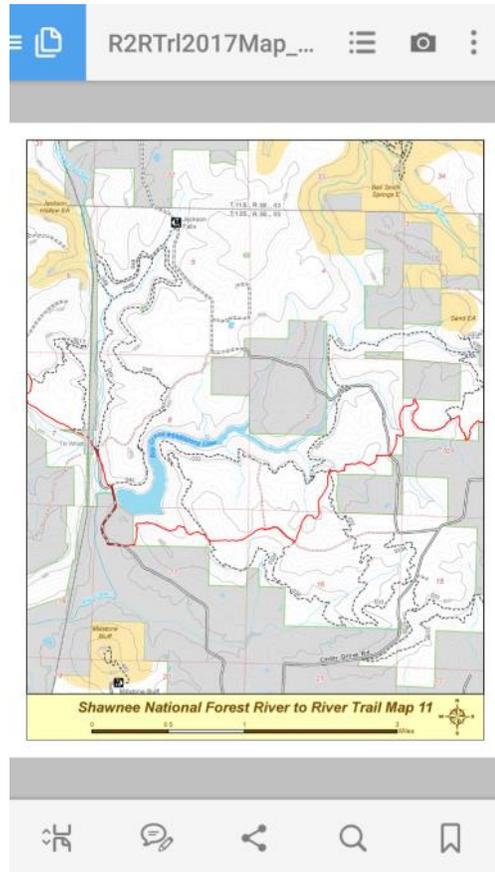
- Once on the Trail Society website, browse to the maps page and select the map you want to download and install. The page includes a table with descriptions of all of the maps along with a link to download a picture of the map and the Geo-Referenced PDF file. Select the PDF file you are looking for and download to your phone.



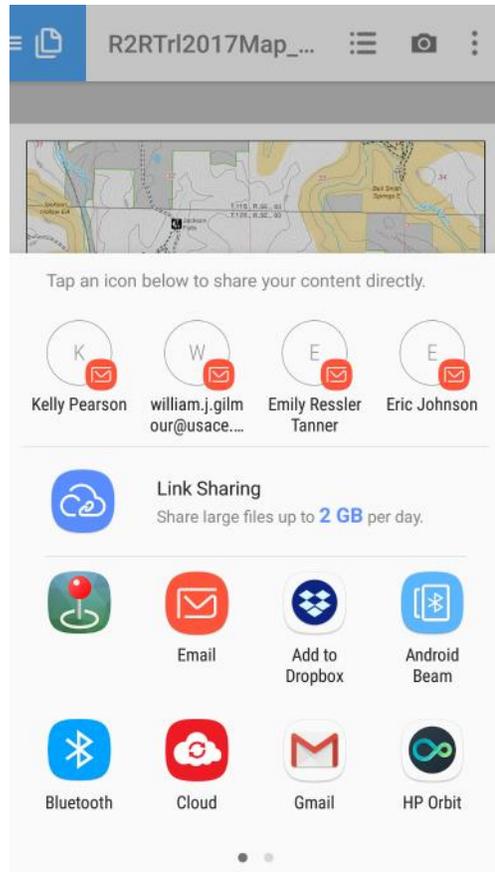
- Once the map is downloaded to your phone, you need to share the map on your phone. Since my phone has the Adobe viewer installed the screen looks like the following. From here you click on the share icon (3 dots connected by 2 lines to make an arrow) and it will pop up a window to select someone or some application to share the



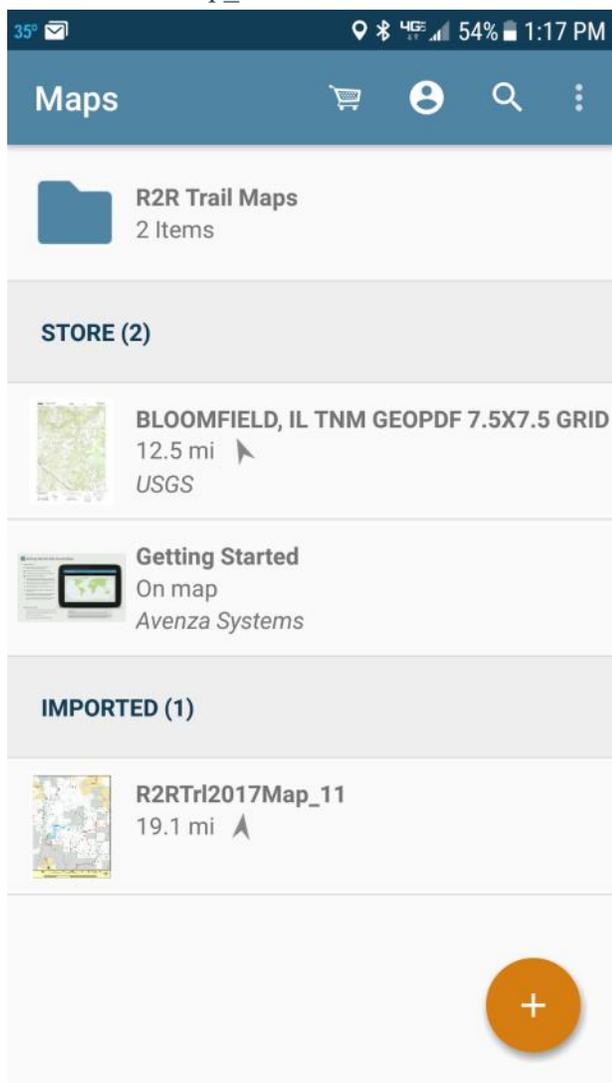
map with.



- From the following share screen select the Avenza Icon (Red push pin on green background).



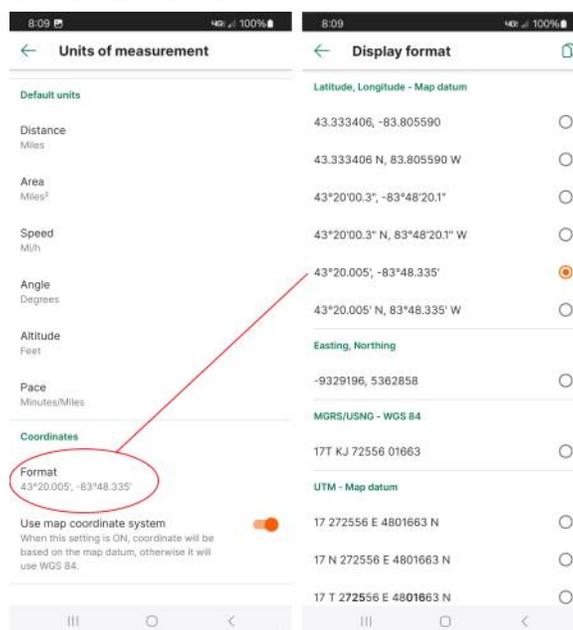
- Once on the map is shared with the Avenza App it will do a little processing and be available to select in your Avenza menu like the “R2RTrl2017Map_11” shown below.



- Once the map is loaded to your it can be opened up and viewed. You can zoom in on the map by

pinch of the fingers method on screen. If your phone is physically located within the area covered by the map, the phones location will show up on the map as a blue dot. The dot will move on the map as you navigate the area covered by the map.

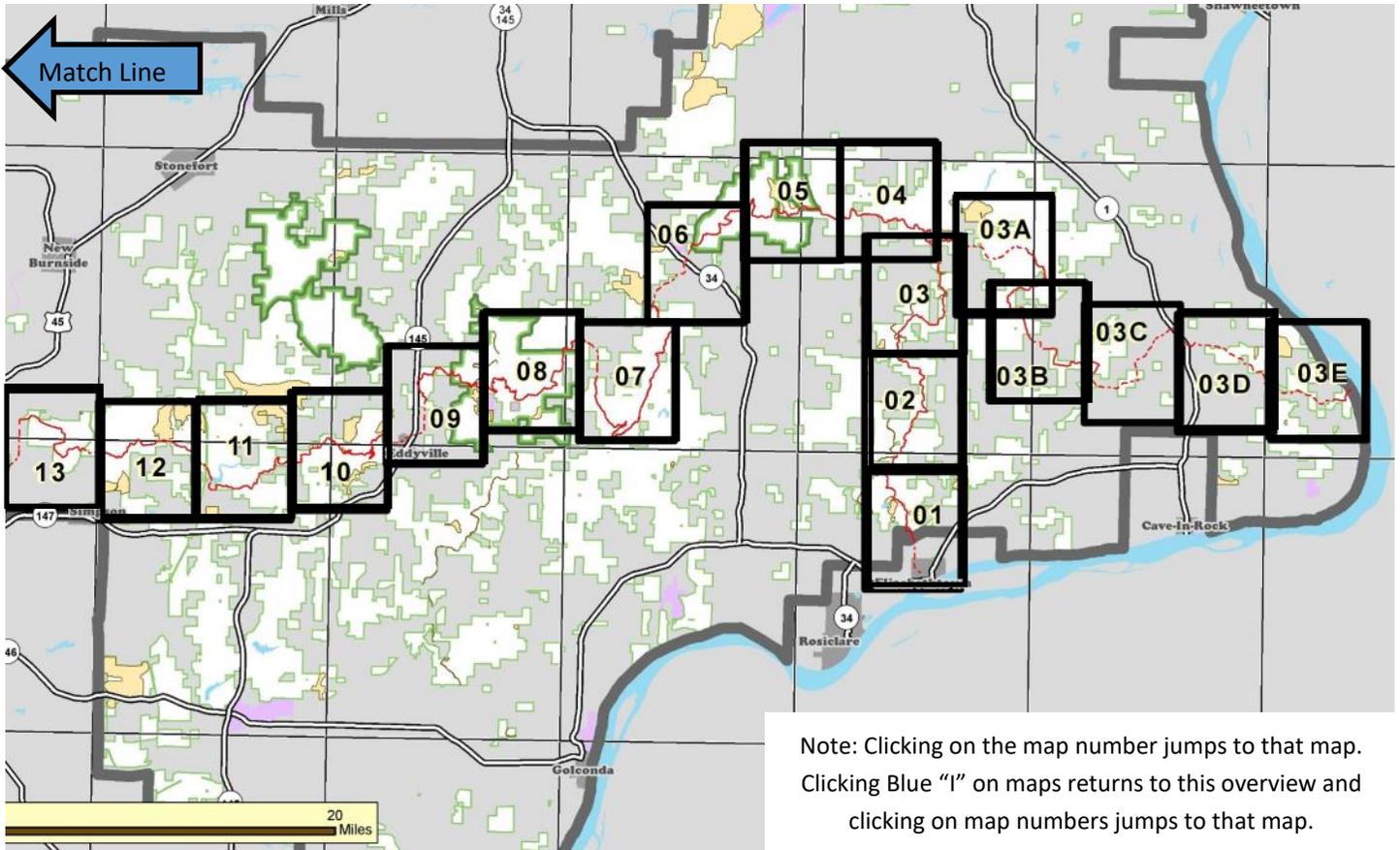
- Keep in mind that the Avenza App currently only allows a user to download three maps for free.
- It should also be noted that the instructions provided in the previous pages are only one way of downloading and sharing the maps with Avenza on your phone. You could download all of the maps and store in a folder on your phone and load the one you are wanting to use.
- To use with this trail guide, it is recommended that you change the GPS display settings to match those in this guide. That will allow you to type in what you see in this guide without converting. This is done in the Units of measure settings screens shown below:



The Big “H” Garden of the Gods Wilderness

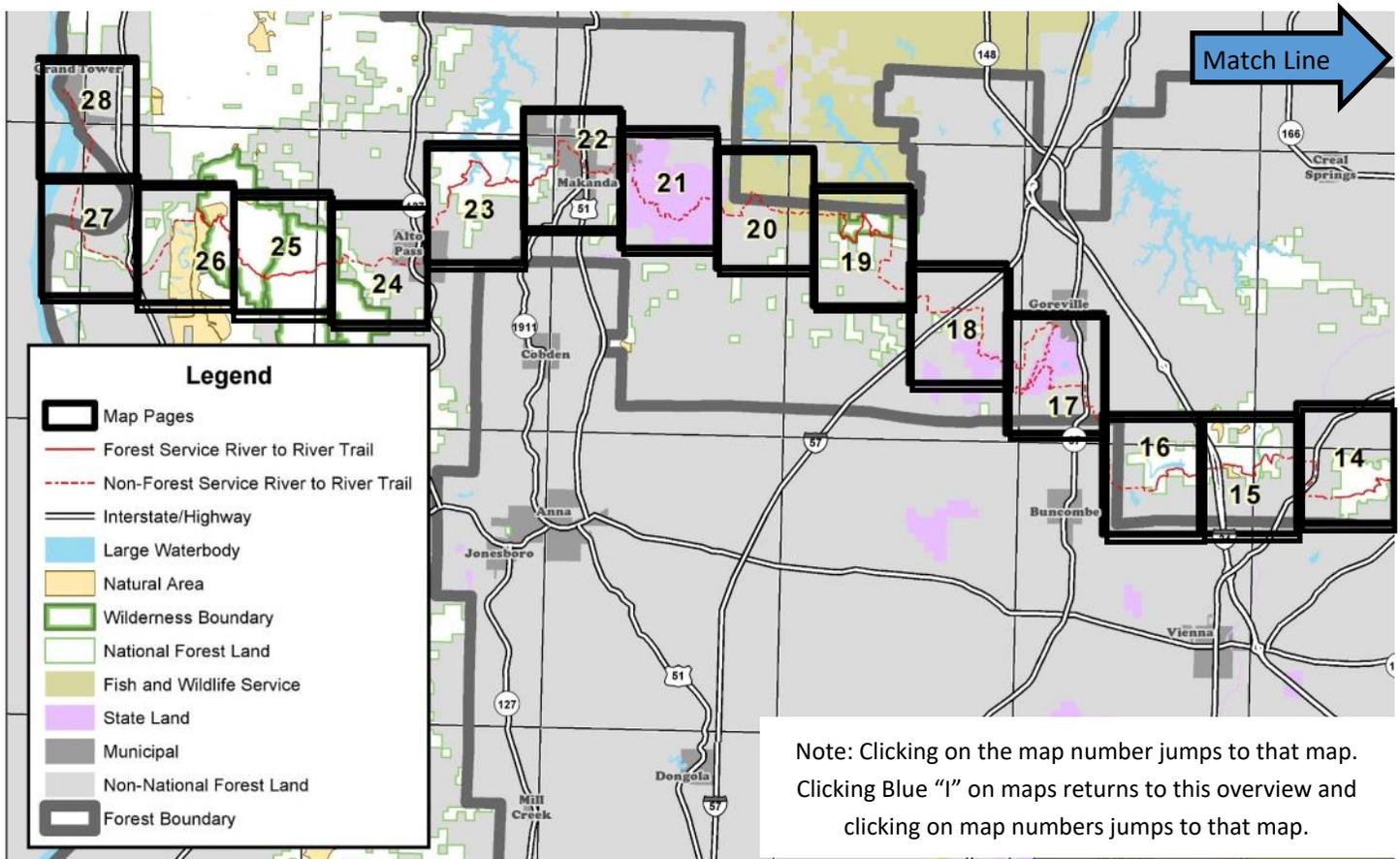
[Return to Table of Contents](#)

East Half - Elizabethtown/Battery Rock to Goddard Crossing



Note: Clicking on the map number jumps to that map. Clicking Blue "1" on maps returns to this overview and clicking on map numbers jumps to that map.

West Half - Goddard Crossing to Grand Tower



Note: Clicking on the map number jumps to that map. Clicking Blue "1" on maps returns to this overview and clicking on map numbers jumps to that map.

Map01—Elizabethtown to Iron Furnace**Map02—Iron Furnace to Basset Road****Map03—Basset Road to Karbers Ridge Road****The Eastern Trailhead of the River to River Trail**

The River-to-River Trail begins on the bank of the Ohio River near the historic Rose Hotel. The Rose Hotel is a state historic landmark, operated by a contractor as a bed and breakfast hotel. According to local legend, the oldest section of the hotel dates as far back as 1812, when it was known as McFarland's Tavern. Although archaeological investigation has been unable fully to substantiate that claim, still the Rose Hotel is a good place for a through-hiker to stay before getting an early start the following morning. Before leaving the Rose Hotel, there is an ideal selfie photo opportunity with the new Elizabethtown Trailhead sign installed in 2017. The sign was purposely placed for selfies with the sign and the gazebo in the background as shown below with the trail society crew that installed it.



Just west of the hotel is the floating Elizabethtown River Restaurant, known for its fish in season, and the northward street just to the west is Locust Street. Proceed up Locust Street, cross HWY 146 directly ahead by the newspaper office, and follow the road

past the Baptist church and the Park. About a half mile past the park, at the first road going north, turn to the north. This sets the trail. Another mile and a half up the road, you will be nearing Whoopie Cat Lake and Lake Tecumseh. Originally, the old trail passed between the two lakes and an ecological area. Now, however, continue north along the east side of the lakes. Depending on the time of the year, you may not even notice that you have passed Whoopie Cat Lake, because the trail crosses the creek feeding the lake about 0.1 miles from the lake itself. It is difficult to miss Lake Tecumseh, however, because from a large clearing along the road the dam for Lake Tecumseh is clearly visible. Approximately 100 yards past the dam, the trail makes a sharp turn to the right proceeding north. It is very easy to miss this turn, because the trail leaves a clearly-defined roadbed to turn sharply into the woods. Watch for the blue and white blazes. In the next 1/2 mile this trail will quickly climb a 120' tall hill and then descend the other side where the trail approaches Hog Thief Creek. Take care crossing this creek. The muddy banks can make crossing difficult. From there, the trail continues through the valley along the creek for about a 1/2 mile before reaching Hog Thief Road. There the trail proceeds directly across the road and up N. Iron Furnace Road for about 0.4 miles, after which the trail turns right/northeast off the road. Note that this road follows Big Creek on its left side. After leaving N. Iron Furnace Road, the trail proceeds through the woods for about 6 miles and crosses over to Map 02.

E-Town River Restaurant
Great Food & Good Times On the River

Patrick Joyner
Owner

100 Front St.
Elizabethtown, IL 62931

618-287-2333
@etownriverrestaurant

E'town RiverPort Express

Patrick Joyner
Owner

618-287-2334

251 W. 1st St.
Elizabethtown, IL 62931
riverport.express@yahoo.com

Map01—Elizabethtown to Iron Furnace**Map02—Iron Furnace to Basset Road****Map03—Basset Road to Karbers Ridge Road**

Another highlight along this section of trail is a stop at Iron Furnace shown below.



going north out of Elizabethtown up to Karbers Ridge road. If you are considering doing the trail in a series of section hikes, this is a great spot to park cars for day 1.

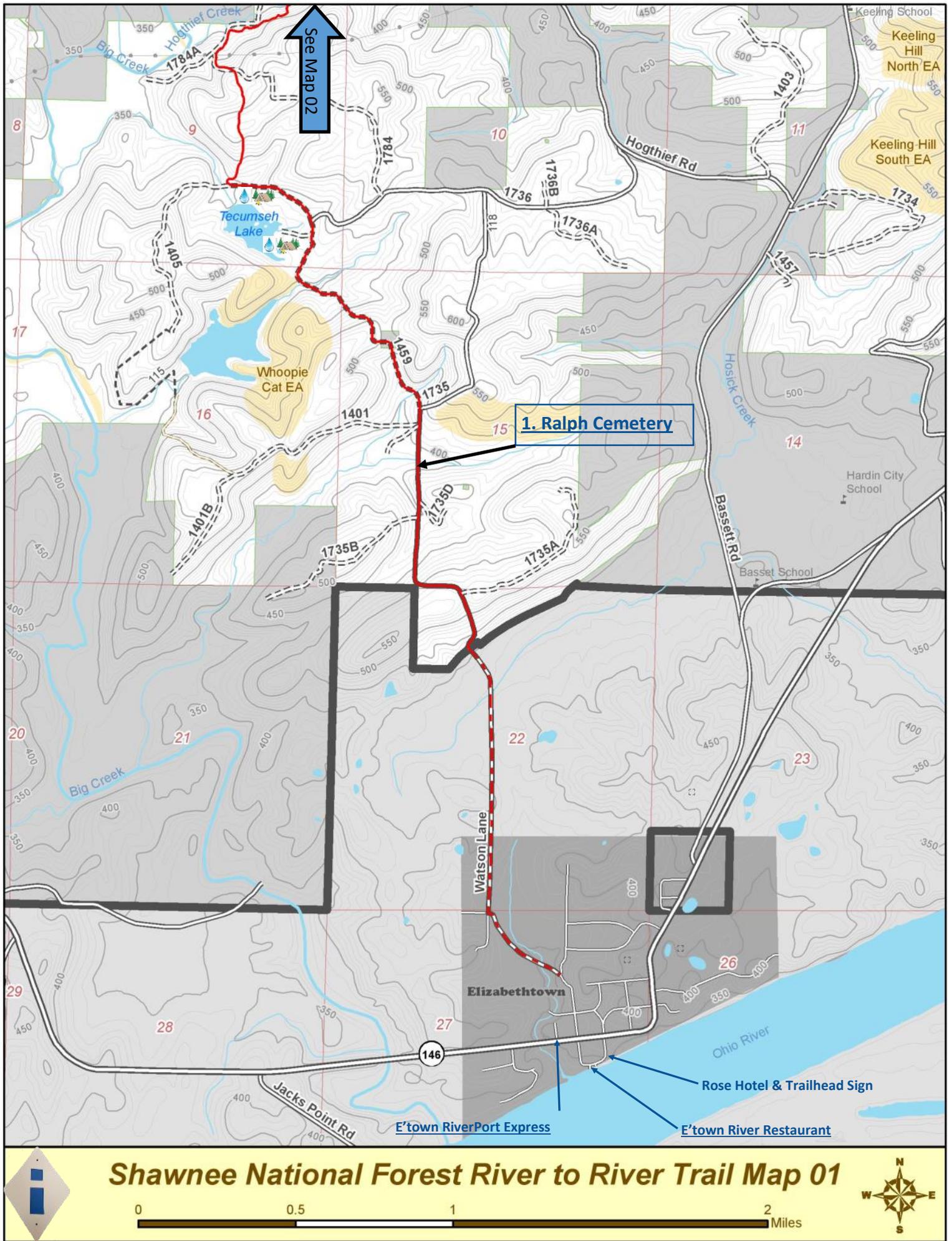
Map 03 starts the trek uphill towards High Knob with a few road crossings along the way and one key trail intersection. The trail starts by heading east for about a mile and then turns north for 2 miles towards the intersection with Cadiz Road. En route you will pass the abandoned site of Lee Mine although unless you explore the site extensively, you will not even know you are going through it because very little is visible from the trail. For the last 0.4 miles approaching Cadiz Road the trail parallels a field. You will cross Cadiz road 1/2 mile east of Karber's Ridge Road and 3 miles west of Camp Cadiz entrance. The trail follows Cadiz Road west for about 0.1 miles before heading back north into the woods. This trail may be hard to see because it is not an old forest road. Moreover it is narrow and may be overgrown. After leaving Cadiz Road there is a 0.5 mile hike through the woods to the intersection with Karbers Ridge Road. From Karbers Ridge Road to High Knob Lane it is about 3.2 miles and another 0.5 mile down to High Knob Horse Camp. About 1 mile north of Karbers Ridge road the trail will intersect with the original River to River Trail from Camp Cadiz and Battery Rock. (N37° 35.420' W88° 18.393).

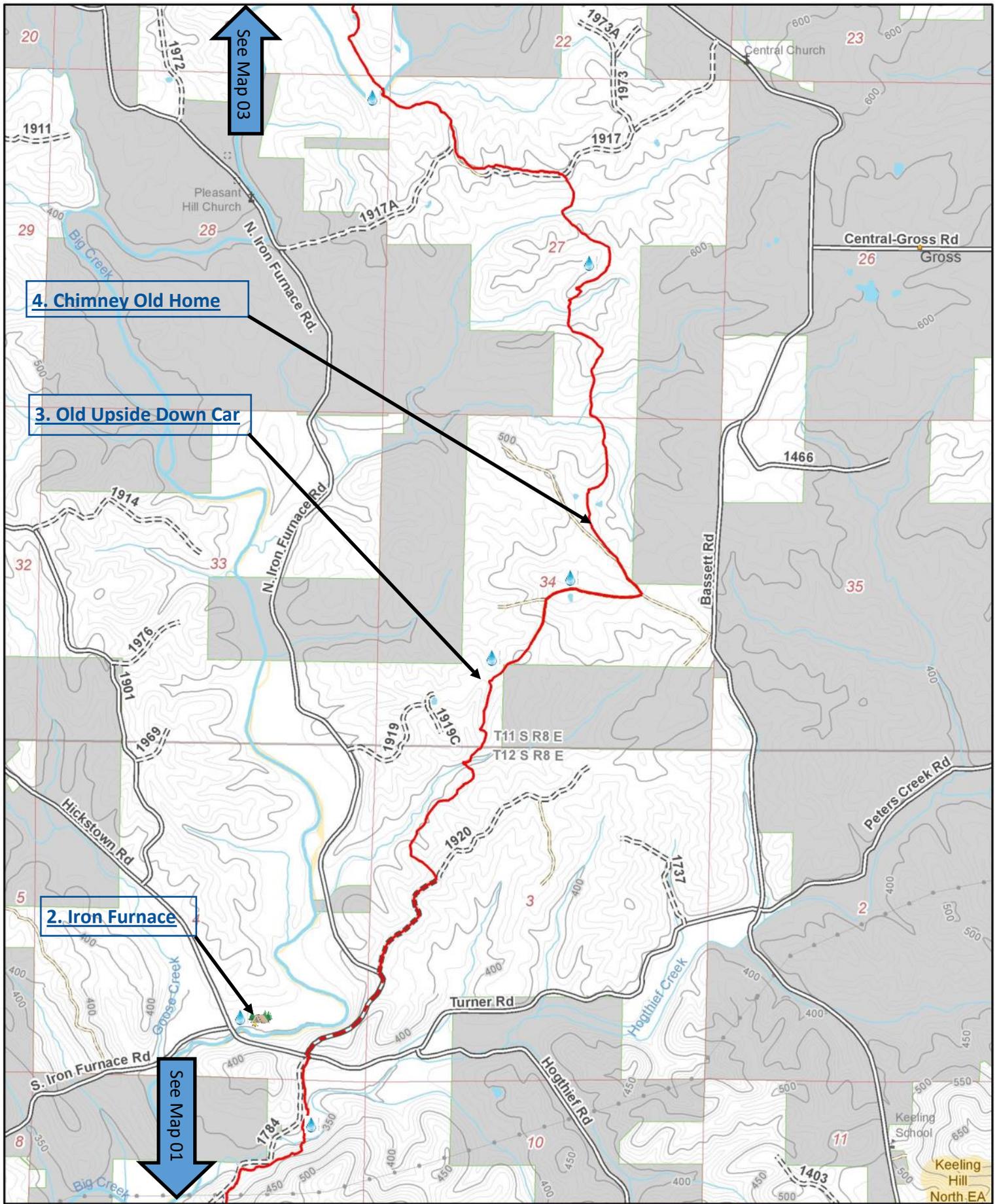
Map 02 was created in 2017 in order to keep all of the trail maps the same size and scale. In previous versions of the trail guide, Maps 01 and 02 were combined and displayed at a smaller scale.

One highlight to look for if you happen to be hiking in the spring is the Virginia Blue Bells which grow in lush profusion in the valley along Hog Thief Creek just before reaching Hog Thief Road.

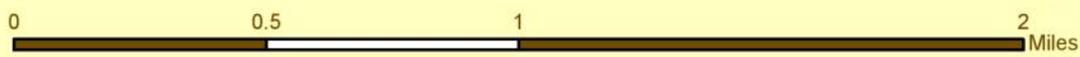
If you are section hiking the trail, the distance from Elizabethtown to Basset Road is approximately a 10.9 mile section hike. There is very little parking at the Basset Road intersection so plan accordingly.

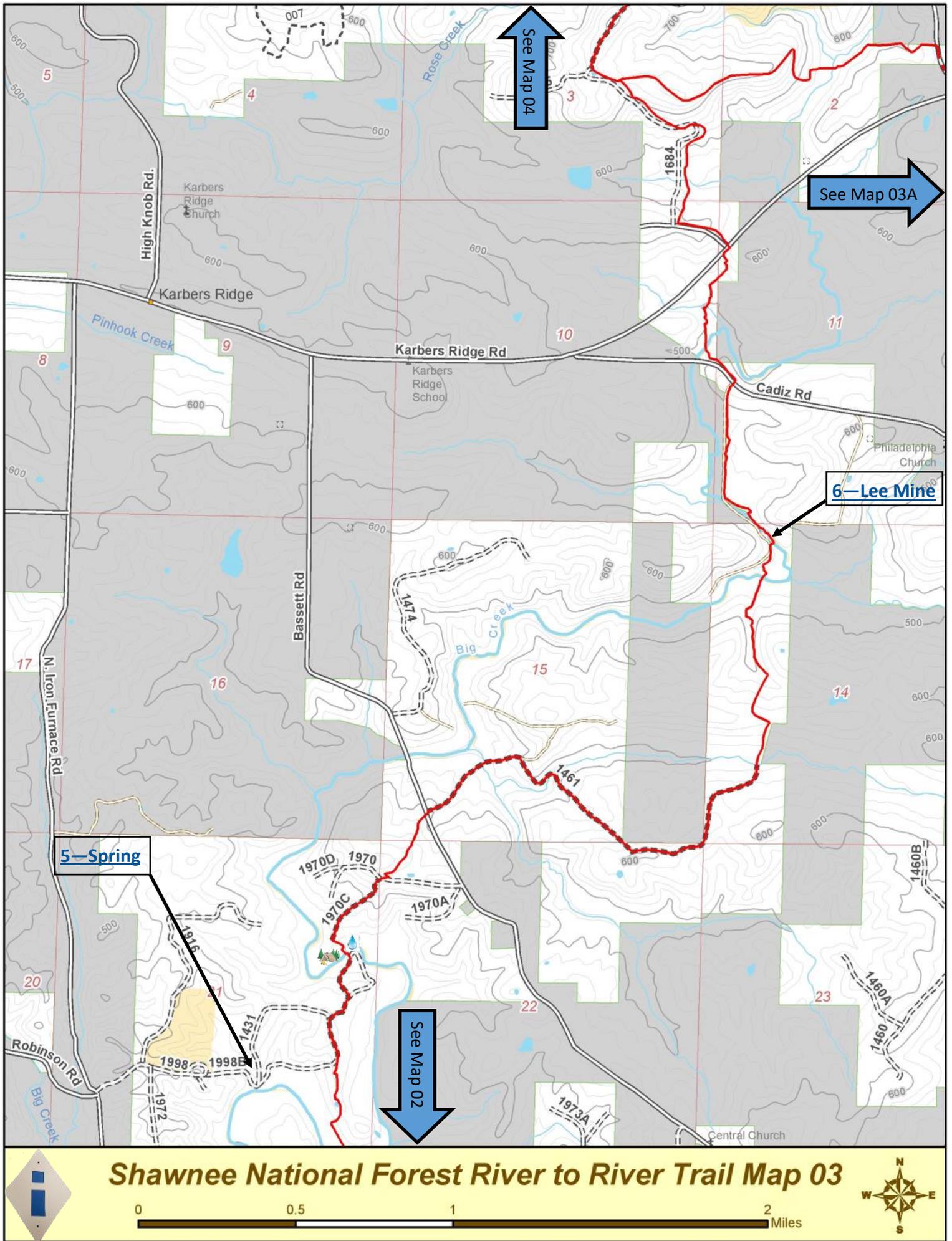
Basset Blacktop is the main road intersection you cross on Map 03. Bassett Blacktop of the main road





Shawnee National Forest River to River Trail Map 02





5 - Spring

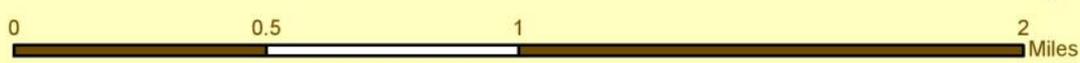
6 - Lee Mine

See Map 04

See Map 03A

See Map 02

Shawnee National Forest River to River Trail Map 03



Maps 01, 02 and 03 Supplemental Information

Water Sources along this section

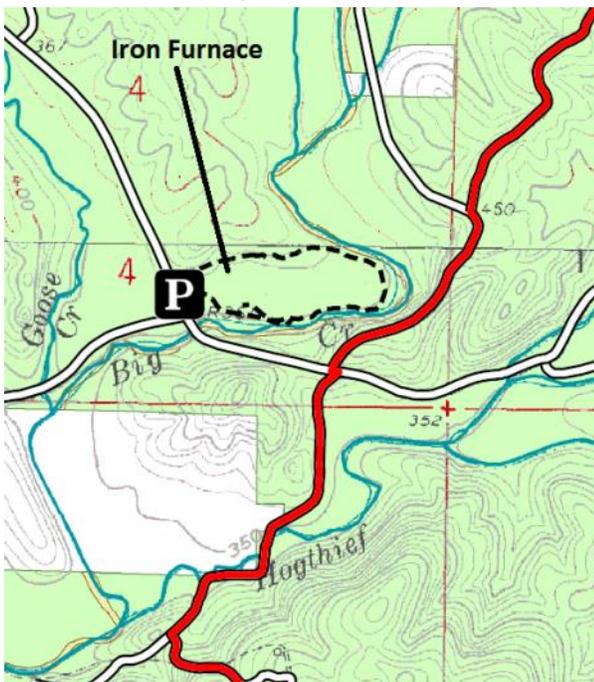
- (1) Lake Tecumseh (N37° 29.098' W88° 19.547') is right next to the trail. The trail also turns 90 degrees just after passing the lake.
- (2) Hogthief Creek (N37° 29.609' W88° 19.432') is crossed here.
- (3) Big Creek near Iron Furnace (N37° 29.830' W88° 19.426')
- Others marked on maps are ponds

Potential Camping Locations along this section

- (1) Lake Tecumseh
- (2) N37° 33.003' W88° 19.262'

Interesting Side Trips along the section

- (1) Ralph Cemetery ([N37° 28.360' W88° 18.959'](#)) Ralph Cemetery is basically a sign along the trail and appears to be a small family plot for the family or homestead that once inhabited the valley. If you look around you may find evidence of an old homestead or farm.
- (2) Iron Furnace Historic Site ([N37° 29.830' W88° 19.426'](#)) is only 0.3 miles west along this road just past the bridge across Big Creek. Restrooms and parking are available here. The pump that once stood near the Furnace has been removed, but water may be obtained from nearby Big Creek. Big Creek near the bridge provides a swimming hole popular with some local residents. Swim at your own risk.



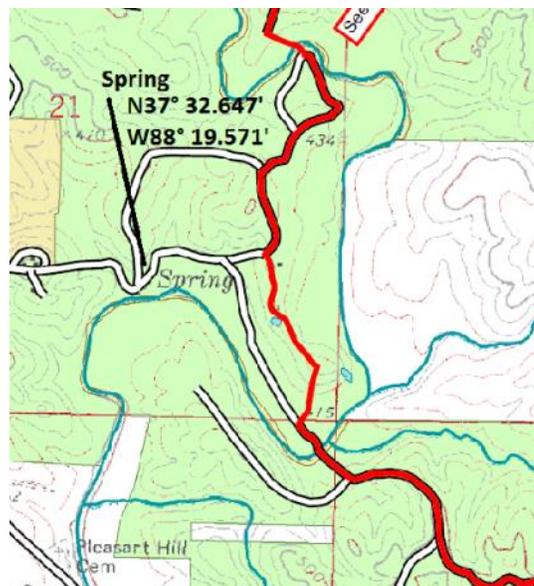
- (3) Old upside down car is at GPS coordinates [N37° 30.833' W88° 18.850'](#) just off the trail.



- (4) Chimney from old homestead at GPS ([N37° 31.267' W88° 18.533'](#)). The chimney looks like this.



- (5) A natural spring is only 0.3 miles from the trail. When the trail turns right at N37° 32.516' W88° 19.349' continue to follow the old road 0.3 miles until you reach the spring at GPS ([N37° 32.647' W88° 19.571'](#)). Return back to the trail.



Maps 01, 02 and 03 Supplemental Information

- (6) Lee Mine ([N37° 34.168' W88° 17.884'](#)) is an old Fluorite Mine that stopped operations in 1938. There were 8 mine shafts sank on the 145 acre site. For more information see the 1947 Bureau of Mines report available here <https://catalog.hathitrust.org/Record/005982782>

Frequently asked questions along this section

- Where is the best place to leave a vehicle in Elizabethtown?
 - The official response from local officials is they'd prefer you park up by the Sheriff's Office next to the courthouse on Market Street rather than down by the Rose Hotel so it's easier to watch the vehicle. The courthouse is at the top of Main Street straight up from our Trail-head sign. The Sheriff's Office is beside it to the east and shares a parking lot. Just check in at the Sheriff's Office (618-287-2271) and tell them what you're doing. With this location there is no need to worry about high water in the spring.

cumseh.



Mileage	Surface	Location Description
0		Elizabethtown
1.3	Road	Leaves Watson Ln
3	Trail	Whoopie Cat Lake creek crossing
3.6	Trail	Lake Tecumseh Dam
4.8	Trail	Road Crossing to Iron Furnace
5.1	Road	Leaves Road heading north from Iron Furnace
9.6	Trail	Spring Side Trip
10.9	Trail	Basset Road Crossing
13.9	Trail	Camp Cadiz Road Crossing
14.4	Trail	Karber's Ridge Road Crossing

Changes to the R2R trail

- 2008-2011 between versions 3 and 4 of this trail guide the trail was rerouted from going between Whoopie Cat Lake and Lake Tecumseh to a route that turns north around Lake Te-



Map 04 - Karbers Ridge Road to Buzzard's Point

As you continue north, you will pass several intersections with other Shawnee National Forest trails. Trails 150, 185, 180, and 153 all head north off the trail into an area known locally as Thacker Hollow. Trail 164 leads north off the trail into Grindstaff Hollow, while trail 146 explores the ridge between the two hollows. You reach the intersection with 153, 146, and 164 (N37° 35.999' W88° 19.422') when you start seeing the old buildings from a farmstead. This is also where the Javelina can be found on rocks a short distance north of the trail. The High Knob Lane crossing is only 0.4 miles further up the trail and it is a great place to take a break and take the short walk up the road to the High Knob overlook. The view at the top of High Knob is wonderful and one of the best on the trail. There are picnic tables and a small parking lot at the overlook. Camping at the overlook is not allowed however. A loop trail that goes around the base of High Knob overlook includes some small caves and various rock bluffs.

After crossing High Knob Lane, the trail continues downhill to High Knob Horse Camp which includes a small store with some supplies and delicious ice cream. Near the trail is a pump where you can refill your canteen, but be sure to ask permission. After leaving the horse camp, the trail crosses High Knob Road (N37° 36.091' W88° 20.266') at the driveway to the horse camp. After crossing the road the trail continues west toward Buzzards Point. Along this short section of trail you could explore the rock formations known as Twin Towers, Rhombus Rock, and Mushroom Rock.

If you are section hiking the trail, High Knob would be a good stopping point. Alternately you could continue past Buzzards Point to Garden of the Gods Road for approximately a 10.5 mile section hike from Basset Road.

The following is a photo of the Javelina which is a collared peccary similar to a wild boar with a current range from the southwestern US to northern Argentina. Whether this depiction of a Javelina is an example of Indian rock art or a natural discoloration of the rock face is disputed.



Some part of this section has been designated a wagon trail by the equestrian community. In these locations the trail has been widened to accommodate horse and wagon traffic. See the next page for further details.

High Knob Campground



Call for information
or for a reservation

High Knob Campground
2245 Knob Hill Lane
Equality, IL 62934

618-275-4494
www.highknobcampground.net

Map 04 - Karbers Ridge Road to Buzzard's Point

Equestrian Wagon Trail

Some parts of this section or the R2R trail have been designated as an equestrian wagon trail by the equestrian community with the permission of the Shawnee National Forest in 2017.

The new wagon trail runs from Double M Campground at 5200 Thacker Hollow Road Junction, Illinois to High Knob Campground at 2245 Knob Hill, Equality Illinois.

The wagon trail leaves out of Double M and connects to old Forest Road 1683 going west. It comes out at Black Ridge Road and turns left to the south on the gravel road until you come to the River to River alternate (Battery Rock Leg) trail and then turns to the right going west. Continue on that trail until you come to the intersection of the main River to River Trail from Elizabethtown and turn to the right and continue west to Knob Hill road. Here the wagons can turn left and travel down Knob Hill Road into High Knob Campground.

The River to River Trail itself goes straight across the road at this point and comes out at High Knob Campground and travels on west toward Garden if the Gods area and then on west towards Herod, Illinois.

The trail is currently 7 miles of scenic and winding wagon trails with the River to River section being between Black Ridge Road and Knob Hill Road.

The trail work was done by the Shawnee Trail Conservancy, Double M Campground and High Knob Campground. Some gravel was supplied by the Forest Service. Work was completed in September 2017 with plans to extend the wagon trail in 2018

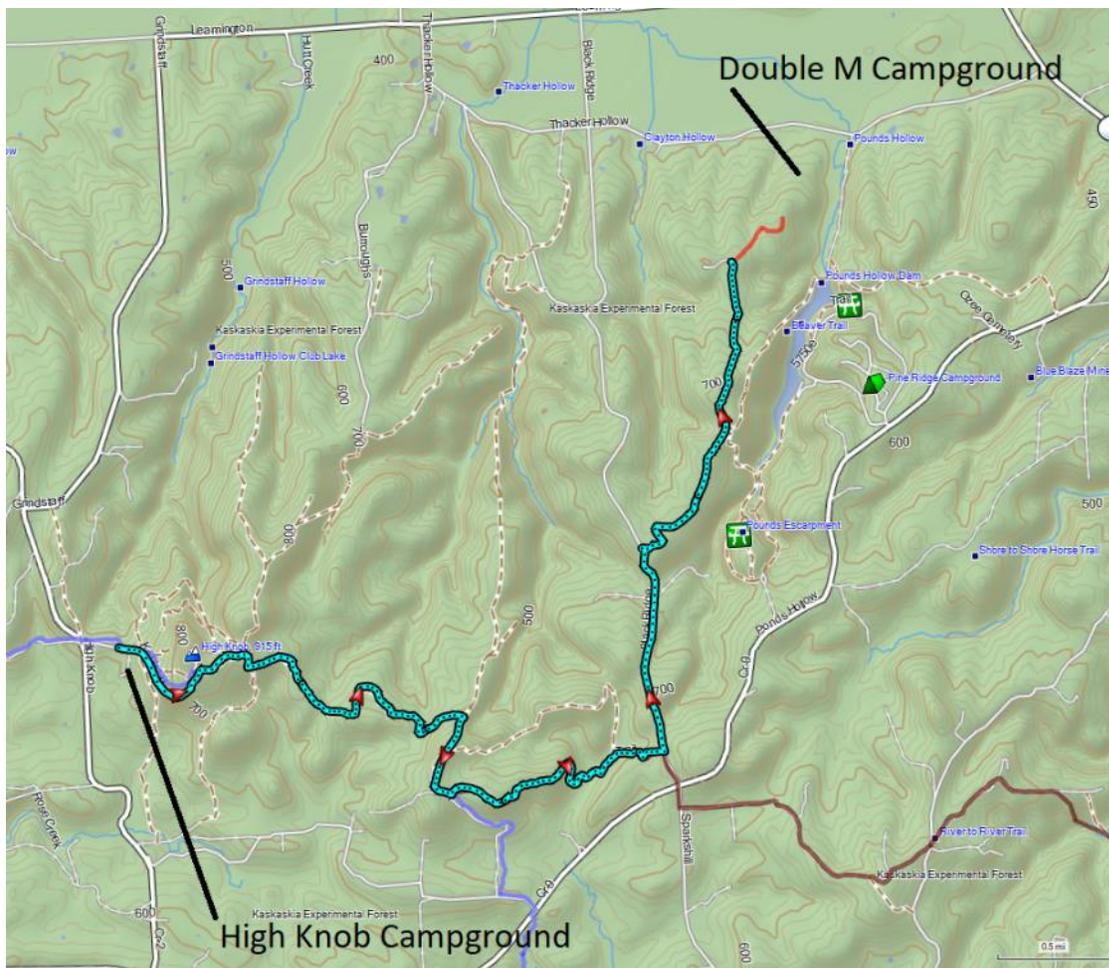
The trail had been widened with drainage added, gravel put down and

pull offs made for passing wagons. The trail does have one small creek crossing that allows for watering of animals that is about 1/2 mile from Black Ridge Road. There is a rest area and turn off near the intersection of the River to River Trail and Knob Hill Road.

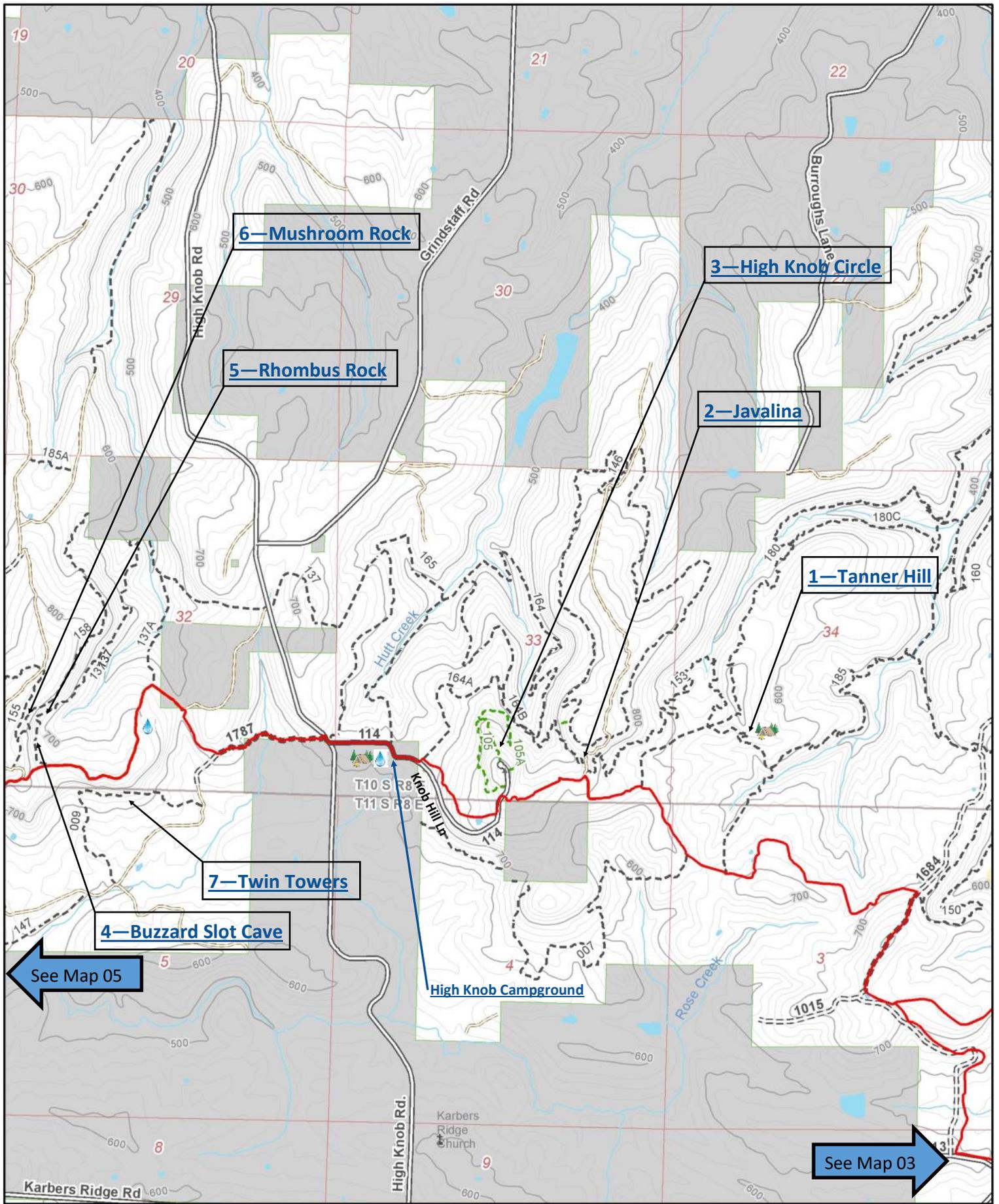
The best day parking for wagon teams is at Double M Campground. There is camping at both ends, High Knob Campground and Double M Campground.

Double M has rental cabins and a restaurant that is open weekends & holidays from the first full weekend in March through November.

High Knob Campground has a store at its office; cabins; campers; and a bunk house; as well as campsites with electric and water; and primitive spots that can be reserved and rented. Also available are a shower house, washer and dryer for laundry, and a horse and mule wash station. Picket lines are allowed in designated areas.



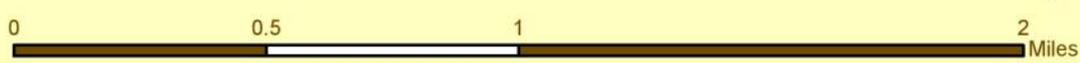
[Return to Table of Contents](#)



See Map 05

See Map 03

Shawnee National Forest River to River Trail Map 04



Map 04 - Supplemental Information

Water Sources along the section

- High Knob Camp Ground, which is frequented by horse riders, is located about 0.6 miles down the road or trail from High Knob and includes a camp store with minimal facilities and supplies. GPS coordinates for the camp are N37° 36.074' W88° 20.064'.
- There is a pond along the trail 0.8 miles west of High Knob Road at GPS coordinates N37° 36.096' W88° 20.905'.

Potential Camping Locations along this section

- High Knob is a great location to camp, but camping isn't allowed at the overlook but it would be on the loop trail. Depart the trail when it crosses High Knob Ln at N37° 35.911' W88° 19.706' and walk uphill for 0.2 miles to the overlook.

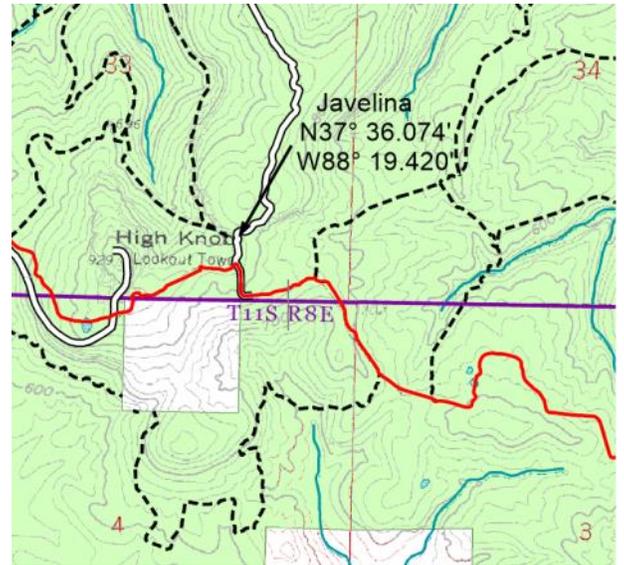
Interesting Side Trips along the section

- 1- Tanner Hill is a horse tie up on a high point near the intersection of trails 153 and 180. It features some minor rock bluffs and formations such as the following. GPS coordinates for it are [37° 36'11" N 88°18'55" W](#).

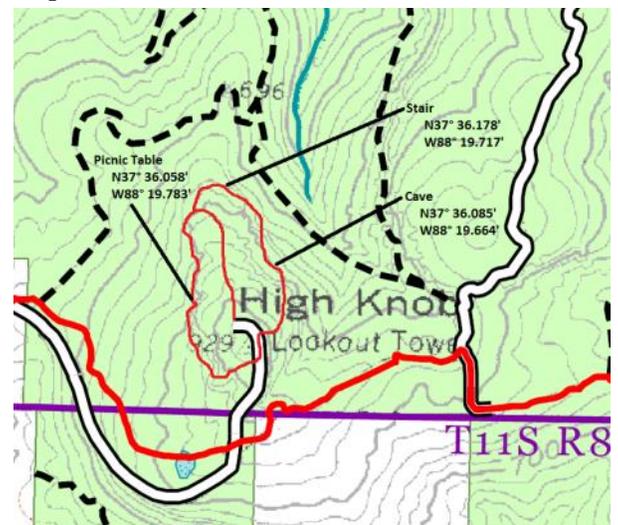


- 2- The ice age Javelina petroglyph ([N37° 36.074' W88° 19.420'](#)) is only a short 500 feet off the trail and definitely worth the side trip. En route you

will also notice some old dwellings along the trail.



- 3- The High Knob circle trail is also a good diversion if you have the time. This trail has segments that go both to the north and the south and each segment by itself is about a mile diversion. The trail to the north features some nice bluffs and once had an old picnic table, whereas the trail to the south includes a little slot cave about 30' deep.



- 4- Buzzard Slot Cave is a slot cave in a rock bluff. The cave goes approximately 30-40 feet back and is only located about 100 yards off the R2R trail along trail 137. The GPS coordinates of the cave are [N37° 36.046' W88° 21.257'](#).
- 5- Rhombus Rock is exactly that. It is a large rock monolith sticking up out of the ground along trail 137 about 0.2 miles north of the R2R trail. It is also a popular lunch stopping place for R2R Trail Society hikes. The GPS coordinates are [N37° 36.133' W88° 21.217'](#).

Law Offices of Watson & Murphy

Attorneys At Law

1312 Jackson Street
Eldorado, IL 62930

618-273-2051

info@watsonandmurphy.com

Map 04 - Supplemental Information

Rhombus Rock



- 6- Mushroom Rock is an interesting rock formation along trail 158 approximately 0.1 miles north of the R2R trail. The GPS coordinates are [N37° 36.086' W88° 21.298'](#) and it looks like this.

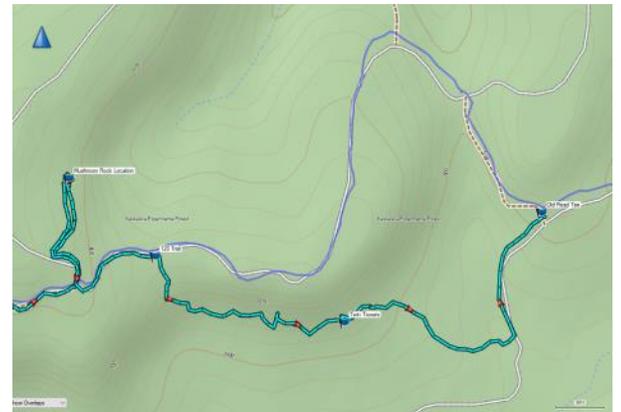


- 7- Twin Towers is a pair of tall slender rock monoliths approximately 400' south of the trail along trail 009. There is a trail down from the R2R marked with a small white sign and identified as trail 120, as shown in the map below. GPS coordinates for this intersection are $N37^{\circ} 36.007'$ $W88^{\circ} 21.180'$. Hiking down from this location requires a 0.3 mile hike back east below the bluff. GPS coordinates of the twin towers

are [N37° 35.942' W88° 20.923'](#). It looks like this:



An alternate route to the twin towers would be to take the old road left and downhill at GPS coordinates $N37^{\circ} 36.051'$ $W88^{\circ} 20.654'$ to trail 009 that goes right by the towers. Trail 120 is an unmarked rock scramble up the hill. Trail 009 follows along some very impressive bluffs compared to the R2R trail.



Map 04 - Supplemental Information

Frequently asked questions along this section

Rim Rock's Dogwood Cabins



Six fully furnished cabins on 77 acres starting at \$100/nt, 8 miles east of Garden of the Gods, across from Rim Rock and .5 mile trail to Battery Rock leg of R2R. 100's of miles of hiking right outside your cabin. WiFi, Satellite TV, Free Firewood.

798 Karbers Ridge Rd, Elizabethtown IL 62931
618-264-6036
www.rimrocksdogwoodcabins.com

High Knob Campground

2245 Knob Hill Lane
 Equality, Illinois 62934

www.highknobcampground.net

Call for information or reservations
 618-275-4494

Mileage	Surface	Location Description
14.4	Trail	Karber's Ridge Road Crossing
15.3	Trail	Intersection w/ Orig R2R trail from Camp Cadiz and Battery Rock
17.3	Trail	Javelina side trip
17.6	Trail	Knob Hill Lane Crossing
18.1	Trail	High Knob Camp Store
18.3	Trail	High Knob Road Crossing
19.9	Trail	Buzzard's Point
20.1	Trail	Garden of the Gods Road Crossing

Zoom 14.4 miles equates to 0.0 on the graph below



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Map 05 - Buzzard Rock to Garden of the Gods Wilderness**Map 06 - Garden of the Gods Wilderness to Benham Ridge Road**

In John O'Dell's words, one of the best-known attractions of Southern Illinois is Garden of the Gods. It has been called one of the top twenty photogenic Scenic places in the United States. The geologic formations have exotic representations of various objects such as Camel Rock, but there is also a monkey, a duck and who knows what else. You must leave the R2R trail to find the observation trail but it is well worth the detour. In addition, the area is largely surrounded by the Garden of the Gods Wilderness so the view inside and outside makes for a special trip. There are many tourists present during the summer and fall but at other times there are very few visitors. Even so, this is one place where you will probably want to return frequently.

