

Take a Hike!

Explore Southern Illinois This Fall

The River-to-River Trail Society invites outdoor enthusiasts to discover the beauty of the Shawnee National Forest with free guided hikes continuing through December.

As the colorful leaves give way to crisp, quieter days of late fall and early winter, hikers will enjoy an ideal time for exploring the region's scenic trails. These events provide a chance to learn more about Southern Illinois' rich natural history, varied terrain, the Shawnee National Forest, and to connect with fellow nature lovers in a welcoming and active outdoor setting.

The hikes are free, open to the public, and suitable for all skill levels, with options for both shorter, family-friendly walks and more moderate hikes for those seeking a bit of a challenge. Whether you're a longtime hiker or new to the trails, these guided outings offer a great way to experience the area's natural beauty.

The Society has a long history of promoting hiking, stewardship, and outdoor education in Southern Illinois. Trail members are passionate about preserving access to the region's trails, including the River-to-River Trail, and about connecting the Shawnee National Forest to the Mississippi River at Grand Tower. Along the way, the trails reveal striking bluffs, diverse forests, and some of the region's most rugged and scenic landscapes.

Through organized hikes, trail maintenance, and educational outreach, the Society helps keep these natural treasures accessible, while also fostering a deeper appreciation for Southern Illinois' outdoors.

As a local effort with a dedicated group of volunteers, the River-to-River Trail Society offers a simple but meaningful way to get outside, stay active, and discover the unique landscapes of Southern Illinois—one hike at a time.

All are welcome, and no prior experience is needed—just a desire to enjoy the outdoors.

Upcoming Guided Hikes

The next group of free, guided hikes includes the hikes originally featured in this issue and a few more great outings. Check the River-to-River Trail Society's website for the complete schedule, updated trail information, and details on how to participate.

November 7: Greg Trail

The November 7 hiking event begins with a group hike on the Greg Trail. This scenic 5.7-mile loop combines forest trails and bluff views for a rewarding fall experience. The hike is rated as moderate, making it a great choice for hikers who enjoy a steady, scenic route with a few challenging sections.

If you'd like to take part, visit the Society's website for details, including meeting location, time, and how to sign up.