

River-to-River Trail Society Announces Spring, 2026 Hiking Schedule

Free guided hikes in and around the Shawnee National Forest are open to the public, free of charge. These hikes are moderately difficulty and are intended for people in very good health who have done some hiking. Boots or sturdy shoes and a walking stick are recommended for all hikes. Hikers should bring their own water and a snack. Hikes start at 10:00 am. No dogs, please.

March 7th

Hike: Lusk Creek Indian Kitchen Wilderness (Pope County)

Leader: Scott Underwood 618-401-2699

Meet: Indian Kitchen Trailhead

March 14th

Hike: East Trigg Equestrian Trail (Pope)

Leader: Marcus Owens 618-759-1924

Meet: East Trigg Equestrian Trailhead on Trigg Tower Road

March 21st

Hike: Ferne Clyffe

Leader: Melanie Kasson 618-791-3086

Meet: Boy Scout Trailhead

March 28th

Hike: Easter Basket Arch

Leader: Sam Morales 618-384-1321

Meet: New Simpson Hill SD 32 School

April 4th

Hike: Crest Trail

Leader: Chris Drone 618-926-3250

Meet: Tecumseh Statue

April 11th

Hike: Wild Turkey Trail

Leader: Cathey Jennings

Meet: Wild Turkey Trailhead

April 18th

Hike: Dixon Springs

Leader: Fred Scott

Meet: Dixon Springs Back Parking Lot

April 25th

Hike: Saltpeter Cave, Natural Bridge, Secret Canyon loop hike.

Leader: Carl Brannan

Meet: Secret Canyon Trailhead

Time: 10:00 (This one is planned for 10 am.)

May 2nd

Hike: Bulge Hole/Schwegman Ecological Area

Leader: Megan Henderson 618-967-0019

Meet: Bowman Bottoms Road

May 9th

Hike: Horse Creek Trail

Leader: Bob Mulcahy 708-471-7500

Meet: Horse Creek Trailhead

The River-to-River Trail Society is an Illinois not-for-profit corporation founded in 1993 by John O'Dell to promote completion of the River-to-River Trail, which now runs 160.5 miles through the Shawnee National Forest between Elizabethtown on the Ohio River and Grand Tower on the Mississippi River. The Society engages in trail maintenance and advocacy, and it offers free guided hikes to members and the public during the spring and fall hiking seasons. In addition, the Society has a Trail Guide to the entire River-to-River Trail, which can be downloaded for free from the Society's website: [River to River Trail Society](#).