Be conscious, however, that Garden of the Gods Wilderness is subject to a Forest Service Closure Order which restricts groups within the Wilderness area to no more than ten hikers, or ten riders. (The Order does not cover the adjacent Recreation Area including the observation trail and Pharaoh Campground). Violation of this Order carries criminal penalties, and unless you have previously obtained a written waiver from the FS, you must abide by it.

Map 05 starts midway between High Knob Road and Garden of the Gods Road. The trail continues west toward Buzzards Point and the variety of different rock formations in the area. In this short 1.8 mile hike you can go a short ways off trail to see the twin towers, mushroom rock, rhombus rock, and all of the slot canyons / shelters associated with buzzard point. This is also an edge of a ridge that on the west side has a cliff side trail (154) with a Natural Bridge / Arch and plenty of big boulders. In some of the rock shelters there will be slots on the roof (a slot canyon) and if you make your way to the top, there will be a wonderful view from the top of Buzzards Point. Once on top you can follow trail 155 east back down to the

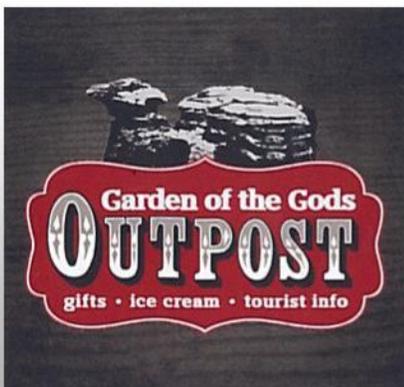
R2R trail. Once you are ready to leave the Buzzard Point area it is only a short 0.2 mile walk to the Garden of the Gods road crossing.

The 1.5 mile hike to back packers parking lot is mostly just a walk in the woods until you start following a bluff after about 1.25 miles. Shortly after starting to follow the bluff you will reach Garden of the Gods natural arch. From there you continue to follow the bluffs below the camp ground for 0.1 miles and the turn left to head into Backpacker's Parking lot. Upon entering the lot the trail immediately turns right. The original R2R trail continued along the bluffs until the trail hit the road where it crossed on a dangerous curve.

The Pharaoh campground, located at Garden of the Gods, is just east of the observation trail parking lot. It has a nice view, but only 12 camp sites that have lots of exploring around them as well as being in such a nice setting. The campgrounds are equipped with vault toilets and water is available.

The Backpackers' parking lot, on the left when driving or hiking the R2R trail toward the observation trail, it is handy for day hikes or week end trips. A beautiful trail at the back of the backpackers' lot is the Indian Point Trail which is only 2.1 miles long but it is very beautiful.

In the Garden of the Gods recreation area, make certain you follow the contour maps and trails closely because there are numerous other trails. In addition don't try to second guess this area because Mother Nature can play tricks on you with such rapidly changing topography.



**** Ice Cream ** Shakes ** Cold Drinks ****
**** Gifts ** T-Shirts ** Pressed Pennies ****
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**** Kayak Rentals ** Archery Golf ****

Karbers Ridge Road and Garden of the Gods Road
 Herod, Illinois

(618) 264-9091

www.timberidgeoutpost.com

Map 05 - Buzzard Rock to Garden of the Gods Wilderness

Map 06 - Garden of the Gods Wilderness to Benham Ridge Road

Inside the sandstone are concentrations of iron ore from marine creatures living millions of years ago which form the whorls that are a prominent part of all this areas sandstone, and in Garden of the God's particularly. During the Civil War this ore was refined at a spot not far from here called "Iron Furnace:" Undoubtedly the Mound City Shipyards, located about 100 miles to the South, used some of this product in constructing the iron clad boats that helped change the course of the civil war.

The trail from Garden of the Gods is started from backpackers parking lot. The trail heads northwest from the parking lot paralleling the road. Plan ahead because it is about a 6 mile hike to Herod. The first 0.3 miles runs along the top of a bluff to the left with a few overlooks. There are also several popular camping spots along this area because of the close proximity to parking. About 0.7 miles down the trail you will come to the intersection with trail 001A where a short detour is available to see the Big H, a well-known natural formation. Look high and to the right about 0.3 miles from the trail. The trail continues through the woods until you get to the Garden of the Gods wilderness overlook which is the halfway point in your trip to Herod. This overlook is also a very popular camping area. The trail between the overlook and Herod is a walk in the woods with a few bluffs here and there. At about the 5 mile mark, the trail will turn to the left and start heading downhill to Gape Hollow Road about a half mile above Herod. Turn left and walk down the left side of the blacktop the half mile into Herod. If you had chosen to go straight you would have been on trail 001E which goes to the Hitching Post parking lot on Gape Hollow Road about a half mile north of where the R2R trail emerges onto the blacktop.

There is a trail going North from the Hitching Post that is part of the Crest Trail. It goes to Stone Face and to the Tecumseh Statue at the Saline County Conservation Area.

The Blacktop road into Herod can be dangerous because there are no shoulders and coal trucks may be hauling that day. Imagine a scout troop walking six or eight abreast down this hill and several coal trucks coming up behind them. It is **IMPERATIVE** to walk single file and be alert. It is a short distance to Herod upon leaving the woods, so this fact alone has probably saved lives.

Behind the Post Office in Herod is the Herod Springs Baptist Church which is the location of the John O'Dell Memorial along the trail. Be sure to check it out. The memorial was dedicated on August 13, 2022. The Herod Springs Baptist Church is a good friend to hikers, and sets out water and snacks for their use in a cooler near the shelter.



Shawnee Treasures

*Drinks *T-shirts *Souvenirs *Local Info

*Beautiful Wood Art

Created from native wood that is grown near the Garden of Gods

Located minutes from the River-to-River Trail on Garden of Gods Road



Look for Oliver the Buffalo and a Real Tee-Pee



Map 05 - Buzzard Rock to Garden of the Gods Wilderness**Map 06 - Garden of the Gods Wilderness to Benham Ridge Road**

At Herod, there is a post office with limited hours but no store in town. The trail turns right to cross the bridge, and then immediately turns left or south on Williams Hill Road. At one time the third house from the highway had a fountain of spring water and a sign. This was good water but no longer available. It flowed from a spring with no chemicals. Herod is located on HWY 34 north of Karber's Ridge Blacktop and can be identified by the post office building. Just north of town is the remnants of a building built into the side of the cliff known as Faerie Cliff, next to a nice rock shelter with a picnic table.

Heading west from Herod is the first long section of road walking with a 2 mile hike to where the trail enters the woods on the left to head to Benham Ridge Road and One Horse Gap. The trail leaves the road at GPS coordinates N37° 33.667' W88° 27.288'.

Once in the woods it is a 1 mile hike uphill to Benham Ridge Road. At the road the R2R trail turns left for about 100 yards and then turns right onto trail 121. Along trail 121 you will be following the top of a bluff which overlooks a canyon known locally as the "Promised Land".

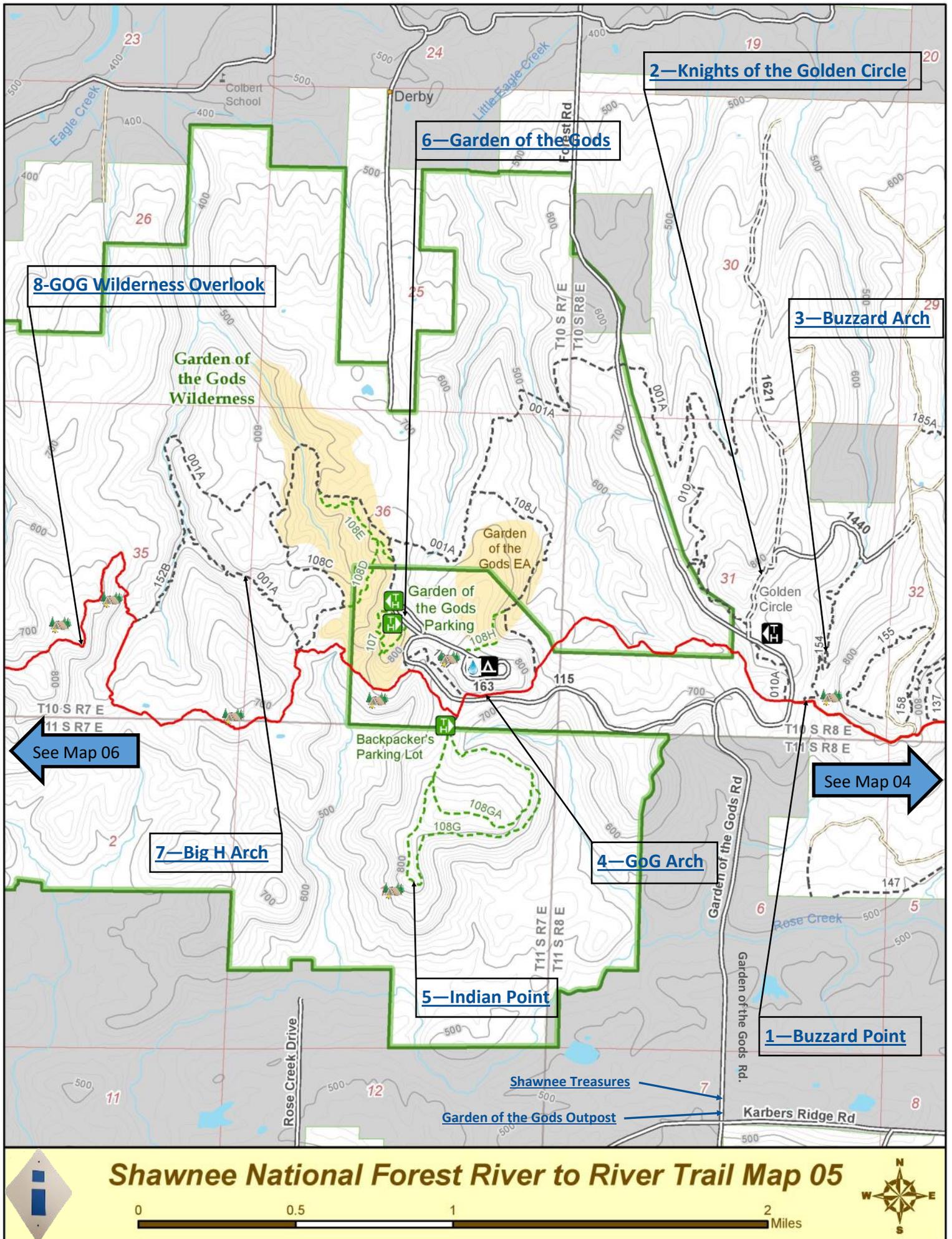
A good one day hike on the trail is to start at the edge of Garden of the Gods near Buzzard Point and hike all the way to Herod. This ends up being almost a 9 mile hike, including one 0.6 mile side trip to the Big "H".

The easiest way to find Garden of the Gods road by car is from its junction with Karber's Ridge Road which runs east-west between HWY 1 and HWY 34 south of Herod. At HWY 1 Karber's Ridge is marked as Pounds Hollow Road. Garden of the Gods Road, also known as Forest Road, runs north from Karber's Ridge Road passing Garden of the Gods and Glen O' Jones Lake (Saline County State Fish and Wildlife Area) before ending in the village of Equality.

For a good weekend trip, the hiker should consider High Knob to Circle B Ranch (Lusk Creek Trailhead across from Circle B Ranch) because he can go from the vista on High Knob to Garden of the Gods, to One Horse Gap to Little Lusk to Lusk Creek Canyon which is spectacular.



Group photo from the Trail Society's Spring 2016 Three Arches Hike. Taken at Buzzard Point Overlook.



2—Knights of the Golden Circle

6—Garden of the Gods

8—GOG Wilderness Overlook

3—Buzzer Arch

See Map 06

See Map 04

7—Big H Arch

4—GoG Arch

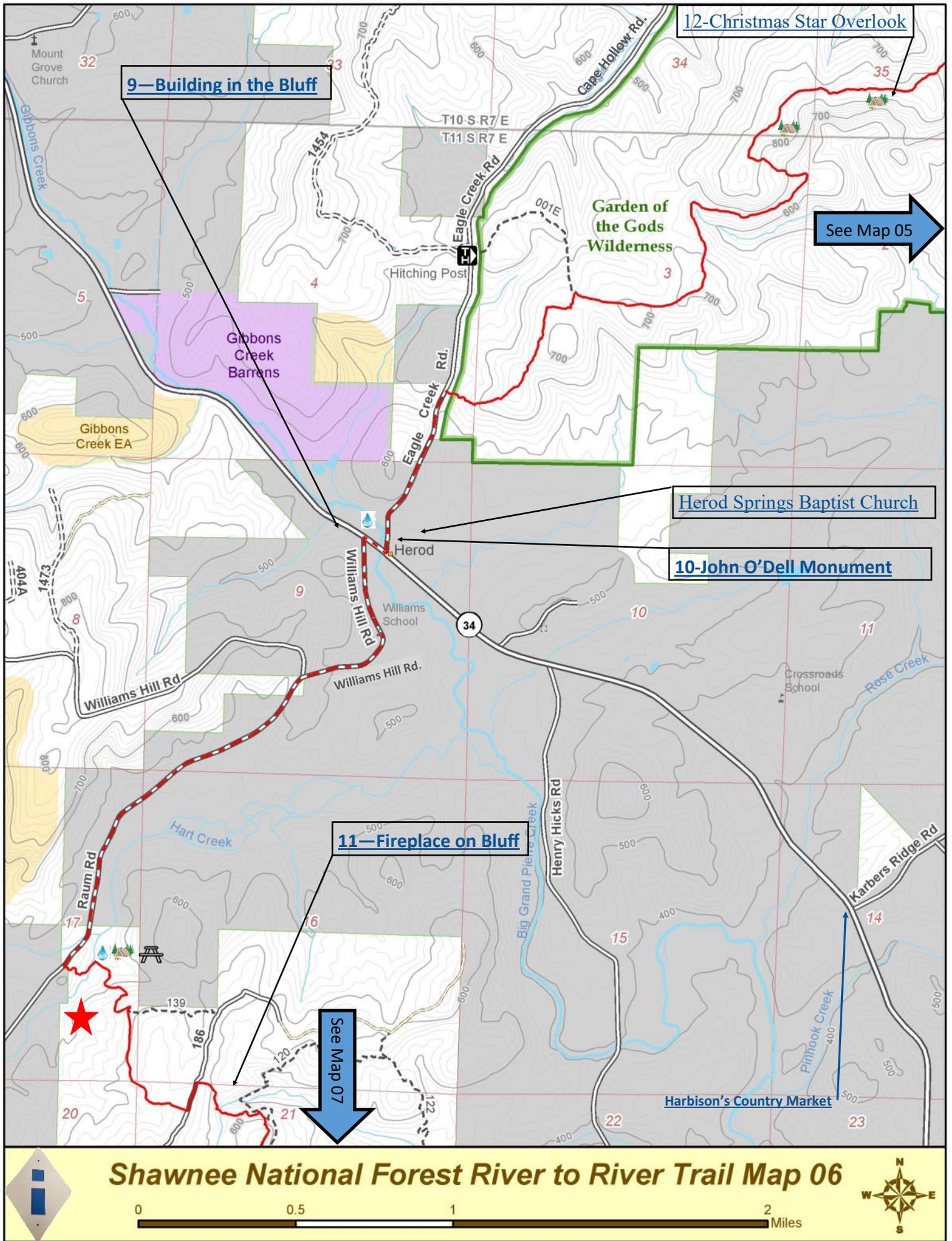
5—Indian Point

1—Buzzer Point

Shawnee National Forest River to River Trail Map 05

0 0.5 1 2 Miles





9—Building in the Bluff

12—Christmas Star Overlook

See Map 05

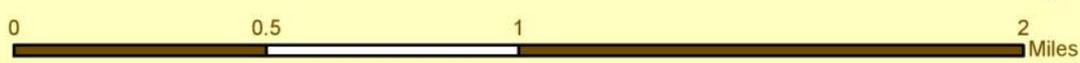
Herod Springs Baptist Church

10—John O'Dell Monument

11—Fireplace on Bluff

See Map 07

Shawnee National Forest River to River Trail Map 06



Map 05 and 06 - Supplemental Information

Water Sources along the section

- Pharaoh campground located in the heart of Garden of the Gods.
- The creek along Gape Hollow Road is usually wet.
- Herod Baptist Church has a fridge under the pavilion filled with water and snacks for hikers.

Potential Camping Locations along this section

- Pharaoh campground
- Indian Point is 0.6 miles off trail but a very popular camping spot.
- Along the first half of the trail to Herod there are numerous frequently used campsites. They are very popular on the weekend for overnight camping.

Interesting Side Trips along the section

- (1) Buzzard's Point area has a lot of interesting features to explore from the nooks and caves at the base of the bluff to the view from the top of the bluff. The trail to the top of the bluff is only 0.2 miles and easily accessed by going to the right. It is located right on the R2R trail and there is also a horse tie up at this location. The GPS coordinates are [N37° 36.035' W88° 21.518'](#) and it looks like this:



- (2) Knights of the Golden Circle is another unique rock formation that consists of 2 natural arches. This secluded natural amphitheater was reportedly a meeting place for copperheads and southern sympathizers during the civil war. This is the first of the three arches included in the Society's Three Arches hike. This is located approximately 0.3 miles north of the R2R trail at GPS coordinates [N37° 36.436' W88° 21.822'](#). The problem getting there is that there isn't a direct trail from the R2R trail to access

it. The site looks like the following photo:



- (3) Buzzard Arch is located 0.2 miles down trail 154 to the north of the R2R trail. Trail 154 intersects the R2R trail just past Buzzards Point. This is the second of the three arches that is included in the Society's Three Arches hike when it is offered. The GPS coordinates are [N37° 36.184' W88° 21.549'](#).



- (4) Garden of the Gods Natural Arch is located right along the R2R trail just as you start hiking between the bluff and the road into Garden of the Gods. This is the third of the three arches included in the Society's Three Arches hike. The GPS coordinates are [N37° 36.090' W88° 22.696'](#).



Map 05 and 06 - Supplemental Information

- (5) Indian Point Trail is a 2.1 mile loop that heads south out of the backpacker parking lot. The trail starts with a 0.6 mile walk through the woods to a great rocky lookout, followed by 0.8 mile below a bluff line that features numerous nooks and caves and end with a 0.7 mile hike through the woods back to the parking lot. Camping at the point is very popular. GPS coordinates for backpackers parking lot are [N37° 36.050' W88° 22.865'](#).
- (6) Garden of the Gods Observation Trail is the prominent feature of the recreation area and is about 0.3 miles up the road when the R2R trail crosses Garden of the Gods Road at GPS coordinates [N37° 36.150' W88° 23.033'](#). The 0.25 mile observation trail features many unique sites such as Camel Rock, Table Rock, and Devil's Smokestack.



- (7) The Big H is a unique pair of natural rock arches that resembles the capital "H" letter. The formation is 0.3 miles north of the R2R trail along trail 001A. It is located at GPS coordinates [N37° 36.403' W88° 23.610'](#) and looks like this:



- (8) The Garden of the Gods (GoG) Wilderness overlook has fantastic view of the wilderness. It is also a very popular camping spot. It is located right on the trail at GPS coordinates [N37° 36.184' W88°](#)

[24.173'](#) and has this view:



- (9) Building in the Bluff is just north of the R2R trail and the town of Herod, along HWY 34. This ruin was once a two story building that once housed the Faerie Cliff restaurant and later served as editorial office of Springhouse magazine. To access it continue hiking about 0.1 miles north of where you turn left on Williams Hill Road. It also includes a small shelter bluff. GPS coordinates are [N37° 35.022' W88° 26.520'](#).



- (10) John O'Dell Memorial was purchased and installed and dedicated in 2022. The dedication occurred on August 13, 2022 and was attended by about 90 people including many members of his family. See photos on next page. GPS coordinates are [N37° 34.828' W88° 26.166'](#). Be sure to check out both sides of the monument.

Harblson's Country Market

Route 34 and Karber's Ridge Road
Herod, IL 62947

618-264-2091

Map 05 and 06 - Supplemental Information

- A few photos of the dedication event



John's wife and brother unveil the monument with his family watching.



John's wife Marilee with the monument



The crowd in attendance

For additional information, please see the article for the event on the [societies website](#).

- (11) The fireplace is a remnant from an old homestead of some type. It is about 350 feet south of the trail along an unmarked trail. It is right on top of a bluff overlooking trail 120 and the valley sometimes referred to as the Promised Land. The GPS coordinates are [N37° 33.333' W88° 26.667'](#) and it looks like this.



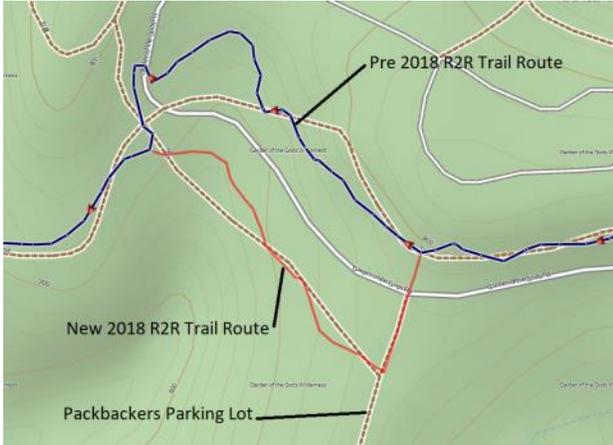
- (12) Christmas Star Overlook is just an overlook with campsite. The star has been there many years and when originally hung it had solar powered lights on it. The GPS coordinates are [37° 36.107' - 88° 24.489'](#) and looks like this.



Map 05 and 06 - Supplemental Information

Changes to the R2R trail

- 2017 see changes described in chapter four.
- 2018 A small reroute was done to make the Garden of the Gods Road crossing safer for Equestrian riders. Hikers may want to consider the original route along the more scenic bluffs.



- Is it Buzzards “Point” or “Roost”? Based on 1973 maps I’ve been given it is “Point” and Guide reflects that.

Frequently asked questions along this section

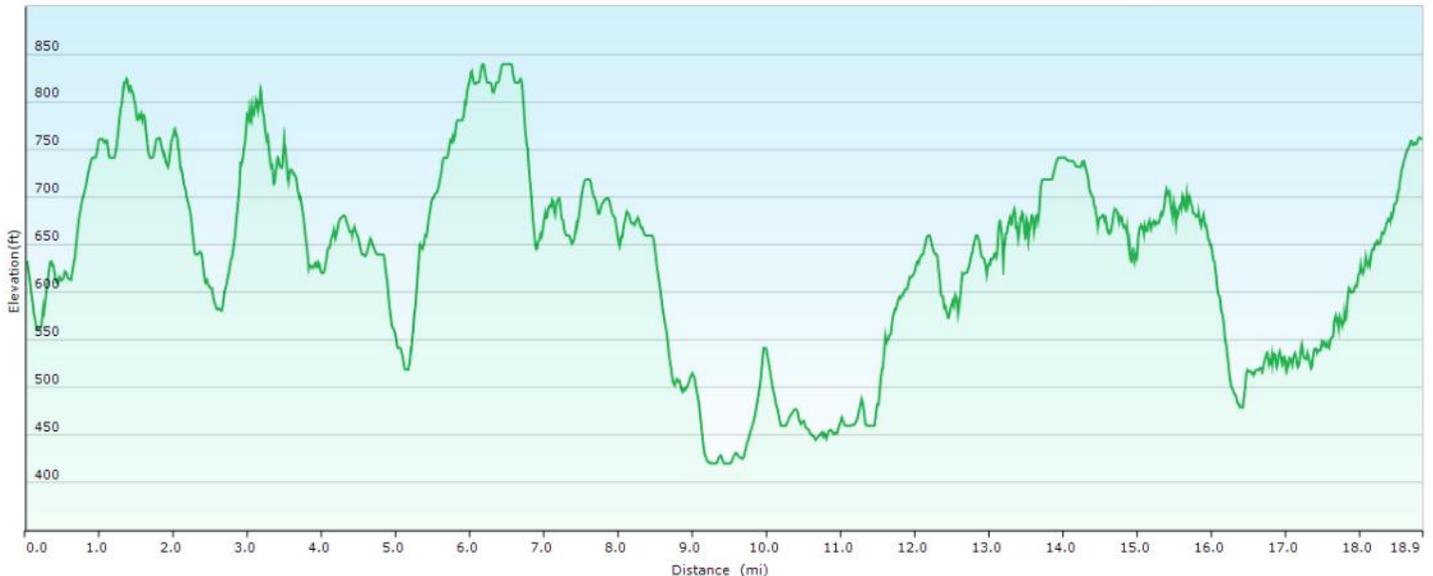
Need a break:

- Herod Springs Baptist Church, 934 State Highway 34, Herod, IL 62947 has a pavilion located behind the church that they welcome hikers to utilize if needed. Included in the pavilion is a small fridge with a few drinks. Feel free to leave something in the fridge for when you arrive. The church is located at GPS Coordinates [N37° 34.851' W88° 26.144'](#).

- ★ Don’t follow the fire line straight up the hill, the switchbacks do exist.

Mileage	Surface	Location Description
18.3	Trail	High Knob Road Crossing
19.9	Trail	Buzzard's Point
20.1	Trail	Garden of the Gods Road Crossing
21.6	Trail	Garden of the Gods Backpackers parking lot
22.4	Trail	Intersection w/ Trail 001A to Big H
24.1	Trail	Overlook
27.1	Trail	Gape Hollow Road Intersection
27.7	Road	Herod
29.7	Road	Williams Hill Road / Start of One Horse Gap Trail
31.2	Trail	Benham Ridge Road Dead End
37.3	Trail	Benham Ridge Road West Crossing

Zoom 18.3 miles equates to 0.0 on the graph below



Map 07 - Benham Ridge Road to Bethesda Church

The One Horse Gap Section really starts in the middle of map 6 at the town of Herod along HWY 34. HWY 34 passes through Herod going from Harrisburg toward Elizabethtown. Hiking from Herod is a 2.0 mile road walk. Just west of the HWY 34 bridge at Herod, the trail turns south on Williams Hill Road. After 0.6 miles Williams Hill Road turns right, but the trail continues to the left on Raum road. While walking on Raum road, you will cross a bridge and start up a small hill. Then 0.1 miles from the bridge the markers will be found at the forest edge on the east side. The GPS coordinates are N37° 33.661' W88° 27.287'.

Williams Hill, the highest point in Southern Illinois at 1064 feet, is about two miles away. Wamble Mountain (942 feet) lies across HWY 34 from Williams Hill, but Williams Hill is higher than either Wamble or Eagle Mountain (765 feet) or even the more famous Bald Knob (1030 feet) in Union County.

After leaving Raum Road, the trail crosses Hart Creek and proceeds on a slow climb up the hill to Benham Ridge. When climbing uphill, please help to prevent erosion by using the switchbacks provided, instead of walking straight up the fire break. After reaching the top of the ridge, the trail will turn left for about 100 yards before it turns right and then merges with Shawnee NF 121 and proceeds along the top of the bluff on the west side of an area known as the "Promised Land". The trail goes generally downhill and crosses a creek at the top of a water fall and proceeds to the top of the ridge. Follow the top of a bluff on the left to a parking lot near the intersection of Shawnee NF trails 120, 121, 169, 170, and an old forest road. This parking lot can be accessed at the end of Benham Ridge road and is popular with campers and hunters in season.

From the parking lot, the official trail follows Shawnee NF trail 170 west along the top of a bluff. When considering the 2017 reroute, the SNF and Trail Society team considered rerouting along either trails 170 or 169 both of which are parallel to each other. Unlike trail 170, trail 169 follows the base of the 1 mile long 60-70 foot tall bluff. As a result, trail 169 could be considered a very scenic alternate route for the R2R trail. On either end, the trail for 169 is just 50 yards further down the forest road from where trail 170 is accessed.

At the west end of trails 170 and 169 the R2R trail takes an old forest road (186F) back up to Benham Ridge road, where it turns left. After about 0.3 miles the trail leaves the road at GPS coordinates N37° 32.238' W88° 27.046' and follows existing Shawnee

NF trail 145 until it merges with the previous R2R trail route at GPS coordinates N37° 31.918' W88° 27.173'. From there the trail follows the base of the ridge along the rock facing. The rock shelters that are found here were used by Indians, so be on the alert for artifacts in the trail tread.

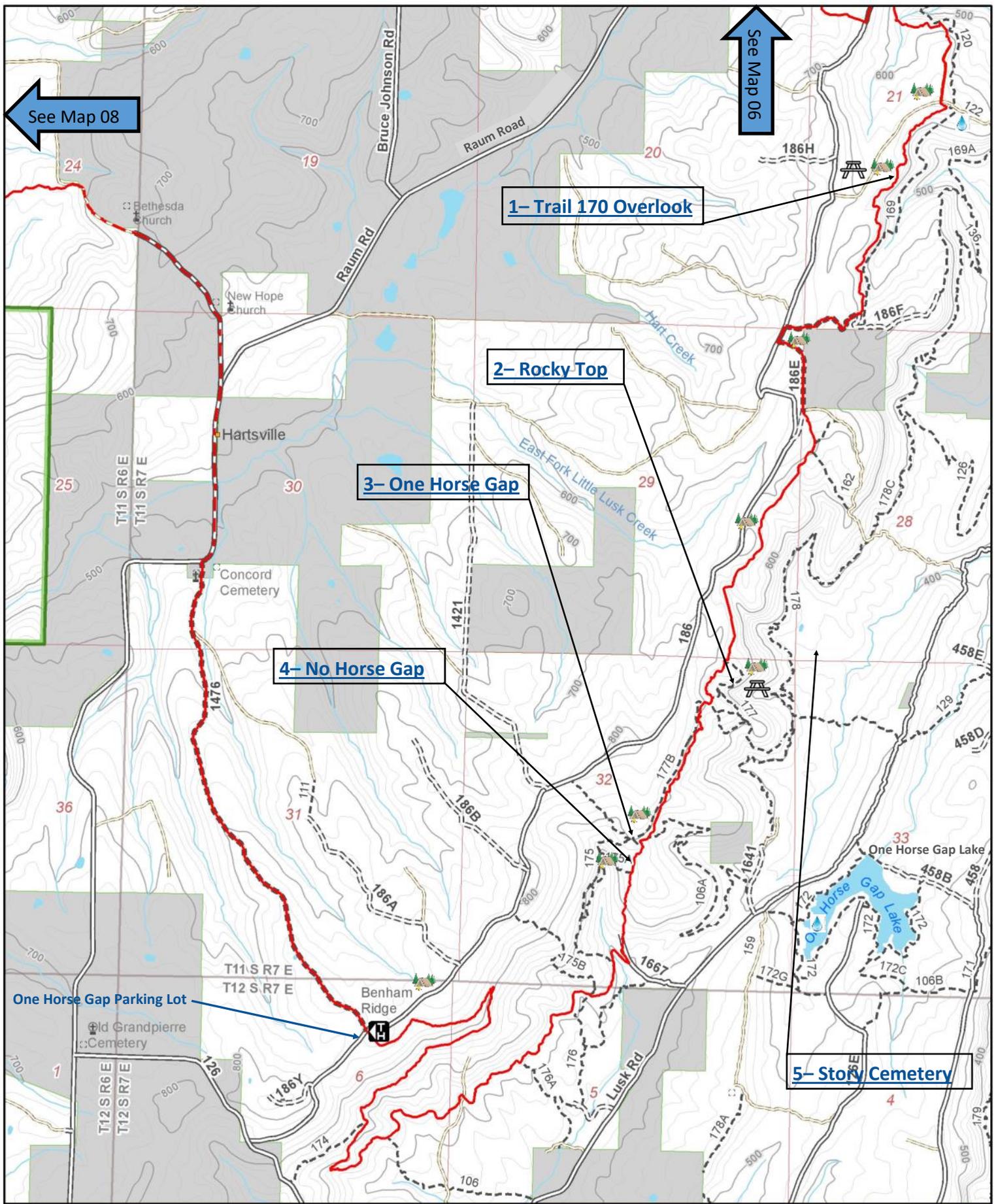
The largest shelter is only about 0.2 miles from the end of trail 145 and the popular overlook known as Rocky Top is reached after another 0.2 miles. Rocky Top is about 100 yards off the trail to the left. Look for the overhead horse tie-ups. Enjoy the spectacular view. After you leave Rocky Top you are only 0.7 miles from the next landmark, which is a walkable separation in the bluffs on your right. This is about the only convenient way to access the ridge top for some distance. This is One Horse Gap, but the trail continues without going through One Horse Gap. The rock bluffs only go a short distance farther before the trail goes down a 150 foot tall hill.

There is a loop off the trail that leads to a small trail that goes along the cliff's edge, and is beautiful. This was one of John O'Dell's favorite trails. Also as you pass One Horse Gap, to your right will be a big rock leaning on another. Underneath is a passage to a little valley behind it and this is No Horse Gap. In the valley is a big rock shelter, and if wet, a small waterfall. Eureka!! A great camping spot. Return to the trail the way you went in.

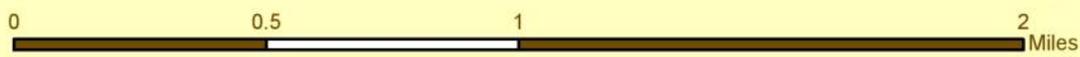
At the bottom of the valley the trail just starts back up the hill to Benham Ridge road. In about 2012-2013 the trail was rerouted to slowly climb the hill over a 1.8 mile switch back instead of going straight up the 300 foot tall hill. It is now a 3 mile hike from One Horse Gap to Benham Ridge road via the R2R trail. When you get to Benham Ridge road, turn right and go about 200 yards where there will be a trail along an old road bed to the left, going north leading to Concord Cemetery. This is a 1.7 mile walk downhill to the cemetery.

Benham Ridge road parallels the trail along top of the ridge. If you know it, however, you can drive down this road until you find a sign on the trees marking trail 175 down to the gap. John O'Dell put the original marker up because he was taking so many people back to the Gap. But you must look hard to see it on your right hand side as you drive north.

Herod to Concord Cemetery is now about 10.4 miles. One Horse Gap Lake and 34 Ranch are within a mile east of the Gap.



Shawnee National Forest River to River Trail Map 07



Map 07 - Supplemental Information

Water Sources along the section

- Water sources along this section are very intermittent. The only reliable year round source would be to hike down to One Horse Gap Lake, which is well over a mile off trail, so plan ahead.

Potential Camping Locations along this section

- There are several ideal camping spots in the two miles of trail before arriving at One Horse gap. Consult the map for marked locations.

Interesting Side Trips along the section

- (1) Trail 170 Overlook has a fairly good view of the valley looking toward Rose Creek and Blackmans Cemetery Road. It is also a horse tie-up and popular camping location. The GPS coordinates are [37°32'50" N 88°26'45" W](#).
- (2) Rocky Top is an great overlook along the trail with a great view to the south. From this spot one can see War Bluff 5 miles to the Southwest. It is just 100 yards off the trail at the horse tie-up. GPS coordinates are [N37° 31.532' W88° 27.208'](#). Below is a group of hikers enjoying the view during a 2017 Society hike.



- (3) One Horse Gap is adjacent to the trail but the trail doesn't go through the gap. It is highly recommended that hikers go up the gap and explore the rock barrens on top of the bluff but they will need to come back down to resume the trail. The gap is well marked and there is a horse tie up at this location. Shawnee NF trail 175 is a 0.3 mile route up to Benham Ridge road but there is no parking except along the road. The GPS coordinates are [N37° 31.094' W88° 27.553'](#) and a view of the gap from the

trail looks like this.



- (4) No Horse Gap is just 100 yds west of One Horse gap along the trail and is basically a hole in the rocks that takes you into the large rocks and passages below the Gap's rock barrens. During a rainy period, there is also an intermittent waterfall at the back end of the canyon. GPS coordinates are [N37° 31.044' W88° 27.572'](#). The following photo shows hikers walking through the gap that is too small for horses.



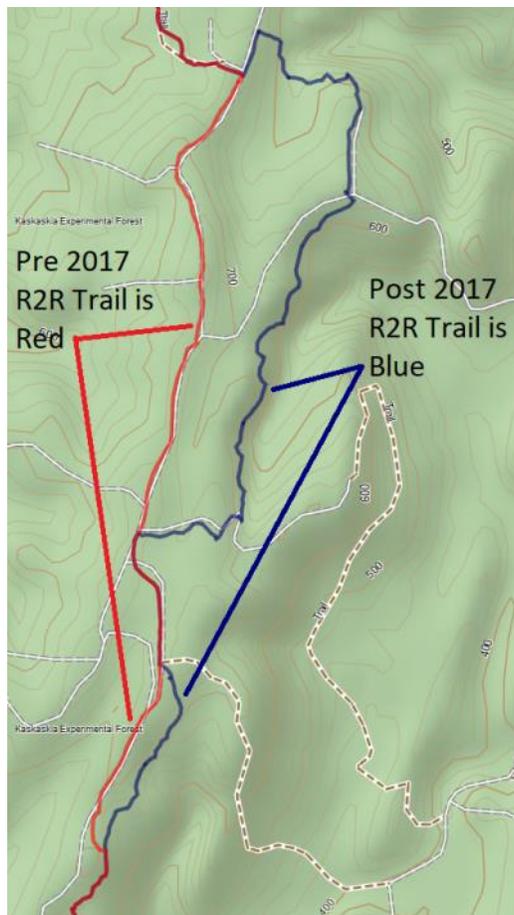
- (5) Story Cemetery is at GPS coordinates [N37° 31.617' W88° 26.999'](#).



Map 07 - Supplemental Information

Changes to the R2R trail

- 2017 the trail was rerouted at the east end of the section to remove 1.8 miles of the trail from Benham Ridge road and move it to 2.5 miles of existing Shawnee National Forest trails 121, 170 and 145.



- 2014 the trail was rerouted on the west end of the section to eliminate a very steep portion of trail that was difficult to maintain due to wash-

outs. The new trail removed a 0.4 mile steep section and replaced it with a 1.6 mile trail that gradually goes up the same hill.



Frequently asked questions along this section

Mileage	Surface	Location Description
27.7	Road	Herod
29.7	Road	Herod Road / Start of One Horse Gap Trail
31.2	Trail	Benham Ridge Road Dead End
33.6	Trail	Rocky Top
34.3	Trail	One Horse Gap
37.3	Trail	Benham Ridge Road West Crossing
39.1	Trail	Concord Cemetery
40.2	Road	Bethesda Cemetery - East Entrance to Lusk Creek

Zoom 27.7 miles equates to 0.0 on the graph below



[Return to Table of Contents](#)

Map 08 - Bethesda Church to Owl Bluff

Map 09 - Owl Bluff to Eddyville

Between Concord Cemetery and Bethesda Church is about a mile of road walking. There isn't a Forest Service parking lot at Bethesda Church so parking is limited. The trail heads into the woods, and proceeds slowly downhill for about 1.3 miles to cross Little Lusk Creek. It then heads south parallel to the creek for another 0.9 miles before it intersects with the trail as it existed prior to 2011. At the end of this section there will be a creek entering from the west where you will see some small rock bluffs. During a visit to this area in 2017, there was also a lot of beaver activity along the creek and trail. It is at this creek intersection where the trail was rerouted in 2019. The old trail continued south along the Little Lusk Creek and still may be visible since it is an old road, but don't follow it.

After leaving the creek, the trail starts climbing from elevation 475 feet to 750 feet along a 3.0 mile long gradual climb on a new trail which has several switchbacks to follow the contours. Near the end of the 3 miles or about a 1/4 mile before the intersection with trail 425 there are several historic rock walls about 150' south of the trail. At the intersection with trail 425 the R2R crosses it and continues through the woods on the new reroute that the Forest Service opened in 2016. This new trail is no longer along an old Forest Service road. These 2 new reroutes add 1.9 miles to the entire Lusk Creek section.

After leaving the new 2016 trail you will arrive at the Owl Bluff horse tie up. This is a definite stopping point, so follow the trails 100 yards down to the great vista at the bluff. After leaving Owl Bluff, the trail proceeds about a half mile before it drops steeply to the Lusk Creek crossing often called Bowed Tree crossing. After crossing Lusk Creek, the trail follows Little Bear Branch Creek for a couple hundred yards before making a switchback to start the climb out of Lusk Creek Valley.

It is about 2 miles from the creek to the Forest Service parking lot along New Home Road which is often referred to as the Lusk Creek or Circle B trailhead (a reference to the nearby horse camp which changed hands in 2023 and now goes by Trailhead Hideaway Campground.) After going through the parking lot the trail becomes a little confusing. The first trail to the left which should be labeled 001B, is a short cut that goes straight downhill to where the trail comes out near the spot where New Home Road crosses Bear Branch Creek. The official trail continues straight west for about a half mile where it intersects Bear Branch Creek and then follows the creek back to New Home Road. Along this section, the trail loops very close to HWY 145. A horse trail exits right to cross the highway towards the Double Branch horse camp.

Continue down the road and after 1.3 miles you will cross HWY145 and enter the outskirts of Eddyville at the north edge. After crossing HWY145 the trail will pass the [Shotgun Eddys](#) (see AD below) which is on Straight Street. The trail zigzags through town by going down Straight Street to Jefferson, turning right on Jefferson Street for one block, then turning left on Main Street for a block before finally turning right on Washington Street. The trail heads west on Washington and reenters the forest on the west edge of Eddyville. Washington turns right a quarter mile before you find the trail straight ahead of you. The post office is in downtown Eddyville and the trail goes directly past it. The former Shawnee Mart convenience store is on HWY145 about 3 blocks south of where the trail heads west on Washington Street. This store is easy to find and a good meeting place. The store closed in 2019.

SHOTGUN EDDYS



Shotgun Eddys
510 Straight Street
Eddyville, Illinois

618-672-EDDY (3339)

www.shotguneddys.com

If you're out and about in the Shawnee National Forest . . .

Stop in for some good food, drink and company!

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

Map 08 - Bethesda Church to Owl Bluff**Map 09 - Owl Bluff to Eddyville**

The Lusk Creek Canyon area within the Lusk Creek Wilderness is among the most beautiful in the world. In order to see the best of it you must leave the trail in the middle and travel to the north or south when you come to Lusk Creek. By following the contour maps or supplemental instructions below you should be able to see some of the reason why this area is a National Scenic Landmark. Indian Kitchen, a great overlook where nothing man-made can be seen, a natural bridge, and plenty more will reward someone who may wish to take more than a day hiking this area.

The Indian Kitchen is a prominent feature of Lusk Creek Canyon Nature Preserve, but hiking to the bottom of the canyon from the trail is a significant endeavor and is not recommended because there is no trail. Indian Kitchen is best visited by making the 2 mile hike in from the trailhead on Indian Kitchen Road. When you reach the top of the bluff above the hairpin turn in Lusk Creek, you can continue part way downhill to where a small path to the right leads to Indian Kitchen proper, which is a small cave or the niche in the cliff about 100 feet above the creek. This path is only for the agile and brave. We are not kidding a bit. The trail along the face of the cliff is only 18-24 inches wide. Rather than risk a long fall, you might want to let someone tell you about it while you continue on down, down, down to the creek bank and watch the birds fly around and the echoes resonate around the canyon. As you continue downhill, you may see the remnants of a prehistoric rock wall, built by Indians of the Late Woodland Period. There once was a balanced rock along the trail but someone probably tested his strength against its fragility. Indians probably passed there thousands of times, but John O'Dell saw the rock standing there about fifty years ago.

Concord Cemetery to Eddyville is now about 15 miles. To fully explore this beautiful area takes about 2 days.

Because Lusk Creek is a dedicated Wilderness area, the trail through it will be less heavily marked than it is in non-wilderness areas. The familiar white markers bearing a blue "i" will instead be replaced by non-contrasting brown wooden markers with the "i" carved into them. Moreover, they will be less frequent, typically appearing only at trail junctions. The hiker must therefore keep a sharp lookout for them. A map and compass, or a GPS, are a must. This is probably the easiest section of the entire trail for a hiker to lose his way. The decision to employ these natural wooden markers was made by Congress, and the Trail Society has no control over it.

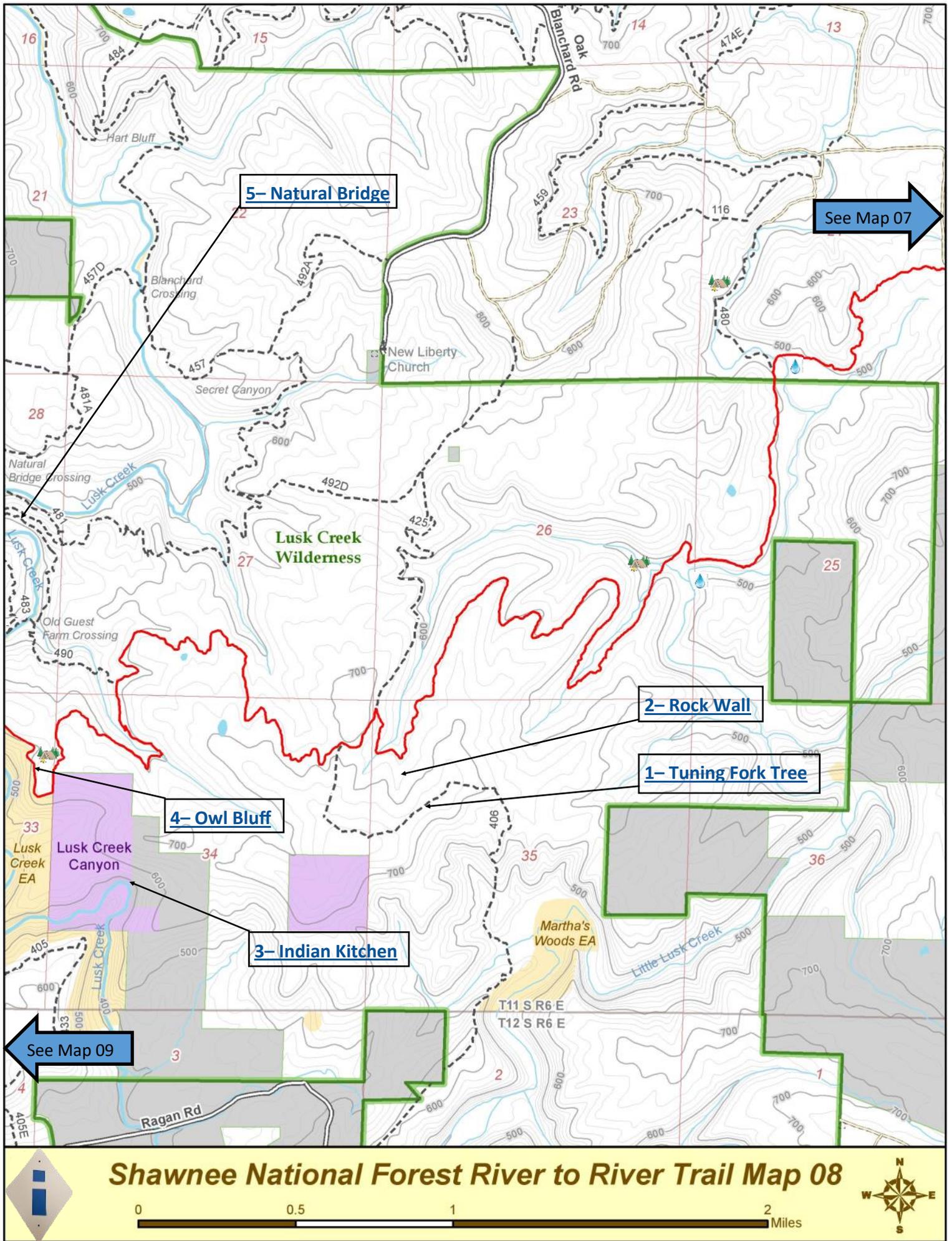
The Lusk Creek Wilderness, through which the Trail passes between Bethesda Church and the outskirts of Eddyville, is subject to a Closure Order by the USDA Forest Service. By the terms of the Order, groups of more than ten hikers or more than ten horsemen are prohibited. Unless you receive a prior written waiver from the Forest Service, violation of the Closure Order carries possible criminal penalties.

Crossing Lusk Creek can be very difficult and dangerous, depending on recent rains. Before attempting a through hike it is highly recommended the USGS river gage be checked for creek elevation. Typical low water elevations are 3 feet deep but the creek can rise 4-6 feet plus in a matter of hours. The web site to access this is:

<https://waterdata.usgs.gov/usa/nwis/uv?03384450>

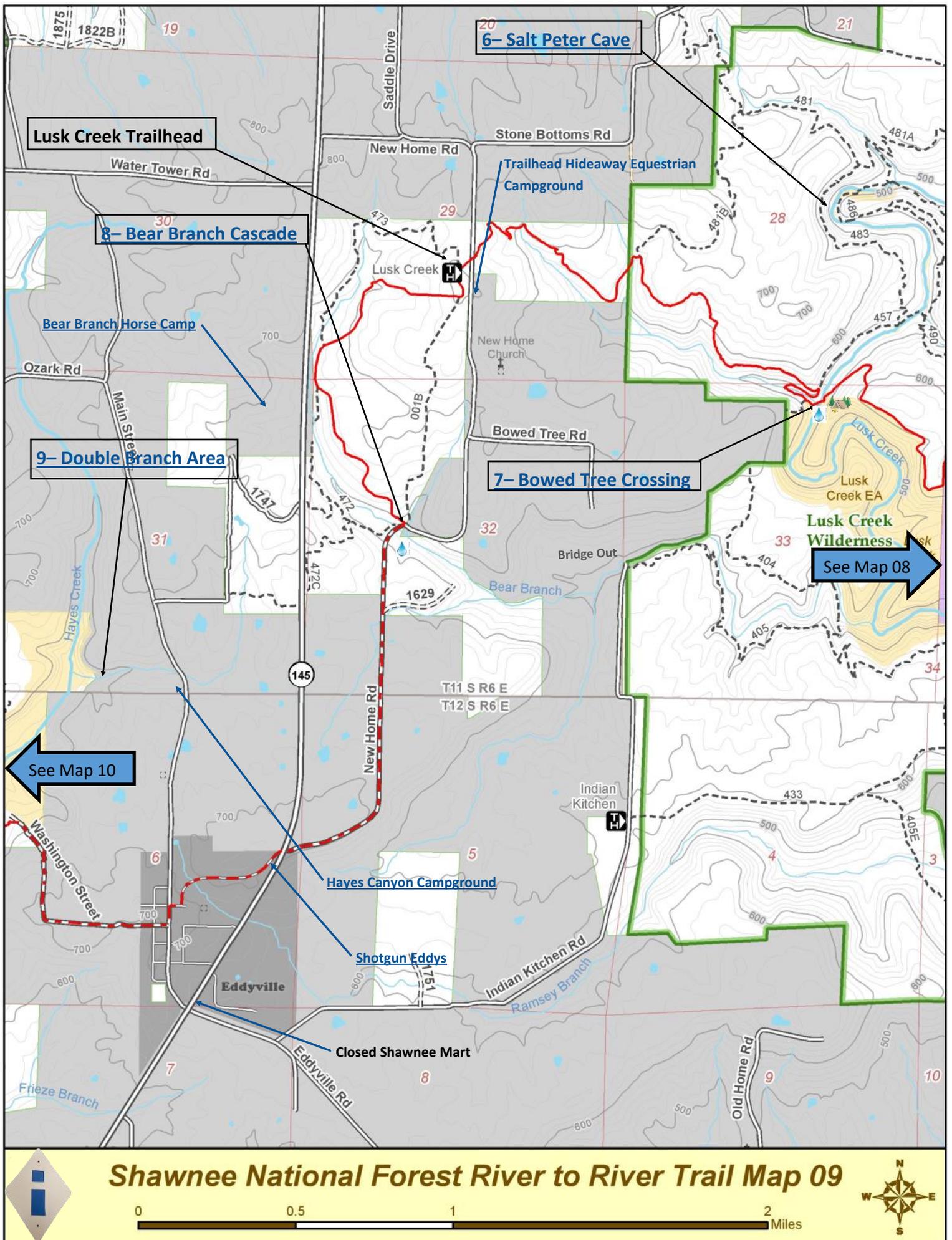


Indian Kitchen as seen from Lusk Creek at the end of the Indian Kitchen Trail



Shawnee National Forest River to River Trail Map 08

0 0.5 1 2 Miles



Map 08 and 09 - Supplemental Information

Water Sources along the section

- Shannon Sanderson has kindly offered to allow R2R Trail hikers to refill their water bottles from the water tank on the right side of her cabin. The cabin is located just before Bethesda Church and Lusk Creek Wilderness at GPS coordinates [N37° 32.612' W88° 29.157'](#). Please be respectful of her property.
- Bethesda Church usually has a water spigot turned on the back of the building and hikers are welcome to refill water containers here.
- Little Lusk Creek Crossing
- Lusk Creek Crossing

Potential Camping Locations along this section

- Owl Bluff
- Bowed Tree Crossing

Interesting Side Trips along the section

- (1) Tuning Fork Tree is located along an old R2R trail at GPS coordinates [N37° 31.317' W88° 31.250'](#).

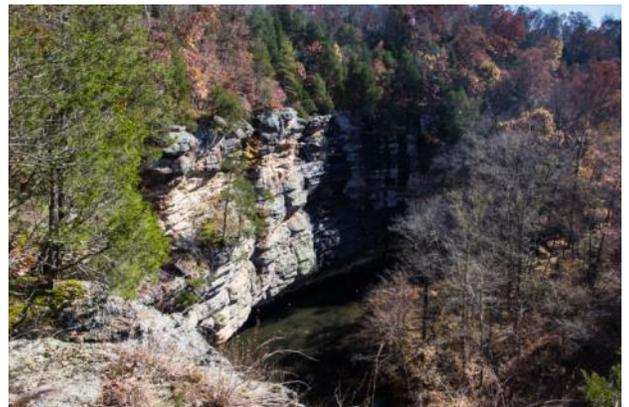


- (2) Rock wall is a series of two parallel rock walls in the forest that appear to have been built as retaining walls. They could mark the site of an old homestead. The walls are located about a 150 feet bushwhack southeast of the trail. The GPS coordinates are [N37° 31.402' W88° 31.339'](#) and the following photo is a view of

one of the walls.

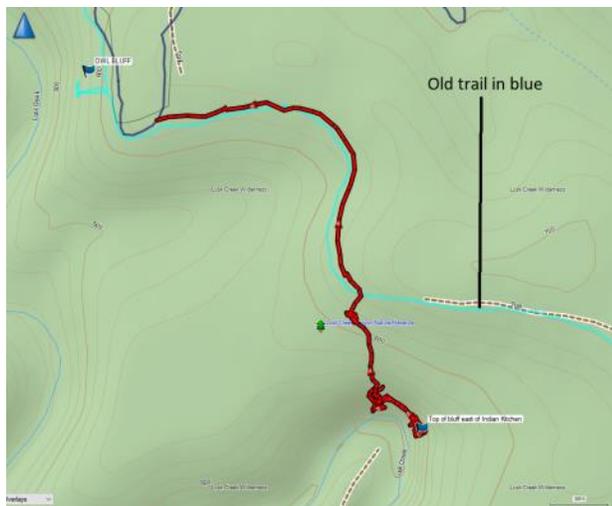


- (3) Indian Kitchen is in the Lusk Creek Canyon State Natural Area. In this area Lusk Creek makes a horseshoe shaped bend in between two bluffs. On the northeast side of the creek or outside of the horseshoe the creek flows right up against ninety foot sheer bluffs. This is easily accessed from the trail with the instructions below. The southwest side of the creek or inside of the horseshoe includes a steep trail down to the creek and is typically accessed via the 2 mile hike from the Indian Kitchen Trailhead but is a challenge from the R2R Trail. The following picture taken from the top of the bluff.



To access the top of the bluffs at the hairpin curve across Lusk Creek from Indian Kitchen it requires following an old trail that leaves the R2R about 100 yards before the Owl Bluff tie-up, at GPS coordinates [N37° 31.318' W88° 32.581'](#). Follow the old trail about a half a mile after which you will have to bushwhack down to the bluff which is at GPS coordinates [N37° 31.078' W88° 32.314'](#) similar to the red track on the map below. Please note that atop Indian Kitchen bluff is a 25 foot wide plateau and then there is another 20 foot high bluff.

Map 08 and 09 - Supplemental Information



- (4) Owl Bluff also known as High Point, is a great overlook about 100 yards off the trail at the horse tie up. This is an extremely popular spot to stop for lunch for hikers and equestrians both. GPS coordinates are [N37° 31.351' W88° 32.670'](#). Here is a view of the Lusk Creek Canyon downstream from Owl Bluff.



- (5) Natural Bridge is an arch with about a four foot tall gap beneath it. The bridge is about 0.9 miles north of the trail along trail number 457. GPS coordinates are [N37° 32.078' W88°](#)

[32.657'](#). Below is a photo of the bridge.



- (6) Salt Peter Cave is another popular destination in Lusk Creek canyon. This shelter bluff is located about 0.3 miles beyond the Natural Bridge along trail 486, which can be picked up near the bridge. GPS coordinates are [N37° 32.050' W88° 32.950'](#).



- (7) Bowed Tree Crossing is the location where the R2R Trail crosses Lusk Creek. GPS coordinates are [N37° 31.533' W88° 33.000'](#). The following is a photo of Lusk Creek looking upstream from the crossing.



