



HIKING TRAILS

Tishomingo State Park

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Trail Descriptions

Tishomingo State Park offers the outdoor enthusiast approximately thirteen miles of nature trails. There are seven separate trails in the park. The trails differ in length but all are easy to moderate walking. The delineation of each trail can be determined by following the red blazing painted on trees. Each trail differs greatly in vegetation and terrain. Tishomingo is located in the foothills of the Appalachian Mountains and is characterized by rock formations. These rock formations are found only in Tishomingo County, and occur nowhere else in the state.

Trail 1: Flat Rock Trail

This trail begins near the entrance to the park, across the road from the park office. The trail leads into a world of large rock outcroppings and beautiful spring fed streams. The trail meanders through the rock formations and continues on to the campground area. While walking along the trail you will pass many varieties of hardwood trees, including sweet gum, hickory, white,

and red oak, and dogwoods. The trail runs in the woods behind campsites around Haynes Lake and ends at the dam. (Approximate length: 3.0 miles).

Trail 2: Saddleback Ridge

This trail follows atop Saddleback Ridge, a large outcropping of rocks. The trail was used by the Chickasaw Indians to travel to the Freedom Hills area of Mississippi and Alabama. While walking along the trail you will notice numerous small caves among the many rock formations. After the trail reaches the peak of the ridge it winds its way around the picnic pavilion, and ends at Haynes Lake Dam. It shares space with Tushka Run Disc Golf Course so be cognizant of flying objects. (Approximate length: ¾ mile.)

Trail 3: Natchez Trace Trail

This trail begins at the same place as Trail 2, but instead turns to the right. The path weaves its way between the park road and Bear Creek, eventually passing its way under the Natchez Trace Parkway bridge. The Natchez Trace Parkway commemorates the Old Natchez Trace. The old trace was originally an animal migratory path that was later used by Native Americans. After European settlement, the trace was utilized as a wilderness road between Nashville and Natchez. Continuing on the trail along Bear Creek, you will pass by one of two fish weirs that the Chickasaws built to trap fish. These as well as the entire park are listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The trail eventually reaches the pioneer Cabin area. (Approximate length: 2.0 miles.)

Trail 4: CCC Pond Trail

This is a short trail that circles the CCC pond. The pond, as well as the majority of Tishomingo State Park, was constructed by the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) during the Great Depression. The walk around the pond is refreshing. Frogs, Squirrels and a wide variety of birds can be found in this area. While walking around the trail you can see areas of ferns, natural springs, and large outcroppings. (Approximate length: ¾ mile.)

Trail 5: CCC Camp Trail

This trail leaves the Pioneer Cabin area, following along

rocky outcrops, crossing numerous springs and streams. The nature trail parallels the park road, and provides a perfect opportunity to view areas of ferns, wildflowers, outcroppings and wildlife. There is a place to get a cool drink from a natural spring along a spur trail that leads to the left. The main trail continues along and crosses a gravel road, which was the original entrance to the park. Past the gravel road is the site of the old CCC camp. This is where the CCC men lived while the park was being built. The roads and majority of the park buildings were built by the CCC. Along this trail the building foundations of the historic camp can still be seen. The trail continues past this area and divides as it enters some large rocks. The upper trail travels above the rocks ending below Pavilion #1, while the original path follows along below the rocks. The lower trail works its way towards the banks of Bear Creek travelling down approximately 98 stone steps. This area is known as Horseshoe Bend due to the shape of the creek. Rock cliffs are located on the other side of the trail from the creek. Above these rocks are the family cabins. The trail continues around and ends at the Swinging Bridge area. (Approximate length: 3.0 miles)

Trail 6: Bear Creek Trail

This trail begins in the picnic area beyond the swimming pool. It follows along Bear Creek, crossing streams and small springs. It shares space with Chickasaw Disc Golf Course so be cognizant of flying objects. The trail ends at the Pioneer Cabin area. (Approximate length: 1.5 miles)

Trail 7: Outcroppings Trail

This is a loop trail that begins and ends at the Swinging Bridge. This beautiful trail works its way along a ridge of huge rock outcroppings and offers a splendid view of the valley that Bear Creek travels through. The outcroppings are popular with rock climbing enthusiasts. The Chickasaw Indians lived in the caves among these rocks when they inhabited the area. As you walk along the trail toward Bear Creek, you may notice various types of wildlife. It is not unusual to see large turtles sunning themselves along the creek. (Approximate length: 2 miles)

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Trails

Trail Legend		
Trail-head	Name	Miles
1	Flat Rock Trail	3.0
2	Saddleback Ridge Trail	0.75
3	Natchez Trace Trail	2.0
4	CCC Pond Trail	0.75
5	CCC Camp Trail	3.0
6	Bear Creek Trail	1.5
7	Outcroppings Trail	2.0

Legend

- Structure
- Trail Head
- Trail
- Park Roads
- ▭ Park Boundary

Elevation

- 440 - 450
- 451 - 500
- 501 - 550
- 551 - 600
- 601 - 650

