



Mark Twain National Forest

Cedar Creek Trail

Missouri

Eastern Region, USDA Forest Service

March 14, 2015

Highlights:

The Cedar Creek Trail provides an excellent opportunity to view the restored lands of the 16,500 acre Cedar Creek Ranger District. Before 1940, private landowners intensively cultivated this land, resulting in depleted and eroded soils. In the 1940s, the Soil Conservation Service began purchasing and rebuilding it, stabilizing gullies and planting trees and grasses. It has been managed by the U.S. Forest Service since 1953, and now provides a variety of wildlife habitats and recreational opportunities in the transition zone between oak-hickory forests and tall grass prairies. Other activities in the area include backpacking, bird watching, hunting, and primitive camping.

Trail:

The Southern Loop marked in **grey diamonds**, crosses 22 miles of pastoral countryside. Two-thirds of the trail is cross-country; the rest is along gravel roads. **Smith Creek Loop**, about 5 miles in length between Boydsville and Rutherford Bridge, is marked in **orange diamonds**. This scenic route provides glimpses of Cedar Creek from the bluffs above.

Pine Ridge Section, marked with **grey diamonds**, passes through Pine Ridge Recreation Area and is open to foot travel and mountain bikes only; **no horses**. A horse route is located to the west.

Moon Loop, marked with **Yellow diamonds**, is about 7 miles in length. It is named for the moon-like appearance of the area caused by soil erosion in the 1930s. The area has since been restored.

Area Attractions:

Carrington Pits; Pine Ridge Recreation Area; Dry Fork Campground, Little Dixie Lake State Conservation Area, Rock Bridge State Park; Three Creeks State Conservation Area.

For More Information

Houston/Rolla/Cedar Creek Ranger District

108 S. Sam Houston Blvd, Houston, MO 65483

Phone: (417) 967-4194 Fax: (417) 967-2524

Hours: Monday-Friday, 8 am-4:30 pm

Directions: From Fulton MO, take Hwy. 54 south to Route H; west to Rt. J, south to Rt. Y, west to Pine Ridge Recreation Area. Horse users, travel to Dry Fork Campground, located 4 miles northeast on County Road 361. Or from Columbia MO, take Hwy 63 south to County Road AB (Barnes Chapel Road), left to Ginn Lane, right to Ginn Road Trail Head.

Length: 36 miles

Surface: Unsurfaced, native material.

Difficulty Rating: Easy to Moderate

Best Seasons: Spring and fall; Suitable for year round use.

Managed Uses: Foot travel, horseback, mountain bike.

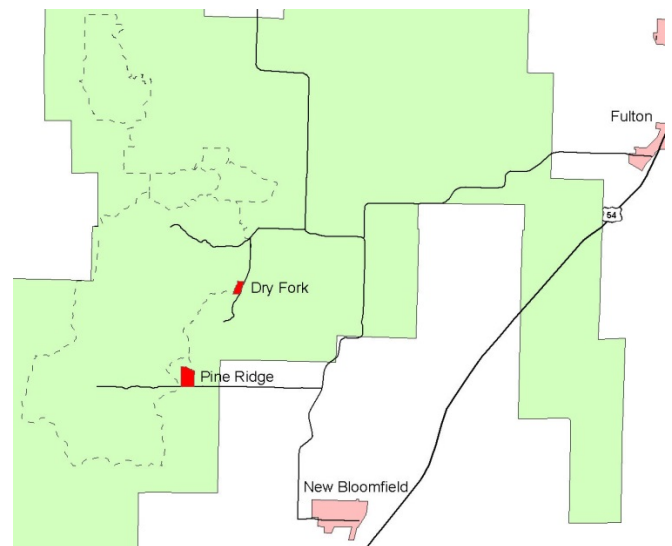
Restrictions: No motorized travel. No horses on the Pine Ridge Section.

Safety: During temperate months, be prepared for biting insects, poison ivy and high temperatures. Avoid using the trail during excessively wet periods. Trail crosses some fields where **cattle graze** from mid-April to mid-October. Be aware of hunting seasons, and take appropriate precautions.