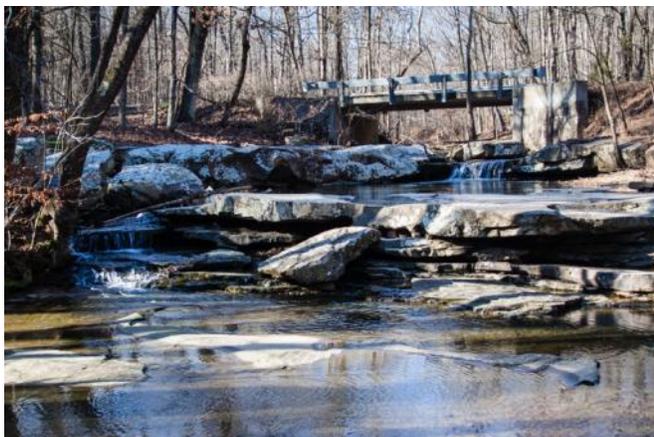
Hayes Canyon Campground

1/2 mile off the River to River Trail
 Just outside the village of Eddyville
 * RV sites with full hookup * Showers
 * Cabin Rentals * Laundry
 (618) 672-4751

www.hayescanyon.com

Map 08 and 09 - Supplemental Information

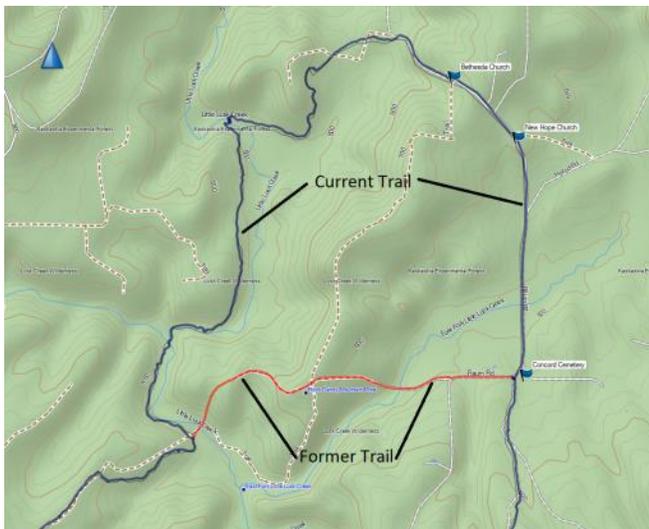
- (8) Bear Branch Cascade is right across New Home Road where the trail turns onto the pavement to proceed into Eddyville. GPS coordinates of the bridge and cascade is N37° 31.164' W88° 34.460'. The cascade looks like this.



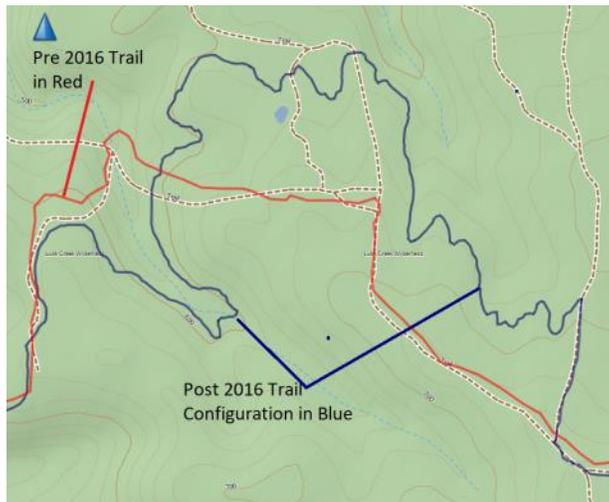
- (9) Double Branch Area is an area that will be described in the next chapter.

Changes to the R2R trail

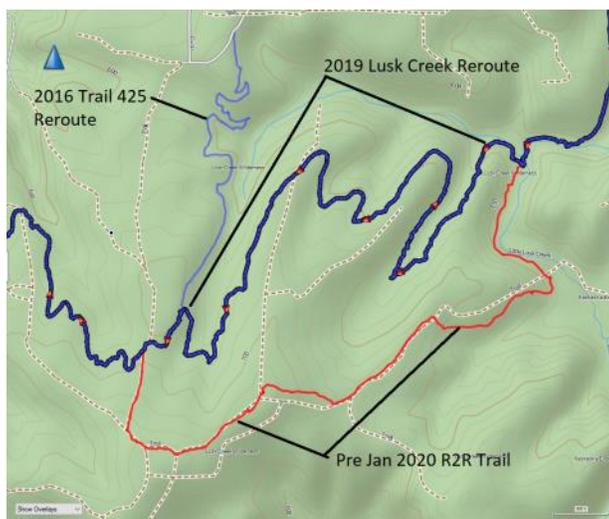
- 2002-2011 Between editions 3 and 4 of this trail guide, the trail was lengthened to walk the road up to Bethesda Church before entering Lusk Creek Section. Previously it had turned left at Concord Cemetery and followed Raum road west for 0.3 miles before re-entering the woods. After another mile along an old road to, the old trail met up with the current trail on the west side of Little Lusk Creek, as shown in this map. The old route had to be abandoned due to private property issues. The present route between Concord Cemetery and Bethesda Church is a long hot walk in the sun. Water sources along this section are few, so try to carry plenty of water.



- In 2016 the trail was rerouted at the east end of Owl Bluff section to remove 1.6 miles of trail along an old road and replaced it with a 2.8 mile long meander through the woods.

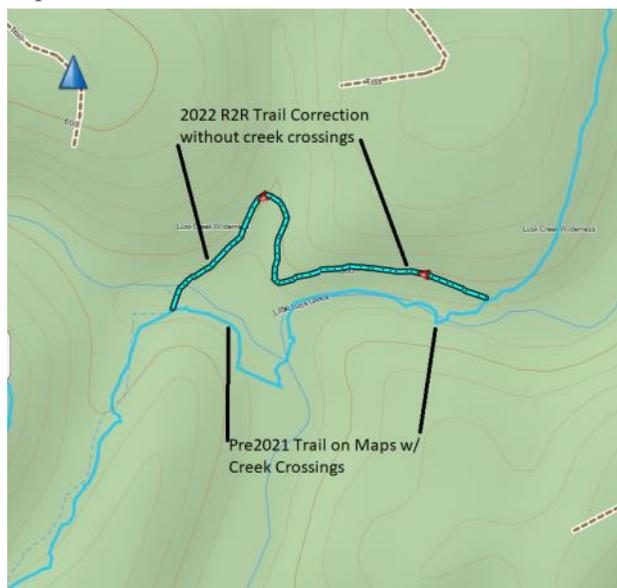


- 2019 the continuation of the 2016 trail was complete and opened. This reroute is 3 miles long and removes a 2.3 mile section on old roads. It started at trail 425 and ends at Little Lusk Creek.



Map 08 and 09 - Supplemental Information

- In December 2021 a correction to the trail on the maps was made.



New R2R Trail Sign Downtown Eddyville



Frequently asked questions along this section

- What is Circle B Ranch? “Circle B” ranch/ campground used frequently in this guide was purchased in 2022 and renamed “Trailhead Hideaway Campground” with a [facebook page](#).

Mileage	Surface	Location Description
39.1	Trail	Concord Cemetery
40.2	Road	Bethesda Cemetery - East Entrance to Lusk Creek
44.8	Trail	Intersection with Trail 425
47.4	Trail	Owl Bluff
48.1	Trail	Bowed Creek Crossing Lusk Creek
50.3	Trail	New Home Road Crossing at Circle B
51.8	Trail	New Home Road Intersection at Bear Branch
53	Road	US 145 Crossing
54.1	Road	Entry to Hayes Creek Canyon west of Eddyville

Zoom 39.1 miles equates to 0.0 on the graph below



Map 10 - Eddyville to Cedar Grove Church Road

The trail leaves Eddyville on the western edge. Follow the trail through Eddyville to Washington Street, and follow it first west and then north to the trailhead. The trailhead is about a tenth of a mile beyond the northward turn on Washington Street.

This trail is pretty straightforward and starts by going about a third of mile down to Hayes Creek. The trail mostly travels parallel to the creek except for dogleg and arrives at "Petticoat Junction" after 2.4 miles. The trail crosses Hayes Creek at the junction with trails 496 and 496A. Petticoat Junction got its name from the obvious women's under-garments hanging from branches around the junction. Crossing Hayes Creek at the junction is very easy in normal pool because there are natural stepping stones.

After leaving Petticoat Junction, the trail goes uphill for about a mile and then continues at the higher elevation for the rest of the way to Cedar Grove Road. About 0.8 miles before the road, the trail passes through the Crow Knob Natural Area and it should not be missed. [After arriving at Cedar Grove Road crossing a side trip to Miller's Grove Cemetery may be considered.] The cemetery is all that remains of a pre-Civil War community of freed slaves. Their church was burned so it is said that they began meeting on top of the Knob. The Knob also served as a sort of watchtower, from which bonfires could give the community warning of approaching danger.

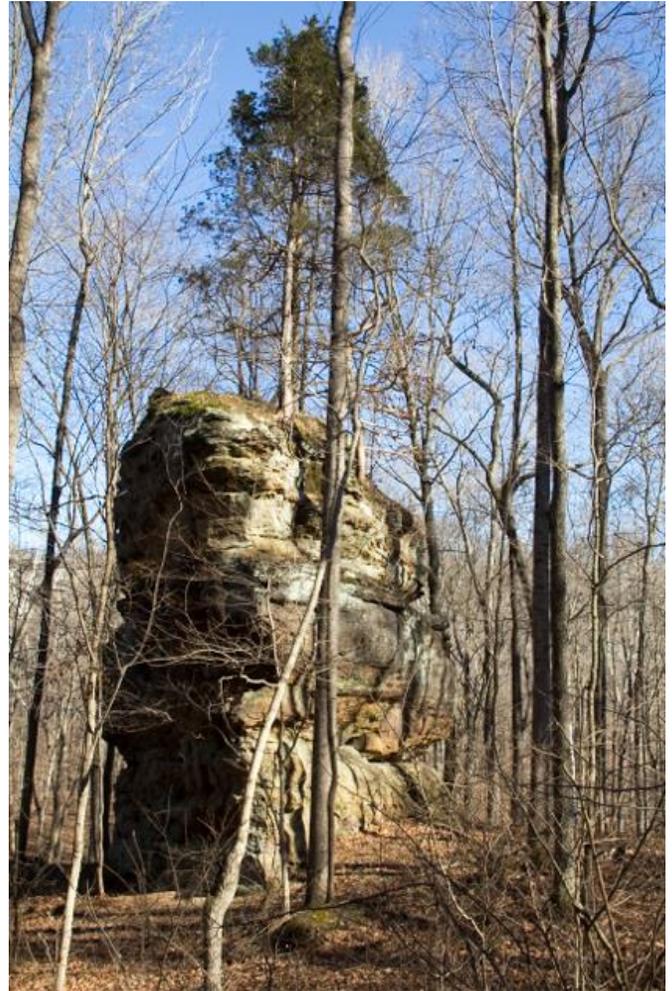
Cedar Grove Road is off HWY147 between Millstone Bluff and the junction of HWY145. Proceed north about 2 1/2 miles until you find where the trail comes out of the pines on one side and enters the pines on the other. You will pass Bay Creek Campground on this road. The road continues and dead ends at Ozark Road.

Eddyville to Cedar Grove Road is now a short 5.3 mile section and can be made in one day. Hikers

coming from Eddyville may prefer to continue on to Bay Creek Dam for a total hike of 9.8 miles.

The first trail going north off this trail goes to Hayes Creek Campground or Hayes Creek which has a natural waterslide called Double Branch Hole.

This rock pillar can be seen about a tenth of a mile before Peter Cave at GPS coordinates N37° 30.550' W88° 37.217'.

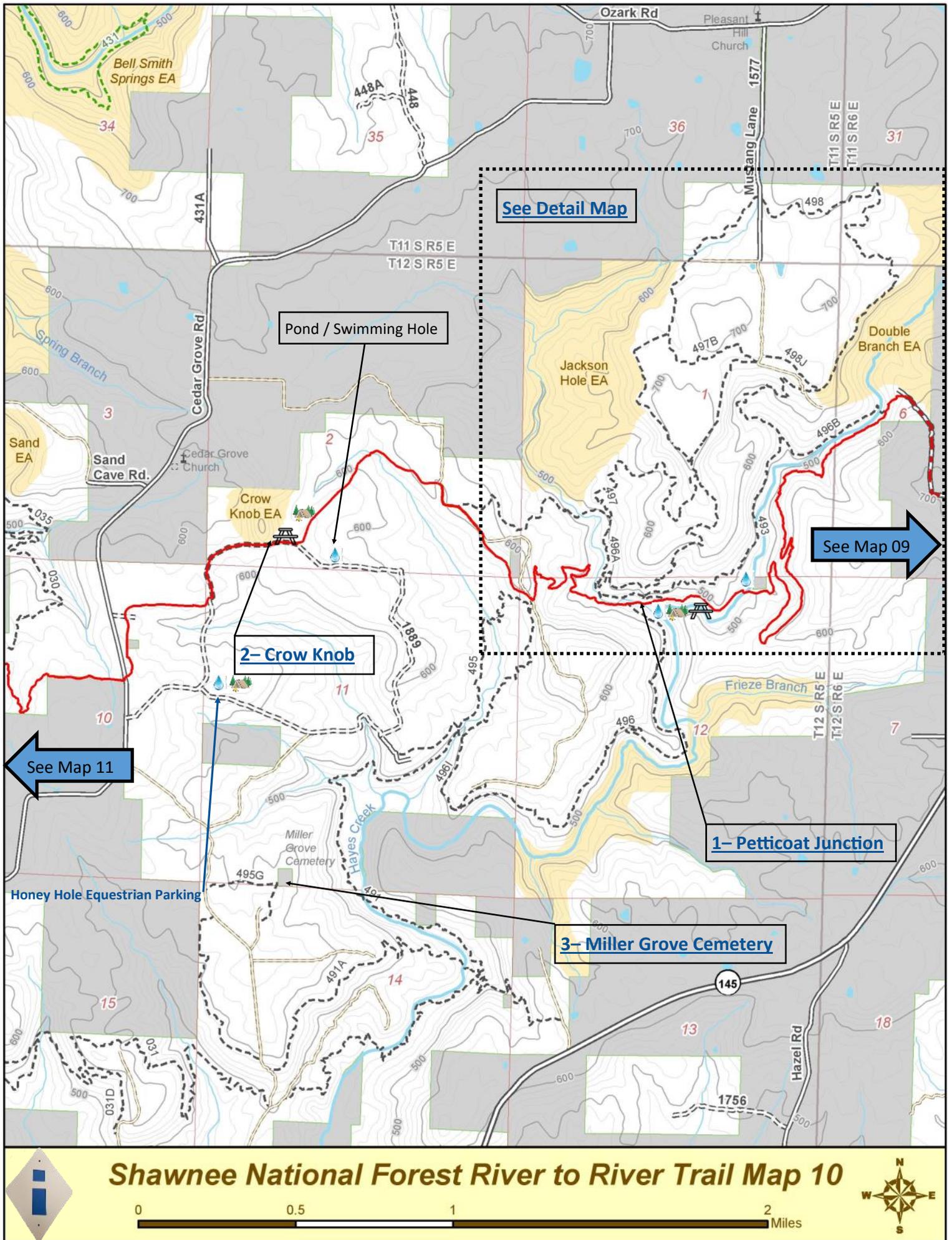


THE HORSE SHACK

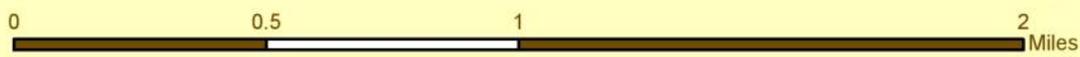
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Harrisburg, Illinois 62946



Shawnee National Forest River to River Trail Map 10



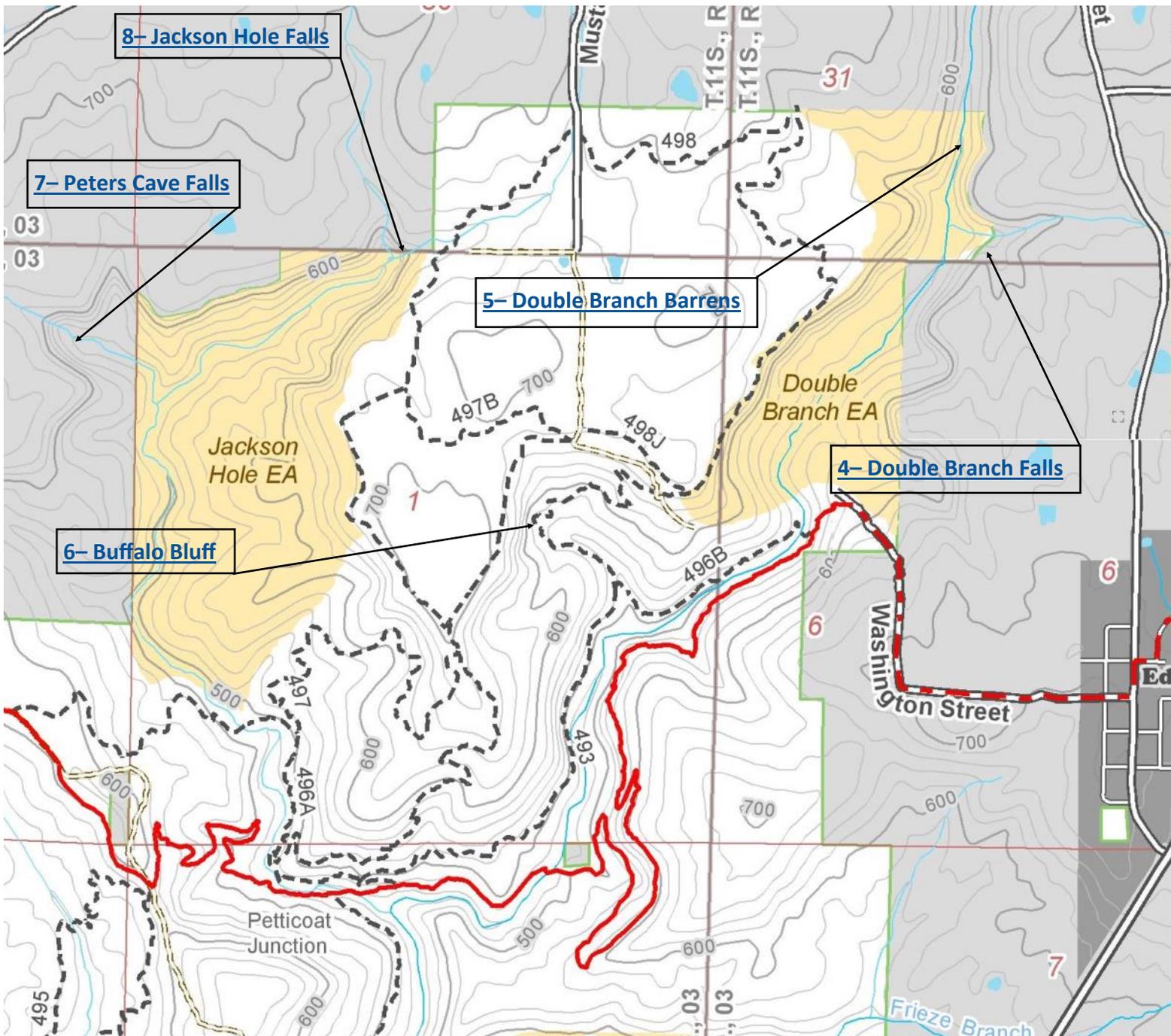
Map 10 - Supplemental Information

Water Sources along the section

- Various businesses in the city of Eddyville would also be good sources of water. These would include the Shotgun Eddys Restaurant & Lounge located right on the trail after you cross HWY 145.
- Hayes Creek is a reliable source of water along this section of the trail as water can usually be found in it all year long.
- Petticoat Junction would be an ideal camping location because of the flat ground and access to water. A picnic table was installed there in 2023.
- Crow Knob Ecological Area has a horse tie-up with picnic table also.
- Honey Hole is a frequently used equestrian area parking spot about 0.25 miles south of the trail. It also has a large pond.

Potential Camping Locations along this section

Map 9 & 10 Detail of Double Branch Hole and Jackson Hole Ecological Areas



Map 10 - Supplemental Information

Interesting Side Trips along the section

- (1) Petticoat Junction is a popular equestrian tie up located at the point where the R2R trail crosses Hayes Creek. The simple reason for the name is that trail signage and trees in the area have various women's slips or petticoats hanging from them. GPS coordinates for the crossing are [N37° 29.745' W88° 36.716'](#).
- (2) Crow Knob Ecological Area is located right along the right side of the trail. It consists of a large rock monolith that stands about 30-40 feet tall and covers an area about the size of a football field. If you climb up on top you will see several open rock glades along the edges and forest in the center. There is a sign and fence at the entry at GPS coordinates [N37° 29.902' W88° 37.953'](#). The following photo was a group photo from a section hike in 2014.

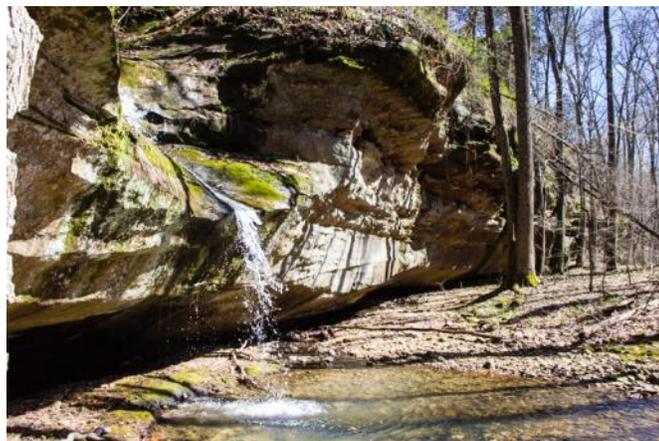


- (3) Miller Grove Cemetery is all that remains of a pre-Civil War community of free blacks, many of them freed slaves. The cemetery would be best accessed by hiking south (left) on Cedar Grove Church Road 0.3 miles to a Forest Road to the left. After 0.8 miles on that road, trail 495G is reached. Turn left (east) and go 0.2 miles to the cemetery. It was restored a few years ago by descendants of the community, but was very much overgrown when the Society visited in the fall of 2017. GPS coordinates are [N37° 28.957' W88° 37.918'](#).
- (4) Double Branch Falls is the namesake of the entire Ecological Area and it is located 0.6 miles upstream of where the trail meets Hayes Creek. There are user-made trails that parallel the creek in that area and you would leave the trail at GPS coordinates [N37° 30.296' W88° 35.854'](#). The Double Branch falls are east of Hayes Creek along two incoming creeks. GPS coordinates of the falls are [N37° 30.741' W88° 35.534'](#). Photographing both falls as shown below requires a

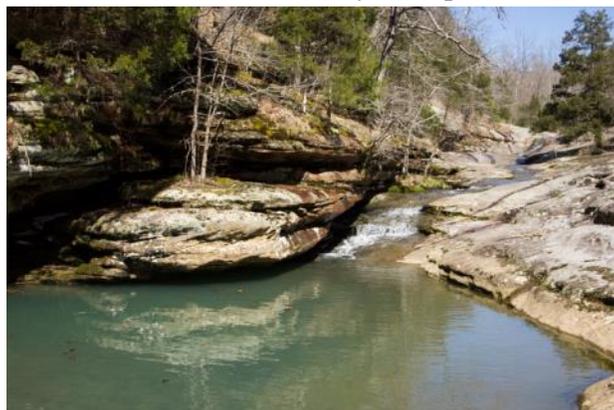
really wide angle zoom lens.



- Directly across Hayes Creek from Double Branch Falls is another small waterfall from a creek coming in from the west. The distance between the waterfalls is approximately 0.1 miles. GPS coordinates for this falls are [N37° 30.810' W88° 35.621'](#) and it looks like this.



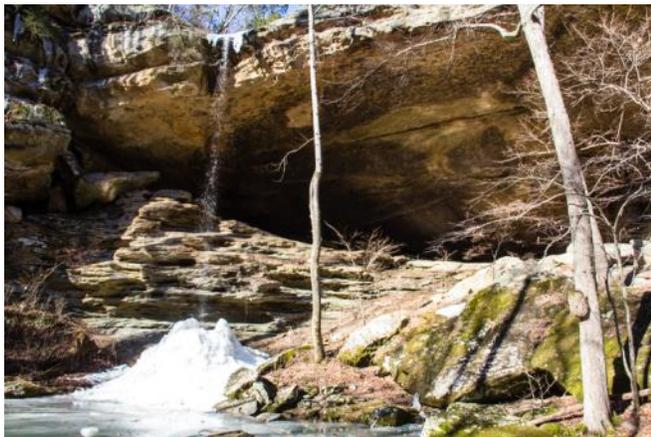
- (5) Double Branch Barrens and Falls are on Hayes Creek proper and well worth the trip. It is located 0.2 miles farther upstream at GPS coordinates [N37° 30.957' W88° 35.550'](#). The lower part of the slide / falls looks like the photo below, but the area extends another 100 yards upstream.



Map 10 - Supplemental Information

Interesting Side Trips along the section

- (6) Buffalo Bluff is a small bluff that is located 0.3 miles up trail 493 if you can cross Hayes Creek at GPS coordinates $N37^{\circ} 30.145'$ $W88^{\circ} 36.112'$. The GPS coordinates for Buffalo Bluff are $N37^{\circ} 30.308'$ $W88^{\circ} 36.346'$. If you cannot cross the creek and still want to visit the bluff, it would require a mile walk back along trail 493 when intersected at Petticoat Junction.
- Both Peter Cave Falls and Jackson Falls are a lot farther from the trail and it would not be a recommended visit. No marked Forest Service trails exist in the Jackson Hole Ecological Area or the private property that Peter Cave is on. However there are several trails that intersect the R2R trail right after the trail 497 intersection.
- (7) Peter Cave Falls is about a mile walk down an old forest road / trail that intersects the R2R trail 0.1 miles after the trail 497 intersection. There are several trails in this area so be careful. GPS coordinates for Peter Cave are $N37^{\circ} 30.589'$ $W88^{\circ} 37.251'$. **This is private property, and the new (2021) landowner has stopped allowing access and put up No Trespassing signs. You should skip this. Peter Cave looks like this.**

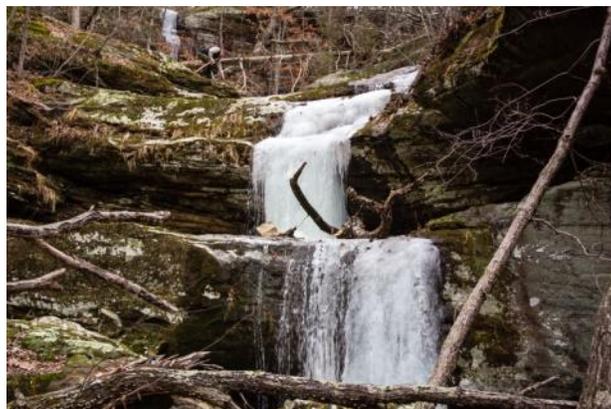


- (8) Jackson Hole Falls would be approximately a mile hike past Peter Cave and there are two additional small waterfalls between the two. The unmarked trail to them basically follows the bluff on the left. GPS coordinates for Jackson Hole Falls are $N37^{\circ} 30.689'$ $W88^{\circ} 36.621'$ and they

look like this when frozen.



- About a hundred yards before getting to Jackson Hole Falls another triple drop waterfall exists. This waterfall is one of the primary access points to the area from Mustang Lane. GPS coordinates of this fall are $N37^{\circ} 30.718'$ $W88^{\circ} 36.648'$ and it looks like the following photo.



- * Cabins and Campsites
- * 40-Stall Horse Barn
- * Trail riding on our rental horses or bring your own
- * Hire a guide
- * Destination packages available with cabins or camping

Come join the fun on miles of stunning scenic trails!
Full RV hook-ups available!

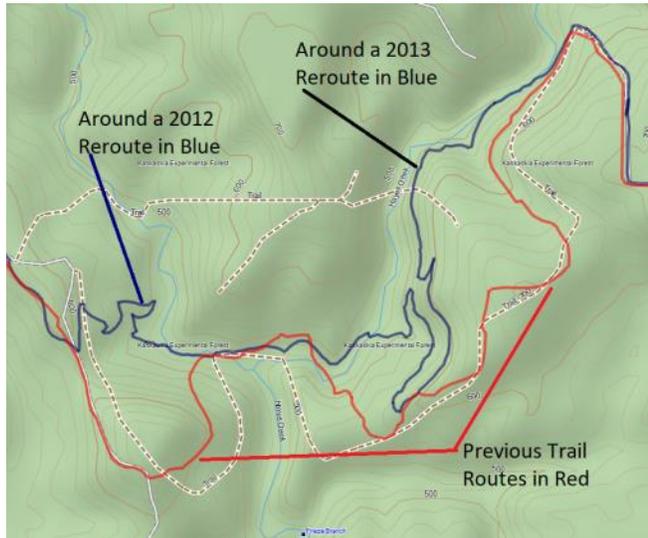
Find us on Facebook: Bear Branch Horse Camp
www.bearbranch.com
bearbranch@shawneelink.net

Office: 618-672-4249 Tannette: 618-638-0226
Trail/Camping Packages—Lisa: 270-556-0580

Map 10 - Supplemental Information

Changes to the R2R trail

- Trail rerouted in approximately 2012 and 2013 to the new configuration in an effort to move the trail off old roads.

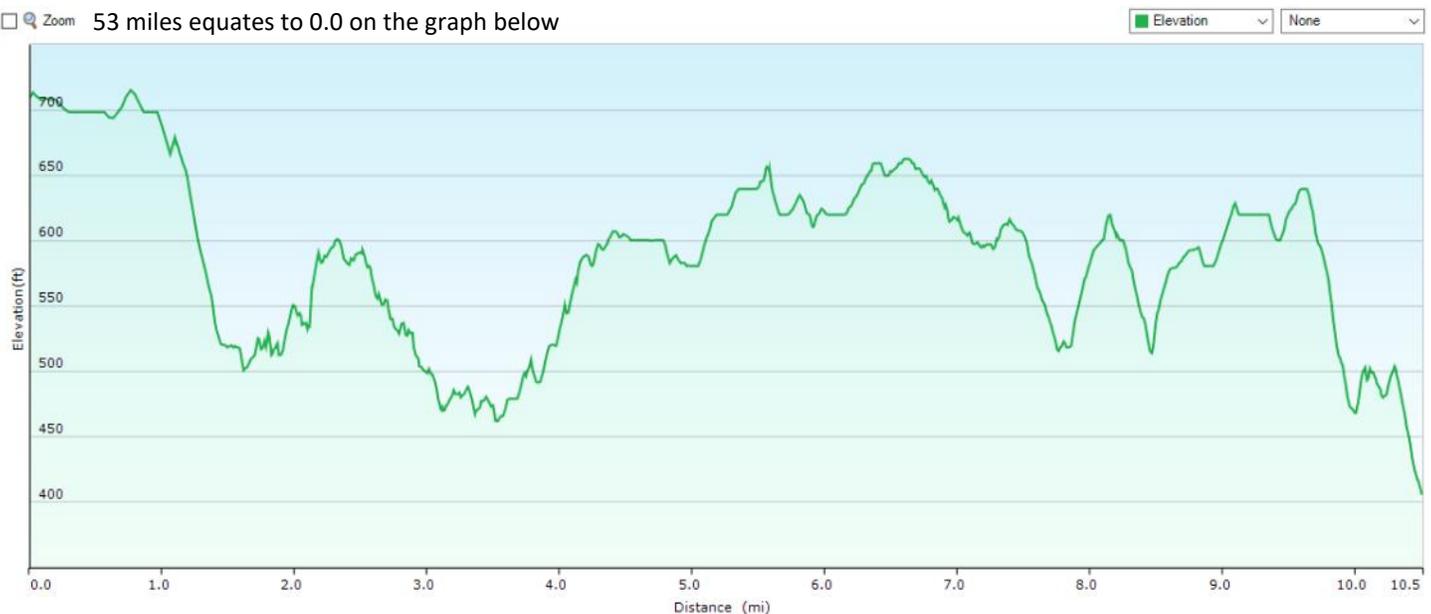


Frequently asked questions along this section

- Is there parking near Cedar Grove Church Road crossing? At the actual road crossing there is no designated parking except roadside. The closest parking would be at the Honey Hole which is maintained by the Pope County Saddle Club. See map 10 for location.

Mileage	Surface	Location Description
53	Road	US 145 Crossing
54.1	Road	Entry to Hayes Creek Canyon west of Eddyville
56.6	Trail	Petticoat Junction / Hayes Creek Crossing
58.6	Trail	Crow Knob Ecological Area
59.5	Trail	Cedar Grove Church Road Crossing
63.5	Trail	Millstone Lake Dam Access Point

Zoom 53 miles equates to 0.0 on the graph below



Map 11 - Cedar Grove Church Road to Tin Whistle

Map 12 - Tin Whistle to Gum Springs Road Area

Starting from where Cedar Grove Road intersects with the R2R trail, continue a quarter mile along the trail with a farm field on the left before proceeding through some second growth timber and pines to the intersection with an old roadbed after 2.7 miles. At the roadbed (GPS coordinates N37° 28.828' W88° 40.035') the trail turns right or to the west. Forest trail 032F continues straight which leads to Bay Creek Campground. The trail turns back to a ridge that gradually grades downward through old growth forest. You will be able to see Bay Lake through the trees on the right as you go. [Bay Lake is also frequently referred to as Millstone Lake as depicted on the maps.] The trail turns away from the lake to proceed downhill to intersect with Millstone Lake road where it turns to the right onto the road. This is a sharp turn and easy to miss, so be alert! The trail was rerouted in 2017 and now continues down this road all the way to the old parking lot near the top of the dam. This was done because the original trail along the creek frequently was flooded in the spring. The trail proceeds across the dam and then turns left and follows trail 049 down to the Tin Whistle railroad track crossing.

John O'Dell described the tin whistle as an enormous oval culvert that passes beneath the railroad tracks. The railroad line here is the "Edgewood cut-off," built by the former Illinois Central Railroad as a high-speed freight line. The line still serves that purpose, so please keep off the tracks. Originally the Railroad was not going to give permission for the Trail to cross the tracks, but Mr. Ray Morris contacted a friend and the Illinois Central Railroad, now Canadian National, came in and put the whistle in during a single weekend. Two and a half miles north, on the far edge of Jackson Hollow, the railroad passes through the longest tunnel in Illinois. Don't take a

chance on making it through. Traffic on this line is fast and frequent.

Go through the tin whistle and continue uphill along an old forest road to the East Trigg Tower trailhead.

After going through the whistle there is an alternate trail along 001T which is known locally as the Cove Hollow trail. This trail will be 2 miles longer than proceeding straight along the R2R trail for 0.7 miles. However, this trail is significantly more scenic than the R2R trail because it proceeds north along the tracks for about a mile before turning west along a rock bluff that continues most of the way back to the R2R trail. This provides an opportunity to explore what Jackson Hollow looks like. You may also encounter some rock climbers along the trail.

Bay Lake is a hidden gem. Although it may not be suitable for swimming, the fishing is reported to be excellent. During a flood of 2008, the spillway was washed out and uncovered picturesque rock formations, which are now right along the trail. It is worth the time to explore them with caution.

To reach Millstone Lake road and the trail intersection, the road lies a half mile east of Millstone Bluff and a half mile west of Cedar Grove Road along HWY147. It is a little difficult to spot at first but it does have a good look at the back of the bluff and the pleasant valley beyond.

The trails going north from the spillway / dam lead to Jackson Hollow. Shortly after leaving Cedar Grove Church Road, there will be a trail going North leading to Sand Cave, Bell Smith Springs, and lots of scenic beauty. Many people consider Jackson Hollow to be the most beautiful place in Southern Illinois.

Map 11 - Cedar Grove Church Road to Tin Whistle

Map 12 - Tin Whistle to Gum Springs Road Area

When you cross Trigg Tower Road there will be another excellent trailhead with trailer parking. This is known as East Trigg Trailhead. This could be another starting point to go in either direction but would be a long day on horseback and only for iron men to hike from here to Eddyville. Trigg Tower is about 2.5 miles farther down the trail and then a 0.4 miles off the trail to the left along old trail 001f. By continuing on the R2R trail, Gum Springs Road is reached in 1.2 miles after the turnoff.

By road, Trigg Tower is 2.1 miles southwest of the trailhead. Trigg Tower has a spectacular view but is a little adventuresome if you go to the top (very shaky). Trigg Tower can be reached off HWY147 at Simpson or on Rushing road. Rushing Road is 2.7 miles east of Simpson or 1 mile west of Millstone Bluff road and is an excellent way to get to the tower by car because there is a great overlook called Lou Deans Lookout along Rushing Road. Trigg Tower is pretty well marked from all directions.

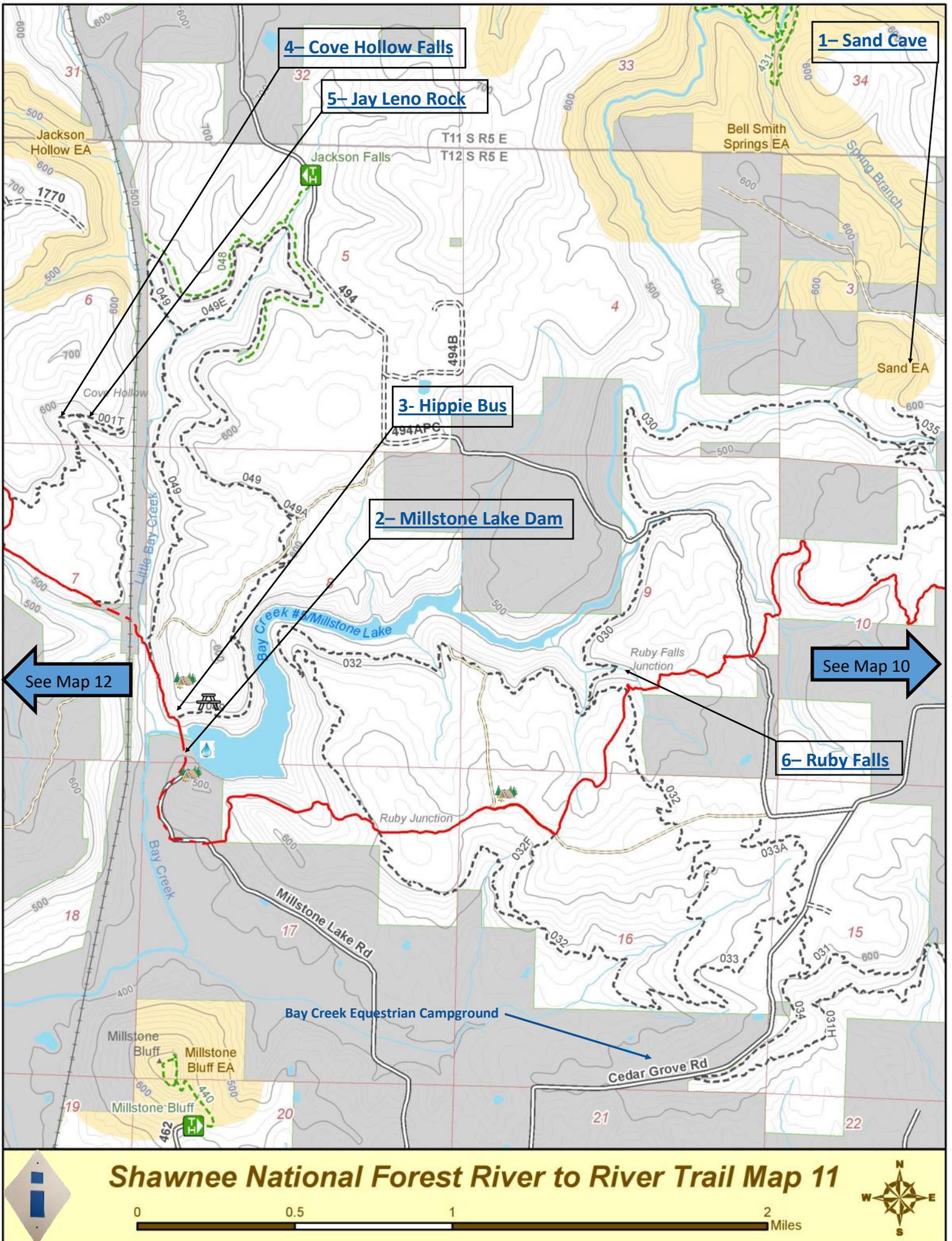
Also worth seeing in this area are Bell Smith Springs, Sand Cave, Jackson Hollow, Burden Falls, and the Millstone Bluff National Historic Site. Millstone Bluff is a very distinctive prominence where millstones were quarried by pioneers near a site where a

group of Mississippian Indians lived about a thousand years ago. The Forest Service has made a very good walking tour of the area. The petroglyphs are well marked by Forest Service signage, but can be a little difficult to see unless the light is right.

Access to the popular Jackson Hollow climbing area by vehicle lies 2.6 miles north of the East Trigg Tower trailhead. It is just a quarter mile after Trigg Tower Road merges with Ozark Road. There is a stop sign across the road from Zion Church Cemetery, proceed about 300 yards and turn right on "Glen St. Falls Road" at the house with the green roof. The road is also known as Jackson Falls Road. Drive two miles to the creek crossing where there will be parking. You can also cross the Bay Lake spillway and follow trail 049 north for a 5.3 mile loop shown on map 11. You will want to return to Jackson Hollow so keep these directions.



Group Photo from a Trail Society led hike to Jackson Falls on April 4, 2015



4- Cove Hollow Falls

5- Jay Leno Rock

1- Sand Cave

3- Hippy Bus

2- Millstone Lake Dam

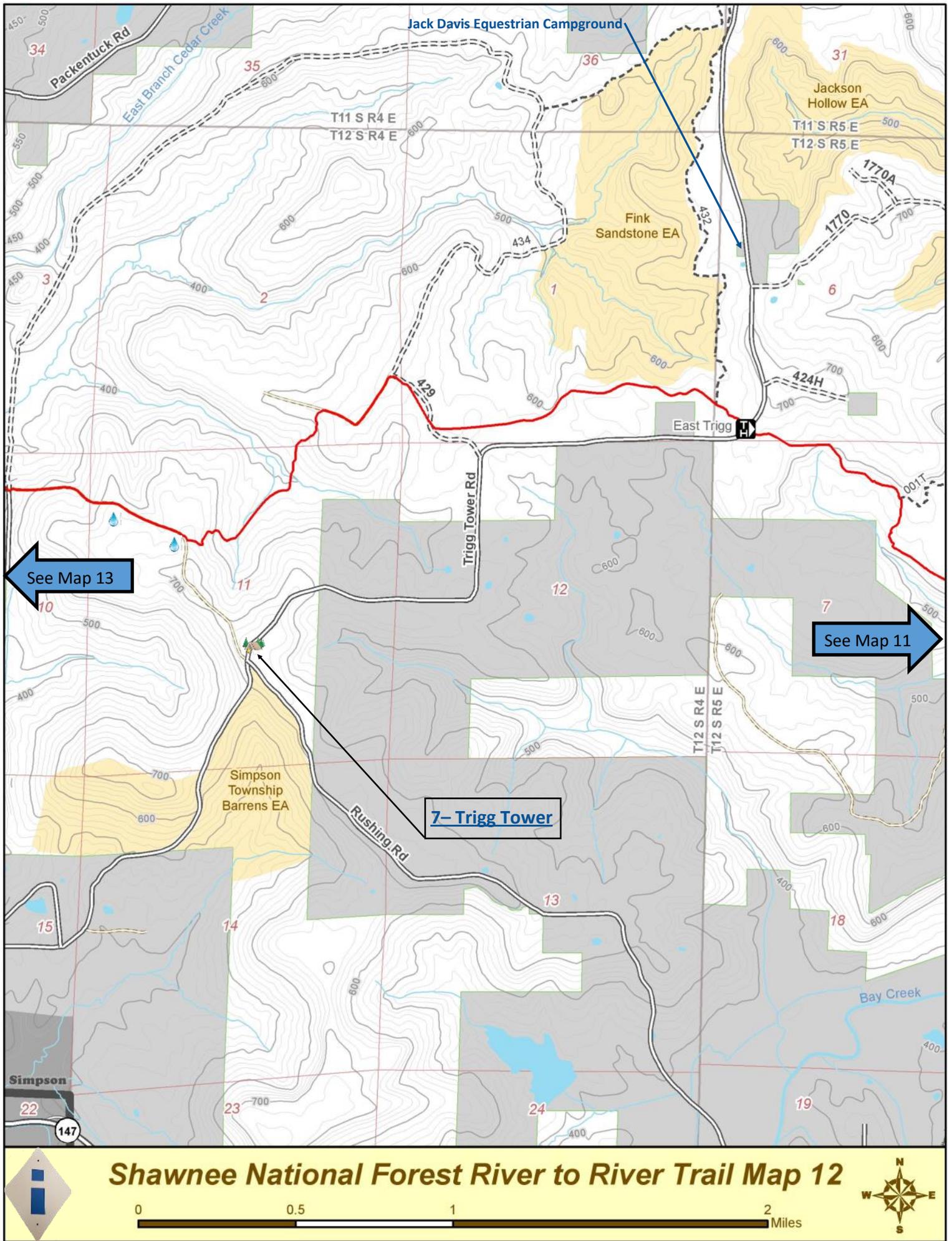
See Map 10

See Map 12

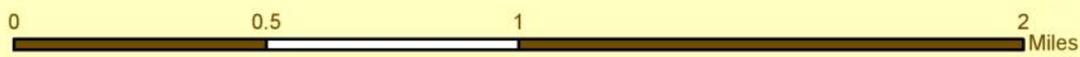
6- Ruby Falls

Shawnee National Forest River to River Trail Map 11

0 0.5 1 2 Miles



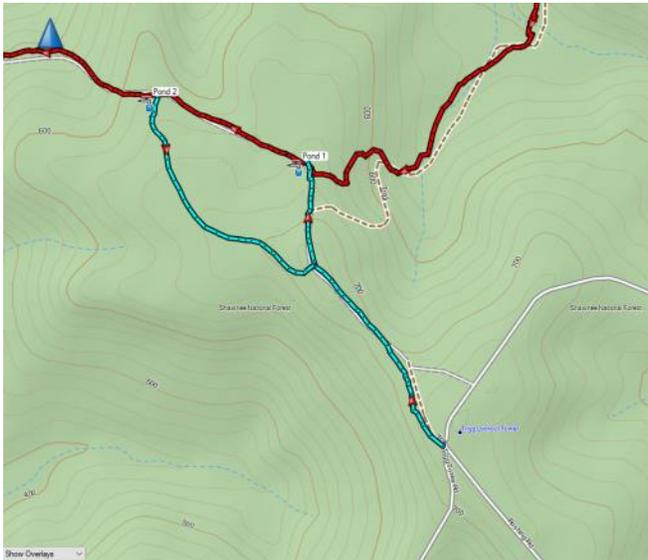
Shawnee National Forest River to River Trail Map 12



Map 11 and 12 - Supplemental Information

Water Sources along the section

- Millstone Lake, also known as Bay Lake and Bay Creek are two very reliable water sources along this section of the trail. Water should also be available at Cedar Creek just past map 12.
- On map 12 where the trail turns off to go to Trigg Tower there are two old manmade ponds located right along the trail which should have water year round. Note that there are 2 trails to Trigg Tower as shown in the following map. GPS coordinates of the shorter eastern trail intersection are [N37° 29.569' W88° 44.438'](#).



Potential Camping Locations along this section

- Trigg Tower is a popular camping spot along this section of the trail due to access of the tower for sunrise and sunset. Trigg Towers GPS coordinates are [N37° 29.252' W88° 44.170'](#).

Interesting Side Trips along the section

- (1) Sand Cave is frequently referred to as "largest sandstone cave in North America." The cave is located about 1.5 miles off the R2R trail and can be visited by turning right at trail number 30, following it for 1 mile and then turning right on trail 35. Hike uphill for another half mile to the cave. The cave is at GPS coordinates [N37° 30.110'](#)

[W88° 38.824'](#) and looks like the photo below.



- The small arch shown below is about 50 yards off of trail 35 when you get to the top of the hill about a quarter mile before sand cave at GPS coordinates [N37° 30.027' W88° 38.786'](#).



- (2) Millstone Lake / Bay Creek Dam over flow is located right along the trail as it climbs up the road to the top of the dam for the lake. The lake has overflowed in recent years which has caused the natural rock to be eroded with a lot of cracks and crevices. The area is very unstable. Please exercise caution when exploring the area that looks like the following picture. GPS coordinates are [N37° 28.967' W88° 41.316'](#).



Map 11 and 12 - Supplemental Information

- (3) The so-called Hippy Bus is located about 50 yards off the R2R trail along trail 49. Turn right on trail 49 right after crossing the Millstone Lake dam and the bus shown below can be found at GPS coordinates [37°29'9" N 88°41'21" W](#).



- Tin Whistle is a 10 foot diameter corrugated metal culvert that was installed to allow the trail to cross under the railroad tracks. It is located at GPS coordinates [N37° 29.381' W88° 41.511'](#)
- (4) Cove Hollow Falls is located right along trail 001T at GPS coordinates [N37° 29.950' W88° 41.783'](#). The falls are very intermittent and look like this.

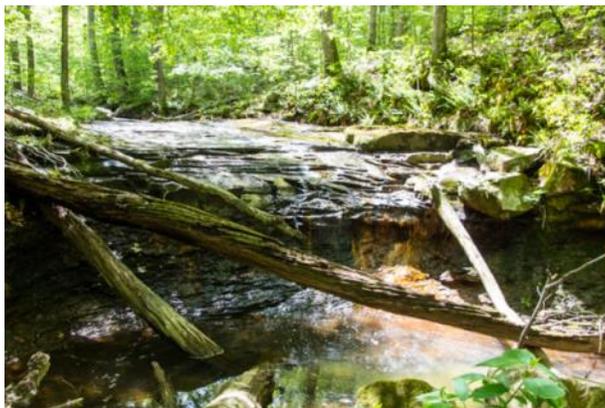


- (5) Jay Leno Rock is a rock formation some folks have labelled after the comedian. It stands right alongside trail 001T at GPS coordinates [N37° 29.959' W88° 41.710'](#). It is best viewed while on horseback. The rock looks

like this.



- (6) Ruby Falls is a small waterfall located just 50 feet upstream of trail 30. It can be accessed by following trail 32 0.2 miles to go right on trail 30 for 0.2 miles. Where the R2R crosses the Ruby Falls stream has been marked with a sign "Mule Hole". The falls are 450' downstream of this crossing. GPS coordinates for the falls are [N37° 29.278' W88° 39.809'](#). The falls look like this:



- (7) Trigg Tower is an abandoned fire tower shortened and converted to a lookout tower. Although only the lower portion of the original tower, Trigg is the only surviving fire tower in the Shawnee National Forest. It is located 0.4 miles south of the trail along a side trail that may be labeled 001F. This trail intersects the R2R 2.5 miles after leaving the East Trigg trail-head parking lot at GPS coordinates [N37° 29.574' W88° 44.428'](#). GPS coordinates for the tower are [N37° 29.254' W88° 44.169'](#)

Map 11 and 12 - Supplemental Information

Changes to the R2R trail

2017 the trail was rerouted at the west end of Millstone / Bay Creek Lake to take the trail over the dam and along SNF trail 49 down to the Tin Whistle. The intent was to remove the previous trail from an area that was frequently flooded in the spring.



Frequently asked questions along this section

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Mileage	Surface	Location Description
59.5	Trail	Cedar Grove Church Road Crossing
63.5	Trail	Millstone Lake Dam Access Point
64.4	Trail	Tin Whistle Railroad Crossing
65.6	Trail	Trigg Tower Road Crossing
68.2	Trail	Intersection with trail to Trigg Tower
69.2	Trail	Twin Bridges Crossing
69.4	Trail	Gum Springs Road Crossing

Zoom 59.5 miles equates to 0.0 on the graph below



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Map 13 - Gum Springs Road Area to Hilltop Lane

If a hiker were to leave from Trigg Tower, the trail across the road from the tower will lead to the River-to-River Trail after 0.4 miles. There is a wye in this trail and either leg will go to the River-to-River Trail. The trail turns west at this point and runs downhill along a roadbed. After approximately a mile, the trail turns north for a short distance as it crosses the East Branch of Cedar Creek on a relatively new two lane concrete bridge. A tenth of a mile east of the bridge, at a connecting dirt road running north to a private horse camp, look for the pioneer cemetery right between the trail and the horse camp. This cemetery contains a memorial to early settler William Simpson. Shortly after crossing the bridge the trail turns west again and in about 100 yards crosses the old gated railroad bed that goes right to Hogg Bluff and Camp Ondessonk.

Upon reaching Gum Springs Road, turn left. This section of the trail crosses over a branch of Cedar Creek on the Gum Springs Road bridge. A few yards past the bridge, the trail turns to the west and goes uphill into the woods for about a mile. At the top of the hill, the trail makes a semicircle past an old homestead and then continues west and downhill back into the creek valley after another mile. Once back in the valley, it is a short 0.7 miles to the horse tie-up.

At the horse tie-up, side trips can be made to the Easter Basket Arch and two different waterfalls. After leaving the horse tie-up, the trail crosses a side

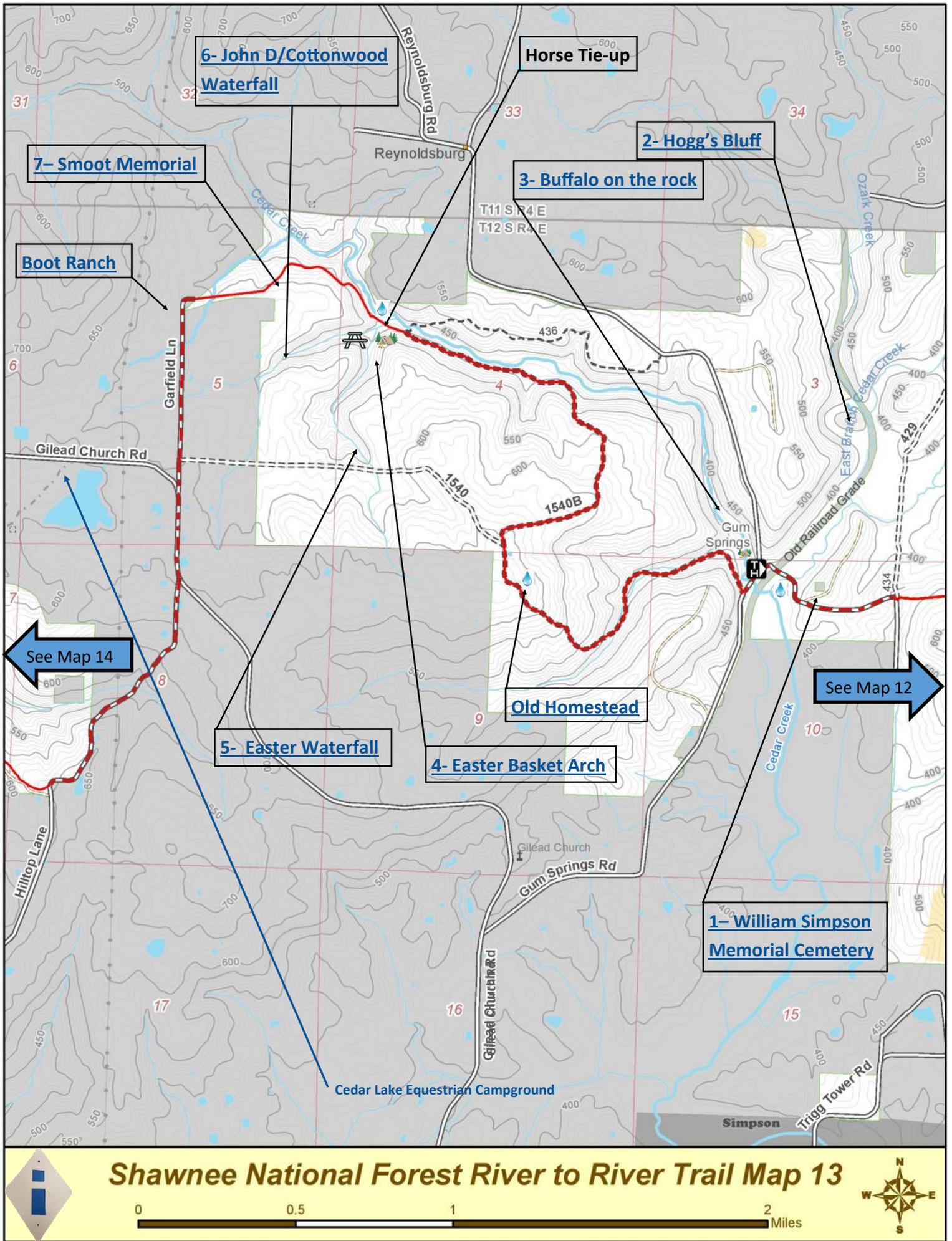
creek entering Cedar Creek and continues for 0.7 miles up and out of the valley. The trail merges briefly with a power line before reaching the “Boot Ranch” on Garfield Lane. You will know you are there when you see the inverted boots atop the fence posts along the road.

