

Ripple Hollow Loops

Shawnee National Forest

2024

Description: The Ripple Hollow area includes Forest Service Trails 227, 228, 231 and 235A. Utilizing these trails we have created 3 separate loop hikes that can be completed in a few hours depending on your hiking speed. Most of this area would just be considered a walk in the woods along the hills and valleys of the Shawnee.

Yellow / West Loop is a hike of 4.4 miles and starts from the parking lot on trail 235A. At the half mile point 5 you have the choice to go clockwise or counter clockwise on the loop. The elevation profile is based on going counter clockwise by continuing on 235A unto you arrive at trail 231 near point 3. Then a left turn is made heading downhill to the intersection with trail 228 at point 4. Then another left turn is made taking you back uphill through Dogwood Flats to point 5 where a right turn will go to point 1 and the trailhead.

Mauve / East Loop is a hike of 4.1 miles and starts from the parking lot on trail 235A. After a quarter mile at

point 1 you turn right on trail 227. The elevation profile is based on going counterclockwise. At the intersection with FS trail 246 at point 2 the loop hike stays left and continues on trail 227 to point 3 and the intersection with trail 235A. At this point the loop turns left on 235A, heading back to points 5, 1 and the trailhead.

Outer Loop / Green Loop is a hike of 5.6 Miles and starts from the parking lot on trail 235A. After a quarter mile at point 1 you turn right on trail 227. The elevation profile is based on going counterclockwise. At the intersection with FS trail 246 at point 2 the loop hike stays left and continues on trail 228 to point 3 and the intersection with trail 235A. At this point the loop stays right on trail 231, heading downhill to point 4. Then another left turn is made taking you back uphill through Dogwood Flats to point 5, where a right turn is made to get back to point 1 and the trailhead.

Trail Markings:

General Forest Trails marked by white diamonds with trail numbers written onto them.



Safety: Personal safety-Make sure someone knows your route and establish a check in time. Wear appropriate clothing and footwear depending on the weather and terrain. Carry plenty of water, food, compass and a first aid kit.

Environmental safety-Be aware of poison ivy and stinging nettle. Various insects including ticks and mosquitoes are present here during spring, summer and fall. Venomous snakes are also present here including timber rattlesnakes and copperheads.

At all times, this hike is remote and the closest vehicle accessible areas is the trailhead if troubles occur. Precautions should be taken for long hikes (water, food, first-aid kit, etc.).

Emergencies: The nearest hospital is Saint Francis Medical Center in Cape Girardeau, MO. Cell phone service along the trail can be spotty so be prepared and know where your closest outlet is when dialing 911.

Camping: There are no designated camping areas along the trail but

numerous ideal trailside camping areas. Note camping is prohibited within Natural Areas. Use existing campsites, don't create new ones. Use portable camp stove for cooking. If a campfire is needed, keep it small and use existing fire rings. Protect water quality by washing and camping 200 feet from any water sources. Leave the campsite cleaner than you found it.

Trail Ethics: "Please practice Leave No Trace principles" Pack It In, Pack It Out. Some rare and endangered species of plants are located in the area so please stay on the designated trails and leave the rocks and plants for others to enjoy. Equestrians frequent this trail system: hikers should yield to horses.

Facilities: There are no facilities along this entire trail. Bury human waste and toilet tissue in a 6 inch deep "cat hole" at least 200 feet from water.

Travel Time: This depends entirely on how fast you hike and how much exploring you do but it is suggested that most should be able to do these hikes in 3-4 hours.

Surface Type: Dirt and rock



<https://goo.gl/maps/ytr0B61a7x3dSp4n8>



Directions to the Trailhead
The trailhead is located along Mill Creek Road in the western portion of the Shawnee NF. The following directions can give you the best directions depending on where you are coming from.

