**Attractions:** Paddy Creek Wilderness Area is 7,035 acres of the most scenic and unique country in the Midwest. Paddy Creek Wilderness is characterized with steep cliffs and rock outcrops along the drainages. These creeks have water in them throughout most of the year. In the Wilderness are a few old fields in drainages but the rest is forested. Black, white, and post oaks, hickories and shortleaf pine are the main trees. Throughout the area, wildlife typical of the Missouri Ozarks is present. White-tailed deer, wild turkey, squirrel, rabbit, fox, coyote and bobcat are common. The trail is open for horseback riders and hikers. Hercules Glades has long been recognized for its special qualities. It was designated a Wilderness in Public Law 97-407, January 1983, and is managed under the provisions of the Wilderness Act of 1964. Hercules Glades is one of eight wildernesses in Missouri, seven of which are located within the Mark Twain National Forest. The 17-mile (27 km) loop trail can be hiked as a 10-mile (16 km) stretch (north section) or the 7.5-mile (12.1 km) south section. The trails are rugged and can be challenging for the inexperienced or unprepared hiker. Elevation changes 500 feet or more.

**Regulations for Wilderness**
- Possessing or using a motor vehicle, motorboat, motorized equipment or mechanical transport;
- Landing of aircraft, or dropping or picking up any material, supplies or persons by means of aircraft, including helicopters;
- Building "structures" such as rock fire rings, tables, lean-tos and the like;
- Tying stock directly to trees;
- No more than 10 individuals shall travel or camp together as one group.

**Considerations:** Due to rocky trail conditions, horses should be shod. There are no developed facilities along this trail. Camping along the trail is “primitive”. Practice “Leave No Trace” ethic techniques.

**For More Information:**

Houston Ranger District
108 S SAM HOUSTON BLVD
HOUSTON, MO 65483
Phone: (417) 967-4194  Fax: (417) 967-2524
Monday-Friday 8:00 to 4:30

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