From the “Boot Ranch” the R2R Trail continues 1.75 miles south along three roads: Garfield Lane, Gilead Church Road and Hilltop Lane, to the Max Creek trailhead, which will be described in the next chapter.

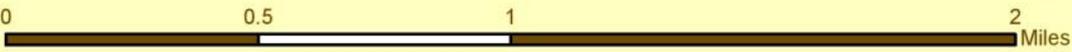
For a spectacular day hike, park in the Gum Springs trailhead parking lot and follow the creek north. This unmarked trail goes upstream and eventually rejoins the R2R trail near the horse tie-up. There is a lot to explore in this valley including petroglyphs, the Buffalo on the Rock, a miniature arch along the trail, waterfalls, and the faces in the rock bluffs described in the supplemental data.

Cedar Lake Campground will be a quarter mile west (right) on Gilead Church Road after leaving Garfield Lane.

According to John O’Dell, Gum Springs is upstream from the bridge about fifty yards. Pioneer women would meet here to wash clothes. This is a natural entrance to a unique valley with a lot of rock formations. George Rogers Clark and his little army passed near here on their march from Fort Massac to capture Kaskaskia for the United States in 1778.



Shawnee National Forest River to River Trail Map 13



Map 13 - Supplemental Information

Water Sources along the section

- Most spots along Cedar Creek retain some water all year long. After leaving the creek following the horse tie-up there will be no more water sources until Max Creek which is 3.5 miles away.

Potential Camping Locations along this section

- The horse tie-up along Cedar Creek would be a great camping spot with access to water and some after hours activities. A picnic table was placed here in 2023. The GPS coordinates for the tie up are [N37° 30.420' W88° 46.833'](#).

Interesting Side Trips along the section

- (1) William Simpson Memorial is located in a pioneer cemetery adjacent to the trail at GPS coordinates [N37° 29.683' W88° 45.294'](#). The memorial describes Mr. Simpson as the first pioneer settler of Johnson County who came in 1805 and died in 1826. He opened the first tavern in the county, very near the present location of the cemetery, and his family gave its name to the nearby village of Simpson. The memorial was erected in 1934. The cemetery has numerous head stones most of which date back to the 1800s. The cemetery is extremely overgrown and may be difficult to visit in the summer.



- (2) Hogg Bluff is one of the 11 known Native American fortification sites used by the Late Woodland culture in Southern Illinois from 500-1100AD. It is surrounded by a horseshoe lake along the old railroad grade. It is located 0.5 miles north of the trail along the old railroad grade that ultimately leads to Camp Ondessonk. The trail starts about 200' east of Gum Springs Road. Hogg Bluff itself is Forest Service property and open to the public; however, the entire railroad right-of-way from Gum Springs Road past Hogg Bluff is Camp Ondessonk's property. Therefore, Hogg Bluff cannot be easily accessed without trespassing. Please call Camp

Ondessonk (618-695-2489) to obtain permission to use the railroad grade for hiking or riding. Camp Ondessonk generally does not deny foot or equine access to the site in spring, fall, and winter, but all access to any part of its property will be denied from Memorial Day Weekend through Labor Day during its summer camp season. Hogg Bluff is a pristine, fragile, and sacred site. Out of respect for the natural and cultural heritage of the site, please tie your horses at the bottom and proceed on foot to the top. GPS coordinates are [N37° 30.181' W88° 45.174'](#) and the bluff looks like this.



- (3) Buffalo on the Rock is an old Indian art painting on the face of the rock in a small shelter bluff located 0.4 miles west of the trail where it crosses Cedar Creek on Gum Springs Road. To get there, just follow the unnumbered trail out of the back of the FS parking lot along the creek for 0.4 miles. GPS coordinates of the buffalo are [N37° 30.065' W88° 45.684'](#) and it looks like this photo taken in 2014.



- Horse tie-up is popular stopping point for most using the area and a great camping spot. It is located at the intersection of a unnamed creek entering Cedar Creek from the south. The GPS coordinates for the tie up are [N37° 30.420' W88° 46.833'](#). The tie up is a popular stopping point for accessing stops 3-5.

Map 13 - Supplemental Information

- (4) Easter Basket Arch is a natural and unusual rock formation located just south of the trail. To find the arch, follow an unmarked trail out of the backside of the horse tie up located at the creek crossing. It is located up the trail 0.2 miles at GPS coordinates [N37° 30.244' W88° 46.901'](#). The arch looks like this.

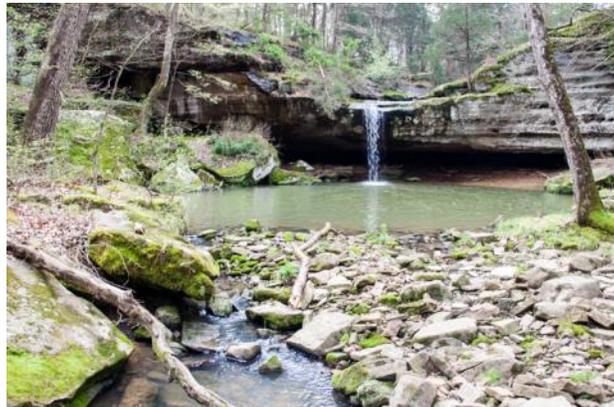


- (5) An unnamed intermittent waterfall is located just up the valley one quarter mile from the arch. This is on an unmarked trail but it is easy to find by just following the creek upstream. GPS coordinates for the fall are [N37° 30.051' W88° 46.874'](#) and it looks like this.

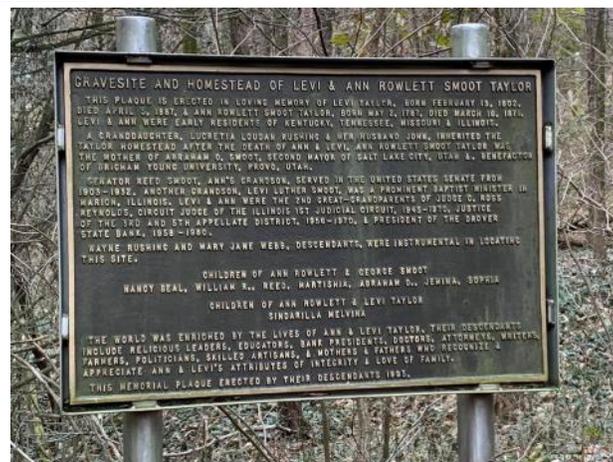


- (6) John D Falls, also known as Cottonwood Falls, is another waterfall located up the other branch of the stream the R2R trail crosses. The name "John D" is for John Deleonardo who frequented the falls, lived next door along Gilead Church Road and owned the Vienna Chevrolet dealership in the 1980s. To go to the falls, follow a small unmarked trail on the west side of the creek. The trail follows the creek for a couple hundred feet and then climbs the hill to the base of the bluffs and continues to the waterfall. The distance to the falls is 0.4 miles and the GPS coordinates are [N37° 30.304' W88°](#)

- [47.199'](#). The falls looks like this.



- (7) The homestead of Levi & Ann Rowlett Smoot Taylor is marked by a plaque in the forest. GPS coordinates are [N37° 30.525' W88° 47.141'](#).



- The Boot Ranch is private property located on the west side of Garfield Lane where the trail comes out of the woods. This property got its name because the fence posts along Garfield Lane are covered with old cowboy boots. GPS coordinates for the ranch are [N37° 30.468' W88° 47.525'](#).

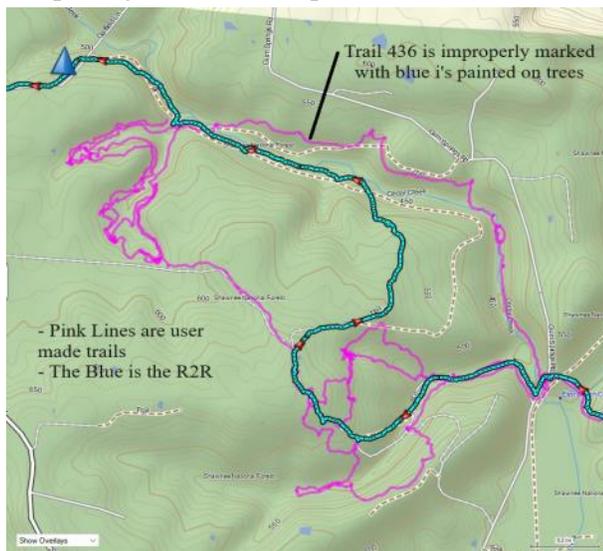


Map 13 - Supplemental Information

- Old Homestead only has the foundation remaining along with an old farm pond that could be used as a water source along the trail. Both are adjacent to the trail at GPS coordinates [N37° 29.703' W88° 46.339'](#).

Frequently asked questions along this section

- Please note that there is an alternate route for the R2R trail in this section that has numerous Blue Eyes painted on the trees that are still visible. This route is not correct because all 4 previous versions of this guide show the trail on the south side of Cedar Creek along the current route. This improperly marked trail is on the north side of the creek along trail 436 on the map.
- Please be advised that there are numerous user made trails in this area that may not be marked completely. See this map for some of them.



Mileage	Surface	Location Description
65.6	Trail	Trigg Tower Road Crossing
68.2	Trail	Intersection with trail to Trigg Tower
69.2	Trail	Twin Bridges Crossing
69.4	Trail	Gum Springs Road Crossing
72.1	Trail	Creek Crossing / Horse Tie Up
72.9	Trail	Trail Starts on Garfield Lane at the Boot Ranch
74.6	Road	Max Creek Trail Entrance on Hilltop Lane

Zoom 65.6 miles equates to 0.0 on the graph below



Map 14 - Hilltop Lane to US45 / Goddard Crossing

The trail into the Max Creek section from the south is approximately 1 mile south of Gilead Church Road along Hilltop Lane. Please note that there is only roadside parking at this location. Entering the woods it is a short 1 mile hike downhill to the Max Creek crossing. As you first approach the creek there will be a FS trail to the right which is 437. Turning right on 437 will take you to FS trail 435 that goes east back out of the valley toward Cedar Lake Campground and Gilead Church Road.

After the trail 437 intersection it is only a 100 yards to the Max Creek crossing known as the Max Creek Vortex. After crossing Max Creek take the west trail, it winds up a ledge trail that is unique but at the top goes through some feed plots before meeting an open parking area at the intersection of Taylor Ridge Road. The trail continues down 1.5 miles of Taylor Ridge Road to HWY45 where it turns right and walks along it for about a mile to a point known as Goddard Crossing. This is the theoretical midpoint of the trail.

Local lore would have it that the area around the place where the Trail crosses Max Creek is a Vortex. People hiking in this area have reported feelings of dizziness and disorientation. Others have reported seeing mysterious lights after darkness. Whatever the truth of these claims, Max Creek is a beautiful area.

Goddard Crossing can be very confusing because the private road it turns onto looks like a driveway. This is the correct route, however, and the Illinois Department of Transportation installed a sign in 2018 along HWY45 at the crossing. Cross the highway at the sign, and walk west along the private road. An informational sign as shown below was installed in 2017

and it is located about 100 yards down the private road to the west. The trail goes right by it. Parking at Goddard Crossing is very limited. Seek permission before parking on private property..



Since the actual route after leaving the Max Creek crossing is rather plain, an alternate route is available. This alternate trail follows FS trail 437 along Max Creek for about 1.25 miles to the first trail up the hill to the left. Along this valley is a small scenic waterfall and numerous small bluffs. Once the trail starts up the hill, a small shelter bluff is encountered. The trail continues around the left side of the shelter for another mile to the parking lot at Taylor Ridge Road. This alternative would be 2.2 miles versus the 1.5 miles by staying on the R2R Trail.

Taylor Ridge Road is located approximately 3.2 miles east of the I-24 interchange and 2.6 miles west of Tunnel Hill Road and School on HWY45.

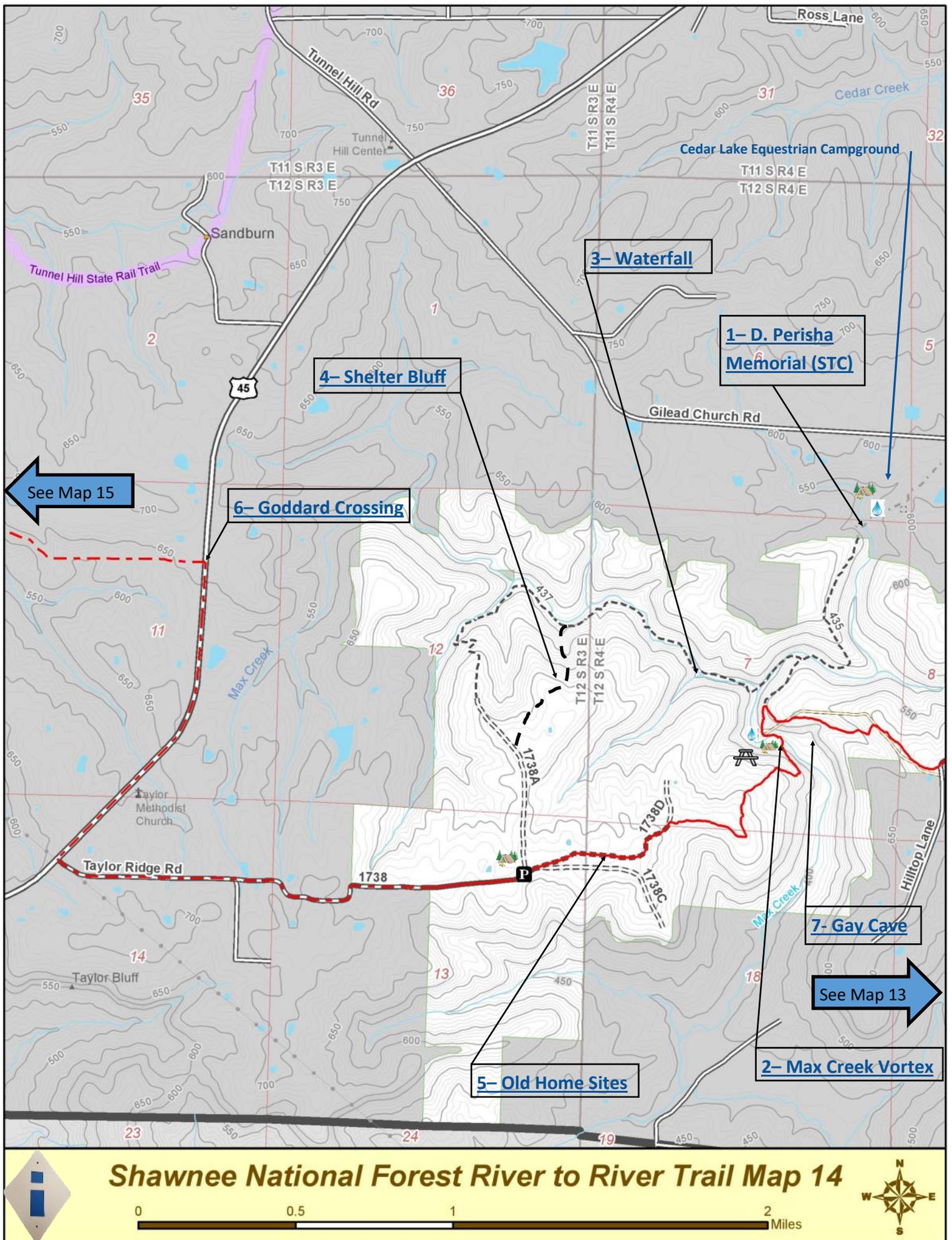


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Map 14 - Supplemental Information

Water Sources along the section

- Max Creek is the only water source along this section and usually has some water year round. Please note that the next opportunity to get some water is 6.2 miles ahead.
- Cedar Lake Campground which is just off the trail also has water. It is accessed by hiking up trails 437 and 435 a mile and a half from the creek.

Potential Camping Locations along this section

- Max Creek Vortex is a very popular camp site along this section of the trail. It has regular access to water and flat sleeping sites. It also has numerous opportunities to explore in the immediate area.
- The Max Creek parking lot at the end of Taylor Ridge Road might also be a good place to camp prior to venturing out on the 2.6 mile road walk along Taylor Ridge Road and HWY 45 before the trail reenters the woods again at Goddard Crossing. No water or facilities exist but it is accessible by automobile.

Interesting Side Trips along the section

- (1) The D. Perisha Memorial was installed in 2008 by members of the Shawnee Trail Conservancy and River to River Trail Society founder John O'Dell. The Memorial was dedicated to Darrell Perisha (1933-2007) because of his extensive and longtime support of the River to River Trail as an active member of the STC. Darrell served as president and member of the Board of Directors of the STC for many years during which time he championed efforts to improve the entire River to River Trail, but especially the Max Creek area, which was in his back yard. Darrell was an avid horseman, a member of the Illinois Trail Riders and known for his excellent memory. Darrell was also supported by his wife Nancy who was great at doing research and a stickler for details. The memorial is located in Max Creek near the in-

tersection of trails 435 and 437 at approximate GPS coordinates [N37° 29.815' W88° 48.215'](#).



- (2) Max Creek Vortex is located where the R2R Trail actually crosses Max Creek. The Vortex is one of the Trail Society's more popular hike locations and is frequently featured as the Halloween night hike. On the south side of Max Creek at the Vortex there is a very nice bluff line that can be explored if you have time when you are camped at the Vortex. The GPS coordinates of the crossing is [N37° 29.198' W88° 48.512'](#) and it may look like this in the fall.



Map 14 - Supplemental Information

- (3) Waterfall is a small intermittent waterfall located along trail 437. To get there follow Max Creek upstream about 0.25 miles from the Vortex or 0.2 miles past the creek that enters Max Creek where the trail comes down the hill. GPS coordinates are [N37° 29.349' W88° 48.833'](#) and the waterfall looks like this.



- (4) Shelter Bluff is also located along trail an unmarked trail about 1.25 miles from the Vortex. GPS coordinates for the shelter are [N37° 29.379' W88° 49.258'](#). This is probably too long a trip unless you are considering taking trail 437 back to Taylor Ridge Road as alternative route for your trip on the trail. This route is definitely more scenic because it follows the creek for about a mile before it turns west and uphill to the shelter. The shelter looks like this.



- (5) There are various old home sites along the trail including various open water wells so BE CAREFUL.
- (6) Goddard Crossing is where the trail crosses US HWY 45 and is considered the halfway point of the trail. It is named in honor of a courteous landowner who has allowed the Trail to cross his property at this point. Please respect private property and leave no trace! This can be a very confusing point because the trail crosses HWY 45 and starts down what looks like a driveway. This

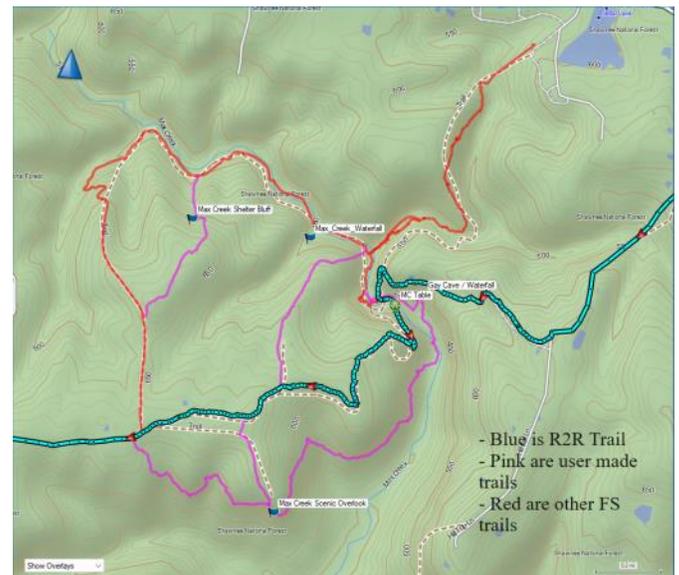
is the correct route, however, and 100 yards down that driveway you will find a new mileage sign installed in 2017 as a reassurance. New signage was also installed along HWY 45 and referred to the point as the trail “Midpoint.” The sign was installed courtesy of the Illinois Department of Transportation. GPS coordinates for the Midpoint are [N37° 29.654' W88° 50.506'](#).

- (7) Gay Cave / Waterfall is a small shelter in the bluff across the creek from the vortex. It is popular place for the equestrians and others. There is a large stone child’s fort in the right corner. GPS coordinates are [N37° 29.221' W88° 48.415'](#) and the area looks like this.



Frequently asked questions along this section

- The Max Creek area is also littered with user made trails that are frequently used by the folks from Cedar Lake Equestrian Campground and others. The following is a map of most of these trails.



Map 14 - Supplemental Information

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Mileage	Surface	Location Description
72.9	Trail	Trail Starts on Garfield Lane at the Boot Ranch
74.6	Road	Max Creek Trail Entrance on Hilltop Lane
75.5	Trail	Max Creek Crossing
76.8	Trail	Trail starts down Taylor Ridge Road
78.3	Road	Corner of Taylor Ridge Road and US45
79.5	Road	Trail leaves US45 heading west
81.7	Trail	Trail Crosses Tunnel Hill Bike Trail

Zoom 72.9 miles equates to 0.0 on the graph below

Elevation None



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Map 15 - US45 / Goddard Crossing to I24 Underpass**Map 16 - I-24 Underpass to Tall Tree Lane**

The trail crosses HWY45 about 4.2 miles north of I-24 and 1.5 miles south of Tunnel Hill at Goddard Crossing. You will be crossing between the Goddard house and houses near it. On this old roadbed you will be on their property, albeit with permission. Wave and thank them for their friendship. Leave no trace!

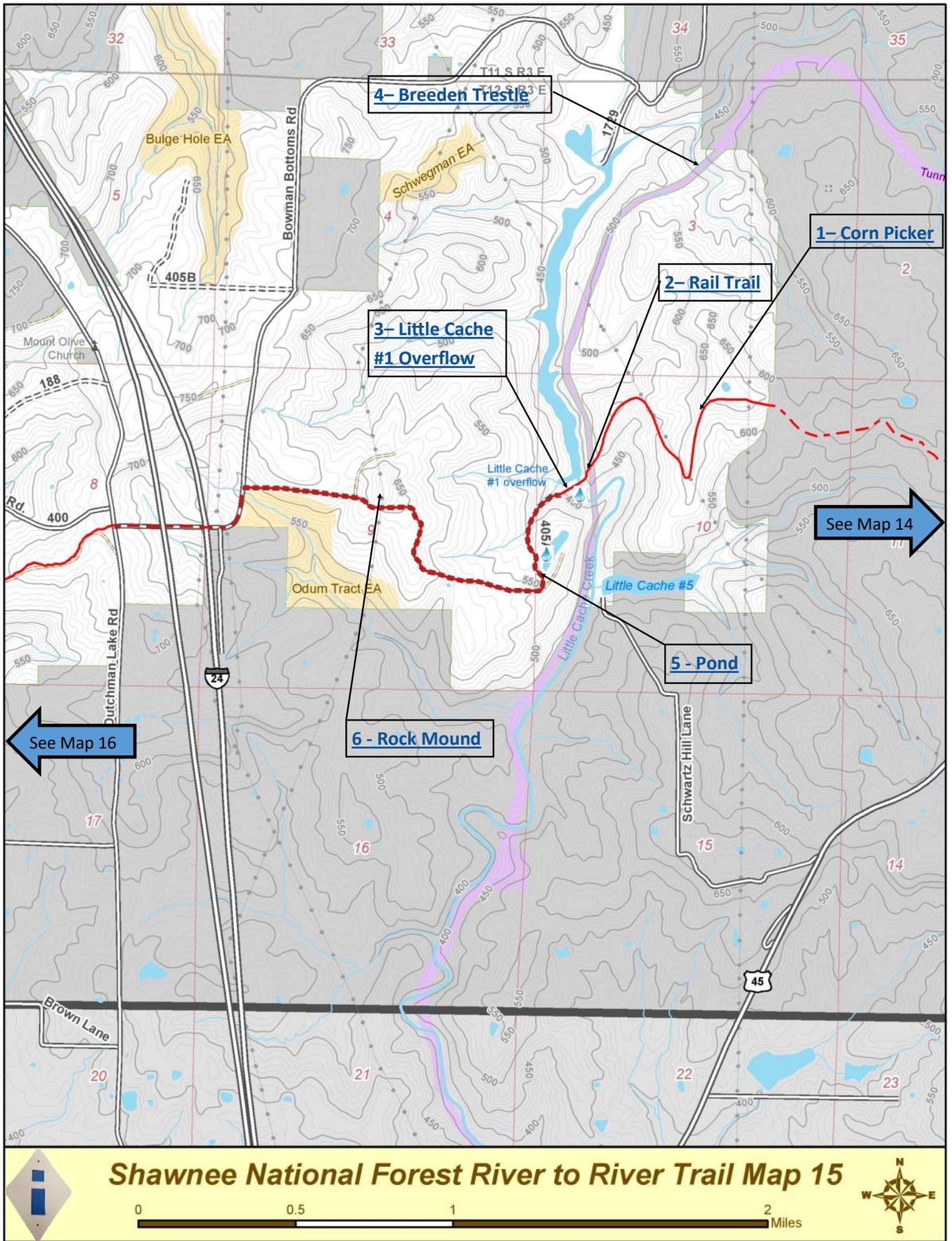
The trail continues west for about 1.2 miles along an old road where there are at least 3 different old homesites along the way. After the last old homesite the trail turns south past an old corn picker abandoned along the trail. After going a quarter mile south, the trail reaches some power lines and then turns back north under the power lines for another quarter mile. After leaving the power lines, the Trail turns southwest for another quarter mile before it arrives at the Tunnel Hill Bike Trail along an old railroad line. A short 1.2 mile detour north would lead to Breeden Trestle, (the highest railroad trestle in the state where it crosses a branch of Little Cache creek.)

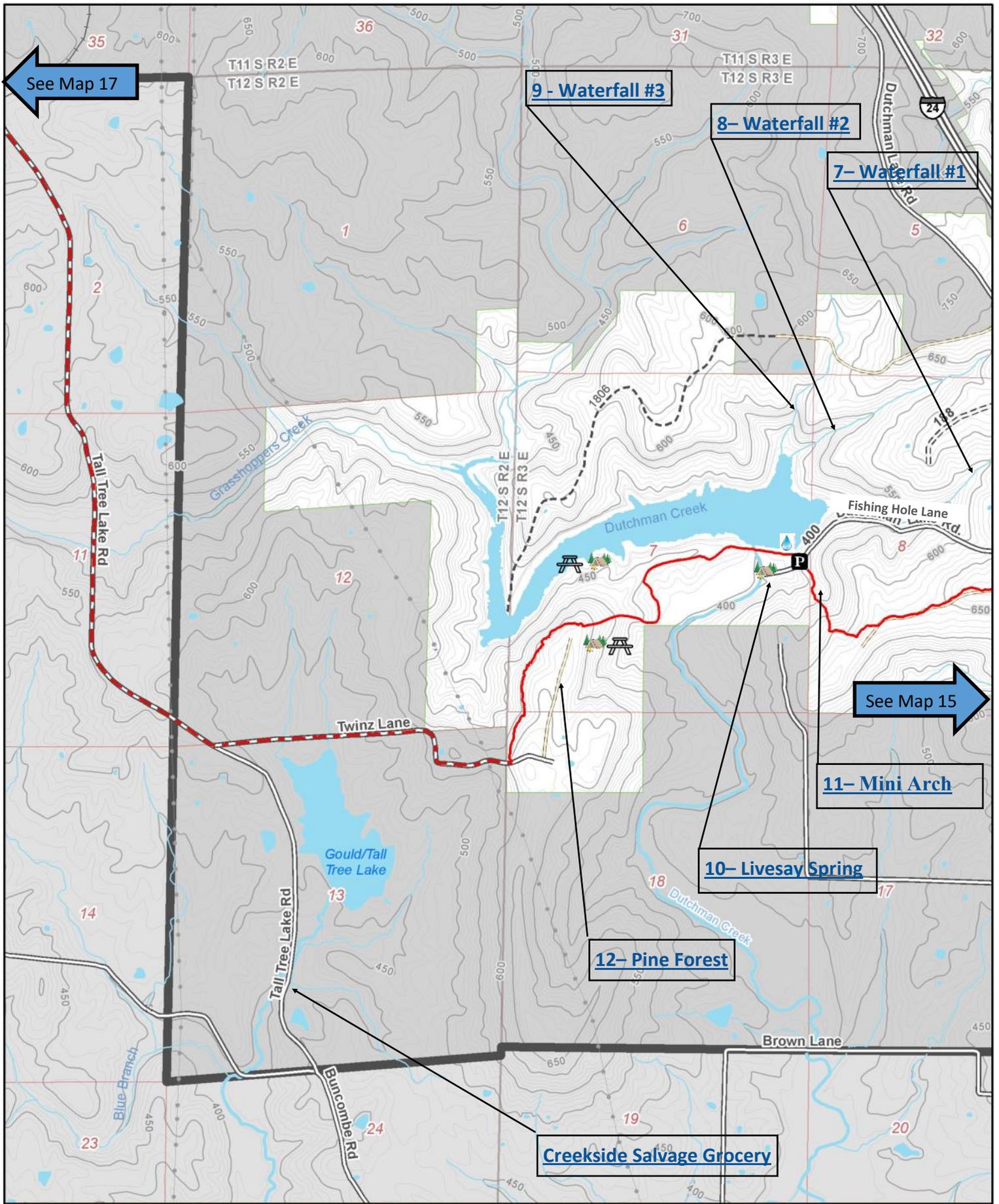
The River-to-River Trail proceeds nearly straight across the bike trail and continues across the dam and spillway of Little Cache Reservoir Number 1. These lakes are the source of the Cache River. After crossing the dam, the trail climbs a hill to a plateau with a small lake on top of the hill. After passing the pond, the trail proceeds through about a mile of woods and finds its way to the gravel Bowman Bottoms Road at the entrance to Odum Tract Ecological Area.

The trail continues straight west on Bowman Bottoms Road for about a half mile and under I-24. Where Bowman Bottoms Road dead ends at Dutchman Lake Road, it proceeds straight across the road through a clearing in the old pine forest. After about 0.7 miles of this clearing, the trail turns right (north) and proceeds down a steep hill for a quarter mile to come out

at the Dutchman Lake boat ramp and dam. The view of Dutchman Lake from the dam can be quite beautiful, especially on a sunny fall day, when the changing colors of the trees are reflected in the waters of the lake. Here the trail proceeds west across the dam and through some open fields for about a half mile. Then it turns south and heads into the woods and up a steep hill. At the top of the hill the trail once turned south through an enchanting old growth pine forest, but in 2018 storms toppled many of the pines making the trail impassable. A work day in late 2019 cleared up the mess but the trees continued to fall. As a result, the trail was rerouted in 2023 to follow the hillside of the ridge in the hardwood forest parallel to the pines. After about a half mile, the trail turns right and starts going downhill along an old Forest Service road and emerges onto a gravel road named Twinz Lane. The trail continues west along Twinz Lane for a half mile until the lane ends in a "T" at Tall Tree Lake Road. The trail turns right (northwest) onto Tall Tree Lake Road to begin a long 2.9 mile road walking segment to reach HWY37.

Upon reaching HWY37, the trail will turn right and proceed north along the shoulder of HWY37 for 0.6 miles where it will turn left and west onto Rebman Lane. There is a good deal of traffic on Hwy 37, so be very careful and walk facing oncoming traffic where possible. After about a mile on Rebman Lane the trail will reach a Ferne Clyffe south trailhead parking lot for the trail and park.





See Map 17

9 - Waterfall #3

8- Waterfall #2

7- Waterfall #1

See Map 15

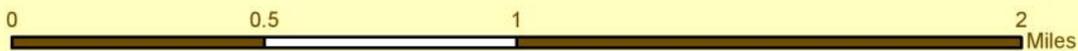
11- Mini Arch

10- Livesay Spring

12- Pine Forest

Creekside Salvage Grocery

Shawnee National Forest River to River Trail Map 16



Map 15 and 16 - Supplemental Information

Water Sources along the section

- Little Cache Number 1 Reservoir
- The pond along the trail 0.3 miles past the number 1 reservoir.
- Dutchman Lake
- Note that Dutchman Lake will be the last access to water until Ferne Clyffe SP which is at least 8 miles away.

Potential Camping Locations along this section

- Where the R2R trail gets to Dutchman Lake boat ramp, it turns left and heads west across the dam. However, down the hill below the dam is a turn around and little park along Dutchman Creek.

Interesting Side Trips along the section

- (1) The Old Corn Picker is right along the trail where it makes a big 90 degree turn to the south. Between HWY 45 and the corn picker you will pass several old homesteads that include building foundations and water wells. GPS coordinates for the picker are [N37° 29.760' W88° 51.900'](#) and it looks like this.



- (2) Tunnel Hill Rail Trail crossing is located at GPS coordinates [N37° 29.614' W88° 52.274'](#). The R2R Trail crosses at a 90 degree intersection and heads down to the dam for Little Cache Number 1 Reservoir. Walking down the rail trail 500' to the west (left) you will cross one of the several bridges along the rail trail. 1.2 miles to

the east (right) along the bike trail is Breeden Trestle, the largest old railroad bridge on the bike trail, at 450 feet long.

- A view of Little Cache Number 1 Reservoir.



- (3) Little Cache Number 1 Reservoir dam overflow and the railroad bridge along the rail trail. The overflow is a natural rock channel on the west side of the dam that drains the reservoir when it gets too high to protect the dam. GPS coordinates for the overflow are [N37° 29.535' W88° 52.400'](#). A view of the railroad bridge from the overflow channel looks like this.



- (4) Breeden Trestle railroad bridge on the former Big Four Railroad line, now the Tunnel Hill State Bike Trail. GPS coordinates for the trestle are [N37° 30.515' W88° 51.845'](#)



Map 15 and 16 - Supplemental Information

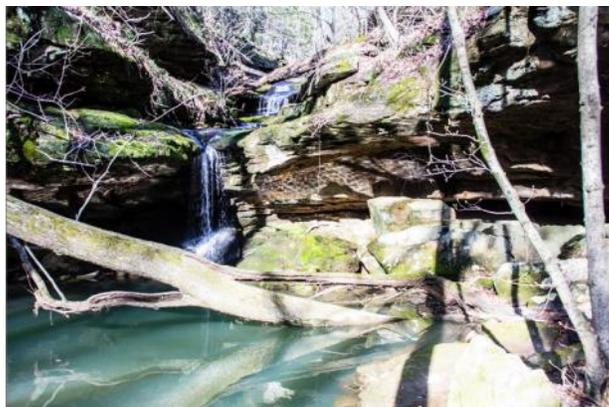
- (5) The Pond is passed after you climb the 0.3 mile hill after crossing the dam. GPS coordinates for the pond are [N37° 29.350' W88° 52.433'](#) and it looks like this.



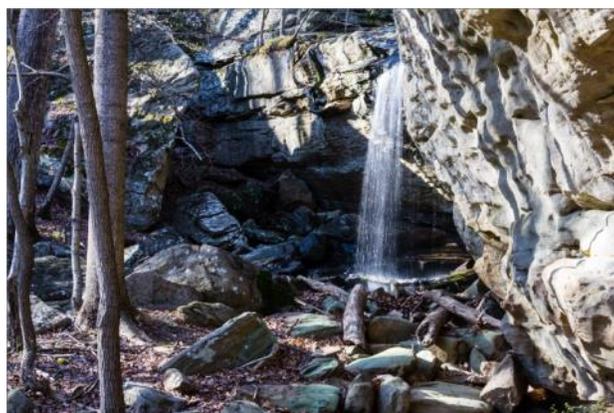
- (6) Rock Mound is just that, a small mound about the size of a football field and about 25 feet tall. It is located right along the trail at GPS coordinates [N37° 29.499' W88° 53.005'](#). The rocks atop of the mound make it a great place to stop for lunch or rest.
- (7) Waterfall #1 (of 3) located along an unmarked user-made trail just north of Fishing Hole Lane. The unmarked trail starts right across the road from where the R2R trail intersects Dutchman Lake Dam. Hiking to all three would be about a 2.5 mile trip. GPS coordinates for falls #1 are [N37° 29.574' W88° 54.249'](#).



- (8) Waterfall #2 is at GPS coordinates [N37° 29.732' W88° 54.653'](#).



- (9) Waterfall #3 is at GPS coordinates [N37° 29.780' W88° 54.787'](#).



- (10) Jug (Livesay) Spring is little southeast of the Dutchman Lake spillway. The father of the trail named the Spring for Darrel Livesay, the man who opened the trail in this area. Darrel was also responsible for the original route the trail took through Crab Orchard Wilderness. However, this spring had previously been named Jug Spring with a well-documented history. A University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign study, *The Biological Resources of Illinois Caves and other Subterranean Environments* (1993), by Donald W. Webb, Steven J. Taylor, and Jean K. Krejca Center for Biodiversity Illinois Natural History Survey list the Jug Spring as one of their study areas. The total surveyed length of Jug Spring Cave is 2,157 feet by this group. Also, this Spring / Cave was listed by Peck and Lewis (1978). L. A. Dearing listed Jug Spring in papers in 1957. Also, Griffith listed this as in the Cold Springs Area in their publication, *Spotlight on Egypt*. This Spring appears to flow continuously from a cave barricaded off by the Forest Service. GPS coordinates for it are [N37° 29.320' W88° 54.870'](#) and it looks like the image on the next page.

Map 15 and 16 - Supplemental Information



- (11) Dutchman Lake Mini Arch is about a 2 foot wide arch in a small stand alone rock about 150 feet east of the R2R trail as you are walking down the hill to the Dutchman Lake Dam. It is located at GPS coordinates [N37° 29.322'](#) [W88° 54.682'](#) and looks like this.



- (12) [Pine Forest](#) section of the trail could have been a dark hike even in the middle of the day because the trail passed through a dense row of pine trees like this until 2018. There are multiple areas like this around Dutchman Lake. However, in 2018/2019 a storm brought down 60-70 pines making the trail nearly impassable until it was cleared in Nov 2019. 30-40 more trees have fallen requiring another cleanup day in 2023 so the FS agreed to reroute the trail in

February 2023. It once looked like this.



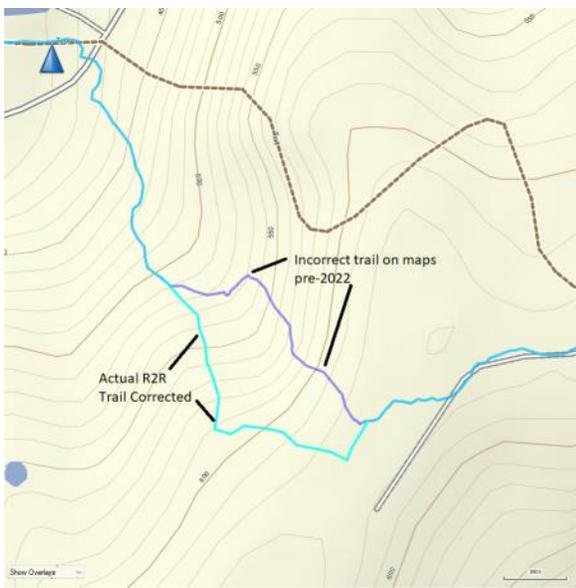
Changes to the R2R trail

- In versions 3 & 4 of this guide the maps showed the trail going down Fishing Hole Lane and the text description in the same guides described a route through the woods. It is unknown when the trail was moved off Fishing Hole Lane.



- 2021 minor trail corrections on maps. See next page.

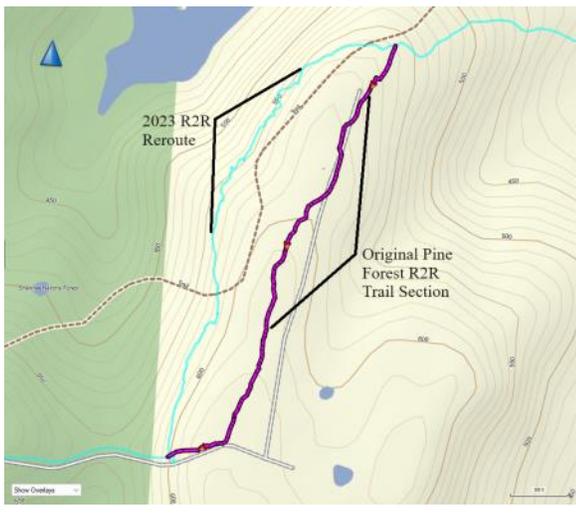
Map 15 and 16 - Supplemental Information



Frequently asked questions along this section:

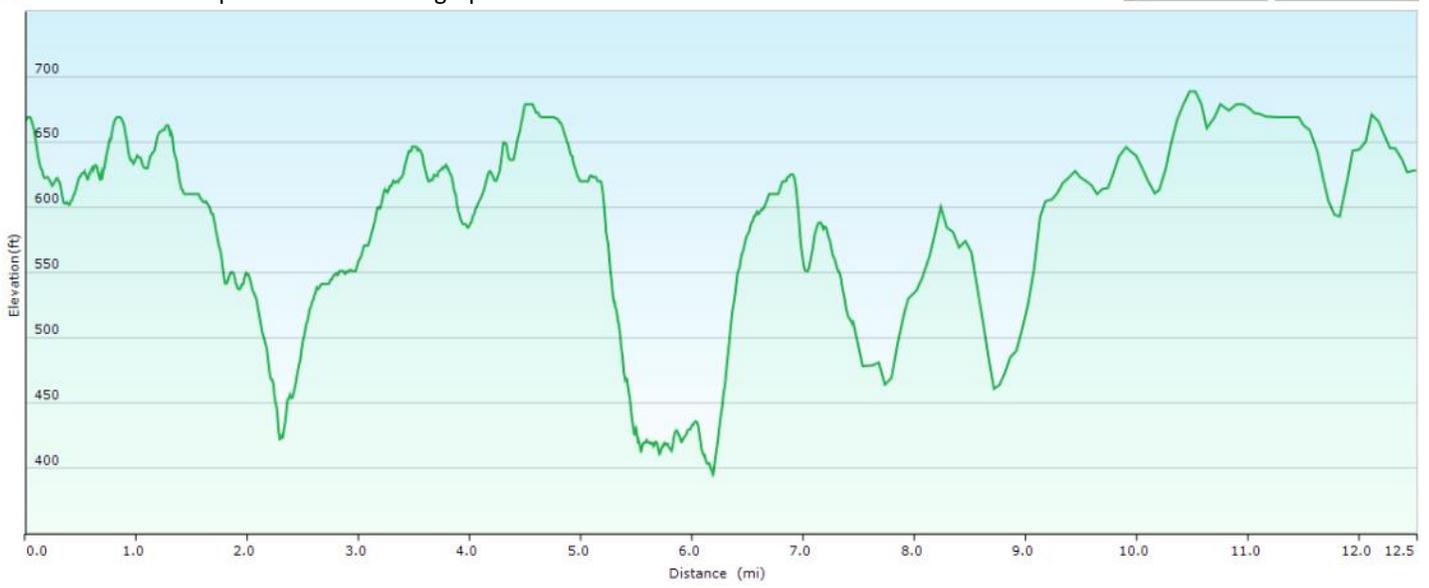
Grocery Supply Locations in this section:
 - Creekside Salvage Grocery, 260 Tall Tree Lake Rd., Vienna, IL 62995. This is a small Amish Grocery store without a phone that is open 8-5 M-F and 8-4 Sat. It is located 0.5 miles south of the trail at GPS Coordinates N37° 28.211' W88° 56.433'

- 2023 major reroute around pine forest



Mileage	Surface	Location Description
79.5	Road	Trail leaves US45 heading west
81.7	Trail	Trail Crosses Tunnel Hill Bike Trail
83.4	Trail	Trail starts down Bowman Bottoms Road
83.9	Road	Trail crosses Dutchman Lake Road
85	Trail	Dutchman Lake Boat Ramp
86.9	Road	Trail starts down Twinz Lane heading to Tall Tree Lane
87.5	Road	Trail turns right (north) onto Tall Tree Lane
90.4	Road	Trail turns right (north) along US37 for 0.6 miles
91	Road	Trail turns left (west) onto Rebman Lane
92	Road	Parking lot for trail at south side of Ferne Clyffe SP

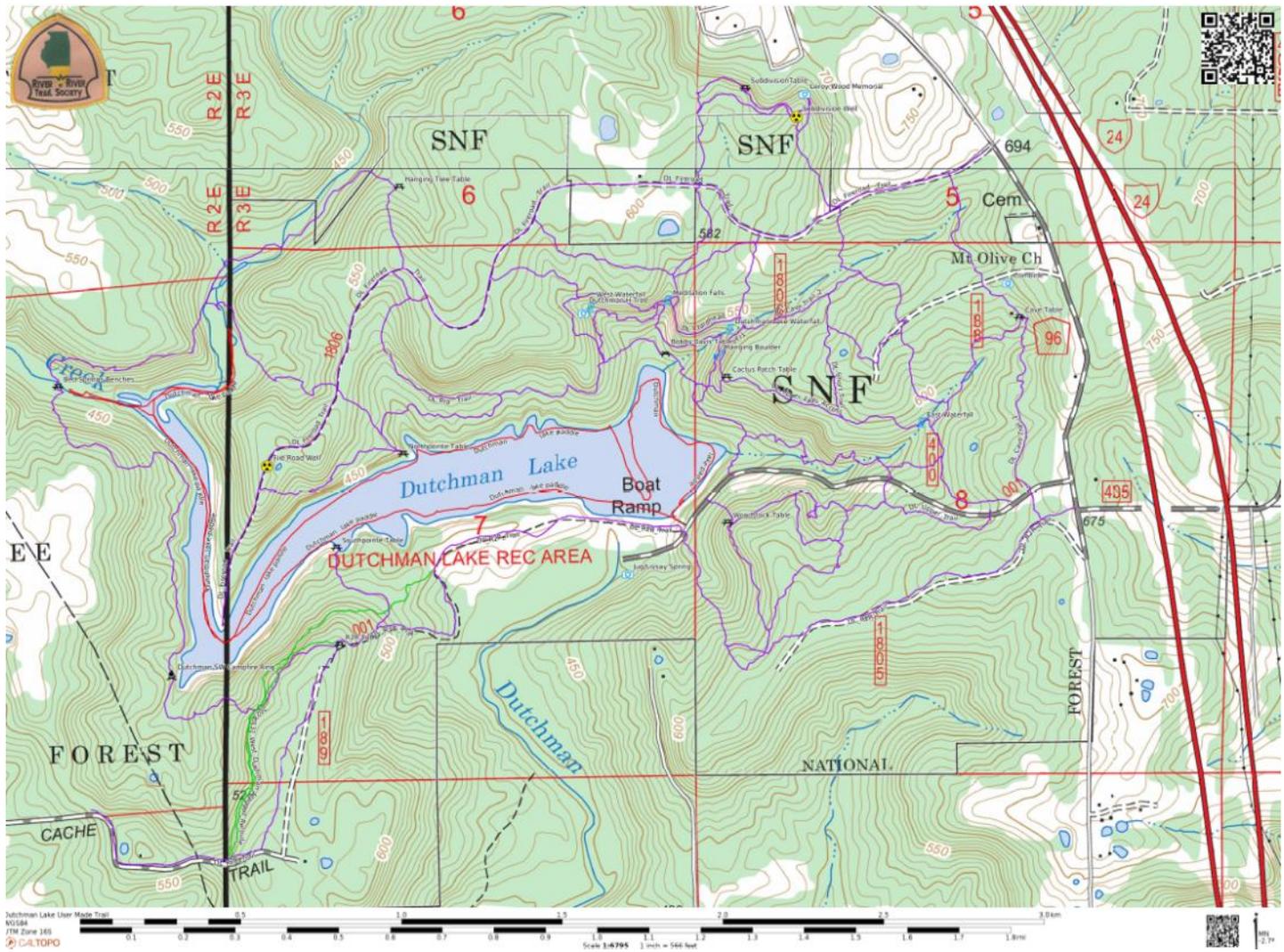
Zoom 79.5 miles equates to 0.0 on the graph below



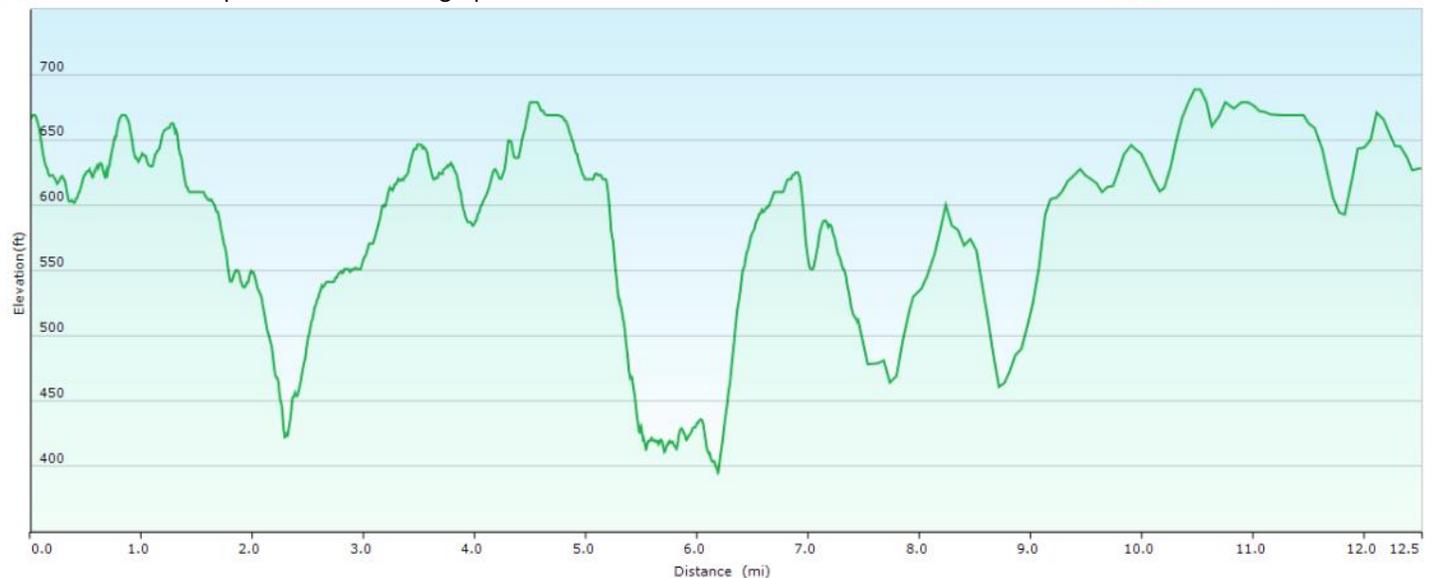
Map 15 and 16 - Supplemental Information

Frequently asked questions along this section:

- The Dutchman Lake area is also loaded with numerous user made trails, the following is a map of the trails as they existed in 2023.



Zoom 79.5 miles equates to 0.0 on the graph below



[Return to Table of Contents](#)

Map 17 - Tall Tree Lane to Happy Hollow Road

Map 18 - Happy Hollow Road to Mount Hebron Road

The River-to-River Trail through Ferne Clyffe State Park is about six miles long and exits the Park at the southwest corner of the village of Goreville. The River-to-River Trail enters Ferne Clyffe State Park at a parking lot on the north side of Rebman Road, a little over a mile west of HWY37. Rebman Road is the first road a half mile south of the main entrance to Ferne Clyffe State Park. The Trail proceeds north about a mile past the equestrian campground in the park and then turns back to the west as it descends into Happy Hollow. The Trail then follows Happy Hollow and Buck Creek to the south and west before turning back to the north on a bluff above Happy Hollow. As the trail follows the bluff, it passes near a natural bridge and an overlook called Alligator Rock. Towards the north end of the Park, the Trail passes within 100 feet of a huge rock shelter called Hawk's Cave which is a definite must-see. After returning to the Trail from the cave, the Trail turns west to climb up to the top of the Hawk's Cave bluff and continues through the woods to reach West Crawford Ave in Goreville. Groceries and restaurants are available in Goreville.

A highly recommended alternative to walking the 0.6 miles from Hawk's Cave to the road would be to follow the Hawk's Cave trail back down into the valley to the parking lot for the main waterfall in the park. The detour would be a 0.4 mile hike to the parking lot, a quarter mile into the main falls and back, a quarter mile hike around the Rebman loop trail and then a half mile hike up the Boy Scout trail that comes out on West Crawford Lane 100 yards east of the R2R trail.

At the top of the bluff, the Trail turns to the west along West Crawford Avenue, a blacktop road which soon changes its name to Sullivan Road. After about 0.9 miles, the Trail turns south on Happy Hollow Road which proceeds generally to the south and west. After about 1.5 miles, at a sharp turn where Happy Hollow Road turns back to the south, the Trail turns north into the Cedar Bluff/Drapers Bluff Hunting Area through a trailhead at a small gravel parking lot.

The Trail passes generally to the north and west for about two miles through the hunting area before exiting through a small gravel parking lot onto a gravel road called Regent Lane. (A highly recommended short side trip would be to visit the double falls valley about a quarter mile after entering the area.)

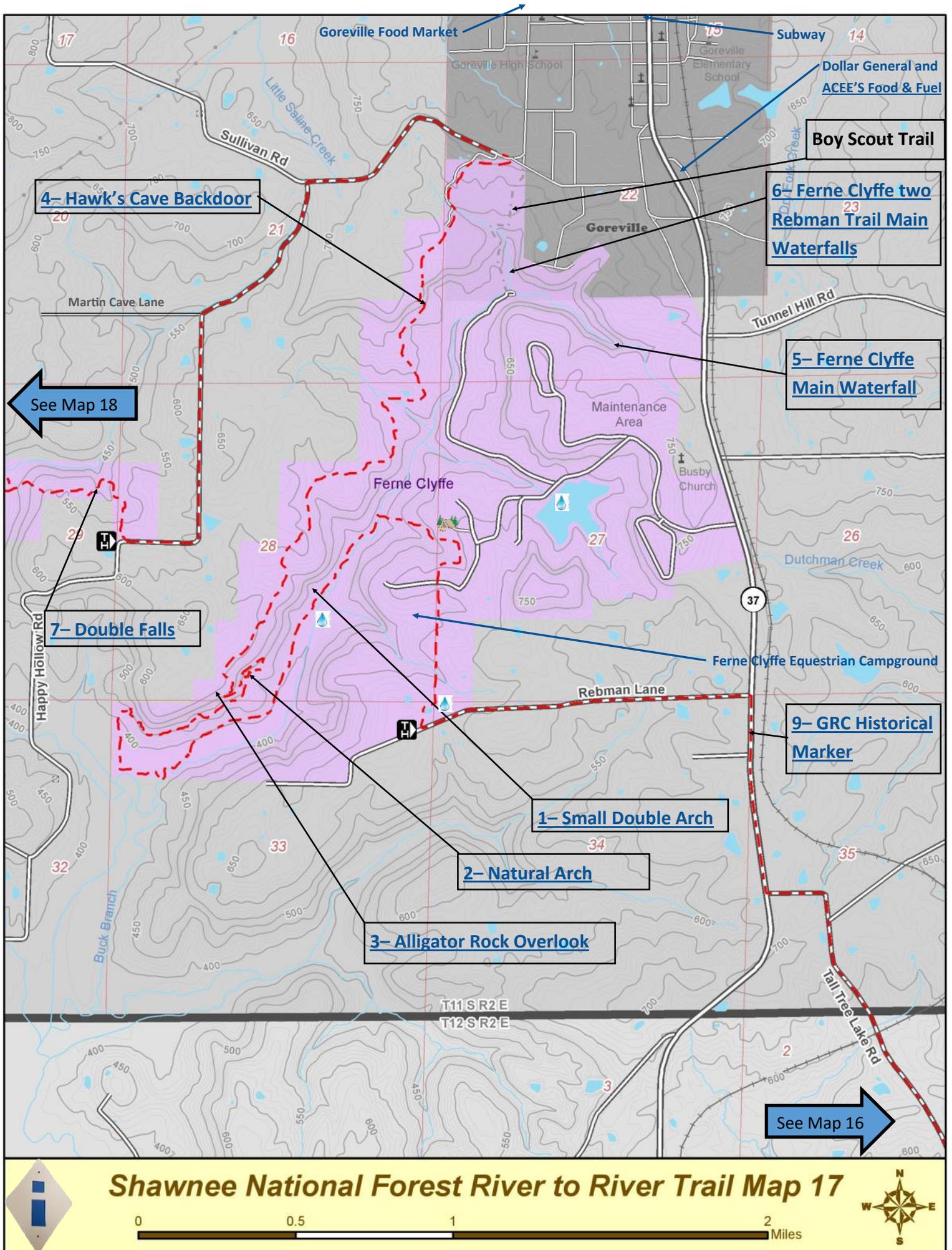
Other significant features in the area are Chimney Rock and Drapers Bluff. However, access to these features requires crossing private property and will

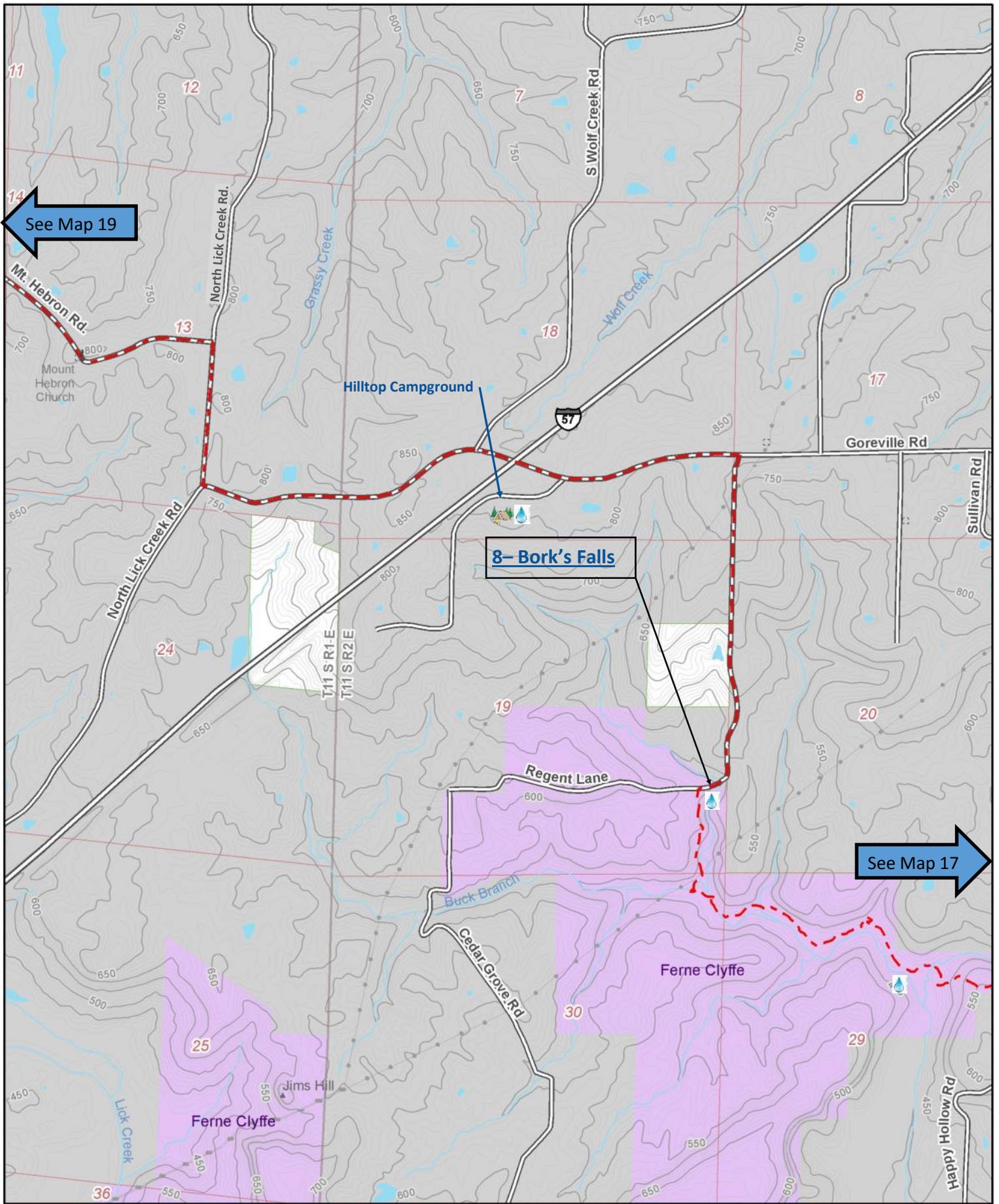
not be recommended in this guide.

