

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.

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.

Horse Creek Loop

Shawnee National Forest

2025

Description: The Horse Creek trail is on the west side of the Shawnee National Forest just south of Grapevine Trail Road between Tamms and McClure IL. The trail leaves the parking lot heading south along a ridge. After about 2 miles the trail goes left down to the valley floor. Then the trail turns back north, following the small stream, before climbing back out of the valley toward the road / parking lot. There are no other trails in the area to cause confusion so any exploring will have to be off trail.

There is very little exposed rock along the trail with most of the trail being basically a walk through the woods. Please note that the loop has about 350 feet of elevation change.

The area is very popular in the fall with hunters, so plan accordingly.

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

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.



<https://maps.app.goo.gl/EQtzEYzyUCDSy9M89>

The following dropped pin is a link to the trailhead so Google can give you the best directions depending on where you are coming from.

Directions to the Trailhead

This brochure will still be a handy reference to know what the points of interest might be.



Avenza: 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:

Once the app is downloaded access the map store and search for the following map: “Shawnee NF Day Hikes”



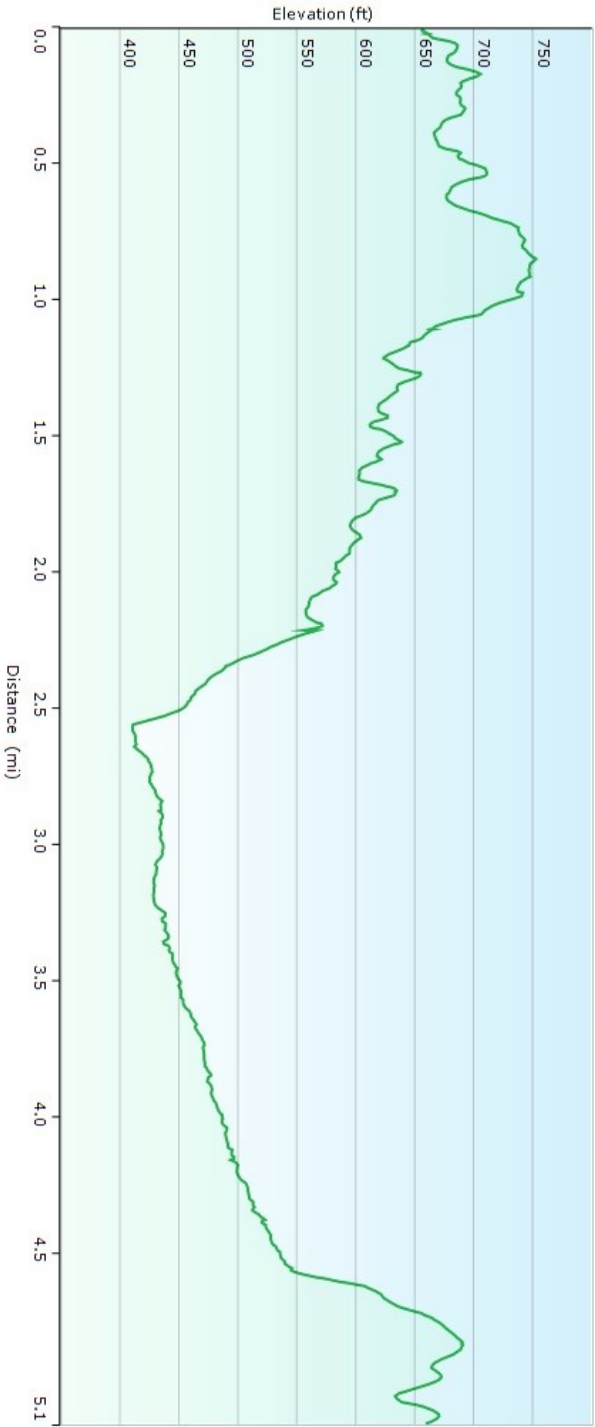
-> Valley Trail / stream



-> Ridge Trail



A few Pics from the trail



Trail Elevation Profiles
Elevation profiles are based on counter clockwise hiking

Shawnee National Forest One Day Hike
Horse Creek Trail System



TH

Trailhead

Road

Road (Seasonally Closed)

Forest Service Hiker/Equestrian Trail

One Day Hike Route 5.1 Miles

Stream

Natural Area

National Forest Land

Non-National Forest Land

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