Emergency Contacts:

Callaway County Sheriff or Ambulance: 911

Callaway Community Hospital (573) 642-3376



Vicinity Map

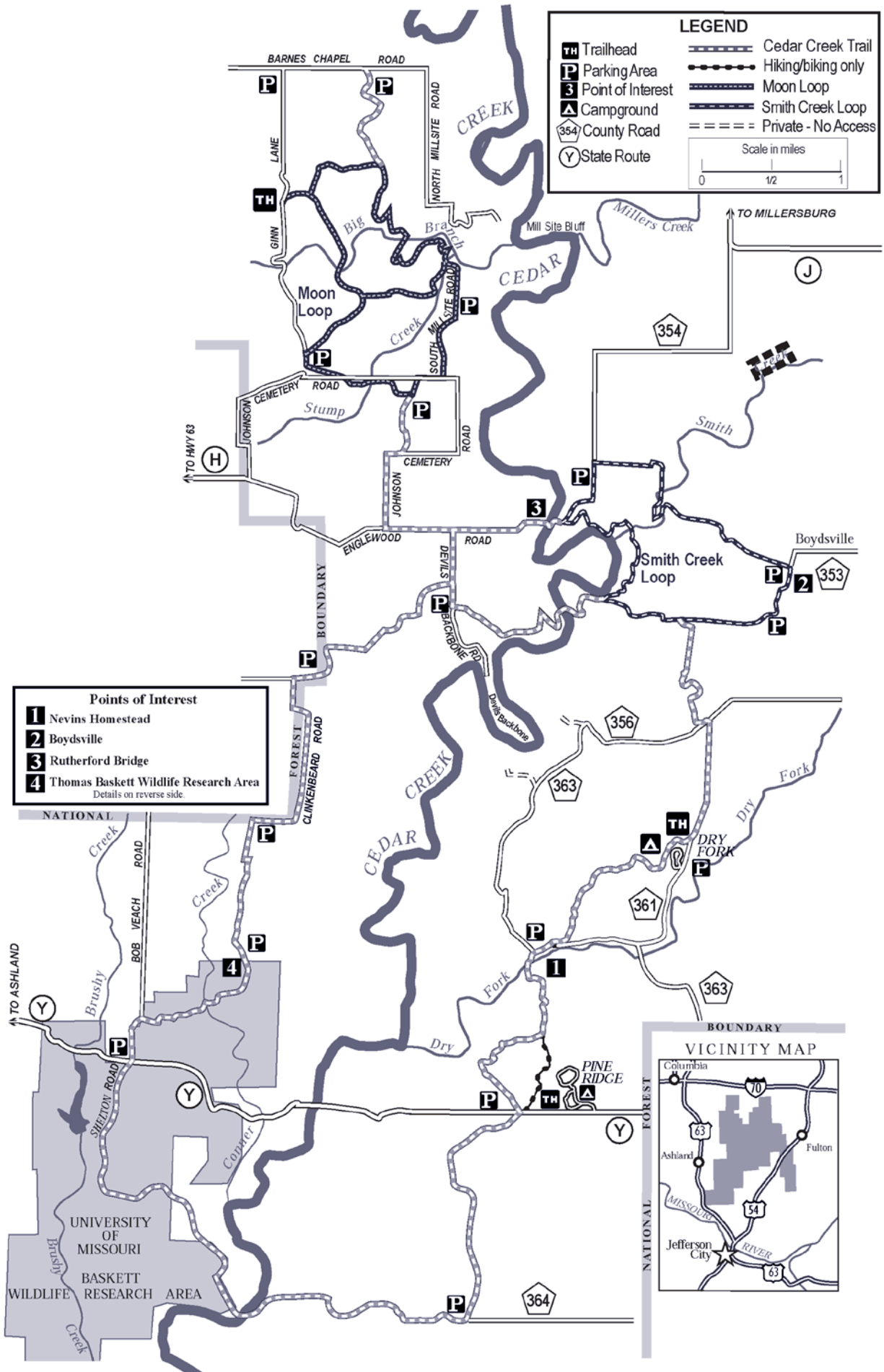


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401 Fairgrounds Road, Rolla, MO 65401

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LEGEND

- TH** Trailhead
- P** Parking Area
- 3** Point of Interest
- A** Campground
- 354 County Road
- Y State Route
- Cedar Creek Trail
- ... Hiking/biking only
- Moon Loop
- Smith Creek Loop
- Private - No Access

Scale in miles
0 1/2 1

Points of Interest

- 1** Nevins Homestead
- 2** Boydsville
- 3** Rutherford Bridge
- 4** Thomas Baskett Wildlife Research Area
Details on reverse side.