To continue on the Trail, turn right (east) on Regent Lane and cross through a stream bed as the road turns north. This stream bed passes over a cliff as a waterfall with a large rock shelter below the road. This waterfall has numerous names but the most popular is Bork's Falls. The waterfall is only about twenty feet from the edge of the road, so be careful! To visit the shelter and the bottom of Bork's Falls, there is a trail on the west side of the valley that follows the top of the bluff to a point where it can be descended to the base of the waterfall.

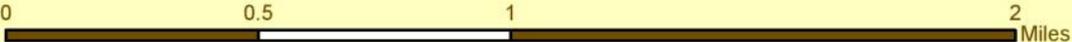
The road continues to the north where it "T's" with the Goreville Road. Once the River to River Trail reaches the Goreville Road, it turns west or left and continues west 0.6 miles to cross over Interstate 57 and then continues west another 0.8 miles to the next "T" intersection where it turns to the right (north) onto N. Lick Creek Road. After going north for about a half mile on North Lick Creek Road, turn left (west) onto Mt. Hebron Road. After about 1.8 miles look for a road to the right (north), Wayside Lane. This is "Wayside." The River-to-River Trail turns right and follows Wayside Lane to the north, past a couple of farms for about a mile to a place where the gravel road turns to the northeast (right). At this point, the Trail as marked continues straight north on an overgrown roadbed.

Located in Goreville—Call in orders welcome
Phone 618-995-1842





Shawnee National Forest River to River Trail Map 18


Map 17 and 18 - Supplemental Information

Water Sources along the section

- Buck Branch creek in the valley usually has some ponds where water gets trapped but can be very dry in the summer.
- The lake at Ferne Clyffe SP is about a quarter mile off the trail and may be the most reliable source of water.
- Once arriving at West Crawford Ave. in Goreville, most of downtown is within a half mile from the trail, including a grocery (straight north on Ferne Clyffe St), Acee's convenience store (straight east) and a Subway (northeast).
- Another section of Buck Branch as it approaches Bork's Falls may also be a sources of water. Note this may be the last opportunity for water for 9 miles until reaching Panther Den.

Potential Camping Locations along this section

- Per official guidance from Jay Massey, Site Superintendent, camping in Ferne Clyffe SP is allowed only in designated camp sites. Trailside camping is NOT permitted in the park. Most hikers would use the backpack camping area which is \$8/night (class c) and is located next to the horse camping area. Pit toilets and a yard hydrant are located in the horse camp. The fees listed include the use of showers, which are about 1 mile from the class C camping. All sites at Ferne Clyffe have a grill and a table.
- Hillside Campground is a private campground near I57 at 255 Baker Ln, Goreville, IL 62939, (618) 995-9130. GPS Coordinates are $N37^{\circ} 33.258' W89^{\circ} 01.916'$.

Interesting Side Trips along the section

- (1) Small Double Arch, is a small feature about a 100 yds off the right side of the trail. It is located in the valley as the trail proceeds south along Buck Branch Creek at GPS coordinates $N37^{\circ} 31.765' W88^{\circ} 59.463'$. The feature looks

like this.



- (2) Natural Arch is located right along the trail because there is a switchback as the trail climbs out of the valley. The arch is located in the middle of this switchback that goes both below and above the arch. GPS coordinates of the arch are $N37^{\circ} 31.514' W88^{\circ} 59.674'$ and it looks like this.



- (3) Alligator Rock is a picturesque natural overlook that is located about 50 feet off the trail. To get there, watch for where the trail makes its switchback to the northeast, right after you pass the top of the arch. Then exit the trail left and climb the small hill to the southwest to GPS coordinates $37^{\circ} 31' 27'' N 88^{\circ} 59' 46'' W$. The photo on the next page shows folks from a River-to-River Trail Society hike enjoying the view from the formation.

Map 17 and 18 - Supplemental Information



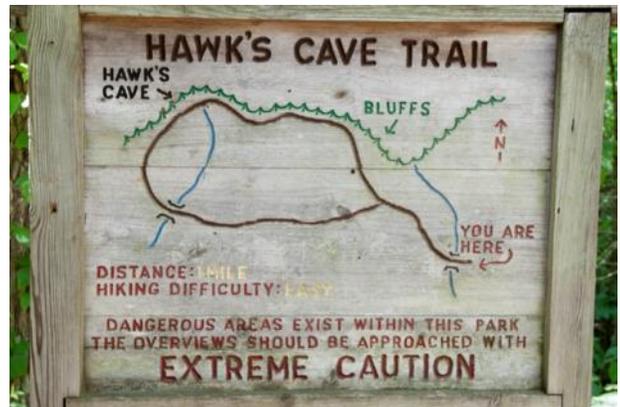
- (4) Hawk's Cave is a prominent feature in Ferne Clyffe SP with a dedicated SP trail up to it. The R2R trail passes about 100 feet from the southwest end of the cave. Just watch for a point where the trail turns left and climbs sharply to the top of the cave. Leave the trail here at GPS coordinates [N37° 32.542' W88° 59.089'](#) and follow the trail around the base of the bluff to the cave to see this view.



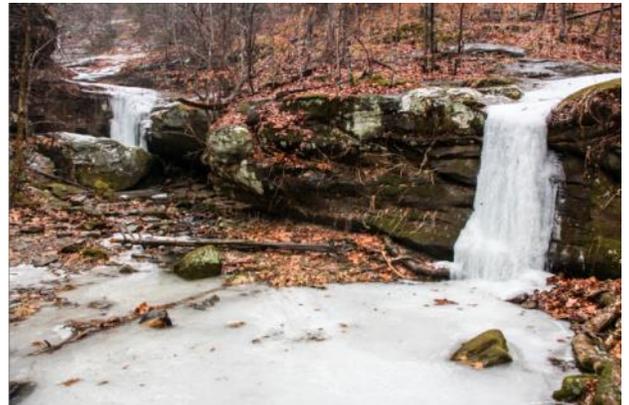
- (5) The Main Waterfall is one of the primary features of the State Park. To reach it from the R2R Trail requires hiking the Hawk's Cave trail 0.4 miles down to the parking lot for the falls located at GPS coordinates [N37° 32.578' W88° 58.805'](#). From there, signs will point the way to the falls. The falls are located at GPS coordinates [N37° 32.447' W88° 58.418'](#) and look like this.



The Hawk's Cave map looks like the following picture and the trail can be accessed by coming in from the left along the upper crack in the boards.



- (6) Double waterfall along the Rebman Trail can be reached from the same parking lot as the main waterfall. Along the trail to these falls is a historical marker about the Rebman family, who deeded to the State of Illinois most of the property that Ferne Clyffe State Park is now situated on. The GPS coordinates of the double waterfalls are [N37° 32.723' W88° 58.796'](#) and they look like this.



Map 17 and 18 - Supplemental Information

- (7) Double Falls is located right after the trail enters the west section of the State Park off of Happy Hollow Road. About a quarter mile after entering the woods, the trail crosses a creek and the falls are just downstream at GPS coordinates [N37° 32.023' W89° 00.193'](#). The waterfalls look like this after a significant rainfall.



[31.371' W88° 57.924'](#)



- (8) Bork's Falls is located right where the Trail merges with Regent Lane. The trail actually crosses the creek along the road above the falls at GPS coordinates [N37° 32.506' W89° 01.271'](#). The falls drops about 30 feet and look like the following after a deep winter freeze.



- (9) George Rogers Clark (GRC) Historical Marker is on the west side of HWY37 at this location. This marker erected in 1913 commemorates Gen. George Rogers Clark march from Fort Massac to Kaskaskia in 1778. GPS coordinates [N37°](#)

Map 17 and 18 - Supplemental Information

Frequently asked questions along this section

- Where to park on Wayside Lane? - Jim and Sandy Poletti allow parking in the field of their farm near the trailhead at 840 Wayside Lane. Don't block the driveway.

Mile-age	Surface	Location Description
90.4	Road	Trail turns right (north) along US37 for 0.6 miles
91	Road	Trail turns left (west) onto Rebman Lane
92	Road	Parking lot for trail at south side of Ferne Clyffe SP
93.1	Trail	Trail reaches Buck Creek and turns south
95.6	Trail	Trail reaches the Natural Arch
97.5	Trail	Trail reaches Hawk's Cave Back Door
98.1	Trail	Trail turns left onto Crawford Ave in Goreville
99	Road	Trail turns left (southwest), Sullivan road goes straight
99.6	Road	Trail turns left (south), Martin Road goes straight west
100.4	Road	Trail goes down Crawford Ave to Happy Hollow Road Trailhead
102.5	Trail	Trail turns right onto Regent Lane at Bork's Falls
103.8	Road	Trail turns left onto Goreville Road
104.4	Road	Trail crosses I57 walking along Goreville Road
105.6	Road	Trail turns right (north) onto North Lick Creek Road
105.9	Road	Trail turns left (west) onto Mount Hebron Road
107.7	Road	Trail turns right (north) onto Wayside Lane
108.5	Road	Trail enters the woods at the Wayside Lane trailhead to enter Panther Den

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Zoom 90.4 miles equates to 0.0 on the graph below



Map 19 - Mount Hebron Road to Rocky Comfort Road

Map 20 - Rocky Comfort Road to Antioch Lane

Access Panther Den by car by exiting I-57 at Exit 40, and then going west on Goreville Road to the first "T". Turn right onto North Lick Creek Road, then in 0.4 miles, turn left onto Mt. Hebron Road going past Mt. Hebron Church. Continue on to the intersection with Wayside Lane in 1.7 miles. You will be driving over the route of the River-to-River Trail. The River-to-River Trail turns right onto Wayside Lane. Follow Wayside Lane to the north, past a couple farms, for about a mile to a place where the gravel road turns to the northeast (right). At this point, the Trail as marked leaves the gravel road and continues straight north on an overgrown roadbed along a pasture. After about a half mile, the Trail enters the Panther Den Wilderness area and turns to the left (west) and wanders west and northwest for about half a mile through a primarily wooded area with a pasture visible to the south. Shortly after losing sight of the pasture, an intersection will be reached with SNF trail 389 which travels north along a ridge top. After the intersection the trail makes several turns while descending downhill into the stream valley. Soon you are at a spot that is incredible! This has been labeled as Panther Den City on the maps because of its similarity to Giant City with the huge blocks of rock that have moved 10-20 feet apart creating walkways and alleys between them. (Panther Den itself actually is a niche under one of the huge blocks of rocks.) At Panther Den and to the north along the creek there are some very popular camping spots. The trail continues 0.4 miles past the City north to where it comes very close to the south tip of an arm of Devil's Kitchen Lake. From there, the Trail climbs a hill and turns back to the south. After about a mile there is an intersection where the R2R turns west. A spur trail continues south where you will pass the intersection with SNF trail 371 that heads off to the east and back into Panther Den. Continuing south another quarter of a mile will be a gravel road. There is a small gravel parking area maintained by the Forest Service to the east of where the spur meets the gravel road. Half a mile south of the parking area is Panther Den Road.

[Access to Panther Den by car from Carbondale is via Giant City Road, south to Grassy Lake Road, east to Rocky Comfort Road, south on Rocky Comfort Road, and then east on Panther Den Road to Panther Den Lane. Make sure that you drive all the way to the north end of the lane before parking. Much of the land bordering the lane, at one point including what looks like a parking area along the east side, is private property.]

If you wish to continue on the River-to-River Trail instead of proceeding south to the parking area, follow the River-to-River Trail west from the junction with the spur. After about one-quarter mile, the Trail crosses a creek bed (usually dry) and climbs a hill for another quarter mile to an intersection with a forest road. The Trail turns north and in about 0.6 miles descends sharply to a stream at the head of the western most arm of Devil's Kitchen Lake. The Trail then begins to climb following the bluff along the west side of the Lake.

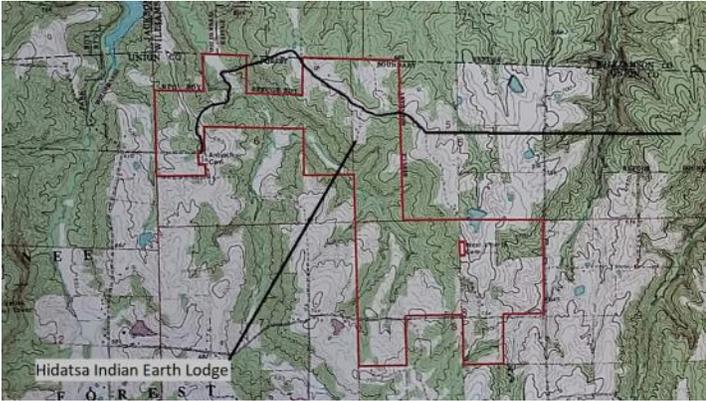
After climbing the previously described hill, the trail enters the Crab Orchard National Wildlife Refuge Land. Halfway up the hill, the Trail makes a sharp turn to the left (west) moving upslope away from the Lake. In about one-half a mile, there is an intersection with a north-south trail. (If you were to turn to the north at this intersection, in about three-quarters of a mile you would reach a parking area a quarter mile south of West Devils Kitchen Road.) Continuing westward from the trail intersection, the River-to-River Trail continues through a wooded area before dropping into a valley. The Trail crosses a creek in the valley. This creek, like many others in this area, has little water except during and soon after a rain storm. On those occasions, the "official" crossing point through the stream can be deep for hikers, but just a short distance to the north, there are gravel bars and rocks which make for a better crossing for hikers. Once across the creek at the "official" crossing, the Trail then climbs west to reach Rocky Comfort Road. There is a new parking area on the west side of Rocky Comfort Road in built in 2018. The distance from Wayside Lane to Rocky Comfort Road is about 6.5 miles.

As soon as the Trail crosses Rocky Comfort Road, the River-to-River Trail follows an abandoned paved road to the west. The old road has been taken over by vegetation and would not be recognizable as a road were it not for the portions of blacktop surface that remain visible.

Now that we have touched on an unusual blacktop surface in the woods, we should go into a little history about this section of trail. Between Rocky Comfort Road and Giant City State Park, a lot of the River to River Trail is on the property of Southern Illinois University (SIU). The red lines in the following map show the current SIU property, but a section of the Trail remains part of the Crab Orchard NWR.

Map 19 - Mount Hebron Road to Rocky Comfort Road

Map 20 - Rocky Comfort Road to Antioch Lane



Back in the late 1960s SIU signed a 20 year lease with the Refuge to develop the area as an ‘Outdoor Classroom’. As a part of this classroom, SIU was responsible for developing the site. SIU then built the quarter mile long blacktop road into the site’s parking lot which still exists today. Also located near the parking lot was one of the first buildings which included a large center fire place and what appears to be a truck loading dock. There are also three ponds to the west of the building which were the sewage treatment facility. Along with the main building, SIU also built the Hidatsa Indian Earth Lodge about a mile west of the main building. The main building was the new home of L.B. Sharp’s “National Camp” and the “Outdoor Education Association.” Google

the name L.B. Sharpe for more information.

The old ghost town of Progress Illinois was also located in the area that now belongs to SIU. As a result, SIU held numerous outdoor classes back in the late 1960’s for local school children. Newspaper articles from 1968, provided by the SIU Touch of Nature staff describe students exploring the old home sites of Progress, old cemeteries including West Liberty and Antioch, the Hidatsa lodge and general outdoor forestry activities.

Unfortunately, despite this promising beginning, just a few years after it was built, the main building burned to the ground ending SIU’s efforts to build this Outdoor classroom.

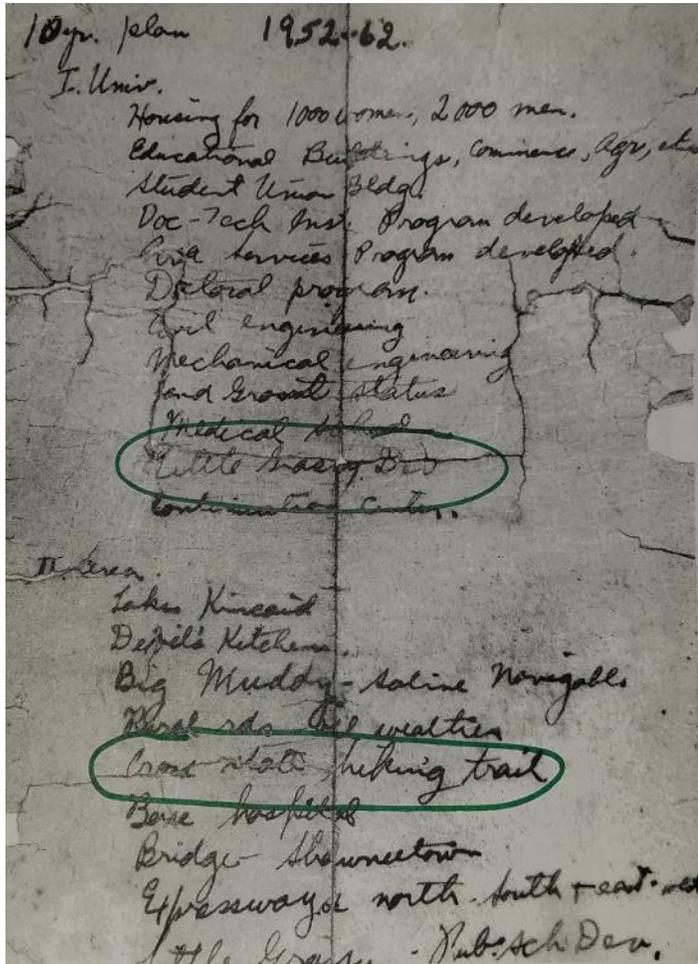
This however did not end SIU’s involvement with the River-to-River trail. In fact, even today the staff at the existing SIU Touch of Nature Facilities north of Giant City SP are working on a spur trail which would connect the Touch with today’s River-to-River trail.

In 2018, Crab Orchard Fish & Wildlife Service constructed a large brand new parking lot on the SW corner of Rocky Comfort Road and the R2R Trail.

Map 19 - Mount Hebron Road to Rocky Comfort Road

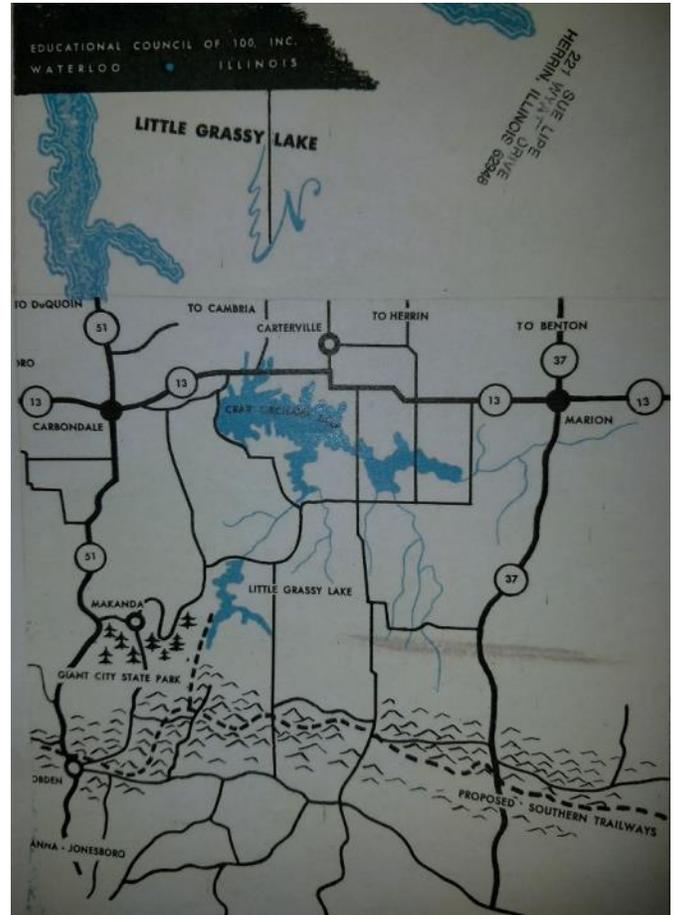
Map 20 - Rocky Comfort Road to Antioch Lane

The SIU staff at the Touch of Nature are sufficiently committed to the River-to-River trail that they have generously shared a copy of past SIU President De-lyte Morris's ten year plan from 1952-1962 to promote the building of a "cross state hiking trail". Folks at SIU regard this plan as the start of the River-to-River trail. Whether there was ever any discussion between SIU, the Shawnee National Forest, or John O'Dell is unknown.



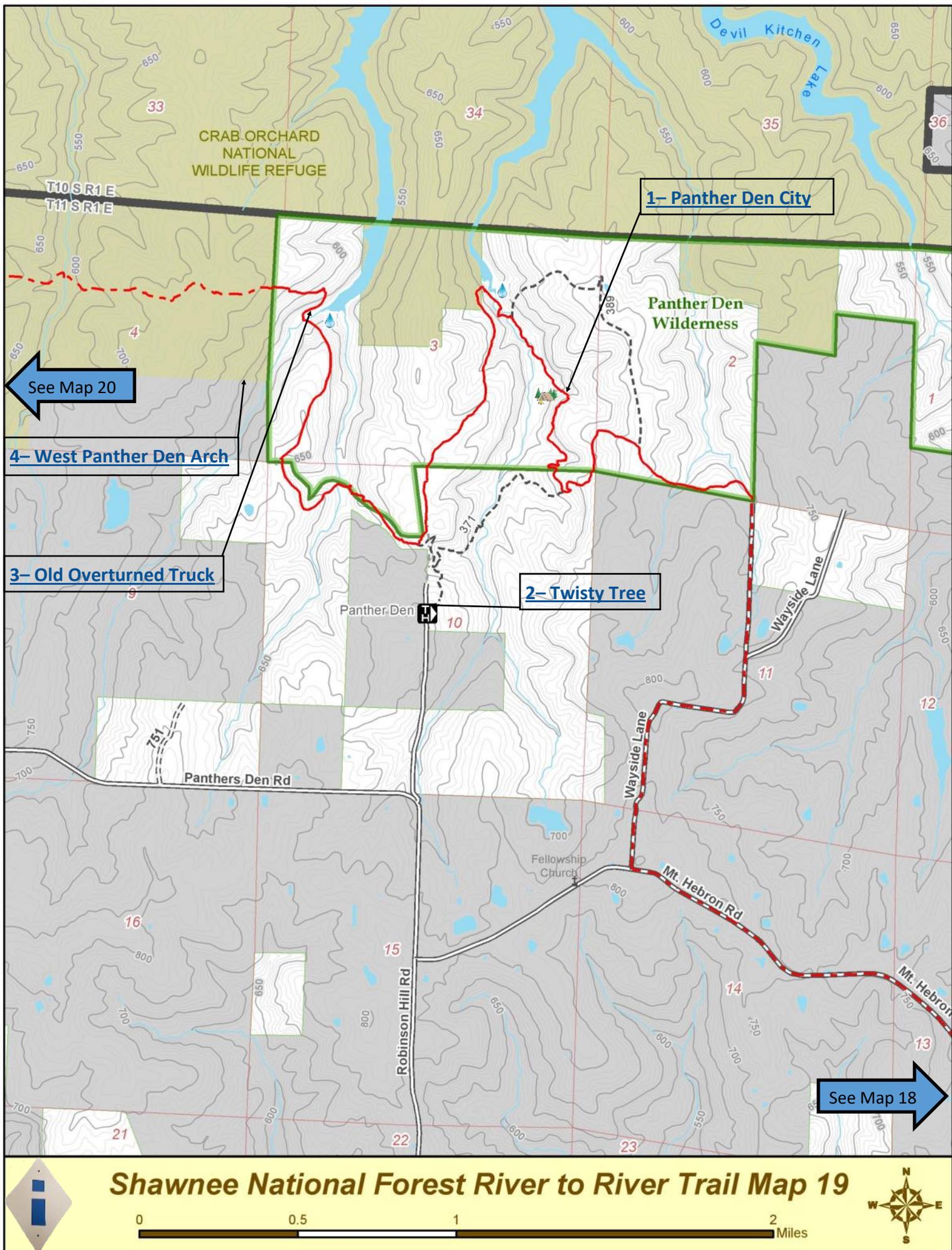
SIU even published literature depicting the "PROPOSED SOUTHERN TRAILWAYS" as shown in the photo to the right.

About one-quarter mile west of Rocky Comfort Road, the Trail makes a right turn to the north and then quickly makes a turn to the left (west) and then proceeds generally west for about three quarters of a mile before reaching an old home site. This seems to be the old Henry Etherton homestead site. From here, the Trail proceeds west about one-quarter mile to the turnoff for the Hidatsa Indian Lodge. From here the trail proceeds northwest for another 0.75 miles where it reaches a grove of old Sugar Maple trees and another old homestead.



Shortly thereafter the trail turns west and southwest. Along this one mile long segment, the trail descends 250 feet to cross a creek which is a tributary to Little Grassy Lake. After a heavy rain, this could be a dangerous creek crossing. The Trail then climbs a couple switchbacks on the southwest side of the creek to a ridge. From there, the Trail turns south and reaches a gravel road at Antioch Cemetery about one-half mile from the creek. Here the Trail turns west and follows the Antioch Lane for nearly one-half mile. When the road makes a ninety degree turn to the south, the Trail continues west along a badly eroded old roadbed for a very short distance before turning north-westward across yet another tributary of Little Grassy Lake. Very soon after crossing the creek, the Trail climbs uphill to an old roadbed in Giant City State Park.

Total distance from Rocky Comfort Road to Giant City SP is 3.3 miles..



See Map 20

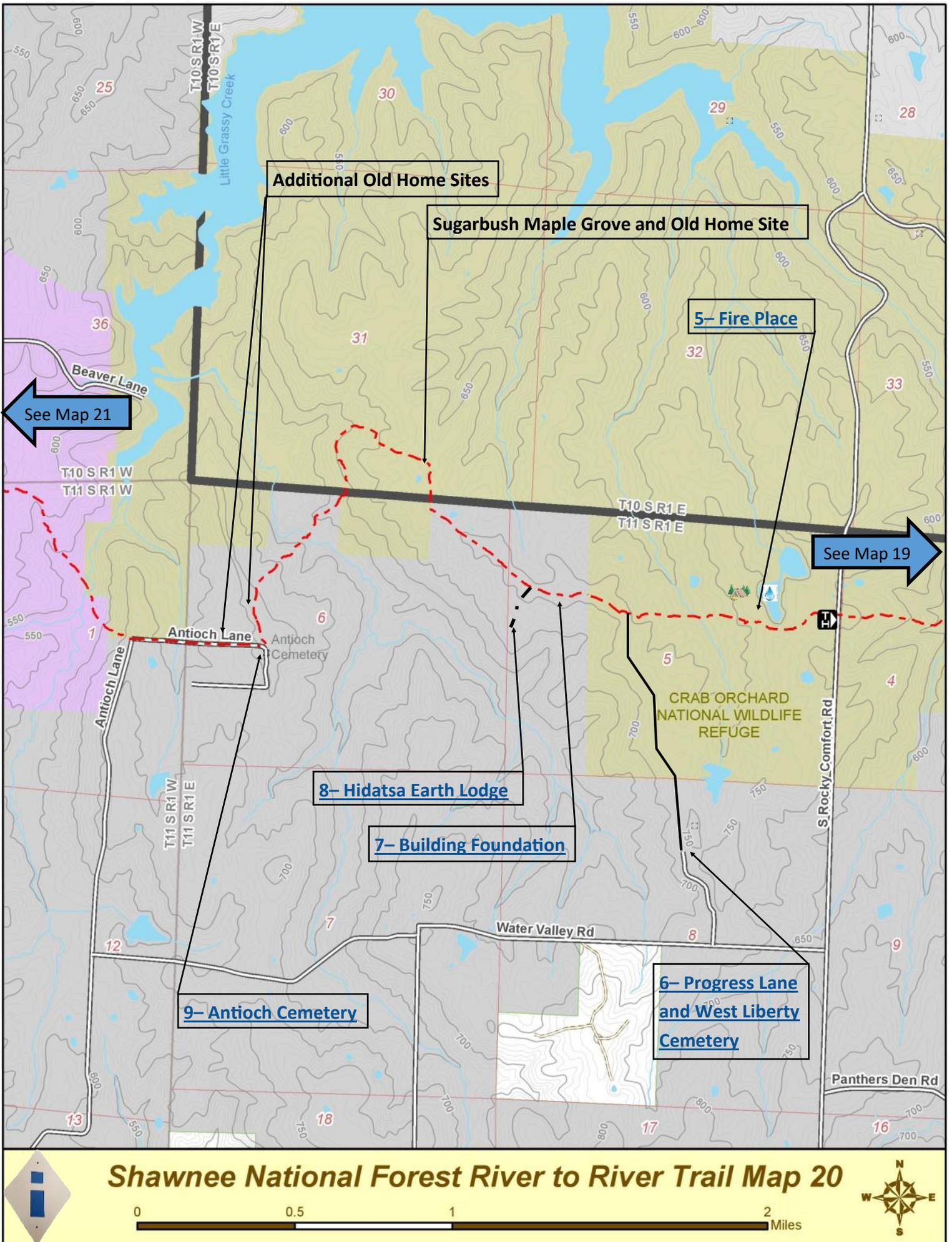
4- West Panther Den Arch

3- Old Overturned Truck

2- Twisty Tree

1- Panther Den City

See Map 18



Map 19 and 20 - Supplemental Information

Water Sources along the section

- Both creeks entering Devils Kitchen lake in the Panther Den Wilderness section can be considered reliable locations for finding water year-round.
- In the SIU section of trail shown on Map 20 there is a large pond located near the fireplace of the old SIU outdoor classroom.

Potential Camping Locations along this section

- The area around Panther Den City is a very popular camping area. It should be very easy to find one of multiple fire rings.
- The SIU Old Building Fireplace would also be a great place to camp, considering the flat ground and the nearby access to water.

Interesting Side Trips along the section

- (1) Panther Den City, is the primary feature of this section of trail and is a very popular camping area. The area consists of large building-sized blocks of rock that have moved several feet to create pathways between them suggesting city streets. This area is similar to the name-sake area of Giant City State Park. GPS coordinates are [N37° 35.426' W89° 04.870'](#). The location is about a 2 mile hike from where the trail leaves Wayside Lane.



- (2) Twisty Tree is a unique tree at the Panther Den parking lot at GPS coordinates [N37°](#)

[34.807' W89° 05.282'](#). It looks like this:



- (3) Old Overturned Truck is located along the trail at GPS coordinates [N37° 35.600' W89° 05.717'](#).



- (4) West Panther Den Arch is located just a quarter mile southwest of the trail at GPS coordinates [N37° 35.426' W89° 05.936'](#). After crossing the last creek feeding into Devils Kitchen Lake approach the bluff in front of you and follow it left for the quarter mile. The arch is on the edge of Crab Orchard NWR property.



Map 19 and 20 - Supplemental Information

- (5) SIU Old Building Fireplace, just 0.3 miles west of Rocky Comfort Road, is a relic of a lodge built in the 1960s by SIU. The Lodge apparently burned a few years later. The very large fireplace and floor slab is all that really remains except for three settling ponds associated with handling sewage because of piping between the ponds. GPS coordinates are [N37° 35.694' W89° 07.240'](#) and this is a photo of the fireplace structure. In addition there is an old brick outdoor grill along the trail, near the old building and the parking lot.



- Outdoor grill



- (6) Progress Lane and West Liberty Cemetery are located south of the trail. Progress Lane intersects the trail about 0.75 miles west of Rocky Comfort Road. The West Liberty (Progress) Cemetery is about 0.75 miles south of the Trail along Progress Lane. This large cemetery is overgrown. GPS coordinates are

[N37° 35.103' W89° 07.455'](#).



- (7) The old building foundation along the south side of the trail could be the homeplace of Henry Etherton, according to the following 1908 plat map.



Just south of the old homesite, across the old road, is where his barn stood. It was built on rock pillars, making it look like a cemetery today. The building foundation looks like the following photo and can be found at GPS coordinates [N37° 35.707' W89° 07.924'](#).



Map 19 and 20 - Supplemental Information

- (8) Hidatsa Indian Earth Lodge can be seen about 1.1 miles west of Rocky Comfort Road. An unmarked trail to the left (south) leads to an old wood hut that was once a Touch of Nature facility. As owners of the Hidatsa Lodge, the staff of Touch of Nature and SIU do not allow camping inside the lodge because they don't maintain it for that purpose. Falling boards or other parts of the structure could result in injury. The trail to the hut is about 0.1 miles and starts at GPS coordinates $N37^{\circ} 35.754' W89^{\circ} 08.046'$. Coordinates for the hut which is pictured below are [N37° 35.656' W89° 08.077'](#).



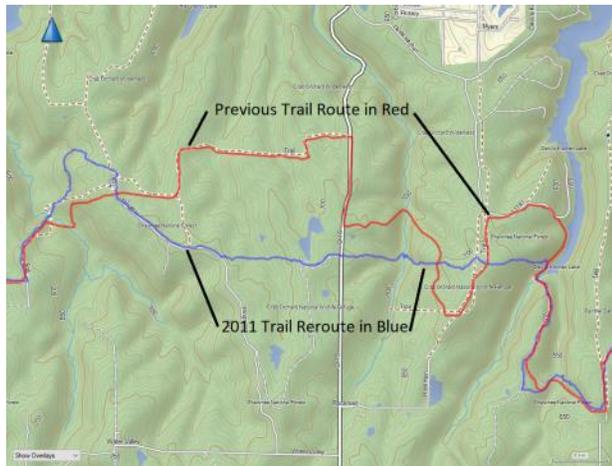
- (9) Antioch Cemetery is the last stop along this section, before the Trail enters Giant City SP. Antioch cemetery can also be seen in the 1908 plat map shown in this chapter. The cemetery is located at GPS coordinates [N37° 35.553' W89° 08.955'](#).



Map 19 and 20 - Supplemental Information

Changes to the R2R trail

- 2011 the trail was rerouted out of the Crab Orchard wilderness area by the Crab Orchard National Wildlife Refuge in an effort to ease maintenance expenses. The reroute started on the west side of Panther Den, continues across Rocky Comfort Road and extends nearly to Antioch cemetery.



Frequently asked questions along this section

- Is camping allowed in the Hidatsa Lodge?
The answer to this question is no. The head of SIU TON was contacted in Mar 2021 and because the structure is not maintained they don't allow camping or fires in the structure due to fears something may fall.

Mileage	Surface	Location Description
107.7	Road	Trail turns right (north) onto Wayside Lane
108.5	Road	Trail enters the woods at the Wayside lane trailhead to enter Panther Den
110.5	Trail	Trail gets to rock formations of Panther Den
113.5	Trail	Trail crosses into Crab Orchard NWR
114.7	Trail	Trail crosses Rocky Comfort Road
115.1	Trail	Trail reaches SIU Old Building Fireplace
115.9	Trail	Trail turnoff for Hidatsa Indian Earth Lodge
117.6	Trail	Trail gets to Antioch Cemetery on Antioch LN
118	Road	Trail leaves Antioch Lane for Giant City SP
119.4	Trail	Turnoff for the camping area at Giant City SP

Zoom 107.7 miles equates to 0.0 on the graph below



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Map 21 - Antioch Lane to Makanda

Very soon after crossing the creek leading to the western leg of Little Grassy Lake, the Trail climbs uphill to an old roadbed in Giant City State Park. At this roadbed, the Trail begins to follow the Giant City equestrian trail. After going west for a little over one-half mile, the Trail comes to a "T" intersection. Taking the trail to the north from this point will lead you to the Giant City Campground in about one-quarter mile. The River-to-River Trail, however, proceeds south from the "T" intersection following the Red Cedar Trail which also runs concurrently with the equestrian trail here. In about one-quarter mile, the R2R Trail turns sharply west on a gravel road and then within one tenth mile turns south off the road into a meadow along a pond. After about one-half mile the Red Cedar trail continues south and the R2R Trail turns west at an intersection. After turning west the R2R Trail crosses a creek and climbs generally heading west from the creek. In less than one-half mile the Trail comes out at the edge of the road across from the Giant City Lodge. There are great accommodations here, and a restaurant that features all-you-can-eat, home style chicken dinners. (The restaurant is closed from Christmas to mid-February) There is a large parking lot on the north side of the lodge, and you can climb the water tower for a good view. The Trail distance from Rocky Comfort Road to the Giant City Lodge is about 6 miles.

Where the R2R trail reaches the lodge you will notice one of the 2017 informational trail signs as show below.



[Access to Giant City State Park by car from Carbondale is by Giant City Road south from HWY 13 or by HWY51 south to Makanda Road and then east to the State Park just past Makanda. Carbondale is a major regional center, while Makanda is a rustic town with some interesting shops. Camping supplies and groceries are available in Carbondale.]

From the lodge, the Trail generally heads west / northwest and in 1.4 miles crosses Albart Lane just south of Giant City Lodge Road. About a half mile

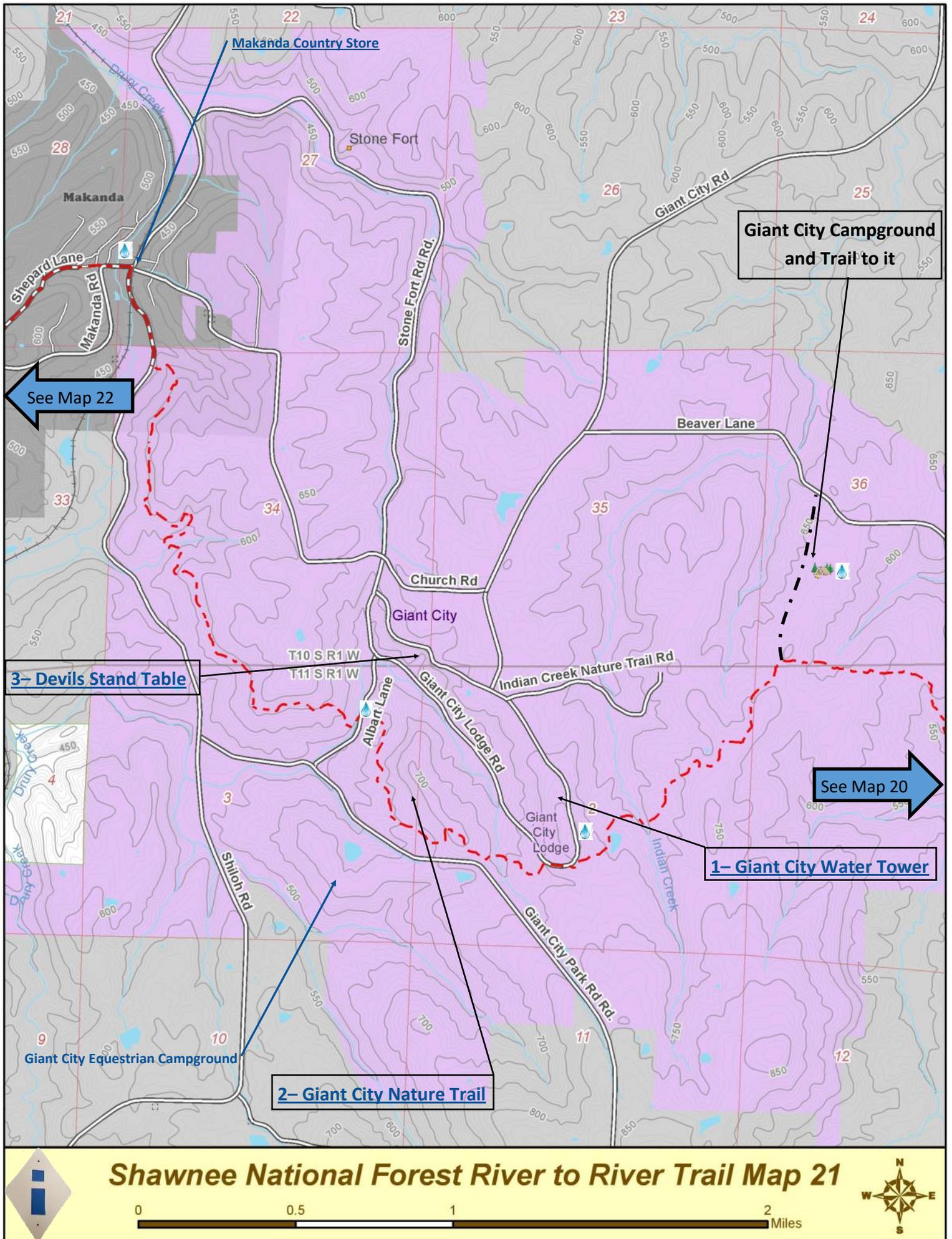
past Albart Lane the Trail turns north and continues 1.75 miles to Shiloh Road. This is where the Trail leaves Giant City State Park on the west side about a half mile from Makanda. At Makanda it crosses the railroad tracks and goes straight ahead through an alley next to the Post Office and up the hill to the intersection with Shepard Lane. The Trail turns left onto Shepard Lane and quickly crosses Makanda Road. This leg of the Trail will take you the back way and the safer way to Highway 51. After crossing the Makanda Road, you will continue down the lane until the trail turns west into a field. This is about three quarters of a mile to HWY 51.

Makanda is a quaint town beloved of artists and others seeking an alternative lifestyle. Along the boardwalk are a café (now closed), an ice cream store and some other interesting shops. Don't miss the unusual sculpture garden, made from odds and ends, that may be reached through the back of shops along the boardwalk.

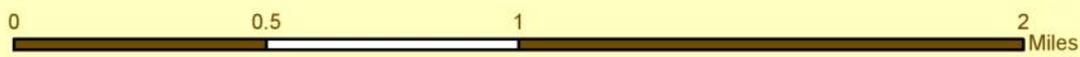
Some may be tempted to walk the blacktop from Makanda to HWY51, but that temptation should be resisted! The shoulder along the blacktop is too narrow to be safe for hikers, and it is well worth the extra time it takes to locate the passage through the field to get to HWY51 and the Presley building. We sometimes have trouble keeping our markers up in this vicinity and it can become very overgrown in the summer but have patience.

Makanda is perhaps known as home to the late Senator Paul Simon. It also enjoys another distinction, as the place where the path of the total eclipse of August 21, 2017 will be crossed by the path of the total eclipse of April 8, 2024.





Shawnee National Forest River to River Trail Map 21



Map 21 - Supplemental Information

Water Sources along the section

- Giant City Campground
- Giant City Lodge
- Makanda

Potential Camping Locations along this section

- Official guidance from Calvin Beckmann, Site Superintendent, Giant City SP: Camping in the SP is only allowed in designated camp sites. Trailside camping is NOT permitted in Giant City State Park. Camping is only allowed at designated campsites (Family Campground), located just off of the River to River Trail, at the northeast corner of the site. Fee is \$8 per night for class C site (shower, grill, but no electricity) or \$20 per night for class A Site (shower, grills & electric), payable at the campground. The following Giant City map shows access to the campground along the Red Cedar trail near the trailhead at GPS coordinates $N37^{\circ} 36.001' W89^{\circ} 10.271'$.



Interesting Side Trips along the section

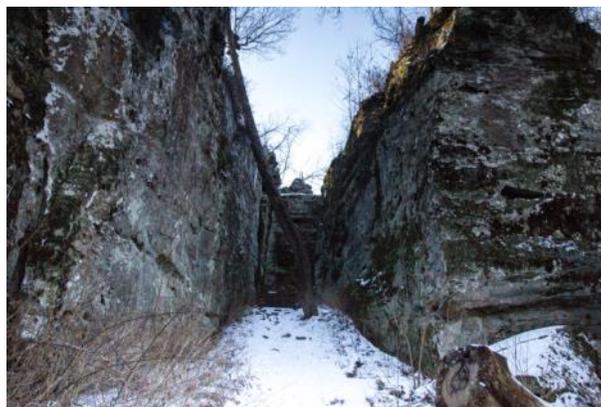
- (1) Giant City Water Tower is located about a quarter mile from the trail at the west end of the parking lot for the lodge. Stairs up to a viewing platform up above the trees. GPS coordinates of the tower are $N37^{\circ} 35.591' W89^{\circ} 11.028'$.



- (2) Giant City Nature Trail is one of the more popular trails of the State Park. This is a loop trail about a mile in length and accessible by a short access trail off of the R2R trail. There aren't any physical signs to identify the trail but it is located 0.6 miles past access to the Giant City Lodge at GPS coordinates $N37^{\circ} 35.557' W89^{\circ} 11.423'$. This trail is represented on the following map as a green line about 0.15 miles long. Immediately after turning onto the trail, it will make another hard left in about 100 feet and proceed down to the nature trail.



The trail features such sights as the streets of Giant City and Balanced Rock, which can be seen in the following photos.



Balanced Rock GPS coordinates are $37^{\circ}35'42'' N 89^{\circ}11'35'' W$.

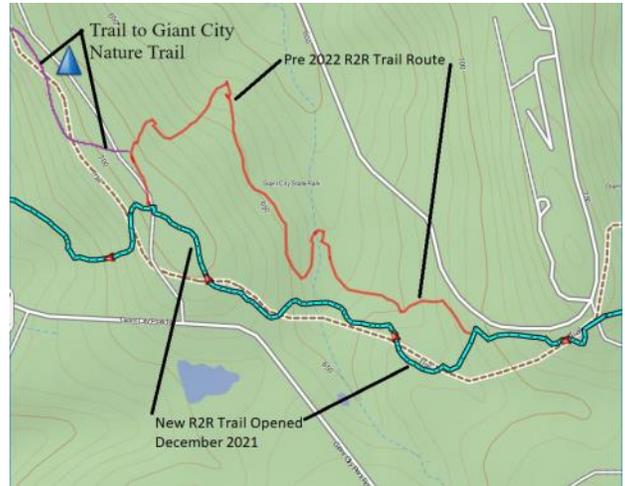


Map 21 - Supplemental Information

- (2) Devil’s Stand Table is another signature rock formation of Giant City SP and could be reached from the Trail in either of two different ways. The first is to take one of the Giant City Nature Trail access trails down to the road and walk the road to the trailhead. The second would be to take Albart Lane right for 0.25 miles to the trailhead. GPS coordinates of the stand table are [N37° 36.003' W89° 11.505'](#) and it looks like this.



Note location of Nature Trail access trail.



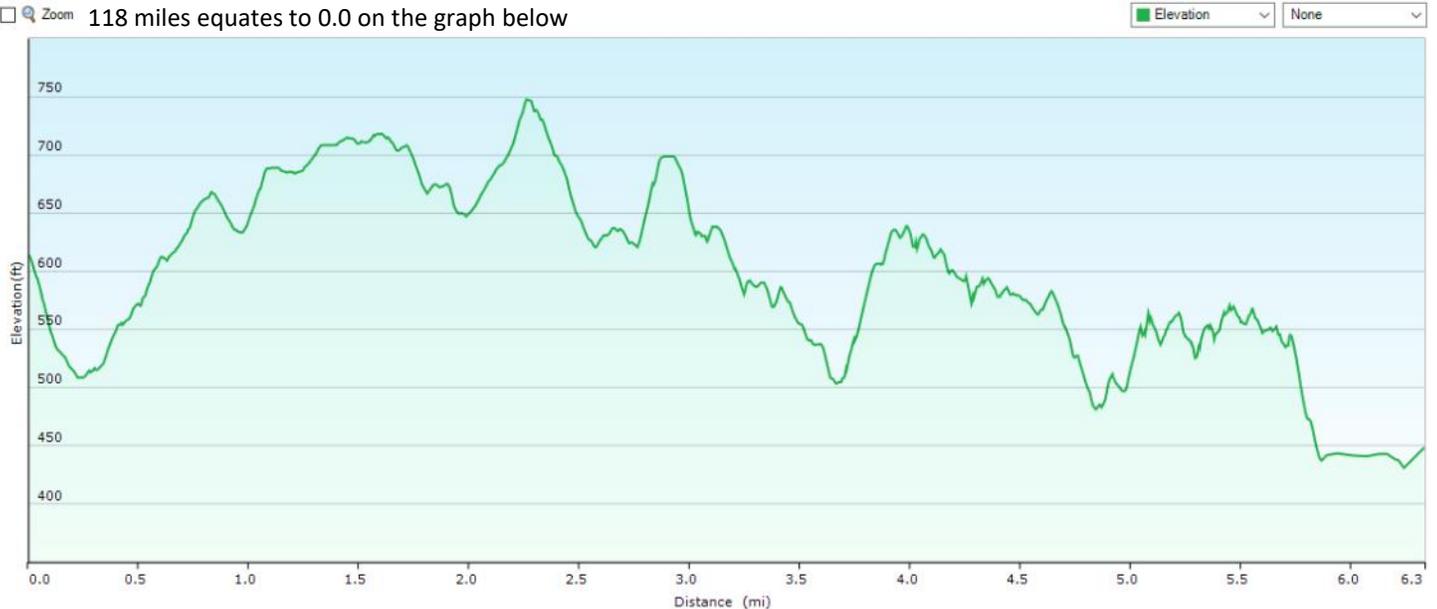
Frequently asked questions along this section

Changes to the R2R Trail

- In 2021 Giant City State Park rerouted a 1/2 mile section of trail near the Lodge due to on-going erosion problems with the original trail.

Mileage	Surface	Location Description
118	Road	Trail leaves Antioch Lane for Giant City SP
119.4	Trail	Turnoff for the camping area at Giant City SP
120.2	Trail	Trail gets to Giant City Lodge
121.1	Trail	Turnoff for the Giant City Nature Trail rock formations
123.8	Trail	Trail comes out on Road south of Makanda
124.3	Road	Trail Leaves Makanda on old abandoned road

Zoom 118 miles equates to 0.0 on the graph below



Map 22 - Makanda to Cedar Lake

Map 23 - Cedar Lake to Alto Pass

In downtown Makanda the trail turns left off Shiloh road onto Makanda Road. It crosses the railroad tracks and Drury Creek before going straight ahead along an alley between some homes at the curve in Makanda Road. After about a quarter mile climb, the trail turns west on an old road bed for another quarter mile to an intersection with Makanda Road. The trail crosses Makanda Road and proceeds down Sheppard Lane for another quarter mile before turning right along the edge of a field just before the hard left turn in Sheppard Lane. After running along the edge of the field, the Trail proceeds into the woods and heads generally west over to US51 in 0.75 miles. This short section of Trail can become very overgrown in the summer time.

After crossing US51, the trail turns north and follows Old 51 for four tenths of a mile to the Makanda Road intersection. The former Presley Tours building will be across the road. At this intersection, the R2R Trail turns left and continues along Old 51 for another 0.8 miles, to where the trail turns left onto West McGuire Road. The Trail now follows West McGuire for 0.3 miles, before turning south onto Rowan Road. After 0.6 miles on Rowan road, you will reach the Lirley Cemetery trailhead. After passing the cemetery on the left, the trail enters Forest Service land on the right (west).

Now that it is back in the woods, the Trail continues downhill to cross Clay Lick Creek, an eastern finger of Cedar Lake. After crossing the creek, the trail proceeds up and down a 200 foot hill in a half mile to reach Mill Creek, which also flows into Cedar Lake. After crossing Mill Creek, the trail continues up and down for another 3 miles to the spillway crossing between Little Cedar and Cedar Lakes. In this 3 mile section, the trail goes up and down 250 foot hills twice.

The rock dam/spillway at the crossing between the two lakes is a great place for a lunch break or even for camping. (However, if the water is too high at the dam spillway to safely cross at this location, it may be necessary to backtrack 0.4 miles to the intersection with trail 379. At trail 379, you should turn left/south

and proceed along the east and south sides of Little Cedar Lake to intersect with the River to River Trail. GPS coordinates of the trail 379 intersection are N37° 36.574' W89° 17.211'.)

If the trail 379 detour is unnecessary, after leaving the rocky crossing between the two lakes, the Trail goes uphill for 0.2 miles before turning left onto a trail along the hillside. (Continuing straight at this point would put you onto trail 383, which leads to Landreth Road, which in its turn goes west to US127.) After leaving the intersection with trail 383, it will be another 3 mile hike until you arrive at Cedar/Waterworks Road. Half of this section is up on a hillside and the other half follows a creek valley.

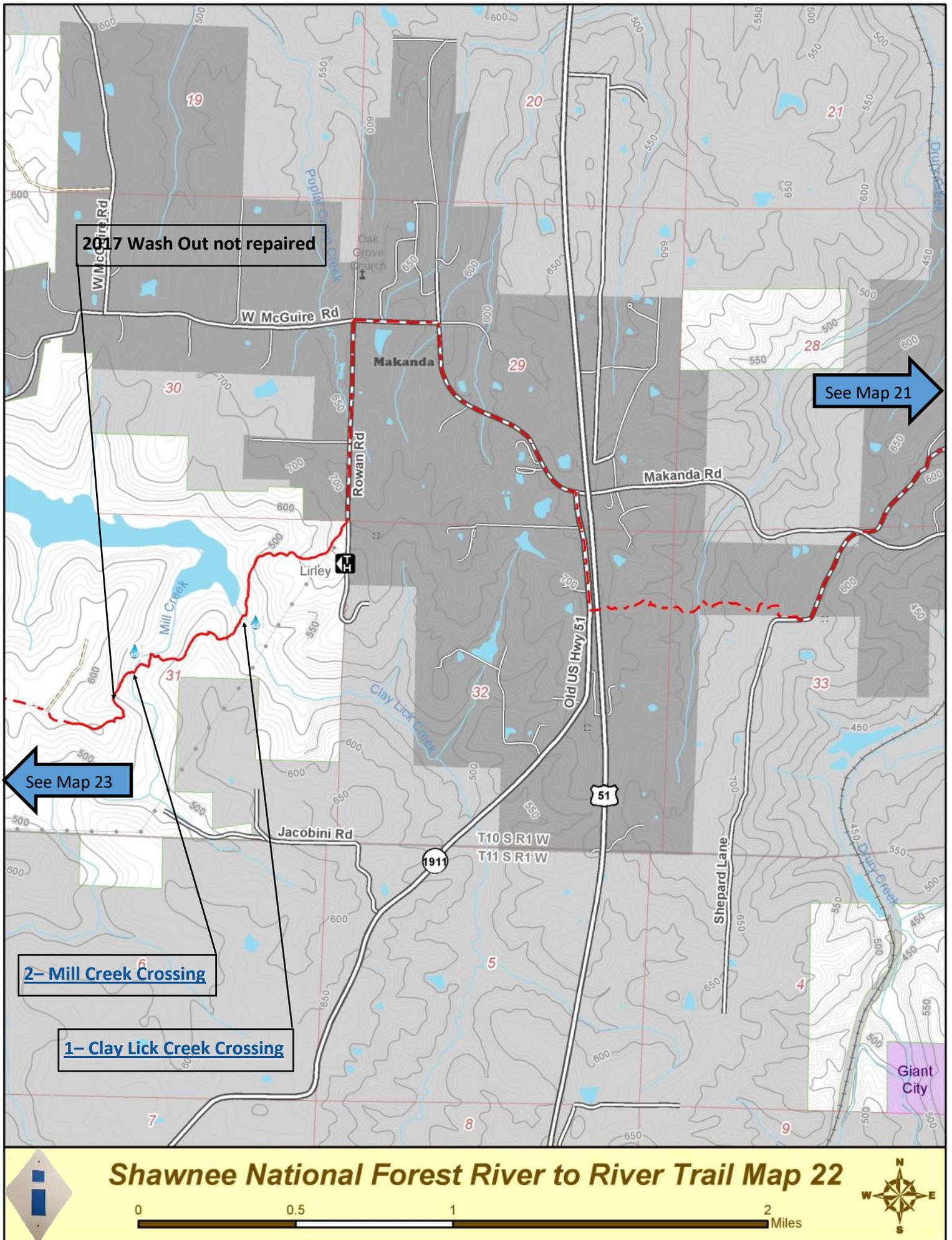
Once on the section along the creek, you will notice various water pipes and valves along the trail to the road. These pipes apparently lead to the Alto Pass water treatment plant, which is on the left just before the intersection with road. The water source is at the south end of Little Cedar Lake. [The City of Carbondale controls the water in Little Cedar Lake and Cedar Lake for Carbondale's water supply, and has granted Alto Pass the right to use Little Cedar Lake for its water supply.] Please be aware that parts of this trail along the creek can become very overgrown during the summer.