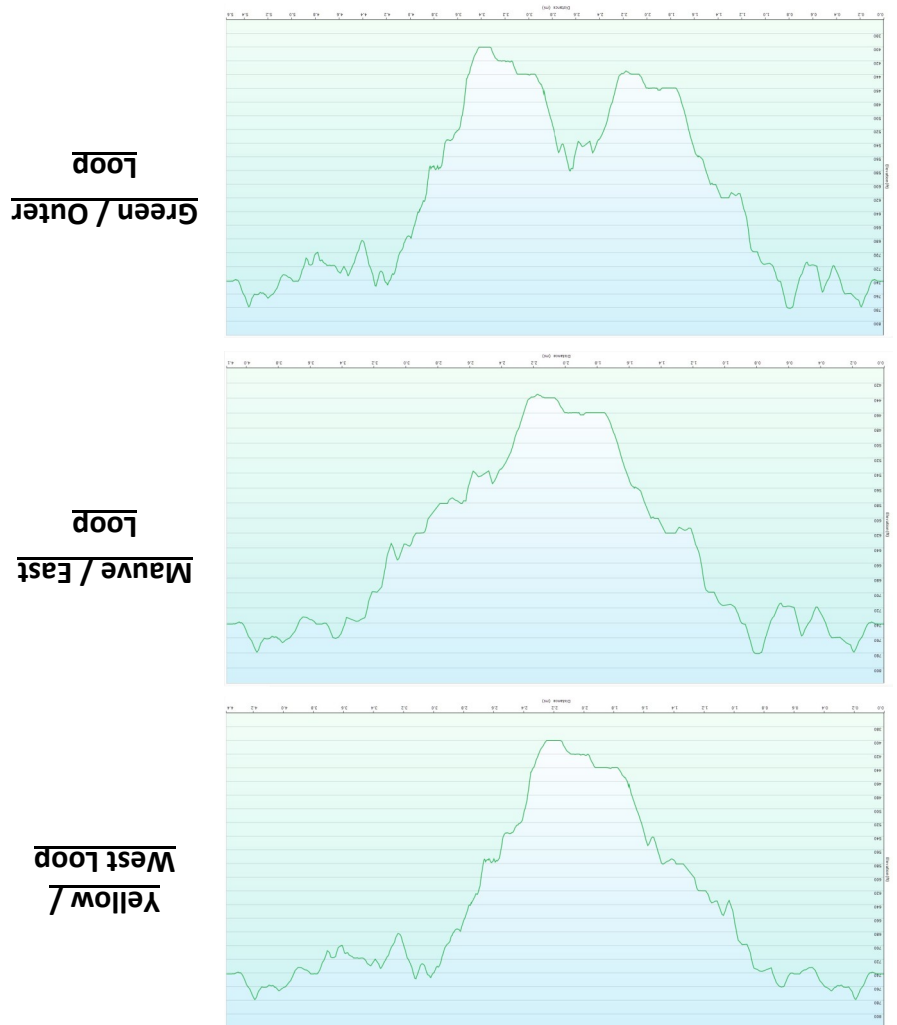
This brochure will still be a handy reference to know what the points of interest might be. Once the app is downloaded access the map store and search for the following map: "Shawnee NF Day Hikes"



The map included with this brochure is available in the Avenza Map Store for downloading to your smart phone. The Avenza App can be downloaded by searching the app store on your phone for this:

Mileage	Trail Sections
0.20 Miles	Trailhead to point 1
1.65 Miles	Point 1 to 2
0.80 Miles	Point 2 to 3
0.75 Miles	Point 3 to 4
1.60 Miles	Point 4 to 5
0.90 Miles	Point 3 to 5
0.35 Miles	Point 5 to 1

Typical Creek Views that also have to be crossed



Trail Elevation Profiles based on Counterclockwise Travel

Shawnee National Forest One Day Hike Ripple Hollow



Legend

- Road
- == Road (Seasonally Closed)
- Road (Closed to Motorized Use)
- - - Forest Service Hiker/Equestrian Trail
- Ripple Hollow East Loop (3.9 Miles)
- Ripple Hollow Outer Loop (5.3 Miles)
- Ripple Hollow West Loop (3.8 Miles)
- Stream
- Waterbody
- Natural Area
- National Forest Land
- Non-National Forest Land



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