The road walk into downtown Alto Pass is 1.4 miles and intersects with Skyline Drive / Main Street. The city fire department building is on the left.

ice cream	coffee
hot sauce	hot and cold drinks
deli sandwiches	locally made items



*** Makanda Country Store ***
 located just feet from the river to river trail. Makanda, Illinois 618-529-1783



2017 Wash Out not repaired

See Map 21

See Map 23

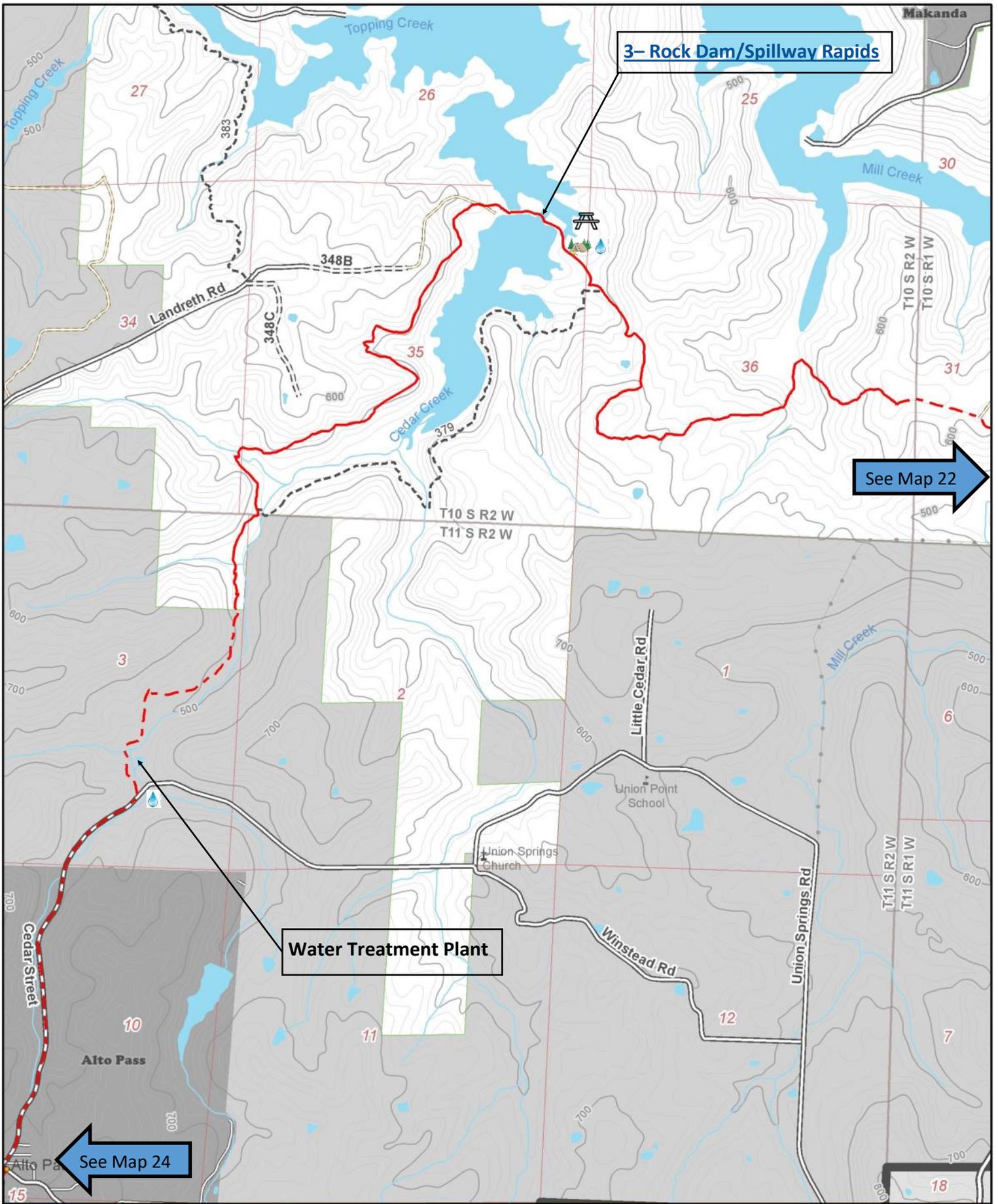
2- Mill Creek Crossing

1- Clay Lick Creek Crossing

Giant City

Shawnee National Forest River to River Trail Map 22





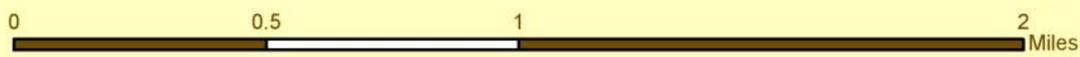
3- Rock Dam/Spillway Rapids

See Map 22

Water Treatment Plant

See Map 24

Shawnee National Forest River to River Trail Map 23



Map 22 and 23 - Supplemental Information

Water Sources along the section

- Clay Lick Creek and Mill Creek are both good places to obtain water throughout the year.
- Little Cedar Rapids is probably the best place to get water.

Potential Camping Locations along this section

- The area just east of Little Cedar Rapids is generally flat and is a good area for camping.

Interesting Side Trips along the section

- (1) Clay Lick Creek crossing with plenty of water as seen on a November hike. GPS coordinates of the crossing are [N37° 36.533' W89° 15.200'](#).



- (2) Mill Creek has some minor rock bluffs along the creek at the crossing. GPS coordinates of the crossing are [N37° 36.417' W89° 15.550'](#).



- (3) Rock Dam/Spillway is the natural rock dam between Little Cedar Lake and Cedar Lake. This dam causes an approximate three foot difference in elevation between the two lakes. This rock spillway is about 200 feet long and could be a challenging crossing during high water periods. (If that proves to be the case, please consider taking the detour discussed

above in this chapter. Safety first!) The crossing is located at GPS coordinates [N37° 36.779' W89° 17.454'](#). Cedar Lake as seen from Little Cedar Lake looks like this.



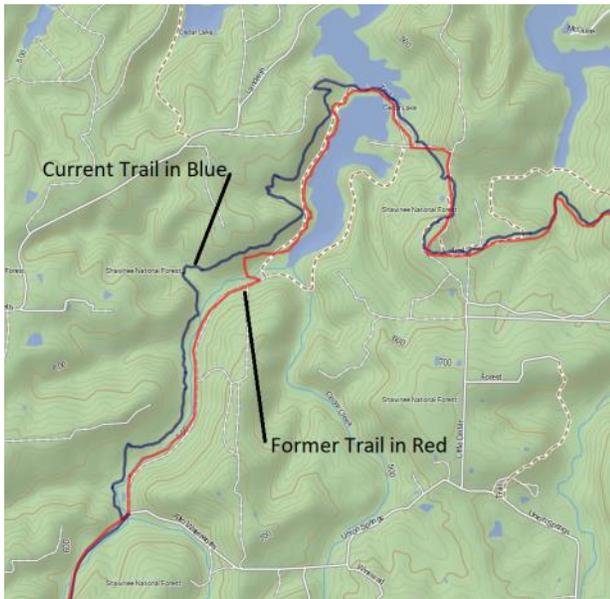
Looking toward Little Cedar Lake, the rapids looks like this.



Map 22 and 23 - Supplemental Information

Changes to the R2R trail

- In 2013 the Forest Service opened a rerouted trail moving it from along the shore of Little Cedar Lake to a new trail up on the hillside.



Frequently asked questions along this section

- Is there a reroute being built here? Yes, construction started in the fall of 2023 on a significant 4-mile reroute that will take the trail along the lake in addition to making it bicycle friendly. There is additional planning to continue this reroute to the spillway.

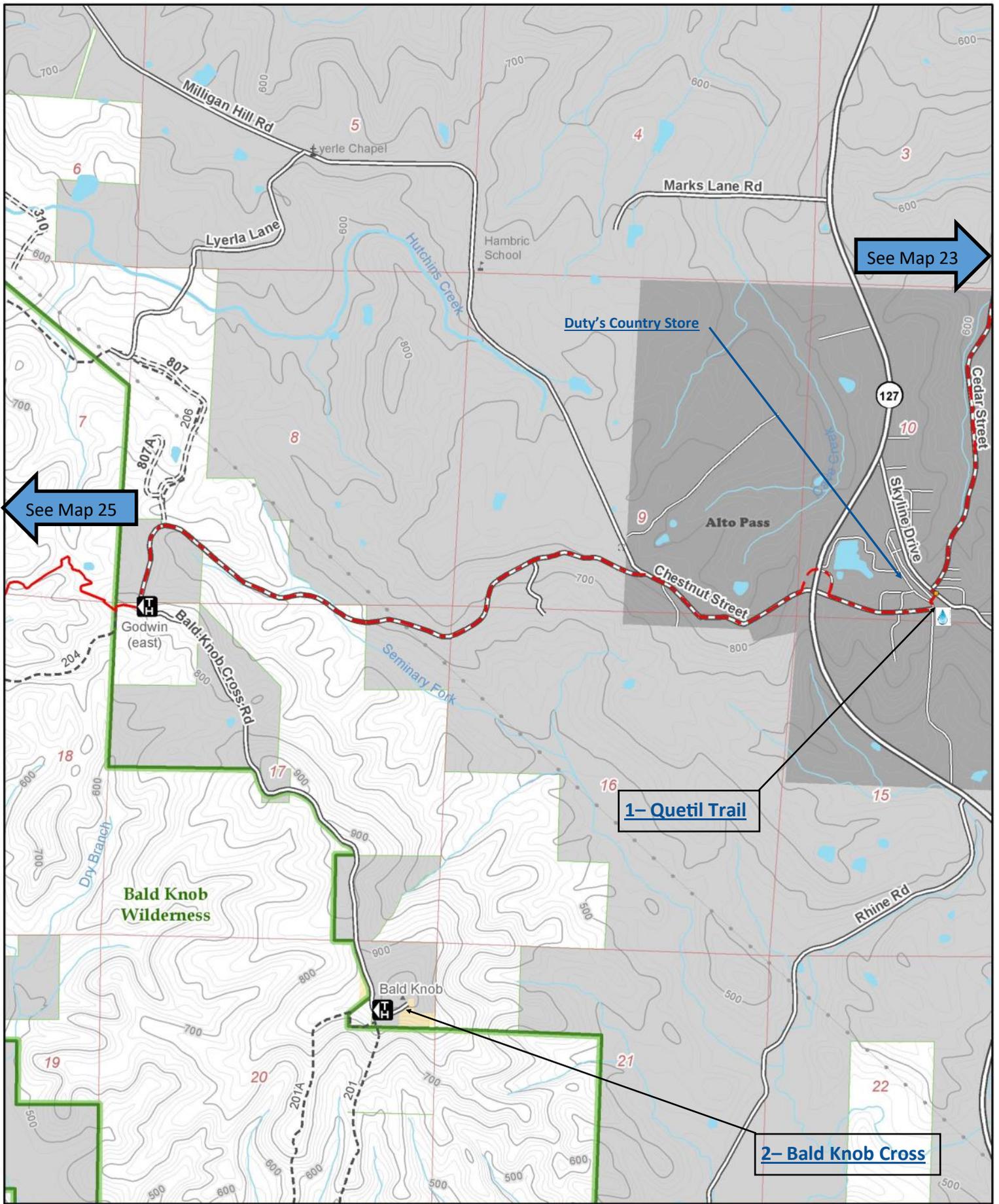
Mileage	Surface	Location Description
124.3	Road	Trail Leaves Makanda on old abandoned road
126	Trail	Trail intersects US51
128	Road	Trail travels on Old US51, West McGuire and Rowan Road to Lirley Cemetery
128.8	Trail	Trail crosses Clay Lick Creek
129.3	Trail	Trail crosses Mill Creek
132	Trail	Trail crosses Cedar Lake
135.3	Trail	Trail hits Alto Pass Waterworks Road
136.6	Road	Downtown Alto Pass

Zoom 124.3 miles equates to 0.0 on the graph below

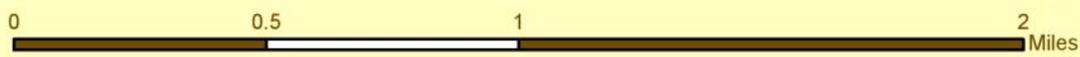
Elevation None

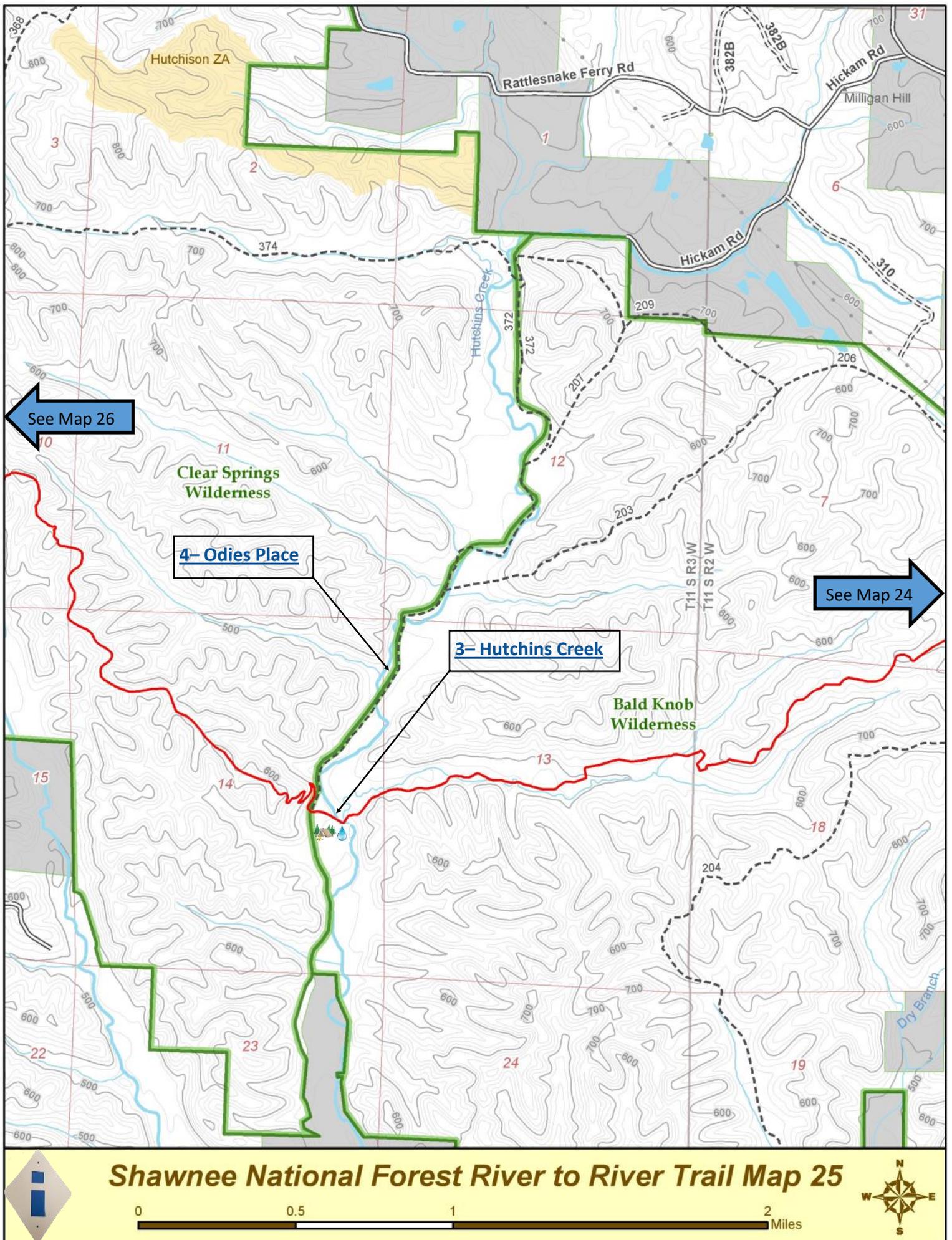


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Shawnee National Forest River to River Trail Map 24





See Map 26

11
Clear Springs
Wilderness

4- Odies Place

3- Hutchins Creek

Bald Knob
Wilderness

See Map 24

Shawnee National Forest River to River Trail Map 25

0 0.5 1 2 Miles



Map 24 and 25 - Supplemental Information

Water Sources along the section

- Downtown Alto Pass has water available in certain areas.
- Hutchins Creek normally has some pools of water all year long.

Potential Camping Locations along this section

- The best camping spot along this section would likely be along the flat section in Hutchins Creek valley. However, the valley can get very much overgrown in the summer and fall.

Interesting Side Trips along the section

- (1) Quetil Trail in downtown Alto Pass heads south along an old railroad bed. The first 0.3 miles of the trail are highly recommended because they follow along a bluff line to a stairway up to the top of the bluff and a great overlook. The overlook has a great view of Bald Knob Cross and the valley between the two points. The trailheads south from Quetil Park which is at the corner of Main Street and Chestnut Street at GPS Coordinates [N37° 34.196' W89° 19.055'](#).



The following photo is a view from the overlook at GPS coordinates [N37° 34.125' W89° 18.871'](#).



- (2) Bald Knob Cross and visitors center is a 1.5 mile walk along Bald Knob Cross road past the point where the trail turns right onto the Godwin

Trail. The cross is located on the second highest peak in southern Illinois at 1030 feet. GPS coordinates are [N37° 33.097' W89° 20.824'](#).



- (3) Hutchins Creek is a significant creek crossing. The crossing is usually not too bad but could be challenging after a significant rain storm. The GPS coordinates for the crossing are [N37° 33.690' W89° 24.022'](#). Near here the R2R Trail also intersects trail 372 which heads north along Hutchins Creek.



Map 24 and 25 - Supplemental Information

- (4) Odies Place is an old farm site about a half mile north of where the R2R Trail crosses Hutchins Creek. Click here for [Odie and Florence Bridgeman](#) information. At the site you will find the shelter shown below along with several pieces of abandoned old farm equipment, a car and some old building remnants. The GPS coordinates are [N37° 34.078' W89° 23.858'](#).



Changes to the R2R trail

- 2021 removal of Chestnut street bridge.



Frequently asked questions along this section

Mileage	Surface	Location Description
136.6	Road	Downtown Alto Pass
139.6	Road	Trail turns off Bald Knob Cross Road onto the Godwin Trail
142.6	Trail	Trail Crosses Hutchins Creek
146	Trail	Trail hits Pine Hills Road

Zoom 136.6 miles equates to 0.0 on the graph below

Elevation None



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Map 26 - Godwin West Trailhead to US HWY 3**Map 27 - US HWY 3 to Levee Road****Map 28 - Levee Road to Devils Backbone Park**

This section starts with the completion of the climb up the Godwin Trail through the Clear Springs Wilderness toward Pine Hills Road. Once you reach the road, the official R2R Trail turns right (north) and follows the road downhill until the intersection with Larue Road.

If instead of following the Trail north and you were to turn south along the ridge overlooking the bayou, you will encounter many nice vistas overlooking the Mississippi Valley.

As an alternative, some hikers choose to leave the road and hike trail 236 through Pine Hills National Natural Landmark. The trail starts 0.3 miles from where the Godwin Trail hits the road and goes left through Pine Hills and comes out at the McCann Springs trailhead at the base of the bluffs. This alternative features some great views within the natural area. Inspiration Point is a popular cliffside view on top of a rock set apart from the bluff by a narrow path at the bottom of a 20 foot scramble down a steep hill. From a safety perspective we recommend you don't climb out on it.

At the intersection with Larue Road, the R2R Trail turns left (south) and continues for 0.4 miles until reaching Winters Pond and the Muddy Levee Road. The rock outcroppings above you are frequently photographed. At the Muddy Levee Road the trail turns right and starts the 10 mile levee walk to Mississippi river. Continuing south at the Winters Pond picnic area would take the hiker along Larue Road, the famous "snake road" which is closed to vehicular (but not pedestrian) traffic twice a year to protect migrating snakes.

Take the Muddy Levee Road going west to make a wide 2.8 mile curve to HWY3. Turn right (north) to follow HWY3 across the Big Muddy River. After crossing the Big Muddy River Bridge turn left on the opposite side (on the levee) and continue on the north side levee into the village of Grand Tower. From HWY3 to river is 6.8 miles.

Some hikers might dread this last 10 mile section because they believe there is little to see, but the observant will likely see a lot of birds. There have been at least two eagle nests visible from the trail and depending on the time of the year many other birds traveling the Mississippi flyway may be visible. Hikers in 2015 observed numerous pelicans, hawks, and two eagles. You will also see the Mississippi valley,

the source of grain. This last stretch of levee borders Grand Tower Island which has been cut off by the Mississippi. Yes, you are in Missouri at this point. Back in Illinois, Devil's Backbone Park in Grand Tower has an odd formation of rocks in it and a nice beach on the Mississippi.

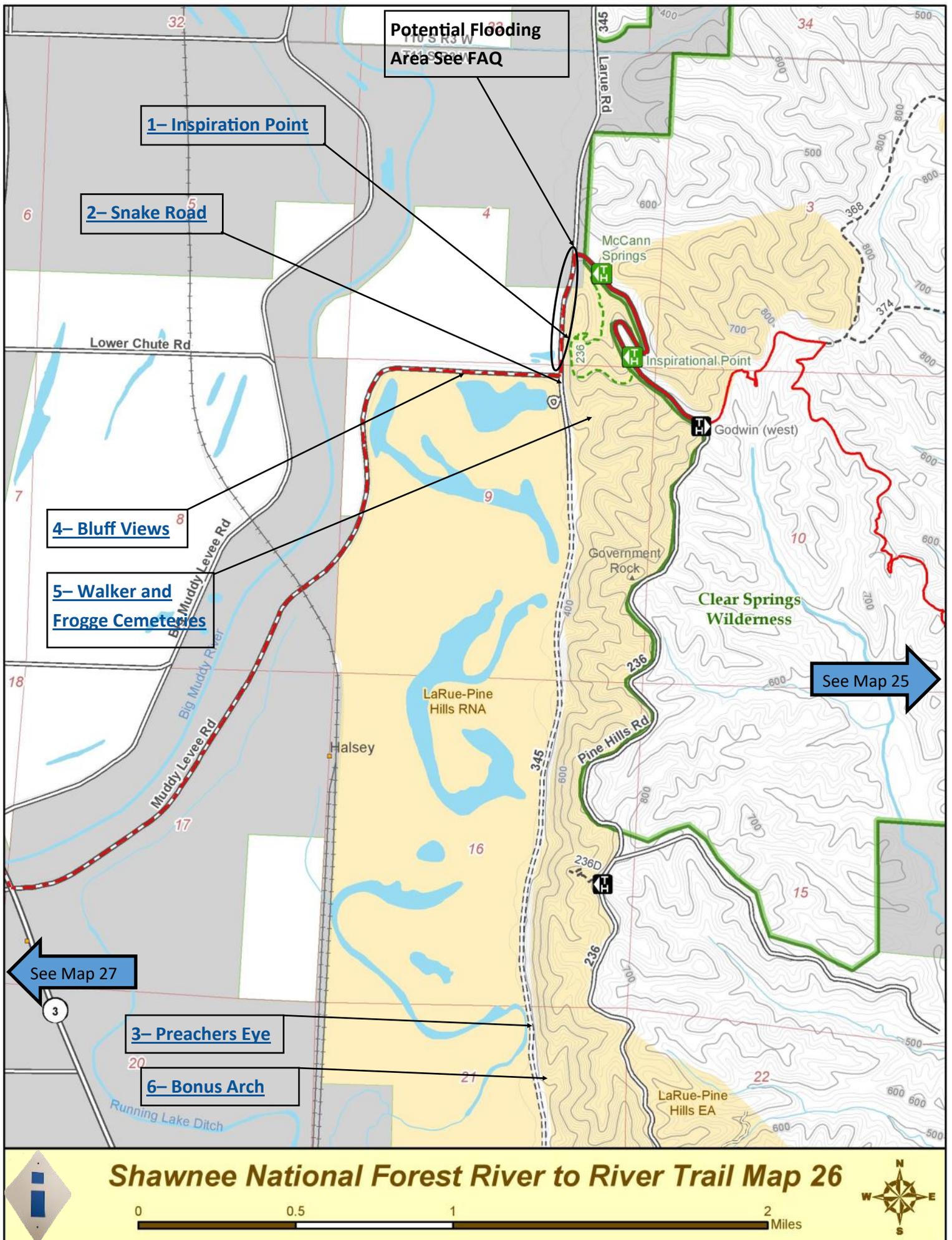
From Devil's Backbone Park one can also see Tower Rock which was reportedly considered as the site for a National Park during the Grant administration. As the story goes, Grand Tower was rejected in favor of Yellowstone. Regardless of the truth of that story, Tower Rock has been a notable landmark since the early French explorers or before. There is a legend that hostile Indians massacred a group of settlers on the beach as they landed at the south end of Devil's Backbone. According to the story, the only survivor was a small boy, the notorious John Moredock, who had hidden himself in the rocks on shore and who grew up to avenge the killing of his parents and kin.

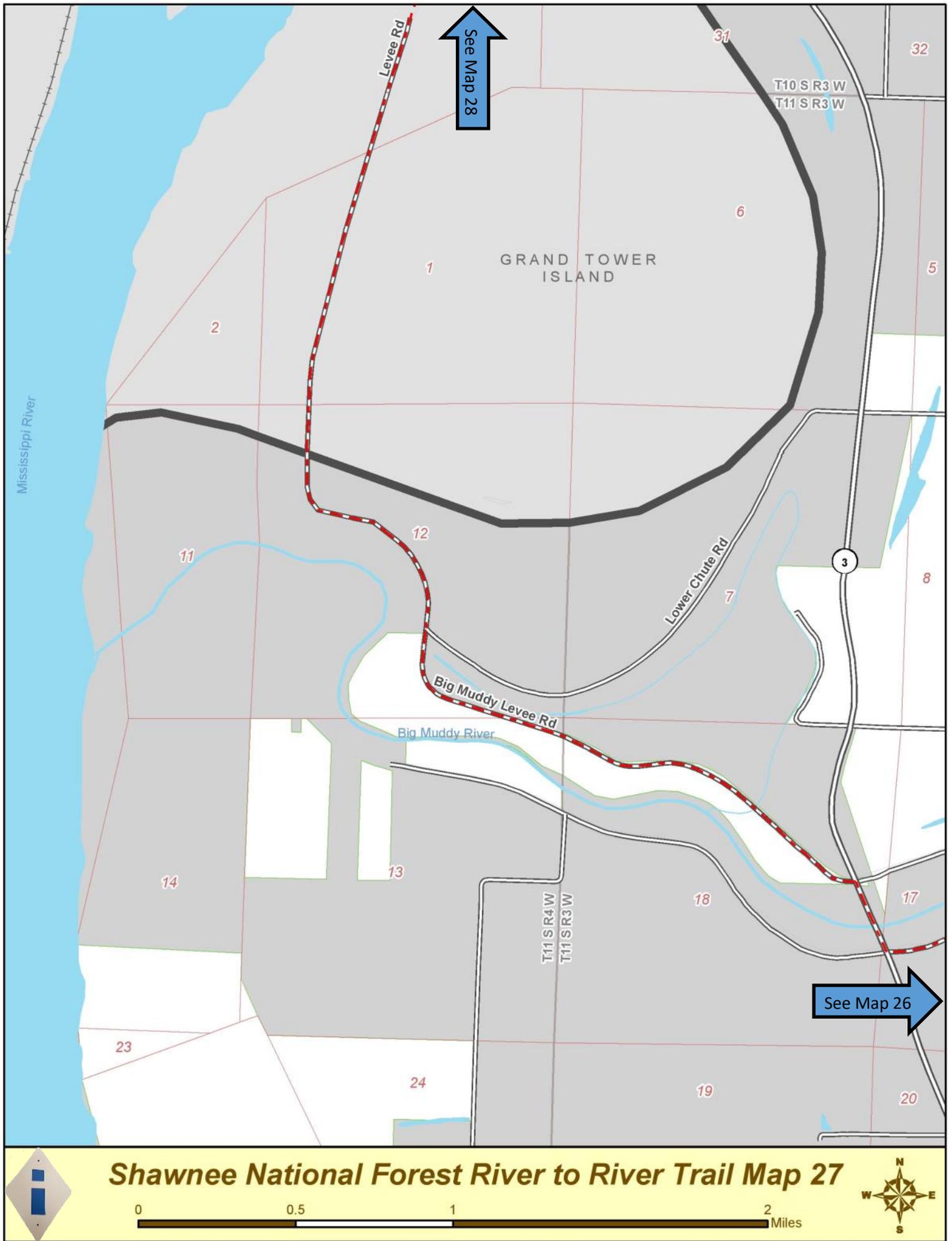
After you finish your trip you should stop at the Cardinal Corner Convenience Store in Grand Tower for a pizza, sandwich, or cold drink.

In 2017, a new trailhead sign was installed in the park. It is portrayed below. It has long been a custom for through-hikers on the River-to-River Trail to fill a bottle of water from the Ohio, at Battery Rock or Elizabethtown, and to empty it into the Mississippi at Grand Tower.

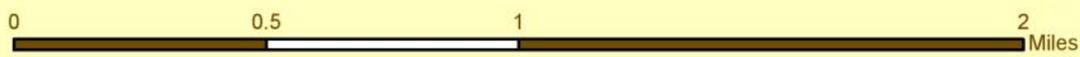


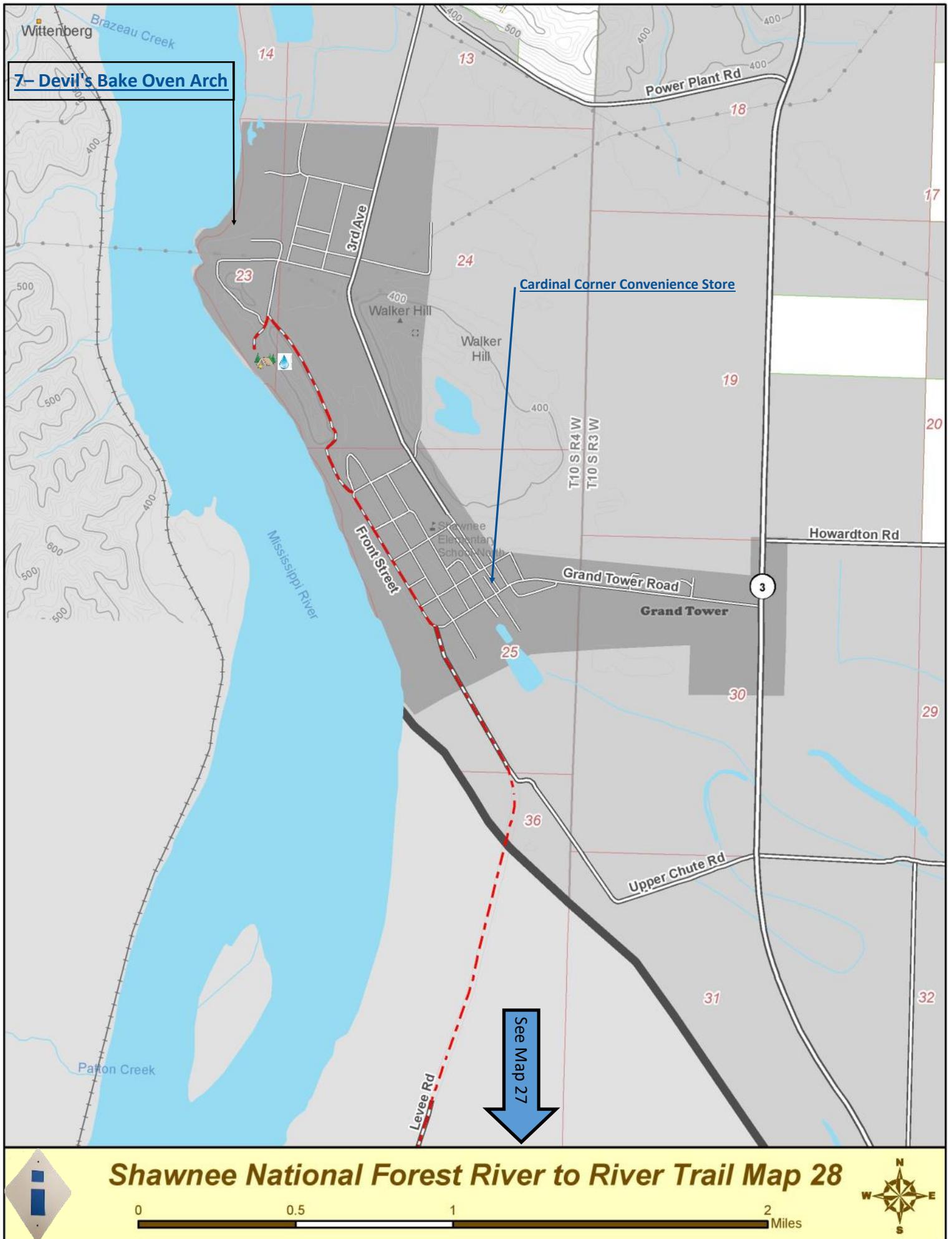
The American Discovery Trail leaves the River-to-River Trail at the park and travels upriver to St. Louis on the levees.





Shawnee National Forest River to River Trail Map 27



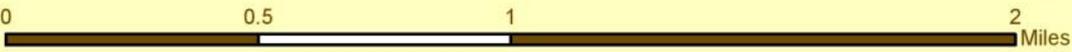


7- Devil's Bake Oven Arch

Cardinal Corner Convenience Store

See Map 27

Shawnee National Forest River to River Trail Map 28



Map 26, 27 and 28 - Supplemental Information

Water Sources along the section

- There will be no water on the levee, so be sure to fill up at Winters Pond.

Potential Camping Locations along this section

- The only real camping spots are probably near McCann Springs trailhead or Winters Pond. From Winters Pond to the end of the Trail is basically 10 miles of open levee walking.

Interesting Side Trips along the section

- (1) Inspiration Point is a popular trail because of the tremendous views from the top of the bluff. To view this point it is recommended that the inspiration point trail 236 be hiked instead of the R2R trail which goes along the road. It would be considered safer by far. The Inspiration view point is at GPS coordinates [N37° 35.118' W89° 26.382'](#). The view from it is shown below.



- (2) The Snake Road is a 2.75 mile section of Larue Road along the base of the Larue Pine Hills

bluffs with various ponds and swamps on the west side of the road. The road is closed to vehicular traffic twice a year for the bi-annual migration of snakes (and other reptiles & amphibians) from their winter hibernation area to their summer swamp habitat on the other side of the road. The migration typically occurs from about March 15-May 15 in the spring and September 1—October 31 during the fall. Contact the headquarters of the Shawnee National Forest in Harrisburg for the exact dates. This is a very popular hike during the seasons because of the opportunities to see the snakes.

- (3) Preacher's Eye is a unique natural arch in the bluff along the side of Larue (Snake) Road. The arch is 2.1 miles south of the R2R trail near the south end of the Snake road. GPS coordinates for the eye are [N37° 33.287' W89° 26.423'](#). The arch looks like the photo below. There is a second bonus arch 0.1 miles south of the eye.



- (4) Bluff views is just highlighted to remind everyone hiking west on the levee road towards Grand Tower to turn around and admire the view of the bluffs. Look back! From the Muddy Levee Road the bluffs look like this.



Map 26, 27 and 28 - Supplemental Information

- (5) Walker and Frogge Cemeteries are located a couple of hundred feet off of Snake Road. These appear to be small family cemeteries with limited headstones. Walker cemetery is at GPS coordinates [N37° 34.935' W89° 26.342'](#) and Frogge cemetery is at GPS coordinates [N37° 34.966' W89° 26.323'](#).



- (6) Bonus Arch is small arch about 700 feet south of the preachers eye arch. It is necessary to climb a small hill to see it. It is located at GPS coordinates [N37° 33.162' W89° 26.404'](#).



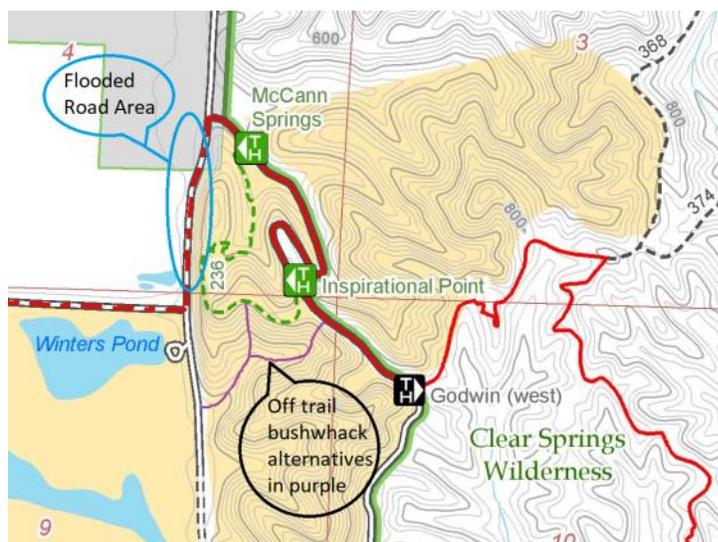
- (7) Devil's Bake Oven Arch is on the edge of the Mississippi River. If the river is low enough, you can walk through the arch. GPS coordinates for the arch are [N37° 38.555' W89° 30.877'](#) and it is located about 0.3 miles upstream of the main entrance to Devils Backbone Park, which is the western end of the R2R trail. The arch looks like

this.



Frequently asked questions along this section:

- Where is the best place to leave a vehicle in Grand Tower?
 - Talked to Devils Backbone Park Board President and he said hikers can park on the side of the road at the top of the park as long as there are not too many vehicles. Need to leave room on the pavement for park vehicles to get through. If you ever have a large bunch he will open part of the bottom of the park out of the path where they will be working. Anymore questions you may reach him at 618-713-0139.
- Are there any potential flooding problems along the section?
 - Yes, the section of Larue Road between Pine Hills Rd and Muddy Levee Rd (see map below) floods because of water backing up the Muddy Rivers from the



Map 26, 27 and 28 - Supplemental Information

- Mississippi River when the gage at Cape Girardeau exceeds approximately 38. Hikers in 2019 were able to hike past next to the bluffs when the gage was at 38.5. It is noted the high Mississippi reached gage readings of 44 in 2019 meaning water over the road could be 5 plus feet deep. To check the gage height go to this web address: <https://waterdata.usgs.gov/monitoring-location/07020850/>
- There currently is not any easy alternatives for getting around this section when the Mississippi River is too high, but in 2019 a couple of off trail bushwhacking alternatives were investigated by the author and are shown on the map shown on the previous page. The first 200 foot sections of these routes adjacent to Pine Hills road and the Inspiration Point trail were **extremely steep but passable with extreme caution**. As a result, these alternatives are not recommended and should only be attempted as a last resort.

Cardinal Corner
Convenience Store
On the Mississippi River

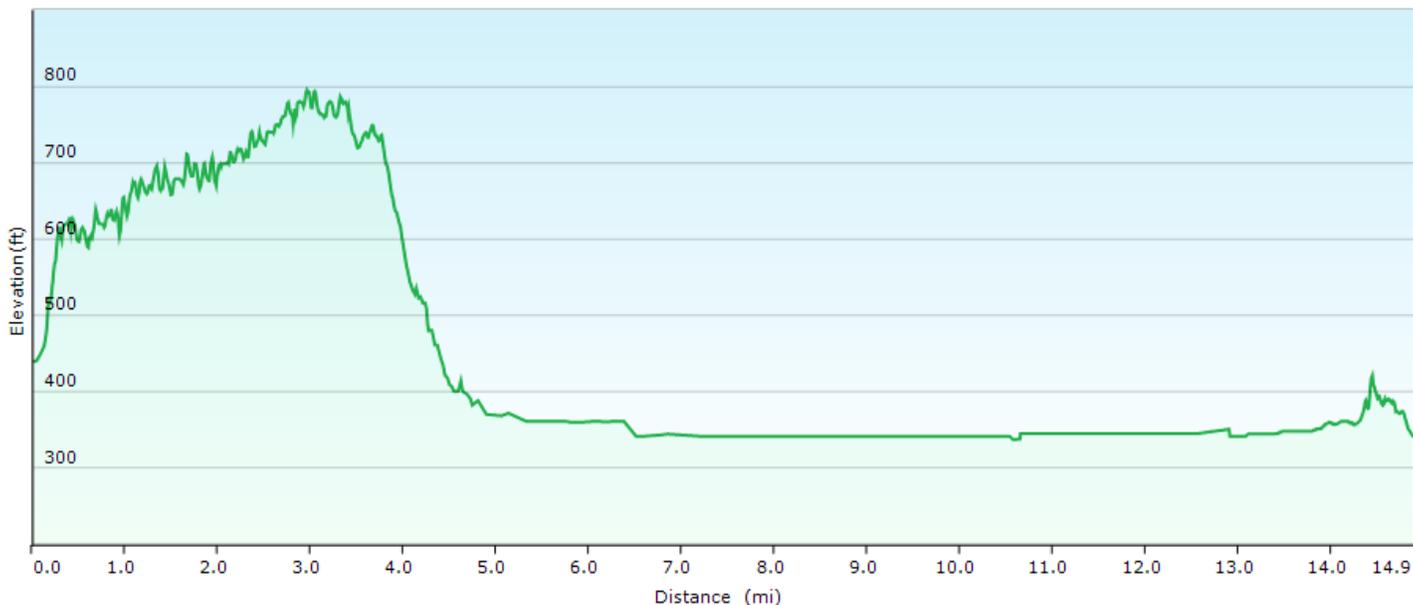
409 Grand Tower Road
Grand Tower, Illinois

618-565-1064

Mileage	Surface	Location Description
142.6	Trail	Trail Crosses Hutchins Creek
146	Trail	Trail hits Pine Hills Road
146.6	Road	Trail passes upper parking lot for Inspiration Point
147.2	Road	Trail passes McCann Springs parking lot for Inspiration Point
150.2	Road	Trails travels on Muddy Levee Rd to US3 Crossing
157.1	Road	Trail follows Island Road to Grand Tower and Park at Trail End

Zoom 142.6 miles equates to 0.0 on the graph below

■ Elevation None



Map 3A - R2R to Camp Cadiz
Map 3B - Camp Cadiz to Rock Creek
Map 3C - Rock Creek to Mount Zion Church
Map 3D - Mount Zion Church to Lamb
Map 3E - Lamb to Battery Rock

Battery Rock is located about 9 river miles upstream of Cave-in-Rock. To get to Battery Rock you turn east off HWY 1 at Minerva Mine Road to Lamb. This intersection is 3.7 north of the HWY 146 and HWY 1 intersection north of Cave-in-Rock. The blacktop road is part of the R2R trail and in a quarter mile you will see trail signs turning left to go up Tuckerhill Road. Don't follow it. To get to the trailhead proceed straight ahead another 2.5 miles to the community of Lamb. At this point the R2R rejoins the road after coming down the hill on the gravel road to the left. Shortly after the community of Lamb the road turns to gravel and continues another 2.3 miles to the trailhead. Watch for trail markers, as this is the R2R trail. If you miss the trail signs, stay left at the next fork which is about a mile east of Lamb. Continue another 1.3 miles to the Forest Service gravel parking lot large enough for three horse trailers to pull through where the road ends. In 2018, the following new trailhead sign was installed. From here you must hike 3/4 mile to the river. Follow the trail 0.4 miles and then turn left and proceed downhill to the Ohio River.



If you are counting on the full experience, proceed down the trail to the bottom of the bluff. There is a nice beach with cliffs and a spring/ waterfall close by. You may wish to make the traditional gesture by filling a bottle of Ohio River water to pour into the Mississippi at the end of the River-to-River Trail.

Battery Rock was used as a fortification during the Civil War so the roads were probably leveled for use in the 1860s. The road leading up to Battery Rock, however, was used probably about 1800 because the

Brown Cemetery farther down the road has headstones of about that date with some Revolutionary War veterans in it. In John O'Dell's research he saw an old river pilot's book that was dated 1813 and noted Battery Rock even then. Battery Rock was a location for the films "Davey Crockett" and "How the West Was Won". It is hard to imagine that James Stewart, Walter Brennan and other superstars once trod these paths.

The engraved names with dates of 1861 indicate that Union troops may have camped here and idled away the hours on such tasks. The square holes in the rock may have been for the placement of the guns. The troops may have bedded down in the rock overhangs. Over the years, the property must have seen a lot of different owners and uses because climbing to the top of the bluff reveals an old fire place from a long gone building.

If you have an opportunity the view from the river looking toward Battery Rock is wonderful. In the summer it looks as if lush woodland vegetation on massive rocks roll right into the river. The trail beginning is the small ten foot white sand beach at the end of the road surrounded by a heavily wooded hollow.

To follow the historic River-to-River Trail, retrace your path to Lamb following the markers and turn north (right) 0.4 miles up Belt Hill. At the top of the hill the trail turns west (left) along an abandoned road bed for 1.5 miles. It will emerge from a tree-covered dirt road, and make a short jog and then west on Tucker Hill Road. After .75 miles you will walk down Tucker Hill and turn right on Minerva Mine Road to continue to the stop sign at HWY 1.

Upon reaching HWY 1, turn right (north) and travel 0.7 miles and turn left (west) at Mt. Zion Church. Proceed along Mt. Zion Road for 2.2 miles to the intersection with Davis Road where you turn right. The trail continues on Davis Road for 1.75 miles to a forest road where it turns right. A quarter mile down this forest road the trail will head left into the woods and down to Rock Creek. This ends the majority of the road walking and is covered by maps 03E, 03D and 03C. The trail continues along Rock Creek and eventually crosses it before crossing Rock Creek Road about 50 yards north of Rock Creek Church.

Map 3A - R2R to Camp Cadiz**Map 3B - Camp Cadiz to Rock Creek****Map 3C - Rock Creek to Mount Zion Church****Map 3D - Mount Zion Church to Lamb****Map 3E - Lamb to Battery Rock**

Rock Creek is the approximate location of the Anna Bixby cabin. A fascinating account says Anna Bixby was a pioneer doctor who discovered the cause of milk sickness fifty years before the rest of the world. Abraham Lincoln's mother died of this malady as did whole communities. From a Shawnee Indian woman she had befriended, she found that a type of nightshade bloomed in August on which cattle foraged and was the source of the toxin. A simple Google search will provide much more about Anna Bixby.

Vehicular access to the River-to-River Trail at Rock Creek church is very good and if you are section hiking this section of the trail this would be good stopping point after 12.6 miles.

Continuing west, the first mile after crossing Rock Creek Road will be very confusing and may be difficult to follow because the area is very overgrown. After that mile the trail emerges onto some local farm road and past an old farmstead with some old barns on the corner. After passing the farm, the trail reenters the woods and continues 3.8 miles to Camp Cadiz. This section of trail is basically a walk in the woods that goes up and down five 100 foot tall hills and crosses Harris Creek at the lowest point. Camp Cadiz is 18 miles from Battery Rock.

Leaving Camp Cadiz the trail travels downhill for almost a mile to the crossing of Beaver Creek after which it climbs steadily. The trail continues a total of 3.8 miles between Camp Cadiz and Sparks Hill Road. The last 0.5 miles before Sparks Hill road the trail parallels a field fence line. The trail turns right on Sparks Hill Road and goes 0.1 miles to cross Karbers Ridge Road.

After Crossing Karbers Ridge the road changes names to Blackridge Road where the trail continues for another quarter mile. At this point the trail continues west 1.3 miles to the point where it merges with the trail coming north from Elizabethtown.

The other unique aspect of this 1.3 miles is that it is a part of wagon trail that has been created by the equestrian community and the Shawnee Trail Conservancy. This wagon trail has been widened to support wagons being pulled behind horses and currently runs from Double M Horse Camp to High Knob Horse Camp which is a total of approximately 4

miles. Leaving High Knob Horse Camp the wagon trail follows the R2R trail to the point where it turns left on this 1.3 mile section of the historic R2R trail. After reaching the Blackridge Road the trail turns left for a 1 mile after which it turns right and travels down a forest road until it reaches Double M Camp. There is talk among the equestrian community about a wagon trail over to Camp Cadiz but the route has yet to be determined. Further details can be seen in Chapter 4.

This section of trail from Camp Cadiz to High Knob is covered by maps 03B, 03A and 03. Map 03 is located in Chapter 1 of this guide. The mileage from Camp Cadiz to the intersection is 5 miles but it is still another 2.5 miles to High Knob. It is also noted that this trail goes steadily uphill all the way for a total of 500 feet of elevation climb.

Rim Rock's Dogwood Cabins

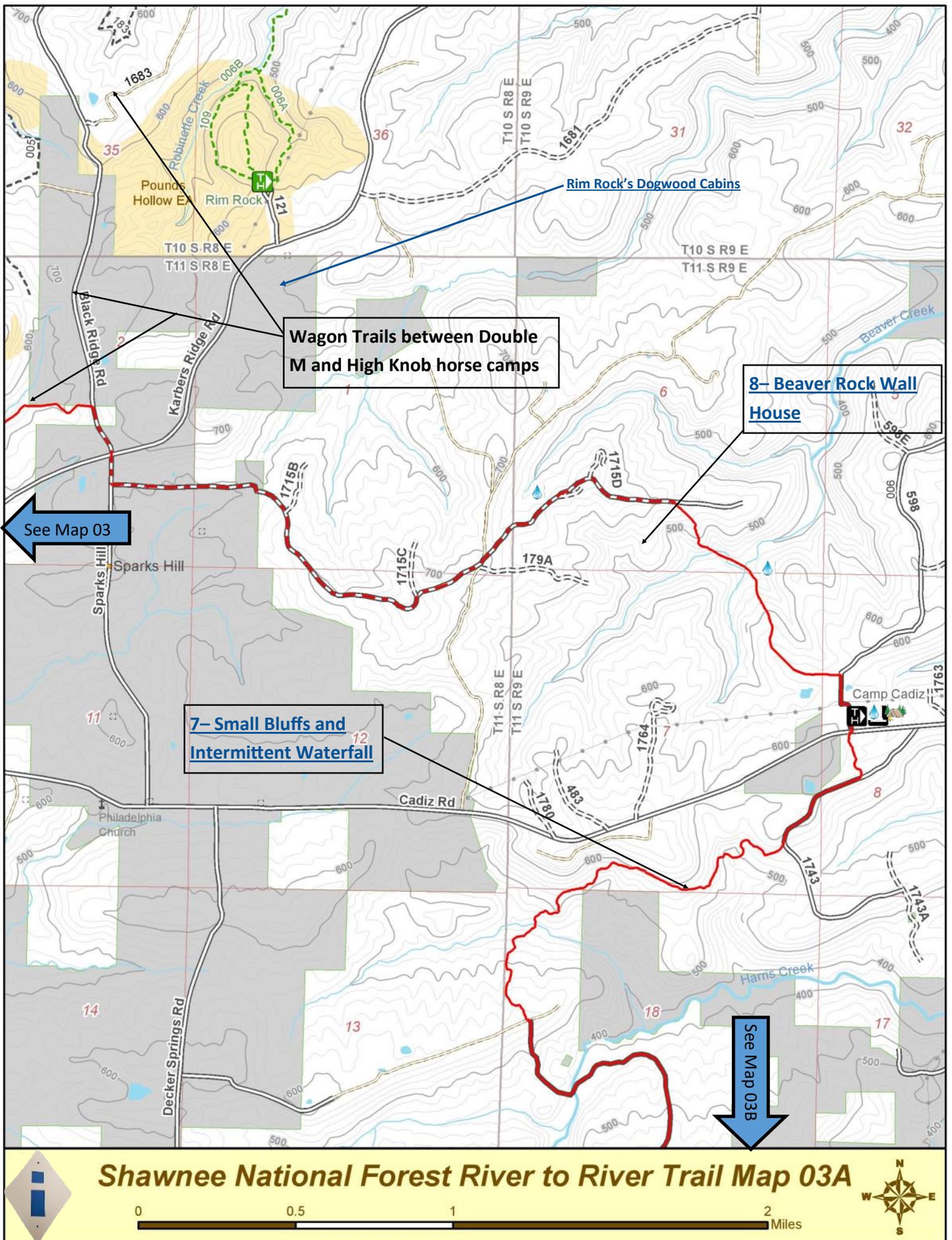


Six fully furnished cabins on 77 acres starting at \$100/nt, 8 miles east of Garden of the Gods, across from Rim Rock and .5 mile trail to Battery Rock leg of R2R. 100's of miles of hiking right outside your cabin. WiFi, Satellite TV, Free Firewood.

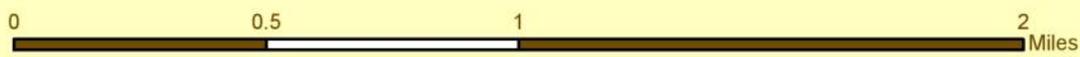
798 Karbers Ridge Rd, Elizabethtown IL 62931

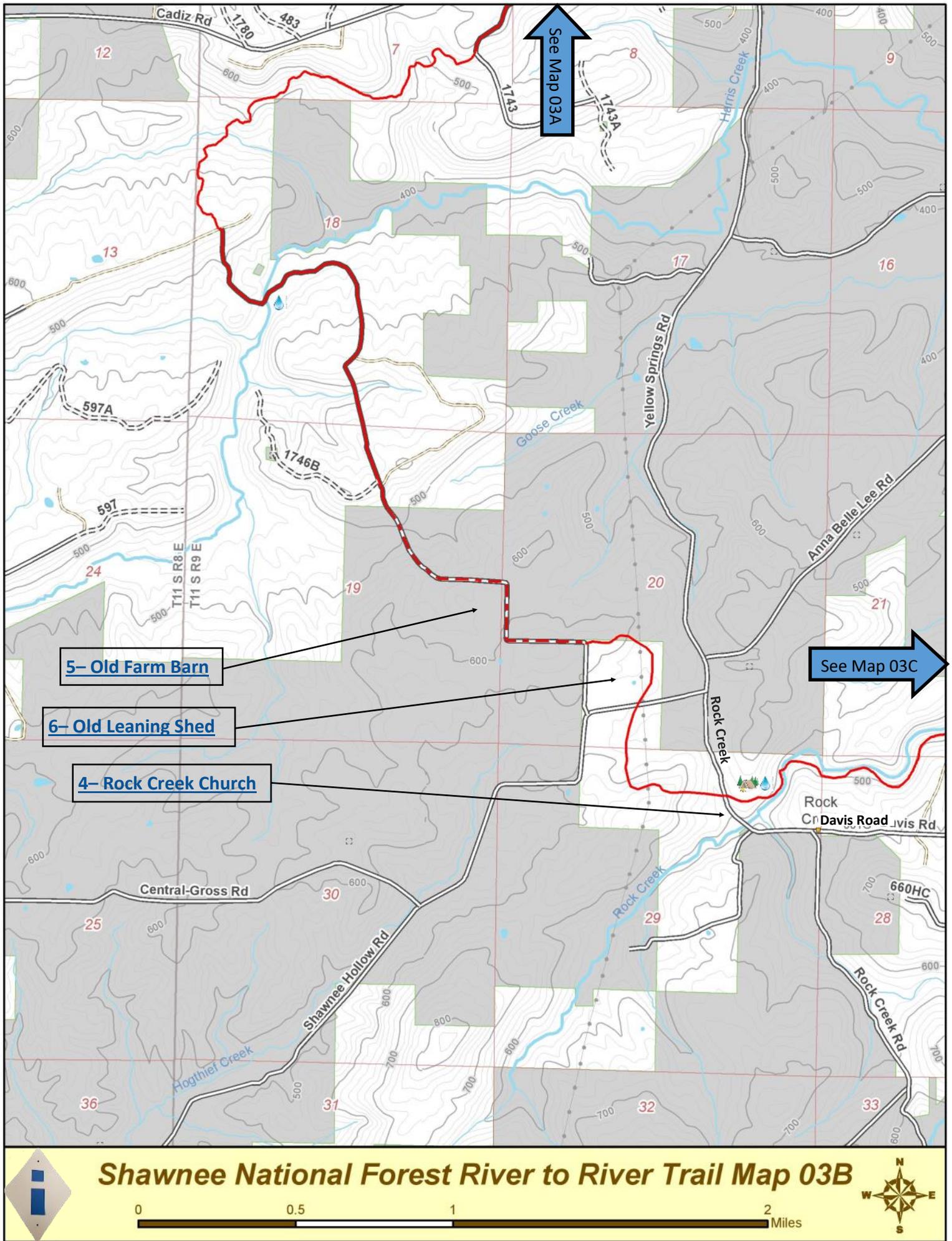
618-264-6036

www.rimrocksdogwoodcabins.com



Shawnee National Forest River to River Trail Map 03A





See Map 03A

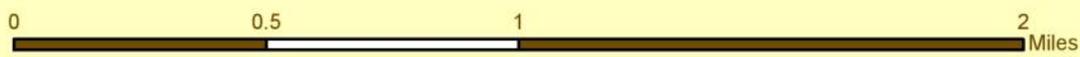
See Map 03C

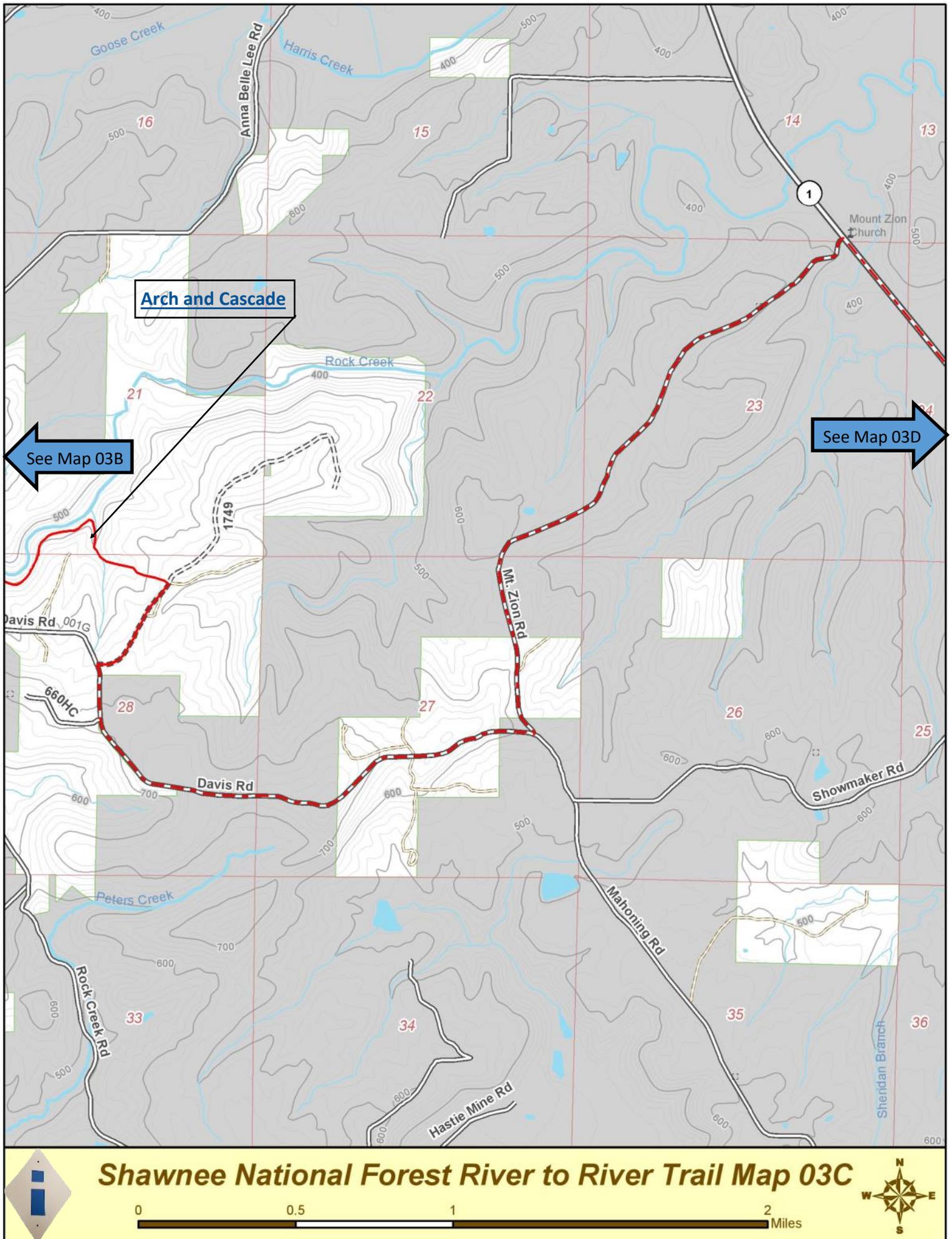
5- Old Farm Barn

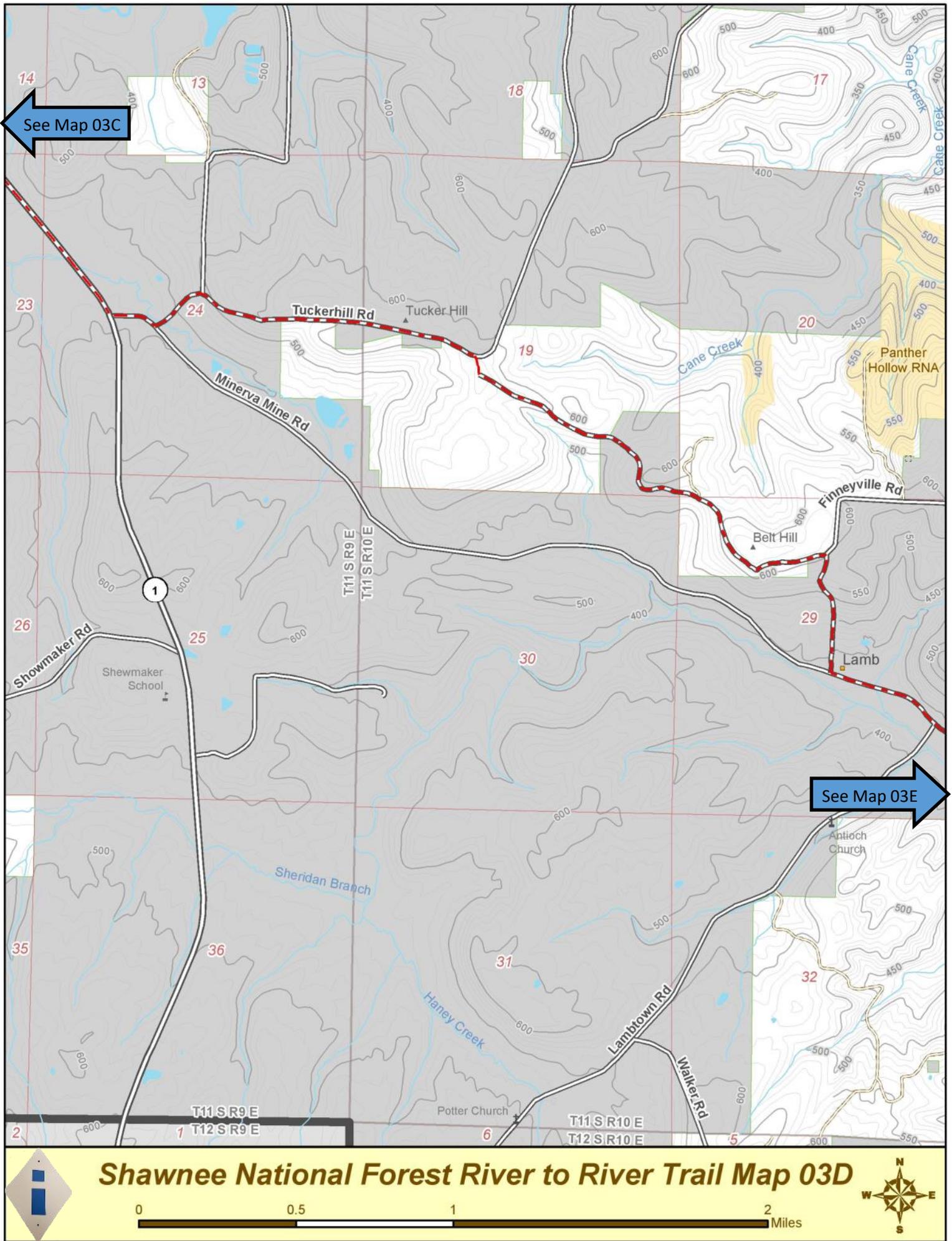
6- Old Leaning Shed

4- Rock Creek Church

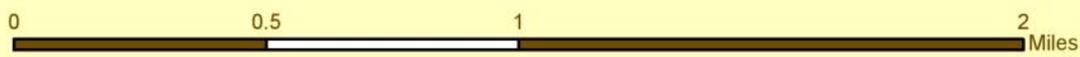
Shawnee National Forest River to River Trail Map 03B

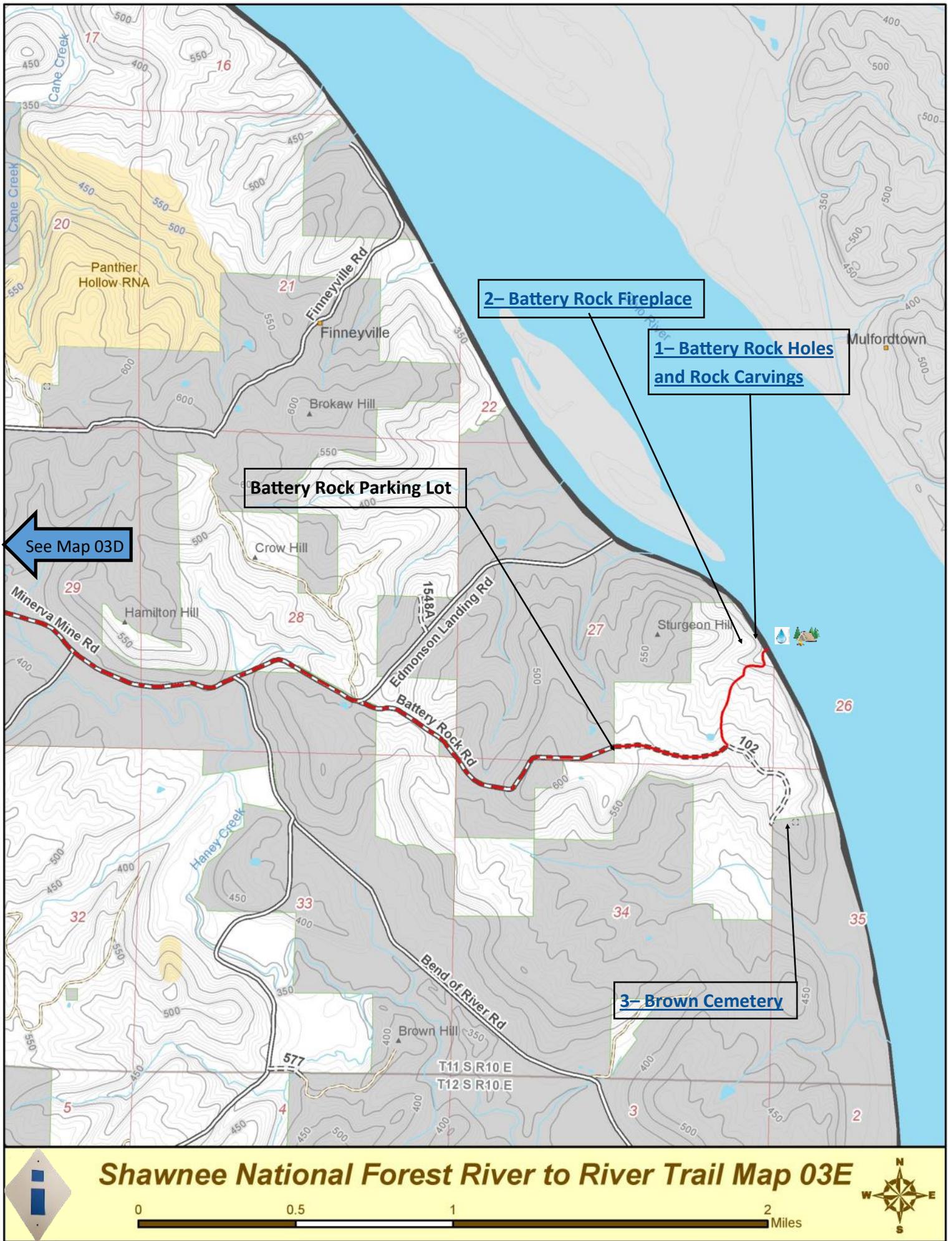






Shawnee National Forest River to River Trail Map 03D





Map 3A, 3B, 3C, 3D and 3E - Supplemental Information

Water Sources along the section

- There will be several opportunities for water at the numerous creek crossings along this section of the trail, but the first one will be at Rock Creek, which is 12 miles from the trailhead. It is unknown whether water is available at Mt. Zion Church.
- After leaving Rock Creek water should be available at Harris Creek, Camp Cadiz and then at Beaver Creek.

Potential Camping Locations along this section

- Because of all of the road walking the first real camping spot will not be until you arrive at the Rock Creek area.
- The second recommended camping spot would be at Camp Cadiz.

Interesting Side Trips along the section

- (1) Before leaving Battery Rock be sure to explore the rock bluffs just upstream of the sand beach where you will find all the carvings in the rock and the post holes in the rock floor of the shelter bluff. GPS coordinates are [N37° 31.809' W88° 04.777'](#).



- (2) Battery Rock fireplace is located on top of the bluff which requires a person to safely find a way up. GPS coordinates are [N37° 31.817' W88° 04.833'](#).



- (3) Brown Cemetery is located 0.5 miles down the trail from where the trail turns left heading downhill to Battery Rock. There are a lot of headstones with this one mentioning the civil war. GPS coordinates are [N37° 31.317' W88° 04.683'](#).



- Arch and Cascade - Along the trail down to rock creek the trail crosses a small stream that slides quickly down the hill in a long cascade. Just after crossing the creek you will see some rock formations above the trail that has a tunnel going through it at GPS Coordinates [N37° 32.490' W88° 13.115'](#)



- (4) Before you leave the Rock Creek area, take a look at the "H" tree in the Rock Creek Church yard. Rock Creek is a registered ghost town. At one time this was home to approximately 500 people. A story John O'Dell heard was that a prominent landowner passed on surprising wealth to his heirs and it wasn't until later that it was strongly rumored that he had been involved with a gold robbery in California and walked back to protect the money. Below is a photo of the swinging footbridge over Rock Creek with the "H" tree in the foreground on Church property. GPS coordinates are [N37° 32.210' W88° 13.899'](#).

Map 3A, 3B, 3C, 3D and 3E - Supplemental Information



- (7) Bluffs and Small Intermittent Waterfall occur in an area about a 3/4 mile before you get to Camp Cadiz. Here is the waterfall dripping in April. GPS coordinates are [N37° 34.317' W88° 14.950'](#).



- (5) The Old Barn along the trail a mile past Rock Creek Church. GPS coordinates are [N37° 32.809' W88° 14.864'](#).



- (8) Beaver Rock Wall House is a small 6 foot square rock wall building against the bluff. GPS coordinates are [N37° 35.188' W88° 15.372'](#)



- (6) Old Leaning Shed is at GPS coordinates [N37° 32.611' W88° 14.356'](#)

Zoom 0 mile is at Battery Rock and 22.9 is at R2R Trail Intersection

Elevation



[Return to Table of Contents](#)

This section was written for the River to River Trail Society by Keith Kibler and represents his experience of riding the complete trail in 2017 before the trail was 100% resigned in the fall of 2017.

The Shawnee National Forest is a rider's paradise. It is one of the premier horse destinations in the U.S. Riding here provides for some unique opportunities and challenges. Riding the River to River Trail, whether you ride a section or try the whole 157 miles it is great fun and a great challenge. My name is Keith Kibler and I live on a little farm near Marion IL. My wife and I raise and train gaited horses that we compete in a sport called "endurance". We train in the Shawnee and ride 1000's of miles here a year. We ride the sections of the River to River weekly. In May of 2017, I rode the whole thing from West to East in 3 full days and two half days. The reason I went West to East was that I wanted to use the floating catfish restaurant in Elizabethtown as a finishing goal.

Here are some things I think we have learned that I would like to share.

1. If you are riding a day, your horse can be truly barefoot. Two days in a row, or certainly more than that, requires steel shoes or boots. Much of the trail system is rocky and if you are riding the whole thing, there is way too much road riding for a truly barefoot horse. You will lame your horse.
2. If you are riding the whole thing, unless you know the trail system intimately, you need a GPS. We prefer wrist models. You don't drop a wrist model and they are easy to look at while you are moving. If you are doing anything more than a half day ride, I would not suggest using your phone as your only GPS. If you run your battery down on your phone you cant use it as a phone, and some phones may have issues with connections in the Shawnee. (Please note that Avenza described in section F can be used in airplane mode and will not run your battery down.) It is not an question of whether you will get "turned around" on the trail. The issue is how badly you will be wondering around trying to where you missed a turn. I strongly suggest you find a way to mark the trailheads and important way points onto your GPS prior to starting. I have more than the average knowledge of the trail system and I added 5 extra miles to my ride by "mis adventuring". The mileage would have been higher if I had been able to get a "dead head" bearing on the next trailhead on two different occasions. Even though many of us have worked to keep the trail marked, the markings in the Lusk

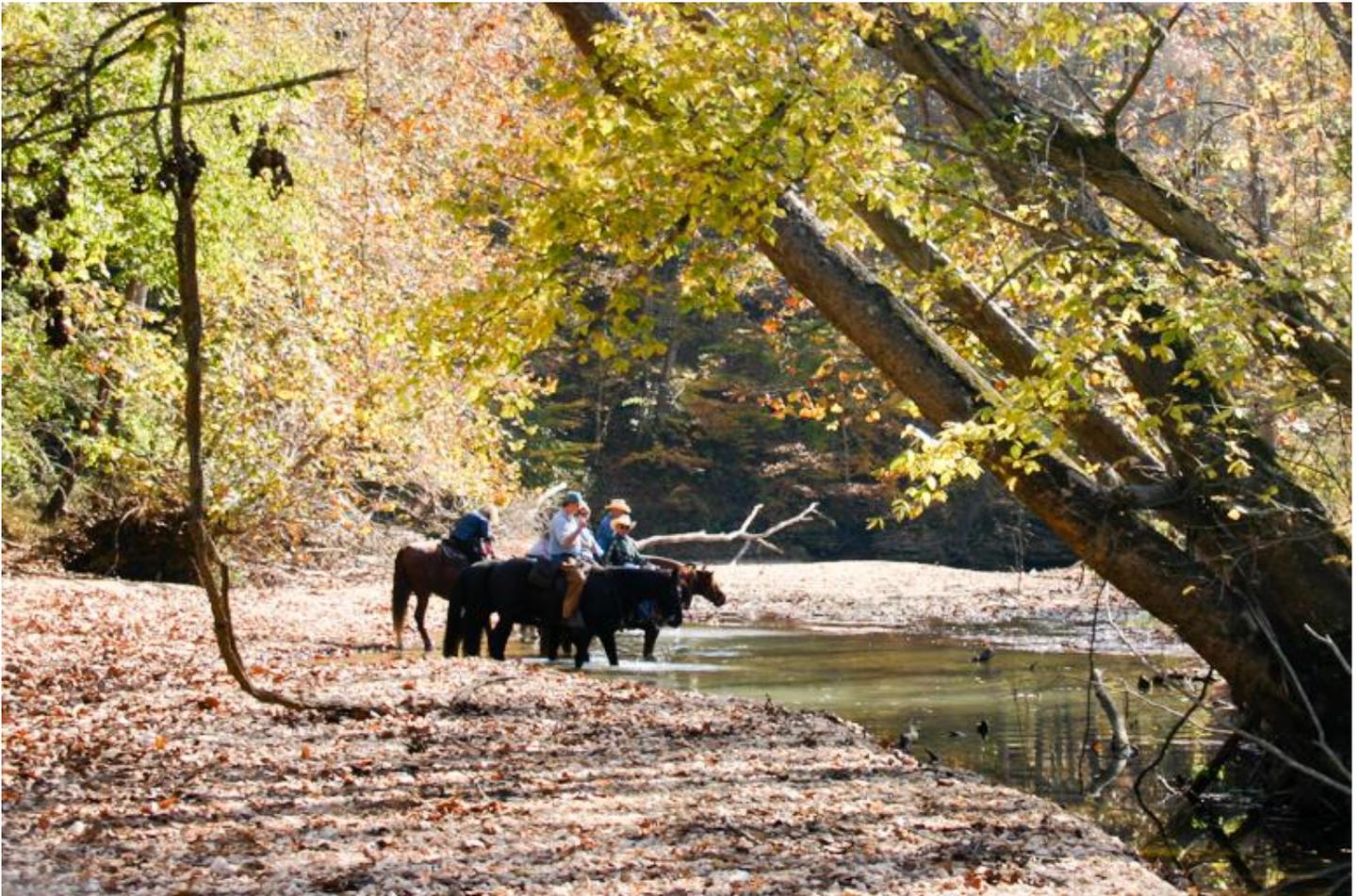
Creek Wilderness area are hard to follow and there is always the risk of a sign coming loose or being tampered with. Get a GPS.

3. If you are riding the whole thing, you have to decide how you are going to use transportation and how you are going to feed your horse. There is not enough forage by the trail system to sustain your horse. You must use food drops or move your horse to a camping area unless you are planning to carry horse feed and forage with you. I really doubt you could carry enough forage on you even if you used a pack animal to just carry hay. Remember, a pack animal will slow you down. Slowing you down equals more time in the saddle. You should also check with the FS for issues such as using a pack animal, closures involving high water and seasonal closures. You cannot ride the whole trail from some time in Nov to the end of April due to seasonal closures in Giant City and Ferne Clyffe State Parks from November 30 to April 1. There are also restrictions on wilderness areas of the Shawnee National Forest during the same months.
4. You must decide how to manage your ride and your sleeping time. The FS allows dispersed camping but has rules about it such as the distance you must be from a water source and the trails. Dispersed camping with a horse is not allowed in some areas. IF you plan on being picked up at the end of each day, you need to clearly plan this out. My wife picked me each evening and tracked me through the day using apps. I carried a gps, a spare gps, a smart phone and a back up charger for everything. It all came in very handy when severe weather came up and she pulled the three of us that were riding from the course right before the turned ugly. I also carried emergency supplies, a small amount of food, personal water, a light with extra batteries and two horse boots.

5. The usual time to ride the whole trail is around 8 days. The 3 full days and 2 half day time I rode the trail was unusually fast and possible largely because my horses were ready for endurance competition at the 50 or 100-mile distance. I stayed every nigh at my farm and then was put out where I stopped the night before. On some days, I was met at around the 20-mile mark and given a fresh horse. On some days the horse I was on carried me 40 miles. You need to soberly ask yourself if you and your horse are prepared for this challenge. This is a difficult thing and not without risks. I do not know how you would easily get emergency service for your horse deep in the Shawnee.

Places you can be picked up, water on the trail and places to Camp close to the Trail

Mileages are based on the same track log used for the hiking portion of this guide and are from West to East.



Trail riders getting a drink in Hutchins Creek in November

Trailhead Description	Small Trailer	Big Rig Trailers	Qty	Road access Problems and Remarks
Elizabethtown Trailhead	Yes	Yes	2	Flooded during high water
Iron Furnace	Yes	Yes	2	
High Knob	Yes	Yes	10+	Horse Camp
Knights of the Golden Circle	Yes	Yes	10+	Large gravel lot plus trailhead
Garden of the Gods	No	No	0	
Hitching Post Trailhead	Yes	Yes	3	
One Horse Gap Trailhead	Yes	Yes	10+	At Benham Ridge or 9 Day Camp
Lusk Creek / Circle B Trailhead	Yes	Yes	4	At Day Parking and Trailway Hideaway overflow
Honey Hole	Yes	Yes	4	
Gum Springs Road Trailhead	Yes	No	0	Dangerous for Big Trailers!
Max Creek / Taylor Ridge Road Trailhead	Yes	No	0	Too Small and road often washed out for Big Trailers, Go to Cedar Lake Camp with big trailer instead
Dutchman Lake	Yes	Yes	2	
Ferne Clyffe Rebman Lane Trailhead	Yes	Yes	2	Use Horse Camp instead if camping
Ferne Clyffe Happy Hollow Trailhead	Yes	No	0	Okay for pickup only. Could also use Horse Sale Barn 7 miles away for pickup or drop off. It is on R2R and adjacent Goreville Road near Interstate 57.
Panther Den Trailhead	Yes	No	0	Too Small, once there you can not turn a big around. Don't pull down lane or you will be in trouble.
Rocky Comfort Road Trailhead	Yes	Yes	10+	Parking lot is new in 2018
Giant City Equestrian Camping Area				
Lirley Trailhead	Yes	No	0	
Alto Pass Quetil Trailhead	No	No	0	Pickup and drop off in Alto Pass.
Godwin East Trailhead	Yes	No	0	
Godwin West / Inspiration Point Trailhead	Yes	No	0	
McCann Springs Trailhead	Yes	No	0	
Devils Backbone Park Trailhead	Yes	No	0	

Devils Backbone to Giant City Equestrian Campground (36 miles)

See Maps 28 through 21 for details.

Devil's Backbone Park on the Mississippi River to Alto Pass is 20.5 miles. The first 10 miles out of Devils Backbone Park is a gravel levee road. Make sure that you turn right for about 0.2 miles when you come to the HWY3 and that you don't cross over the highway to continue of the same levee road you are on. Water is seasonally available at mile 14.5 which is the Hutchins Creek crossing on the Godwin Trail and mile 20.5 in Alto Pass (at [Duty's Country Store](#)) At Godwin Trail east head you turn left to go East.

The top of Bald Knob Mt is just 1.5 miles up the road from the Godwin Trail east trailhead but there is no tie up, although you can tie your horse in the trees and get a soda in the visitors center. The last 600 yards up the side trail that leads to the Cross is very steep.

If you continue on the trail, just to go left down the road, it is a dangerous 3 mile black top road descent into Alto Pass. DO NOT ride on the right away to the left of the trailhead on the start of the descent for the first 200 yards. The land owner is very forward about not wanting horses in that area. I wish there was a trail down the mountain to Alto Pass. Alto pass has opportunity for lunch and you can tie your horses up behind the [Duty's Country Store](#).

Alto Pass to Lirley trailhead. A small trailer can get into the Lirley trailhead on Rowan Road but not a big rig. This section is 8.6 miles long and you can water at Cedar lake at mile 25.1.

About mile 28 from Grand Tower, or mile 7.5 from both Alto Pass and 1.1 miles from Rowan Road, there is a trail washout as of the early 2018. The trail is close to impassible but not impossible. Both I and my top mare Kate slid down the trail on our backsides.

Lirley trailhead is the start of a 2 mile long road ride until you cross HWY51 which requires a keen eye on your part; a calm horse as the traffic is close and you have times with no way of getting off the road. It is trail and gravel roads another 1.7 miles into

Makanda.

A full-size rig could pick up riders at Makanda which is mile 32.8. There is a restaurant but no way to tie up your horse.

Mile 36 of this section is the turnoff to the Equestrian Campground at Giant City State Park. There is plenty of room for big rigs, tie ups and water. The trail from a about 0.5 mile east of Makanda to the Giant City Horse Camp is very rocky. I have had a steel shoed horse bruise on this section.

There is a restaurant at the [Giant City Lodge](#) with a tie up. This is another 1 mile ride from the equestrian campground. There is no shower facility.

I rode 37 miles, (with 3 bonus miles extra for a total of 40) my first day.

Services: Alto Pass is at mile 20.5. It has restaurants and at least one bar and a grocery that is also a deli. They make plates of food and sandwiches. The only place I have found to tie a horse is at the small pavilion in town and behind the desert restaurant. I had permission for the latter but not the former. You can get coffee, sandwiches, candy and such at the [Makanda Country Store](#) at mile 32.8. They do not accept credit cards. The Giant City SP Lodge is just over a mile from the equestrian camp. The horse camp is about 200 meters from the R2R trail. The lodge has a horse tie up. Makanda has a vet nearby at Stone Creek Veterinary Clinic.



Giant City to Ferne Clyffe (28.6 miles)

See Maps 21 through 17 for details.

It is 10.6 miles from Giant City Equestrian Campground turn off to Panthers Den rock formations. There is always water at the Panthers Den in streams along that route. Panthers Den is very beautiful.

Between mile 12 which is a 0.4 miles before Wayside Lane to mile 13.4 Mount Hebron Road is often very muddy and the fencing you ride through makes a type of corridor that can place your horse close to cows.

Miles 13.4 to Mile 17.3 is dangerous as you are on oil and chip roads with no shoulder to get off the road. At mile 16.7 you must cross over interstate 57. I would suggest getting off the horse and leading it. I have ridden over the over pass more than once while still seated but I had very well trained horses. You certainly don't want to have a dangerous spook while semi-trucks drive under you and your horse.

At about mile 17.3 you turn south on Regent Lane. The Southern Illinois Equine Sale business there has a very large gravel parking lot that can be used as a pick up point.

At mile 18.6 you cross over the top of a waterfall. This waterfall is marked on some maps as "Ferne Clyffe Waterfall", but this is where you enter Ferne Clyffe State Park property and their literature labels it "Bork's Falls". You are several miles from Ferne Cliff State Park so if that is your goal. Alternate names for Bork's Falls are "Hippy Hollow Waterfall" or sometimes "Happy Hollow Waterfall."

The R2R trail is ahead to the left. You will notice a trail approximately 200 yards past the waterfall where you turn left. If you need water, that trail goes back down to the creek where the R2R turns right following the creek. The base of the waterfall you rode over is to the left and there is always a pool of water below the waterfall. Most of the time you will find water various locations along the creeks in the 1.2 miles after the waterfall. After leaving the creeks, the Happy Hollow Road trailhead is 0.5 miles up the hill. The trailhead has a small parking lot

where you can be picked up. This is mile 20.7 and there is not enough room for a big rig.

Mile 20.7 to 23 along Happy Hollow Road is horrible for horseman. It is slick pavement with no shoulder. Use extreme caution. After turning into Ferne Clyffe SP proper, you will have 3.5 miles of high ground riding before arriving at Buck Branch Creek in the valley.

You will find water in several places along Buck Branch Creek miles 26.5 and 28. At mile 28 you turn right leaving the creek and have a 0.6 mile climb to the Ferne Clyffe Equestrian Campground. With care, you can turn a big rig around in Ferne Clyffe.

There is equestrian camping for a big rig, but you may need to contact the park beforehand as the gate leading into the equestrian camping lot is not usually open.

Services: At mile 6.4 you cross Rocky Comfort Road. If you ride 800 meters south you will find Blue Sky Winery which has food and beverage. They are horse friendly but you would have to ask them about a place to tie a horse as I have always tied to a trailer in their remote parking area. If you need services, do not turn into the park. Go straight ahead. After reaching HWY37 in about 800 meters you will see a gas station and convenience store to your left. (North). The Village itself as a restaurant, a Mexican restaurant, a subway, [Acee's Convenience Store](#), and a full size grocery but someone would have to hold your horse.



Ferne Clyffe To Gum Springs (23.2 Miles)

See Maps 17 through 13 for details.

The R2R leaves Ferne Clyffe Equestrian Campground heading south for 0.5 miles before turning left onto Rebman Lane. It is an easy gravel road ride to HWY37. Turn right and you have a 0.6 mile ride beside HWY37 with some ability to ride off the shoulder. You turn left and then have a 2.9 mile ride on chip and seal Tall Tree Lake Road. At the 5 mile mark you turn left onto Twinz Lane towards the forest and Dutchman Lake.

Mile 6.5 finds you in a non-native pine forest that is beautiful. Storms in 2016 caused a lot of tree damage that was cleaned up in 2017. After leaving the pine forest you cross Dutchman Lake Dam. At mile 7.5 you reach the spill way boat ramp at Dutchman Lake and a chance to water your horse. You could be picked up below the spill way by a big rig at a turnaround area.

Mile 8.5 finds you riding on a the gravel Bowman Bottoms Road that passes under moving interstate 57 traffic. It is a good training spot. Miles 10 and 10.7 often have spots to water your horse. At mile 10.8 you cross the Tunnel Hill Bike trail.

Mile 13 has the trail turning south along HWY45 for 1.2 miles but there is room to get off the highway. Use caution here as this is a busy and narrow highway.

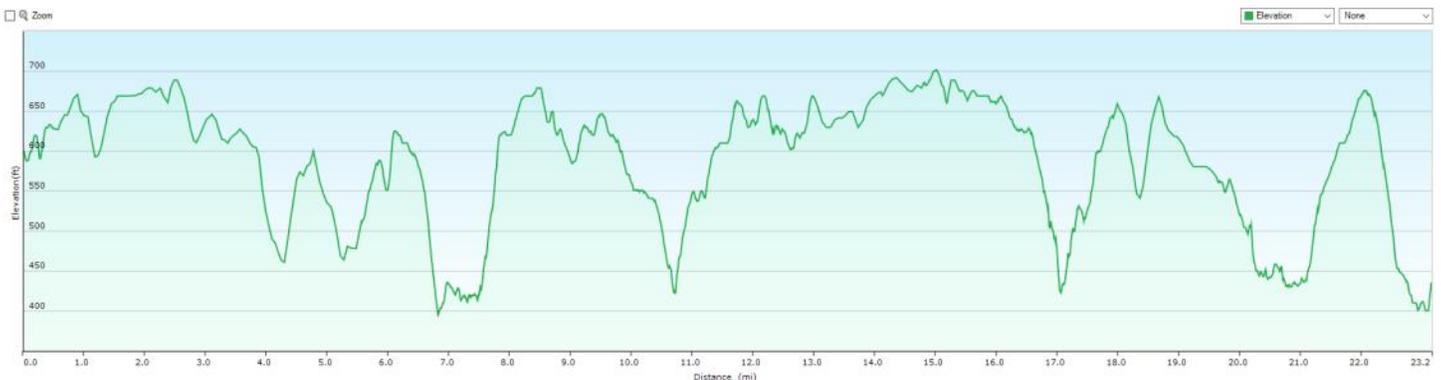
The trail turns east at mile 14.2 and then continues on gravel Taylor Ridge Road. You will find water in Max Creek at mile 17. You can access Cedar Lake Campground from this area via the trails 437 and 435. It is about a 1.3 mile ride to the northeast. Although it is not exactly on the R2R, you could stay there and ride back to the R2R in more than one way. They have plenty of room for big rigs.

At mile 18 you come out on Hill Top Lane where you turn left. In 0.8 miles you ride onto the right of way on Gilead Church Road. You can get off the highway but watch for traffic. In a quarter mile you are back on a gravel Garfield Lane that will turn right into the woods at mile 19.6. As you approach this you will note the boot covered fence posts on the left and

hence the name “boot ranch”.

Your next opportunity for water is between miles 20.3 and 21.1 in Cedar Creek. After leaving Cedar Creek at mile 21.1 you climb large hill to the top of a ridge and an old home site before coming back down a valley on the other side of the ridge. At the bottom of this valley you will intersect Gum Springs Road where you need to turn left and cross the bridge to the Gum Springs trailhead. You can be picked up here. I have taken a three-horse slant trailer there many times but it can be tricky to pull out of the small parking area as the turn out of the parking area is uneven. Be careful. The parking lot is not big enough for a big rig to turn around and you would end up tearing it up trying to pull out. If you pull in here with anything more than a three horse slant trailer you should have a spotter watch all the backing you do with your rig and to make sure you don't drag your trailer pulling out of the parking area. If you want to be picked up in this area by a big rig, I suggest you do not pull into the parking lot but load from the road. It has little traffic.

Services: At mile 18.8 the gravel road you are, on which you are riding north turns into Gilead Church Road and that is a black top road that you travel on for about a quarter mile. The R2R then follows a gravel road north. If you stay on the or beside the paved road around the curve to the left for .35 miles you will find Cedar Lake Campground which is a equestrian camp. They have some tack, groceries, and basic supplies. This is a good place to be picked up.



Gum Springs to Cedar Grove Road (Honey Hole) (9.9 Miles)

See Maps 13 through 10 for details.

This is a beautiful ride Cedar Creek is available for water for the first 0.2 miles after which you start climbing. Additional creeks and ponds are available for water in the first 2 miles.

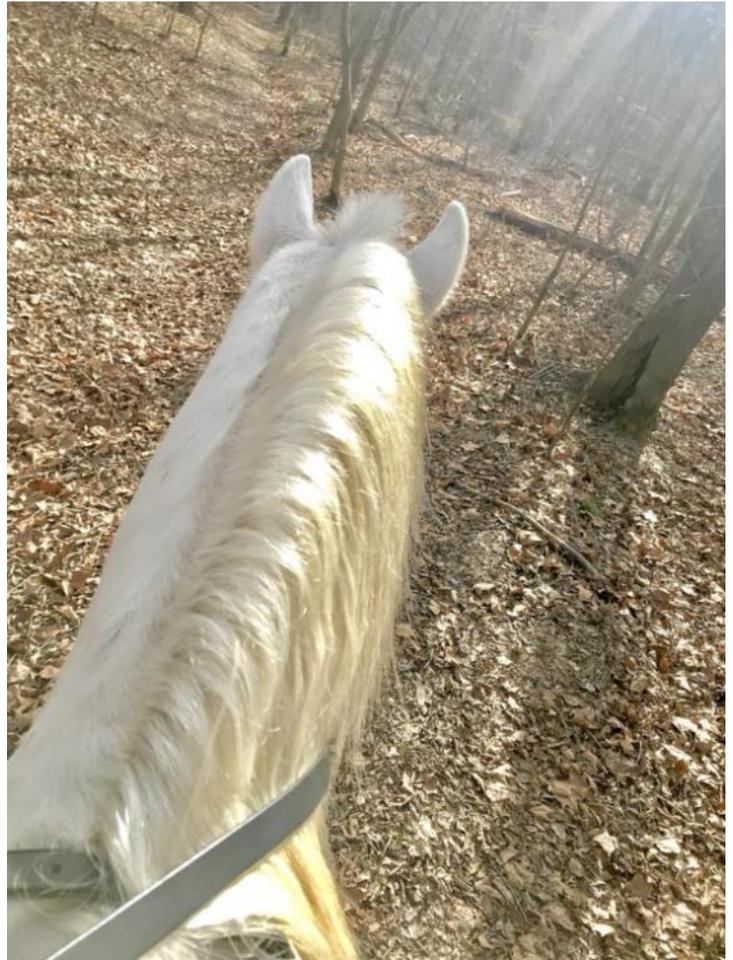
At mile 3.6 you reach Trigg Tower Road which has a great parking area big enough for several big trailers. Several equestrian people also use Jack Davis Campground which about a half mile north on the left.

After crossing the Trigg Tower road the trail travels downhill 1.3 miles to where you will come to what is known locally as the “Tin Whistle”. It is a large metal culvert that goes under an often-used rail road track. I have ridden many horse through this without a problem, but you should listen for the sound of an approaching trains before you cross. Not many horses are bomb proof enough to carry you under a noisy moving train. You will find water below the Tin Whistle.

At mile 5.3 you will cross the Millstone Lake dam. The road down from the dam is badly washed away and unrepaired . Be careful here. At the base of the dam you follow the road out till mile 5.8 where the trail turns left and heads uphill to the top of a ridge. Once you stop climbing you will reach trail 32 where you are less than 1.5 miles from Bay Creek Campground which is a place you could be picked up or horse camp. You ride this ridge until mile 7.2 where the trail will turn left, the forest road continues and trail 32f turns right.

The remaining 2.7 miles goes up and down through two valleys with creeks at mile 7.8 and 8.5. At mile 9.9 you will cross Cedar Grove Road. Bay Creek Campground is 2.3 miles south. About 0.14 miles south is a forest service lane to the left with an open yellow gate and 0.35 miles down this lane is a free horse parking area where you could also camp with a big rig. This spot is maintained by a local riding club and is free to use. We call it “Honey Hole”. There is a small horse water pond, hence its name.

Services: Bay Creek Campground is 1.5 miles off the R2R trail. They have a bathroom, water and soda. There is plenty of room for pick up and they have horse camping.



Honey Hole to Hitching Post on Gape Hollow Road north of Herod. (33 Miles)

See Maps 10 through 6 for details.

You can access the R2R from Honey Hole by either riding back out to hard road and turning north for 400 yards or riding the FS road that exits the camping area to the NE. That becomes the R2R in 800 yards.

Miles 1-6 to Eddyville are some of the greatest riding in the Shawnee. You will find water along the way as you make several creek crossings.

There is an interesting tie up area at a creek about mile 3 from Honey hole called locally "Petticoat Junction". It is a junction of several trails, has a tie up area and you will note that a fresh supply of petticoats is usually attached to the overhead tie ups.

Eddyville is so small you could miss it if you blinked. You have two places of note here. A bar/restaurant has a hitching post and Hays Canyon Horse Camp is about .8 north on the one road in Eddyville. You can stay there or be picked up but they do not have food. They do have a shower and bath room facility as well as water and electric hookups.

Eddyville to Circle B Parking at mile 9 is an easy ride on a peaceful chip and seal road. Circle B Campground is a horse camp that is filled with year-round trailers, but it often has overflow possibilities if you don't need water and electric. There is also a free horse parking area right on the R2R across from the horse camp that local call "Day Parking". It is free to park and big enough for a big rig. I used this as a pick-up spot.

The Lusk creek wilderness area is required to have R2R signage that is more "natural". You won't see the white and bright blue "I" signs. In fact you might not see many of the signs that are bark colored. I ride there. My group pre-rode the area because we found it so hard to follow. The day we rode through it on my ride through, 4 of us could not follow the signs and we added at least 3 extra miles. I used my GPS to find the next trailhead which is Concord Cemetery which is mile 9 from Honey Hole. You will find water on the trail until you come out south of Herod on

a gravel road named Raum Road. The trail then takes you over a bridge and you are mercifully only on the busy HWY 34 for 100 yards. The ride out of Herod up a steep black top road named Grape Hollow Road is 1.5 miles and offers little shoulder to get off the road. Take extreme caution here. Although, in my opinion, this is one of the 3 most dangerous sections to ride on a horse, it is the last one if you are going west to east.

A trailhead and parking lot the locals call the "Hitching Post" north of Herod with plenty of room for a big rig is on the left. (west) 1.5 miles north of Herod. The R2R appears to turn off of Eagle Creek (Gape Hollow) Road about 0.5 miles south of the Hitching post parking lot, but if you are being dropped off there, do not worry about riding south on the hard road to connect with the R2R trail. The trail heading due east out of the parking lot is better, you don't have to ride the 0.5 miles south on the black top road and they connect up in about 0.5 miles anyway. It is 33 miles from Honey Hole to The Hitching Post.

Services: Eddyville's [Shotgun Eddys](#) has a hitching post. [Hayes Canyon horse camp](#) is 800 meters north of Eddyville on the one main road in town. [Bear Branch Campground](#) is about 2 miles away on trail but off the R2R. Circle B ranch and a parking lot called "Day Parking"



Gape Hollow Road Hitching post to Garden of Gods to Elizabeth Town. (28 Miles)

See Maps 6 through 1 for details.

There is little water for the first 9 miles. Garden of the Gods is 5.4 miles from the Hitching Post. The main visitation and photo site is not actually on the R2R trail, but you are close to it and can easily add a mile or so to your ride for the view. The visitation area has horse tie ups and it is a great place to catch lunch as it has picnic tables.

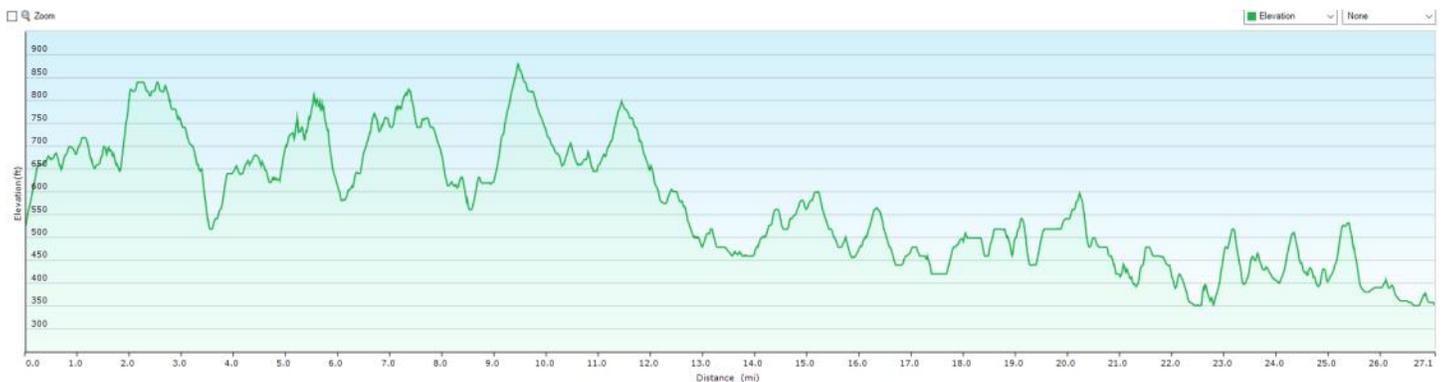
Other areas of interest if you want about 2 miles of extra riding is what is called the Golden Circle and Buzzards Point which is a nice high lookout area. You can ride into the Golden Circle if you are really limber and hang on the side of a not so big

High Knob horse campground is at mile 9 and of course you can get water, ice cream or camp.

The ride into Elizabethtown is very peaceful and has several opportunities for water. It has no bad road sections, but you do cross 2 lane roads. I enjoyed this section but did it in the pouring rain which did not add to my or my fellow rider's pleasure. We sure did enjoy the sight of the restaurant on the Ohio River. When you enter Elizabethtown you will pass a park on your left. You have about 1 mile to go to the river from the Park. Signage is sparse here but Just keep going down to the river and you will see the floating catfish restaurant. I suggest the all you can eat catfish plate. Yummy!

The R2R trail ends, or starts if you are going East to West, at the front door of a floating catfish Restaurant called [E'Town River Restaurant](#). I used that restaurant as a goal to help me focus on getting to the end and sit down for a good meal. You can park a rig but there is no way to tie up a horse other than on in your trailer. Cell service is horrible in E'Town. It is so bad that Judges and lawyers practicing in the old courthouse one block from the Ohio River stand in a second story window and try to bounce their signal across the Ohio River into Kentucky to make a call. So, you can't count on being able to use your cell phone to call a driver although you might find a pay

land line in town. There is a gas station that has a convenience store ([E'Town Riverport Express](#)) and some bars and one other restaurant.



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Conclusion

This is a wonderful and challenging adventure that is certainly a dream for many riders that enjoy the Shawnee National Forest. It is difficult and should not be taken lightly by the rider and most certainly, not for the horse or mule. Riding the whole 160 miles, (for me it was 165 because I got “turned around”, requires planning, safety considerations and careful thought about the shape and soundness is of your horse. If your horse is not in truly adequate shape to take on the whole trail, do some day rides. I also suggest you carry at least one, if not two boots to replace a thrown shoe. You will not find a farrier except via the horse camps. A thrown shoe, without a boot on board the horse, could easily finish your trip very early and depending upon where you were, you could find yourself walking miles on foot with a sore horse to find a place to be picked up and where you also could find cell service to get help. That help would be up to you as there is no “emergency horse hauling” service here although most of the horse camps could probably help you if you could get to one or get service to call the nearest one.

The nearest horse vets are probably in Makanda, Marion, Eldorado or Johnston City, but there might be others.

I am frequently asked if there are organized

rides for the whole trail. There is not an organized group ride. First, the FS has rules about the size of any group and if any money is being charged, and they have very strict and expensive fees attached to the permitting process. My 5 friends who rode pieces of the trail with me all, except one, rode my horses so I was not only responsible for the group but for a variety of horses. If you ride with a group or especially, if you plan on meeting people at certain time through a day, the trail boss now has a whole different set of things to consider than if two or three people are just riding together. If you ride in a group larger than 2 or 3, you then must consider riding at a pace that is comfortable for the slowest horse. You must also consider that you will need two pick up trailers. We sometimes used three which made for time consuming highway travel.

It was great fun, and I am glad that I did it with my friends. It took me years of preparation and planning but then, you must be flexible with your plan once you start. As you know, your horse comes first!

Happy Trails,
Keith W Kibler
Shawnee Sunrise Farm
Marion IL

Little Lusk Trail Lodge and Campground

FULL HOOK-UP CAMPSITES

**SIX BEDROOM LODGE
FOR
HORSEMEN AND HIKERS**

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(270) 205-7138**

We in the River to River Trail Society would also like to thank our friends at the two groups linked here for all their hard work in support of the River to River Trail and the Shawnee National Forest in general. **The Friends of the Shawnee** distributes maps that cover the entire Shawnee National Forest and does trail maintenance. The **Shawnee Trail Conservancy** is an equestrian group that does a lot of trail work through out the forest with emphasis on spreading gravel along sections of the trail. Their efforts are especially critical in wilderness areas where they haul gravel with horse and mule trains.



THE AMERICAN DISCOVERY TRAIL IN SOUTHERN ILLINOIS

The American Discovery Trail is America's first coast-to-coast trail, extending more than 6,000 miles from Point Reyes National Seashore in California to Cape Henlopen State Park in Delaware. It connects five national scenic trails, 12 national historic trails, 34 national recreational trails and hundreds of local and regional trails. It connects 14 national parks and 16 national forests. The ADT crosses California, Nevada, Utah, Colorado, Nebraska, Iowa, Illinois, Indiana, Kansas, Missouri, Kentucky, Ohio, West Virginia, Maryland, Washington D.C., and Delaware.

The American Discovery Trails offers a northern and southern route through the Midwest, so there are two routes in Illinois. The southern route extends from St. Louis to New Haven, Illinois, a total of approximately 300 miles. The northern route goes from Moline to Munster, Indiana.

The southern route passes through some of the most scenic areas in the country with a combination of plains, rocky wilderness with canopy, and wetland bayou. The Shawnee National Forest hosts most of the east/west portion of the ADT, where it traverses the Lusk Creek Canyon National Scenic Area and several wilderness areas, such as Garden of the Gods Wilderness, Clear Springs Wilderness and Panther Den Wilderness. The trail also passes through Giant City and Ferne Clyffe state parks and Devil's Backbone Park. Regarded as a rugged trail, the ADT passes through country that has species of plants and animals native to north and south as well as east and west. It features woodlands and wetlands, and climbs high to display wonderful vistas.

When the trail enters Illinois via the Eads Bridge from St. Louis, it intersects the levee off the pier walkway down to ground level. The trail passes the riverboat casino and continues through to the levee. It passes through Cahokia, the oldest town in Illinois established in 1699. Levee walking is often paralleled by blacktop roads (which were formerly buffalo trails) that run alongside bluffs of the Mississippi River.

Incidentally, these levees were designed and laid out by Robert E. Lee and some

by Ulysses S. Grant as far back as 1850. Stops in Cahokia are worthwhile to see Cahokia Mounds State Historic Site and the log French Church of the Holly Family, and the reconstructed Courthouse featuring elegant log construction. Farther south, highlights include Fort de Chartres, first built by the French in 1720, near the town of Prairie du Rocher. Historically, this was a strategic location for a fort. The French invested in three towns in the New World: Montreal, New Orleans, and Chartres. They spent \$3,500,000 in 1750 to build a stone fort while other forts were all made of wood, including Montreal. The whims of politics diminished its importance, and some of its walls were used for construction of the Eads Bridge.

The ADT continues along the levee to Devil's Backbone Park in Grand Tower where it picks up the River-to-River Trail. The River to River Trail is well-marked with wooden diamonds and blue "I" eastward to Route 1 through the Shawnee National Forest.

At Route 1, which is about seven miles north of Cave-in-Rock, the ADT goes north along roads to Route 141, north of Omaha. Here, it turns east to New Haven, where it exits into Indiana. Daniel Boone's older brother ran a mill in New Haven in about 1790.

Written By: John O'Dell

Edited By: Eric Seaborg, President
American Discovery Trail Society



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THE AMERICAN DISCOVERY TRAIL IN SOUTHERN ILLINOIS

Indiana to River to River Trail

- Numbers in () are section mileage.
- Numbers in [] are cumulative mileage

- (0)[0] The American Discovery Trail enters Illinois using Indiana 62. After crossing the Wabash River the road becomes Illinois 141. Enter White County/Gallatin County. Continue west on IL141.

- (5.6)[5.6] Cross Little Wabash River and continue past the NEW HAVEN turn off. Daniel Boone's Brother ran a Mill and a Blockhouse here.

- (1.5)[7.1] At IL141 and Shawneetown-New Haven (CR3) Road Turn left heading south.

- (6.5)[13.6] Continue South on Shawneetown-New Haven Road to Big Hill Road

- (9.2)[22.8] Turn right around the curve and continue Shawneetown-New Haven (CR11) Road to SHAWNEETOWN and OLD SHAWNEETOWN

- (.2)[23] Turn left for 2 blocks on Shawnee Ave. Turn right on Park Ave, cross IL13, and jog left to Gold Hill (CR8) Road.

- (2.4)[25.4] Turn right on Ringgold Road (CR15)

- (2.6)[28.0] Bear left on Peabody Road

- (4.3)[32.3] Turn left/south on IL 1

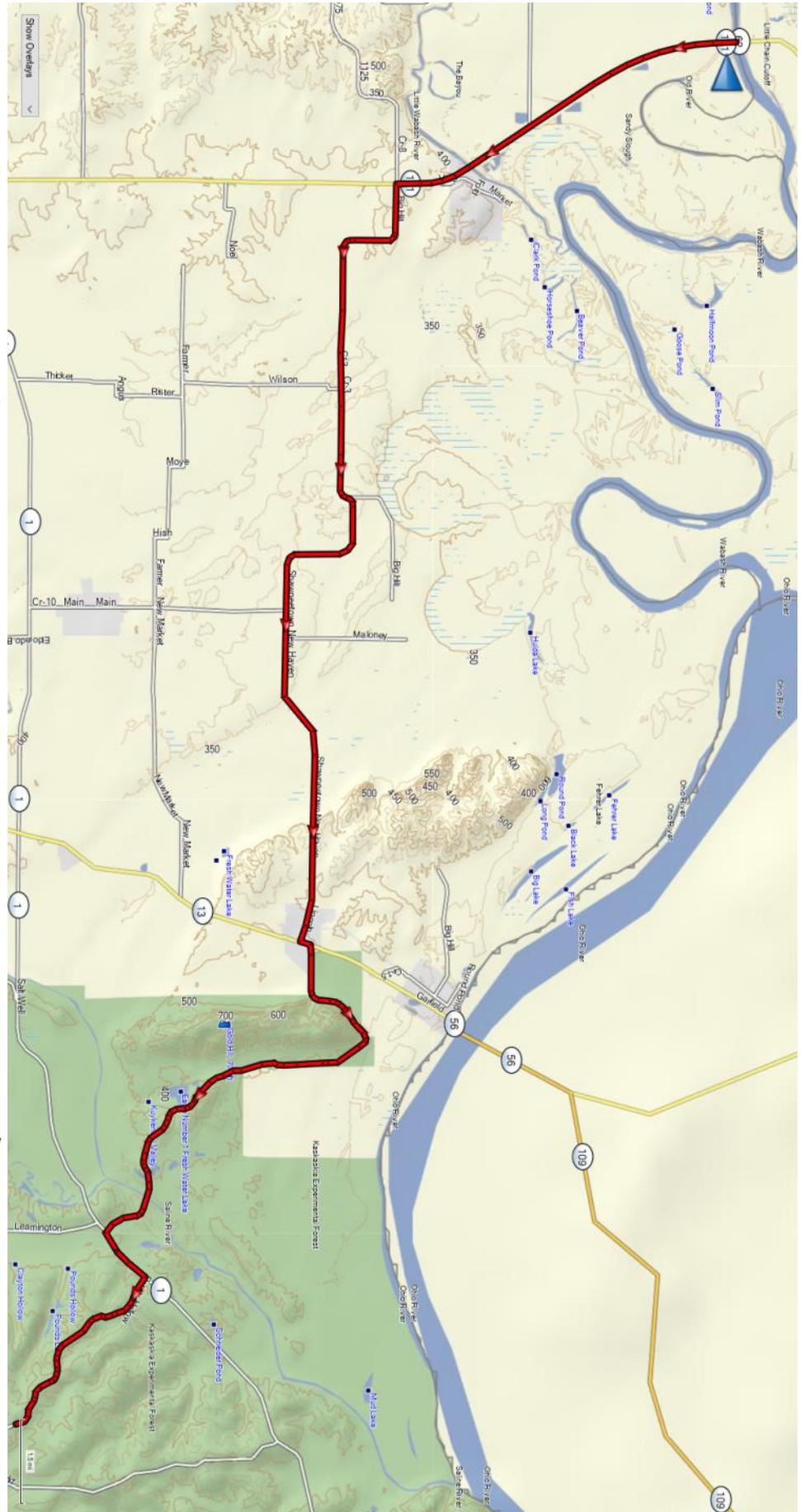
- (1.1)[33.4] Turn right on Pounds Hollow (CR13) Road

- (4.0)[37.3] Pounds Hollow Road turns into Karbers Ridge to Original River-to-River Trail from Battery Rock

- Turn right going north Black Ridge/Sparks Hill Road to follow Original River to River Trail

- (0.9)[38.2] Alternately continue on Karbers Ridge Road to current River to River Trail from ELIZABETH-TOWN

- Use River-to-River Trail Guide starting in Chapter 1 Map03 from here to Devil's Backbone Park at GRAND TOWER on the Mississippi River for 142.5 miles.



THE AMERICAN DISCOVERY TRAIL IN SOUTHERN ILLINOIS

Grand Tower, IL to Chester, IL

(0)[0] Start at Devil's Back Bone Park at the end of the River to River Trail, Chapter 16 Map 28.

(0.2)[0.2] Go north on Brunkhorst Ave. and turn right on 20th

(0.2)[0.4] Turn left on Third Avenue (CR 337A)

(1.0)[1.4] Turn right on Power Plant Road (CR84/CR 337A)

(1.3)[2.7] Turn left (North) on IL3.

(3.4)[6.1] Turn left on to Gorham Road

(1.5)[7.6] Gorham Road becomes Main Street in GORHAM (62940)

(0.2)[7.8] Main Street becomes Neunert Road (CR 9)

(2.3)[10.1] Turn left onto Levee Access Road

(0.2)[10.3] Turn right on Levee Road

(13.9)[24.2] CORA Turn left on IL3

(1.8)[26.1] ROCKWOOD (62280)

Continue on IL3

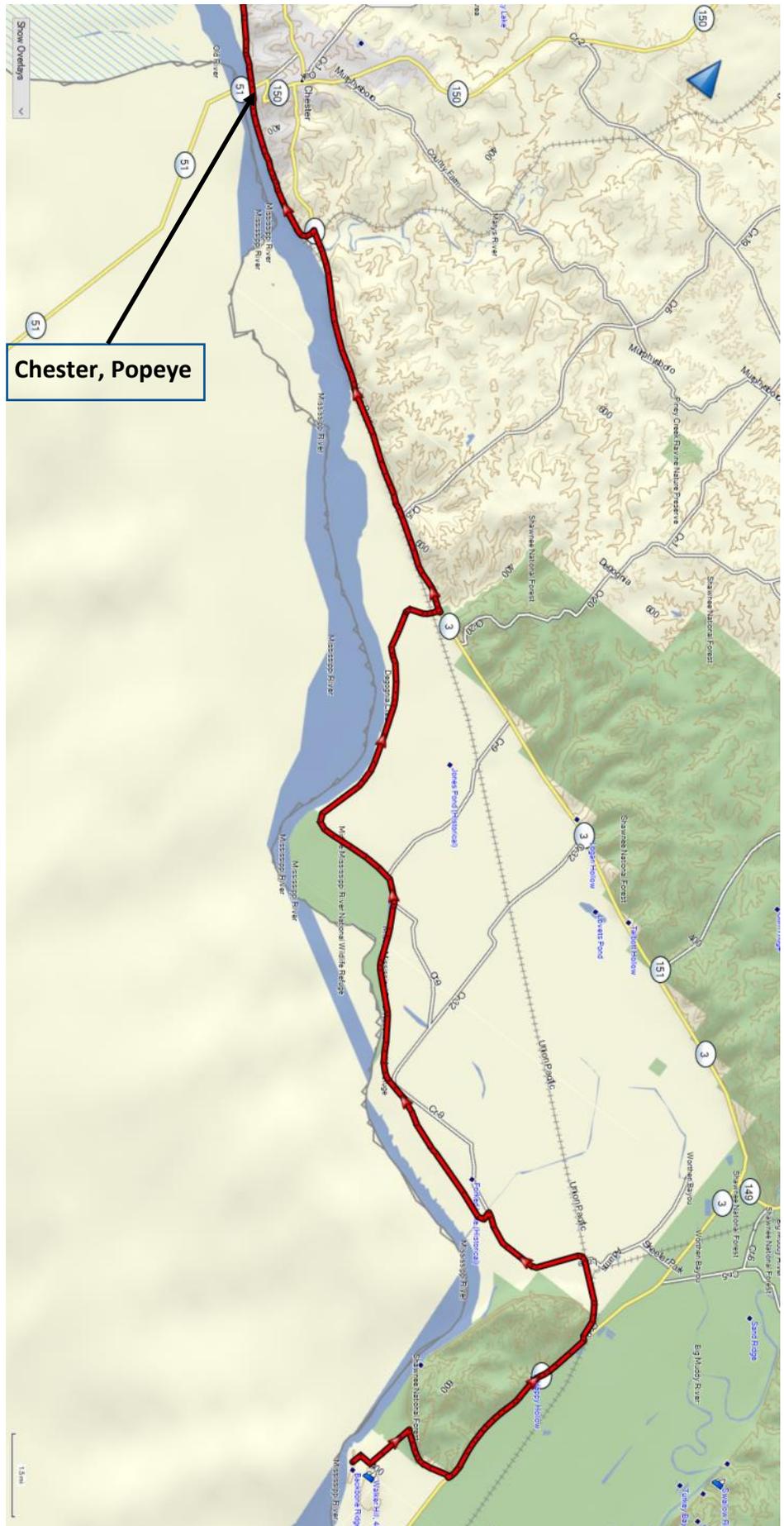
(5.6)[31.7] Turn left on Water Street.

(1.8)[33.5] Water St. turns left

(1.2)[34.7] Water St. merges with and becomes E. Kaskaskia St. in CHESTER.

(0.3)[35.0] Pass under IL51. Continue on E. Kaskaskia St.

CHESTER (62233) Home to Popeye Museum and statue. Visit the Popeye statue at the bridge exit (Branch St. and Randolph St.)



THE AMERICAN DISCOVERY TRAIL IN SOUTHERN ILLINOIS

Chester, IL to Fort De Chartres

(5.5)[40.5] Fort Kaskaskia State Historic Site turnoff (camping). Continue northwest on E. Kaskaskia St. (CR 6). Eventually E. Kaskaskia St. becomes Riley Lake Road and then 1st Street in ELLIS GROVE (62241)

(4.4)[44.9] Turn left on North State St. (IL3)

(0.6)[45.5] Turn left onto Roots Road

(2.7)[48.2] Roots Road crosses the Kaskaskia River Bridge

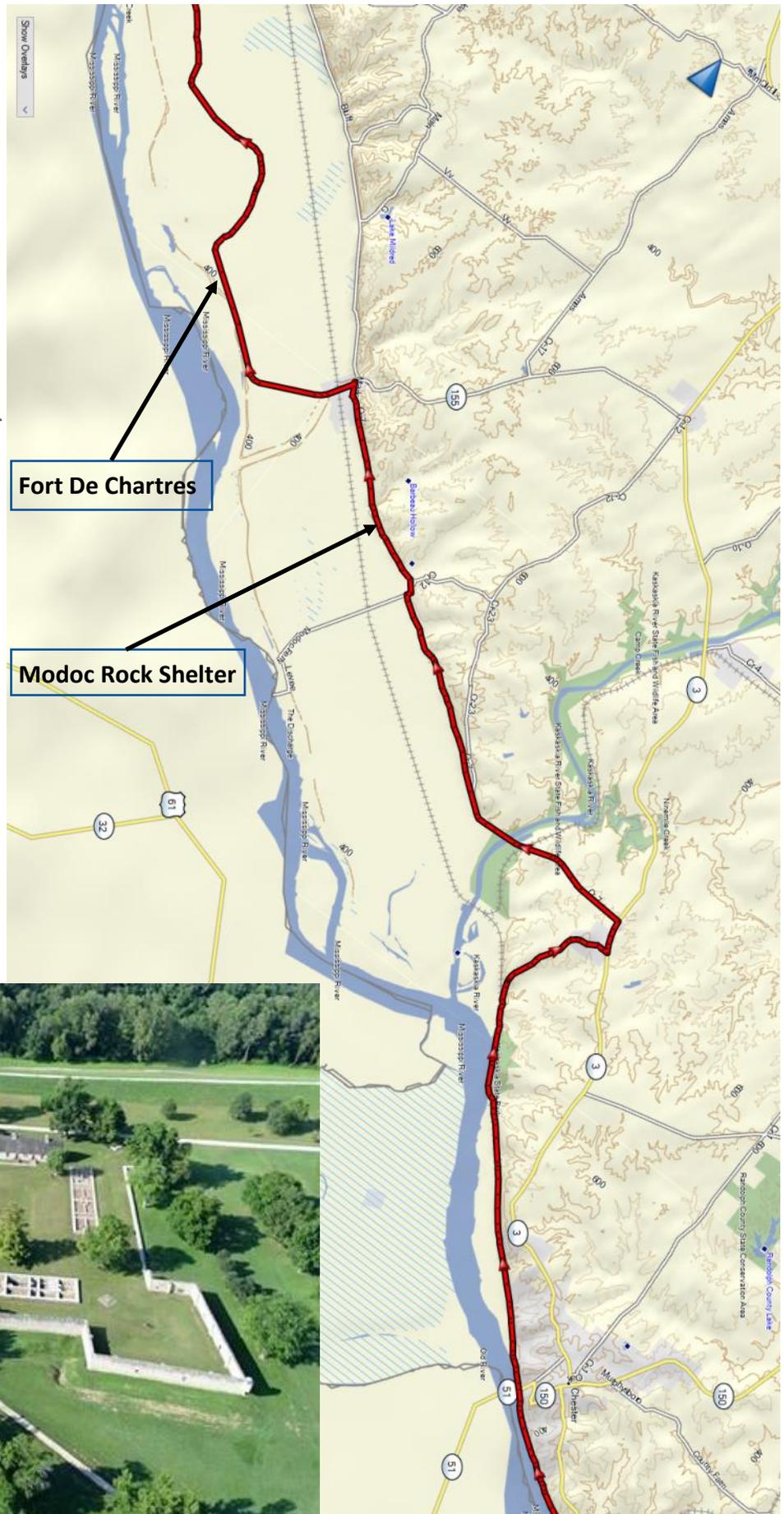
(0.7)[48.9] Bear right on Bluff Rd.

(4.7)[53.6] MODOC (62261) Continue on Bluff Rd., which turns into Bluff St

(1.5)[55.1] Modoc Rock Shelter National Historic Site

(2.6)[57.7] PRAIRIE DU ROCHER (62277) Junction Market St. (CR7) & Henry St. (IL 155). Turn left on Henry St.

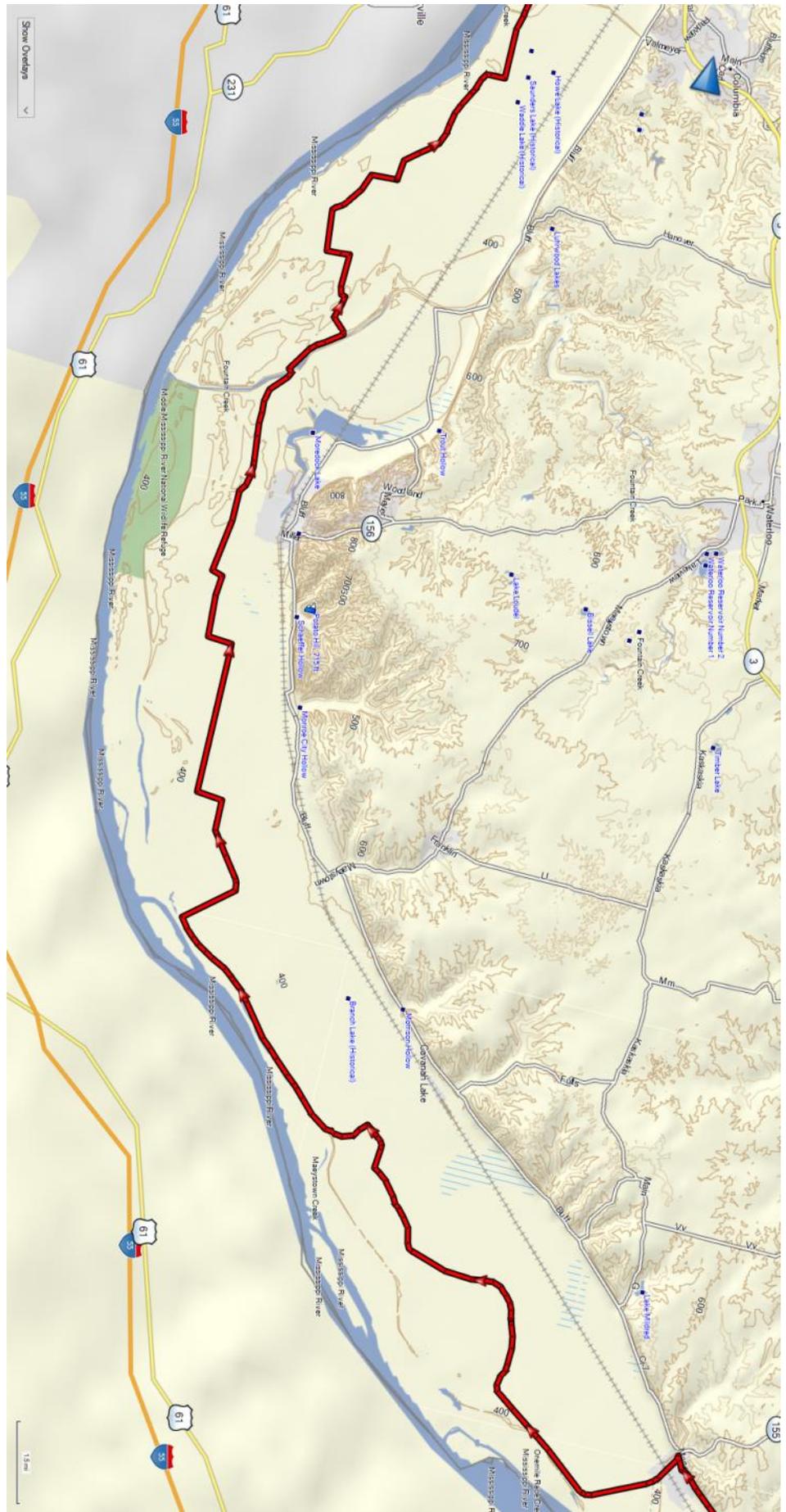
(4.0)[61.7] Fort De Chartres to left was a French fort built in 1750 to protect their interest in the Midwest. Food grown here supplied New Orleans. Continue on Stringtown/Kaskaskia Rd. (IL 155) heading northwest.



THE AMERICAN DISCOVERY TRAIL IN SOUTHERN ILLINOIS

Fort De Chartres to East Carondelet Village

- (2.5)[64.2] Junction of Kaskaskia Rd. & Stringtown Rd. Continue straight (WNW) on Stringtown Rd.
 (4.6)[68.8] Turn left (SW) onto Ivy Rd.
 (0.9)[69.7] Ivy Rd. joins Levee Rd.
 (4.9)[74.6] Turn (NE) onto Outlet Rd.
 (1.1)[75.7] Turn left (N) onto B Rd.
 (2.2)[77.9] Junction B Rd & Berger Rd. Turn right (N) on B Rd.
 (5.6)[83.5] Continue west and north on B Road to the intersection with Main St. (IL 156). This section of B Road has 6 right angle turns and a couple jogs. Cross Mainstreet staying on B Road heading north. VALMEYER (62295) is 3.3 mi. east on IL 156.
 (3.1)[86.6] Cross Fountain Creek, following Garleb Rd. northeast along Fountain Creek.
 (2.9)[89.5] Turn left onto Merrimac Rd.
 (0.5)[90.0] Turn right (north) onto B Road.
 (2.7)[92.7] Bear left (NE) on Taake Road which is atop a levee.
 (2.5)[95.2] Turn left (N) on Levee Road.
 (4.2)[99.4] Take sharp right turn (ESE) along I-255 on Ramsey/Levee Road
 (0.6)[100.0] Turn left (NE) on Levee Rd passing over I-255.
 (0.5)[100.5] Turn left (WNW) (parallel to I-255) on BB/Levee Rd.
 (0.7)[101.2] Levee Road bears right (N) again and eventually becomes Bottom Rd.
 (3.4)[104.6] Bottom Road dead ends, turn left on Davis Street/Ferry Road.
 (0.1)[104.7] Turn right 7th Street
 (1.1)[105.8] Turn right on State Street for two blocks. EAST CARONDELET VILLAGE (62240)



THE AMERICAN DISCOVERY TRAIL IN SOUTHERN ILLINOIS

East Carondelet Village to Eads Bridge

(0.1)[105.9] Turn left (ENE) on N. 8th St. which becomes Old ICrow Road.

(1.4)[107.3] Turn left onto Adams Road.

(0.5)[107.8] Turn left onto Water Street. (1.4)[109.2] Turn left (N) on Water Street /Mississippi Ave. (IL 3) CAHOKIA 62206

(0.3)[109.5] Junction Mississippi Ave (IL 3) and 1st St. is the Oldest Catholic Church (1699) in Illinois on the right at this intersection. Cahokia Courthouse State Historic Site and Visitor Center to left on 1st St and L on Main St. Continue straight (N) on Mississippi Ave.

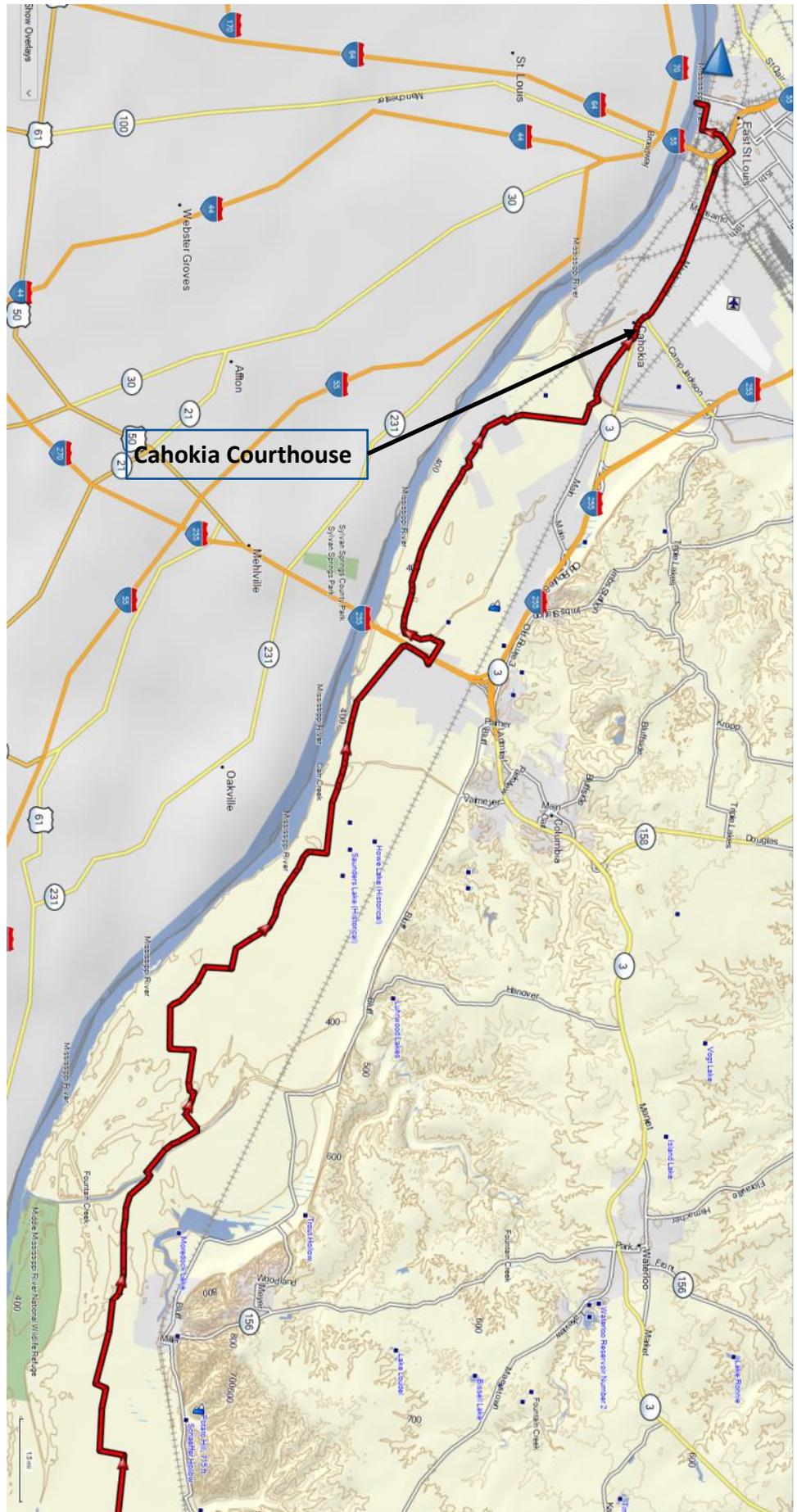
(2.7)[112.2] Bear right (N) on Mississippi Ave. which becomes 8th St. ***WARNING***: It is not safe to camp in this area.

(0.8)[113.0] Turn left (W) on Trendley Ave. Pass under I-55/I-64.

(0.8)[113.8] Turn right (N) on Front St. (At this intersection there is a new park with a 3-level observation platform with great views of the Gateway Arch and Jefferson National Expansion Memorial directly across the Mississippi River.) Continue past Cargill grain elevator and Casino Queen casino.

(0.5)[114.3] Eads Bridge. (Oldest bridge to cross the Mississippi, built in 1876). To walk across bridge, take east stairway up 4 flights to upper level. Walkway is along highway (Washington Ave) with concrete barrier. Walkway is narrow with 3 wide observation areas with views of Gateway Arch and downtown St Louis. To bike across bridge, take road between bridge and casino to foot of bridge and push bike across bridge on walkway.

(0.3)[114.6] Middle of Eads Bridge is Illinois/Missouri border.



What is a thru-hike? A thru-hike is defined as a hike on an established end to end trail with continuous footsteps in one direction. This means no skipping sections or catching a ride on the many road walks on the River to River Trail! Thru-hiking the River to River trail is a challenging adventure. It is a great way to experience the trail and all of its diversity from one end to the other. However, there are several things you should consider before you attempt a thru-hike to make your hike as enjoyable and successful as possible.

Gear:

A good starting point when planning a thru-hike is to decide what gear you will need and start collecting it. There are many resources and checklists of gear needed for a thru-hike. It is not necessary to go out and purchase every single thing you will need for a thru-hike at one time. Most thru-hikers are already doing day hikes and weekend backpacking trips. Much of the gear used for these hikes can be used for a thru-hike. The best thing, in regards to gear, that you can do for your thru-hike is to be familiar with your gear. Use it on several weekend overnights if possible to make sure the gear works for you. You don't want to find out on a thru-hike that your pack doesn't fit comfortably, you don't know how to set up your shelter, you don't know how to use your water filter, your shoes or boots kill your feet, or a myriad of other problems that could pop up if you aren't familiar with your gear. To sum up gear, make a list of what you will need, start collecting it, and make sure you know how to use it and that it works for you.

Planning:

There are many facets to planning a successful thru-hike. One of the first things to decide is when you want to attempt your thru-hike? The trail can be hiked in any season, but each one has its own challenges. Spring is a great time to hike, but you will probably encounter a lot of rain. Summer brings the heat, humidity, poison ivy and bugs. Fall is often the driest time of the year and water may be hard to find. Winter obviously brings cold temperatures and inclement weather. Next is which direction do you want to hike? The River to River Trail can be started from either the east or west side. This is mostly a personal preference. However, this may also be decided on availability of camps and water sources. Once you've decided where you think you'd like to start, it's time to start looking at maps and planning your route. This can be quite intimidating if you've never done this before! The first thing you should decide is how many miles you want to hike each day. Be realistic! It is much different hiking with a 30-50 pound pack on your back than it is with a couple pound day pack. You likely won't be able to go as fast or hike as many miles as you do on day hikes or even a weekend trip. This will also let you know how many days it will

take you to hike the entire trail.

Once you decide how many miles you think you can hike in a day, it is time to start planning on where you will camp each night. The maps in this guide are an invaluable source when planning this phase of your thru-hike. They show many of the established campsites along the trail. When used with the trail mileage tables it becomes much easier to decide where to camp each night. It is also a good idea to plan on where you will get water along the trail. Sometimes water is abundant and other times it is scarce. The water sources listed in the trail guide will usually be reliable and you should plan on where you will fill up during your hike.

Trail mileage tables can be found on the Societies website at this address <https://www.rivertorivertrail.net/home/trail-information/river-to-river-trail-mileages/>

GPS coordinates of camping and H2O locations can e found at the end of this chapter.

Now, would be a good time to decide how you will navigate the trail. Will you use paper maps, GPS, phone app, or a combination of these? Probably the best tool for navigating the trail is the Avenza app discussed more in depth in another section of this guide. It works without cell signal and will show you exactly where you are on the trail. A paper map is relatively useless if you don't know where you are in relation to the trail, but is a great help when used in conjunction with the app.

Another big part of route planning is how you are getting to the trailhead and what happens when you finish. Your best option is to have someone drop you off and then pick you up at the end. This could be a family member, friend, or there are even shuttles that you can procure for this service. Depending on how many days you plan to hike and how much you want to carry, you may also want to plan for a resupply of food and other essentials. It is possible to cache a resupply at various points along the trail, but it is probably easier to have someone meet you at a predetermined location with a resupply. Speaking of food.

One popular resupply method is to use the Postal Service as a means to doing this. When using the postal service, address your resupply package to general delivery with the post office city, state and zip code. Because of limited storage, the postal service also requests packages be marked with expected pickup date and the date the package should be returned to sender if you miss your pickup. Because some of the smaller post offices may be open as little as two hours a day, and because the open hours are subject to change, you should confirm the open hours either online or by telephone in advance of your visit. US Post Offices close to the trail include:

Herod, 62947	100 Highway 34 S	618-264-5787
Eddyville, 62928	110 Main St	618-672-4711
Goreville, 62939	117 South Broadway	618-995-2642
Makanda, 62958	709 Makanda Road	618-457-5348
Alto Pass, 62905	85 North Elm Street	618-893-4014

Food:

Okay, you've got your gear and your route is planned. What about food? It will make your thru-hike much easier if you take the time to plan out your food for each day. When you know how many days your hike will take, you can easily figure out how much food you will need. Decide what you want to eat on the trail and how much. Remember, you will be burning a lot of calories hiking, but more food means more weight. It is a good idea to write out your menu for each day. This way when going shopping for your supplies, you will know exactly what to buy and how much to buy. It is very helpful to put each day's food in its own bag. Each day when you get up, you take that day's food bag out and that's what you have for that day. It helps to keep

your food organized and keeps you from eating too much one day and running short later!

This food planning section is extremely important because there is a very limited number of places along the route where you can restock. In addition these locations may not carry all of the lightweight supplies you might want to carry. Another thing to consider is that many hikers like to take advantage of the few restaurants along the route and plan their stops accordingly. The three most popular include the River Restaurant in Elizabethtown, Shotgun Eddys in Eddyville, and the Giant City SP restaurant. Below is a consolidated list of the places mentioned in this guide.

Long Term Parking:

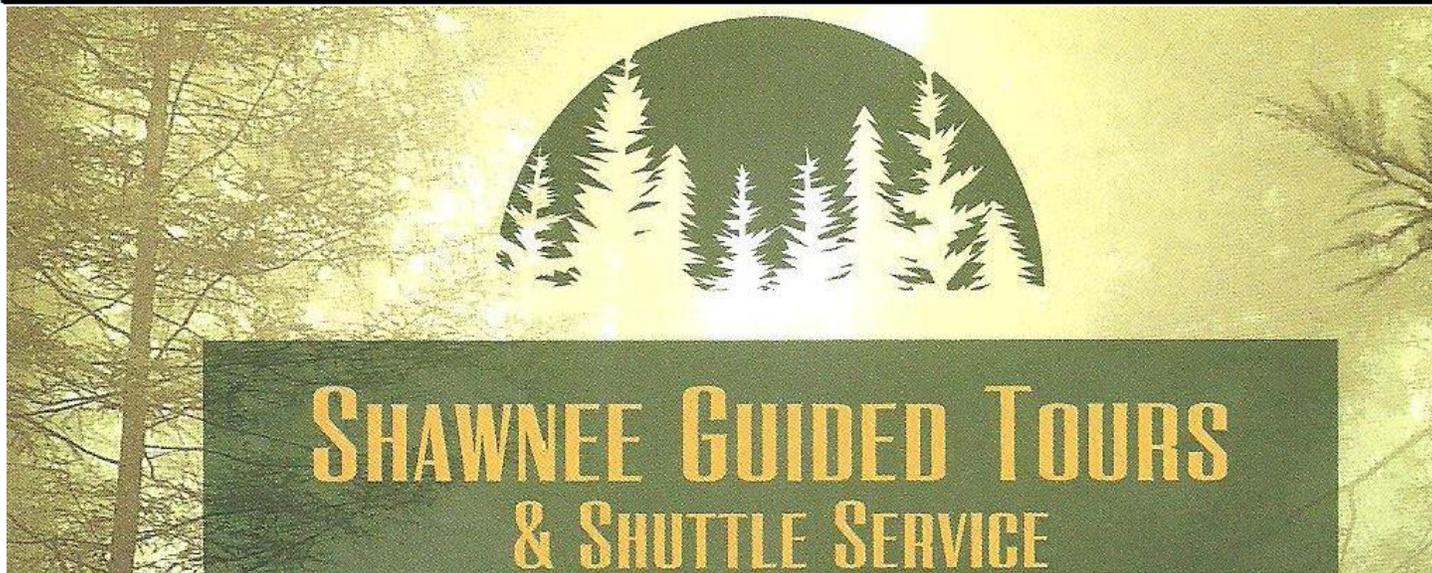
Take a look at the Frequently Asked Questions section of [chapter 1](#) and [chapter 16](#) for guidance from local officials on parking at the Elizabethtown and Grand Tower trailheads.

Hit the trail!

You've got your gear, your route, campsites and water sources, you know where you're going and how you're going to get there and find your way. You've got your food and resupplies planned. Great job, now hit the trail! A few final thoughts on thru-hiking the River to River. It is great to have a plan and know what you are going to do, but try to remain flexible. You may have a bad day and want to set up camp early or you may have a great day and want to push on further than you planned. There are also things you can't control such as the weather. Remain flexible and have fun. Thru-hiking the trail is definitely a challenge and it's not always fun, but it is a great accomplishment. Good luck!

Miles *	Location	Facility Name	Type	Distance from trail
27.7	Herod	Harbison's County Market	G & R	2 Miles
53	Eddyville	Shotgun Eddys	R	0 Miles
87.5	Vienna	Creekside Salvage Grocery	G	0.5 Miles
98.1	Goreville	Acee's	G & R	0.5 Miles from intersection w/ Crawford Lane
		Goreville Market	G	
		Subway	R	2.8 Miles from Ferne Clyffe SP campground
		Dollar General	G	
120.2	Giant City SP	Giant City SP Lodge	R	0.1 Miles
124.3	Makanda	Makanda Country Store	G & R	0 Miles
136.6	Alto Pass	Duty's Country Store	G & R	0.1 Miles
156.4	Grand Tower	The Cardinal Corner Convenience Store	G	0.3 Miles

* The mileage is listed based on starting in Elizabethtown only



About Shawnee Guided Tours and Rate Schedule

Providing a guide service to help others enjoy the wonders of the Shawnee National Forest allows me to share my appreciation and love for the wilderness that I grew up exploring. My wife Carol and I feel blessed to live surrounded by the SNF. Our mission is to help others experience all the benefits of time spent in the forest. Whether it is to sit on top of a rocky bluff, or hike along the wooded creeks and awesome rock formations, I can show you the way. Families and groups as well as individuals can explore and enjoy the forest without concerns of losing their way.

Rates for Guide Service (may vary), \$50.00 per person up to 4 hikers, \$40.00 per person 5-9 hikers, \$30.00 per person for groups of 10 or more. Children 10 and under hike for free. Hikes in the Wilderness areas are limited to 10 including guide.

I also offer Shuttle Service for River to River hikers, canoeing/kayaking, etc throughout the SNF.

Shuttle Rates are \$75.00 minimum for 1 hiker, and \$25.00 per additional hiker. Children under 10 ride for Free. Dogs welcome.

Hikes vary in length and difficulty depending on individual abilities. Typically hikes last 4-6 hours with resting points along the way. I also offer shorter hikes for anyone that would enjoy a more relaxed pace. Hikers are responsible for their own gear, water, and snacks. Appropriate shoes and clothing are important. Some trails can be difficult along rocky bluffs and high overlooks.

Contact me anytime to join a scheduled hike, to plan your own individual, family, or group hike, or to schedule a shuttle pick up or drop off.

Call 618 672-1027, cell 618 294-3635, or bartlane210@gmail.com

Note: The Trail Society recommends Bart's Service because he is the only service authorized pursuant to Forest Service criteria for insurance and other details. Search for Bart's service on Facebook or Google to see the up to date information because the above is from 2019.

GPS Coordinates of known camping and water locations along the trail

The GPS coordinates and locations shown on these pages may not be exact but are as close as could be determined by the author. In some cases the pond is known about by author but GPS coordinates were determined from Google Earth if actual coordinates weren't available.

Hikers also need to be advised that things change and camping spots may not be the same when you hike the trail. In addition the H2O locations shown (such as creeks) may dry up during different times of the year. The author also cannot address water quality and access to ponds shown.

Map 1

- H2O and Camp at Lake Tecumseh (N37° 29.076' W88° 19.572')

Map 2

- H2O at Hogthief Creek crossing (N37° 29.605' W88° 19.443')
- H2O and Camping at Iron Furnace and bridge over Big Creek (N37° 29.884' W88° 19.675')
- H2O in old pond near old car (N37° 30.867' W88° 18.783')
- H2O in another old pond (N37° 31.067' W88° 18.583')
- H2O in another old pond (N37° 31.950' W88° 18.467')
- H2O at creek crossing (N37° 32.370' W88° 19.230')

Map 3

- H2O and Camping at creek crossing (N37° 33.003' W88° 19.262')

Map 4

- Camping off trail atop Tanner Hill horse tie up (N37° 36.177' W88° 18.903')
- H2O, restrooms, showers, store and camping at High Knob Camp (N37° 36.063' W88° 20.055')
- Old pond along trail (N37° 36.119' W88° 20.896')

Map 5

- Camping at Buzzard Point (N37° 36.035' W88° 21.518')
- Camping at Indian Point 0.6 miles off trail (N37° 35.541' W88° 23.050')

- H2O and Camping at GoG Pharaoh Campground (N37° 36.224' W88° 22.957')
- Camping at this overlook (N37° 36.073' W88° 23.179')
- Camping in the valley (N37° 35.959' W88° 23.628')
- Camping at GoG Wilderness overlook (N37° 36.308' W88° 24.119') & (N37° 36.184' W88° 24.173') Multiple spots along here.

Map 6

- Camping at the Christmas Star Overlook (N37° 36.107' W88° 24.489'). There are several other spots along this ridge.
- H2O at Gibbons Creek (N37° 34.835' W88° 26.206')
- H2O and Camping at Herod Springs Baptist Church shelter (N37° 34.851' W88° 26.144')
- H2O and Camping at Hart Creek crossing (N37° 33.687' W88° 27.181') - Picnic Table

Map 7

- Camping at the end of Benham Ridge Road (N37° 33.060' W88° 26.597')
- H2O in old pond near end of Benham Ridge Road along trail 169 (N37° 33.033' W88° 26.536')
- Camping at the Trail 170 overlook (N37° 32.833' W88° 26.750') - Picnic Table
- Camping along Benham Ridge Road (N37° 32.458' W88° 27.091') There are a few ponds along the road to the west.
- Camping atop the bluff. (N37° 32.010' W88° 27.133') It requires scrambling up a small bluff.
- Camping at Rocky Top (N37° 31.532' W88° 27.208') - Picnic Table
- Camping at One Horse Gap (N37° 31.094' W88° 27.553')

Map 8

- H2O at Little Lusk Creek crossings (N37° 32.554' W88° 30.141') & (N37° 31.922' W88° 30.381')
- H2O and Camping 0.5 miles north along trail 480 (N37° 32.866' W88° 30.179')

GPS Coordinates of known camping and water locations along the trail

Map 8 Continued

- Little Lusk Camping area is a large flat area suitable for camping (N37° 31.961' W88° 30.485')
- Camping at Owl Bluff (N37° 31.337' W88° 32.655')

Map 9

- H2O and Camping at Bowed Tree Crossing (N37° 31.539' W88° 32.999')
- H2O at Bear Branch bridge (N37° 31.164' W88° 34.460')
- Possible camping at Trailway Hideaway Equestrian Campground (Verify)
- H2O, camping & food at Shotgun Eddys (N37° 30.190' W88° 34.957') fee based.

Map 10

- H2O at Hayes creek crossing (N37° 29.703' W88° 36.419')
- H2O and Camping at Petticoat Junction (N37° 29.745' W88° 36.716')
- Camping at Crow Knob Ecological Area (N37° 29.918' W88° 37.944') - Picnic Table
- Pond along Forest Road 1889 east of Crow Knob (N37° 29.846' W88° 37.759')
- H2O pond and Camping at Honey Hole Parking area 0.3 miles off trail (N37° 29.481' W88° 38.190')

Map 11

- Camping along the Forest Road near Ruby Junction (N37° 28.902' W88° 40.220')
- H2O and Camping at Millstone Lake (N37° 28.967' W88° 41.316')
- Camping near Hippie Bus (N37° 29.150' W88° 41.350') - Picnic Table

Map 12

- Camping near Trigg Tower 0.4 miles south of trail (N37° 29.254' W88° 44.169')
- H2O near Trigg Tower turn off are ponds south of trail (N37° 29.553' W88° 44.419') & (N37° 29.654' W88° 44.666')

Map 13

- H2O from Cedar Creek at east bridge (N37° 29.740' W88° 45.392')
- H2O and camping at Gum Springs Road trailhead (N37° 29.772' W88° 45.536')
- H2O from 2 old ponds near Old Homestead (N37° 29.760' W88° 46.368')
- H2O and camping at horse tie-up Easter Basket Arch (N37° 30.421' W88° 46.831') - Picnic Table

Map 14

- H2O and camping at Cedar Lake Equestrian Camp fee based (N37° 30.010' W88° 47.948')
- H2O and camping at Max Creek crossing (N37° 29.198' W88° 48.512') - Picnic Table
- Camping at Max Creek trailhead (N37° 28.806' W88° 49.400')

Map 15

- H2O at Little Cache #1 overflow (N37° 29.535' W88° 52.400')
- H2O from large pond along trail (N37° 29.350' W88° 52.433')

Map 16

- H2O and camping at Dutchman Lake and creek (N37° 29.355' W88° 54.883')
- Camping & picnic table at entrance to pines (N37° 29.202' W88° 55.476'). Down the trail to the lake is the Southpointe picnic table and camping location lakeside (N37° 29.364' W88° 55.483')

Map 17

- H2O from pond near Rebman Lane trailhead (N37° 31.418' W88° 59.057')
- H2O from Ferne Clyffe Lake 0.5 miles from trail (N37° 32.017' W88° 58.631')
- Camping at park campground (only legal place in State Park) (N37° 31.936' W88° 58.923')
- H2O from Buck Branch creek various places (N37° 31.737' W88° 59.409')

GPS Coordinates of known camping and water locations along the trail

Map 18

- H2O from Buck Branch creek various places (N37° 32.075' W89° 00.937')
- H2O from Borks Falls (N37° 32.506' W89° 01.271')
- H2O and Camping at Commercial Hilltop Campground (N37° 33.258' W89° 01.916')

Map 19

- H2O from creek/lake and camping at Panther Den (N37° 35.481' W89° 04.928') - Multiple sites
- H2O from west branch of lake (N37° 35.593' W89° 05.735')

Map 20

- H2O from various ponds and camping at old SIU Buildings fireplace (N37° 35.694' W89° 07.240')
- Camping outside Hidatsa Lodge only (N37° 35.656' W89° 08.077')

Map 21

- H2O and camping at park campground 0.4 miles north of trail (only legal place in State Park) (N37° 36.341' W89° 10.149')
- H2O and other amenities from park lodge (N37° 35.542' W89° 10.982')
- H2O from creek crossing near Albart Lane (N37° 35.811' W89° 11.737')
- H2O from creek crossing in Makanda (N37° 37.072' W89° 12.601')

Map 22

- H2O at Clay Lick Creek crossing (N37° 36.533' W89° 15.200')
- H2O from Mill Creek crossing (N37° 36.417' W89° 15.550')

Map 23

- H2O from lake and camping at Cedar Lake crossing various spots (N37° 36.758' W89° 17.342') & (N37° 36.780' W89° 17.408')
- H2O from creek near water treatment plant (N37° 35.234' W89° 18.631')

Map 24

- H2O from various spots in Alto Pass including park restrooms north of trail (N37° 34.236' W89° 19.109')

Map 25

- H2O and camping at Hutchins Creek crossing (N37° 33.680' W89° 24.007')
- H2O and camping at Odies Place 0.5 miles north of trail along trail 372 (N37° 34.078' W89° 23.858')

Map 26

- H2O at Winter Pond at north parking area for Snake Road (N37° 35.036' W89° 26.458')
- Camping could be done at McCann Springs trailhead if needed to reduce last days levee walk (N37° 35.392' W89° 26.301')

Map 27

- None except climbing down the levee at various spots

Map 28

- None except climbing down the levee at various spots

Battery Rock Leg

Map 03A

- H2O from pond along north side of trail (N37° 35.297' W88° 15.692')
- H2O from Beaver Creek crossing (N37° 35.121' W88° 14.996')
- H2O and Camping at Camp Cadiz (N37° 34.682' W88° 14.681')

Map 03B

- H2O from Harris Creek crossing (N37° 33.656' W88° 15.585')
- H2O from Rock Creek and camping near Rock Creek Church (N37° 32.210' W88° 13.899')
- H2O from Rock Creek crossing (N37° 32.392' W88° 13.744')

Map 03C, 03D & 03E

- None shown
- Camping at Battery Rock could be done but changes yearly due to river flooding.

Mileage from point to point along the trail Page 1

Mileage East to West	Mileage West to East		Road Sections	Trail Sections	Location Description
0	157.1				Elizabethtown
1.3	155.8	Road	1.3		Leaves Watson Ln
3	154.1	Trail			Whoopie Cat Lake creek crossing
3.6	153.5	Trail			Lake Tecumsah Dam
4.8	152.3	Trail		3.5	Road Crossing to Iron Furnace
5.1	152	Road	0.3		Leaves Road heading north from Iron Furnace
9.6	147.5	Trail			Spring Side Trip
10.9	146.2	Trail		5.8	Basset Road Crossing
13.9	143.2	Trail			Camp Cadiz Road Crossing
14.4	142.7	Trail			Karber's Ridge Road Crossing
15.3	141.8	Trail			Intersection w/ Orig R2R trail from Camp Cadiz and Battery Rock
17.3	139.8	Trail			Javelina side trip
17.6	139.5	Trail			Knob Hill Lane Crossing
18.1	139	Trail			High Knob Camp Store
18.3	138.8	Trail			High Knob Road Crossing
19.9	137.2	Trail			Buzzard's Roost
20.1	137	Trail			Garden of the Gods Road Crossing
21.6	135.5	Trail			Garden of the Gods Backpackers parking lot
22.4	134.7	Trail			Intersection w/ Trail 001A to Big H
24.1	133	Trail			Overlook
27.1	130	Trail		16.2	Gape Hollow Road Intersection
27.7	129.4	Road	0.6		Herod
29.7	127.4	Road	2		Herod Road / Start of One Horse Gap Trail
31.2	125.9	Trail			Benham Ridge Road Dead End
33.6	123.5	Trail			Rocky Top
34.3	122.8	Trail			One Horse Gap
37.3	119.8	Trail			Benham Ridge Road West Crossing
39.1	118	Trail		9.4	Concord Cemetery
40.2	116.9	Road	1.1		Bethesda Cemetery - East Entrance to Lusk Creek
44.8	112.3	Trail			Intersection with Trail 425
47.4	109.7	Trail			Owl Bluff
48.1	109	Trail			Bowed Creek Crossing Lusk Creek
50.3	106.8	Trail			New Home Road Crossing at Circle B
51.8	105.3	Trail		11.6	New Home Road Intersection at Bear Branch
53	104.1	Road	1.2		US 145 Crossing
54.1	103	Road	1.1		Entry to Hayes Creek Canyon west of Eddyville
56.6	100.5	Trail			Petticoat Junction / Hayes Creek Crossing
58.6	98.5	Trail			Crow Knob Ecological Area
59.5	97.6	Trail			Cedar Grove Church Road Crossing
63.5	93.6	Trail			Millstone Lake Dam Access Point
64.4	92.7	Trail			Tin Whistle Railroad Crossing
65.6	91.5	Trail			Trigg Tower Road Crossing
68.2	88.9	Trail			Intersection with trail to Trigg Tower

Mileage from point to point along the trail Page 2

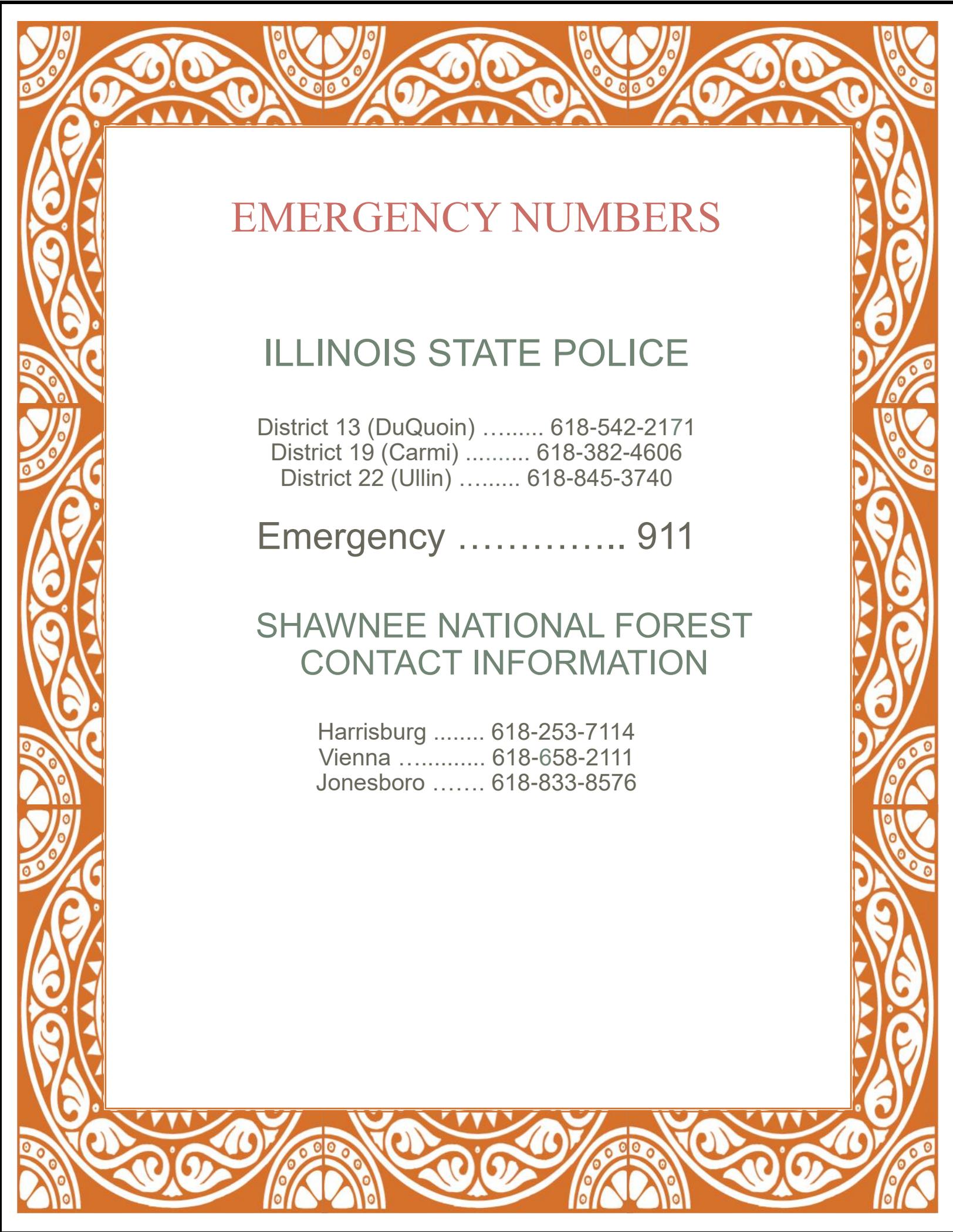
Mileage East to West	Mileage West to East		Road Sections	Trail Sections		Location Description
69.2	87.9	Trail				Twin Bridges Crossing
69.4	87.7	Trail				Gum Springs Road Crossing
72.1	85	Trail				Creek Crossing / Horse Tie Up
72.9	84.2	Trail		18.8		Trail Starts on Garfield Lane at the Boot Ranch
74.6	82.5	Road	1.7			Max Creek Trail Entrance on Hilltop Lane
75.5	81.6	Trail				Max Creek Crossing
76.8	80.3	Trail		2.2		Trail starts down Taylor Ridge Road
78.3	78.8	Road	1.5			Corner of Taylor Ridge Road and US45
79.5	77.6	Road	1.2			Trail leaves US45 heading west
81.7	75.4	Trail				Trail Crosses Tunnel Hill Bike Trail
83.4	73.7	Trail		3.9		Trail starts down Bowman Bottoms Road
83.9	73.2	Road	0.5			Trail crosses Dutchman Lake Road
85	72.1	Trail				Dutchman Lake Boat Ramp
86.9	70.2	Road		3		Trail starts down Twinz Lane heading to Tall Tree Lane
87.5	69.6	Road				Trail turns right (north) onto Tall Tree Lane
90.4	66.7	Road				Trail turns right (north) along US37 for 0.6 miles
91	66.1	Road				Trail turns left (west) onto Rebman Lane
92	65.1	Road	5.1			Parking lot for trail at south side of Ferne Clyffe SP
93.1	64	Trail				Trail reaches Buck Creek and turns south
95.6	61.5	Trail				Trail reaches the Natural Arch
97.5	59.6	Trail				Trail reaches Hawks Cave Back Door
98.1	59	Trail		6.1		Trail turns left onto Crawford Ave in Goreville
99	58.1	Road				Trail turns left (southwest), Sullivan road goes straight
99.6	57.5	Road				Trail turns left (south), Martin Road goes straight west
100.4	56.7	Road	2.3			Trail goes down Crawford Ave to Happy Hollow Road Trailhead
102.5	54.6	Trail		2.1		Trail turns right onto Regent Lane at Borks Falls
103.8	53.3	Road				Trail turns left onto Goreville Road
104.4	52.7	Road				Trail crosses I57 walking along Goreville Road
105.6	51.5	Road				Trail turns right (north) onto North Lick Creek Road
105.9	51.2	Road				Trail turns left (west) onto Mount Hebron Road
107.7	49.4	Road				Trail turns right (north) onto Wayside Lane
108.5	48.6	Road	6			Trail enters the woods at the Wayside lane trailhead to enter Panther Den
110.5	46.6	Trail				Trail gets to rock formations of Panther Den
113.5	43.6	Trail				Trail crosses into Crab Orchard NWR
114.7	42.4	Trail				Trail crosses Rocky Comfort Road
115.1	42	Trail				Trail reaches SIU Old Building Fireplace
115.9	41.2	Trail				Trail turnoff for Hidatsa Indian Earth Lodge
117.6	39.5	Trail		9.1		Trail gets to Antioch Cemetery on Antioch LN
118	39.1	Road	0.4			Trail leaves Antioch Lane for Giant City SP
119.4	37.7	Trail				Turnoff for the camping area at Giant City SP
120.2	36.9	Trail				Trail gets to Giant City Lodge
121.1	36	Trail				Turnoff for the Giant City Nature Trail rock formations

Mileage from point to point along the trail Page 3

Mileage East to West	Mileage West to East		Road Sections	Trail Sections	Location Description
123.8	33.3	Trail		5.8	Trail comes out on Road south of Makanda
124.3	32.8	Road	0.5		Trail Leaves Makanda on old abandoned road
126	31.1	Trail		1.7	Trail intersects US51
128	29.1	Road	2		Trail travels on Old US51, West McGuire and Rowan Road to Lirley Cemetery
128.8	28.3	Trail			Trail crosses Clay Lick Creek
129.3	27.8	Trail			Trail crosses Mill Creek
132	25.1	Trail			Trail crosses Cedar Lake
135.3	21.8	Trail		7.3	Trail hits Alto Pass Waterworks Road
136.6	20.5	Road			Downtown Alto Pass
139.6	17.5	Road	4.3		Trail turns off Bald Knob Cross Road onto the Godwin Trail
142.6	14.5	Trail			Trail Crosses Hutchins Creek
146	11.1	Trail		6.4	Trail hits Pine Hills Road
146.6	10.5	Road			Trail passes upper parking lot for Inspiration Point
147.2	9.9	Road			Trail passes McCann Springs parking lot for Inspiration Point
150.2	6.9	Road			Trails travels on Muddy Levee Rd to US3 Crossing
157.1	0	Road	11.1		Trail follows Island Road to Grand Tower and Park at Trail End
Totals ----->			44.2	112.9	Road vrs trail miles
Totals ----->				157.1	Overall mileage
0	22.9	Trail			Battery Rock and Ohio River
0.8	22.1	Road		0.8	Battery Rock Parking Lot
2.2	20.7	Road			Battery Rock Road and Bend in the River Road Intersection
3.1	19.8	Road			Lamb and Finneyville Road Intersection
3.5	19.4	Road			Trail Turn on North End of Finneyville Road
5	17.9	Trail	4.2		Tuckerhill Road Eastern Trail Intersection
6.1	16.8	Road		1.1	Tuckerhill and Minerva Mine Road Intersection
6.2	16.7	Road			Minerva Mine Road and HWY 1 Intersection
6.9	16	Road			Mount Zion Church
9.1	13.8	Road			Mount Zion and Davis Road Intersection
10.8	12.1	Road			Davis Road and Forest Road Intersection
11.2	11.7	Forest Road			Trail Departs Forest Road
12.6	10.3	Trail	6.5		Trail Crosses Rock Creek Road at Rock Creek Church
13.6	9.3	Trail			Intersects Forest Road
14.3	8.6	Trail			Leaves Forest Road
15.7	7.2	Trail			Crosses Harris Creek
18	4.9	Trail			Crosses Cadiz Road
21.3	1.6	Trail		8.7	Turns Right on Sparks Hill Road
21.4	1.5	Road			Crosses Karbers Ridge Road & Proceeds North on Blackridge Road
21.6	1.3	Road	0.3		Turns Left on Trail
22.9	0	Trail		1.3	Joins R2R Trail from Elizabethtown
Totals ----->			11	11.9	Road vrs trail miles
Totals ----->				22.9	Overall mileage

Picnic Table Locations along the Trail

Location Name	Map No.	Date Installed	GPS Coordinates	Miles from Etown	Provided By
Hart Creek Table	6	4-Oct-23	N37° 33.698' W88° 27.183'	29.7	Trail Society
The Trail 170 Overlook Table	7	22-Sep-23	N37° 32.840' W88° 26.751'	31.4	Trail Society
Rocky Top Table	7	26-Sep-23	N37° 31.535' W88° 27.220'	33.5	Trail Society
Petticoat Junction Table	10	11-Oct-23	N37° 29.751' W88° 36.713'	56.9	Trail Society
Crow Knob Ecological Area Table	10	25-Oct-23	N37° 29.918' W88° 37.944'	59	Trail Society
Hippie Bus Table	11	14-Dec-23	N37° 29.141' W88° 41.351'	64.5	Trail Society
Cedar Wonders Table	13	14-Dec-23	N37° 30.408' W88° 46.838'	72.4	Trail Society
Max Creek Vortex Table	14	14-Dec-23	N37° 29.189' W88° 48.513'	76.1	Trail Society
Dutchman Lake at Pines	16	-----	N37° 29.202' W88° 55.476'	86.4	Dutchman Lake Riders
Little Cedar Lake Spillway Dam Table	22	13-Oct-23	N37° 36.758' W89° 17.342'	132.1	Trail Society



EMERGENCY NUMBERS

ILLINOIS STATE POLICE

District 13 (DuQuoin) 618-542-2171

District 19 (Carmi) 618-382-4606

District 22 (Ullin) 618-845-3740

Emergency 911

SHAWNEE NATIONAL FOREST CONTACT INFORMATION

Harrisburg 618-253-7114

Vienna 618-658-2111

Jonesboro 618-833-8576