



One Horse Gap Trail System



Shawnee National Forest

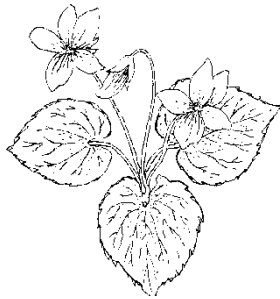
Hidden Springs Ranger District

2014

Trail Highlights

The One Horse Gap trail system is famous for a short trail known as “the gap trail”. As its name indicates, the Trail features a narrow gap between the bluffs that allows only one horse to pass through at a time. This trail system utilizes segments of system-trails, dirt and gravel roads and even remnants of old roads. Many interesting things can be found along the trails from old cemeteries and early settler’s home sites, to towering bluffs and flowing creeks.

The trail system provides access to One Horse Gap Lake, War Bluff area, Big Grand Pierre Creek (a candidate Wild & Scenic River) and the River to River Trail (a 160-mile linear trail spanning across southern Illinois). Hikers and backpackers share the area with horseback riders and hunters. Be aware that the annual Nine Day Trail Ride in late July- early August, attracts thousands of equestrians to the One Horse Gap trail system every year.



Wildlife Viewing

Wildlife watchers will enjoy the quietness of One Horse Gap Lake, as well as the many forest clearings that were created to provide habitat for wildlife. There are designated Natural Areas nearby that were set aside to perpetuate rare and endangered plant and animal species. Equestrians are prohibited in designated Natural Areas. Plus many of the bluff areas offer wonderful scenic views.

Surrounding Area

Illinois Iron Furnace, Garden of the Gods Recreation Area, High Knob Picnic Area, Pounds Hollow Recreation Area, Rim Rock National Recreation Trail and Lusk Creek Wilderness.

Emergencies

The nearest hospital is Harrisburg Medical Center in Harrisburg.

Length:

One Horse Gap Trail –1.4 miles (one-way)
30 miles total of interconnected trails.

Surface Type: Dirt and gravel in some places.

Difficulty Level: Easy to moderate

Recommended Season: All year

Facilities: Trail system can be accessed at a number of locations, however most offer limited parking.

Access: From Vienna: Take highway 146 east 30 miles (passing through Golconda, IL.) to Lusk Road. Turn north onto Lusk Rd. and go 4.25 miles to the crossroads of Lusk Rd and Dutton Chapel Rd. To reach One Horse Gap Trail, continue straight through the crossroads, for 1.5 miles. The trail access point is on the left side of the road.

Safety: There are many sections of trail that lead along the top of high bluffs. Trail tread may be slippery during and after rain. Be aware of hunting seasons.

Trail markings:  River To River Trail (blue i)

 Hiker/Equestrian Trail (white diamond)

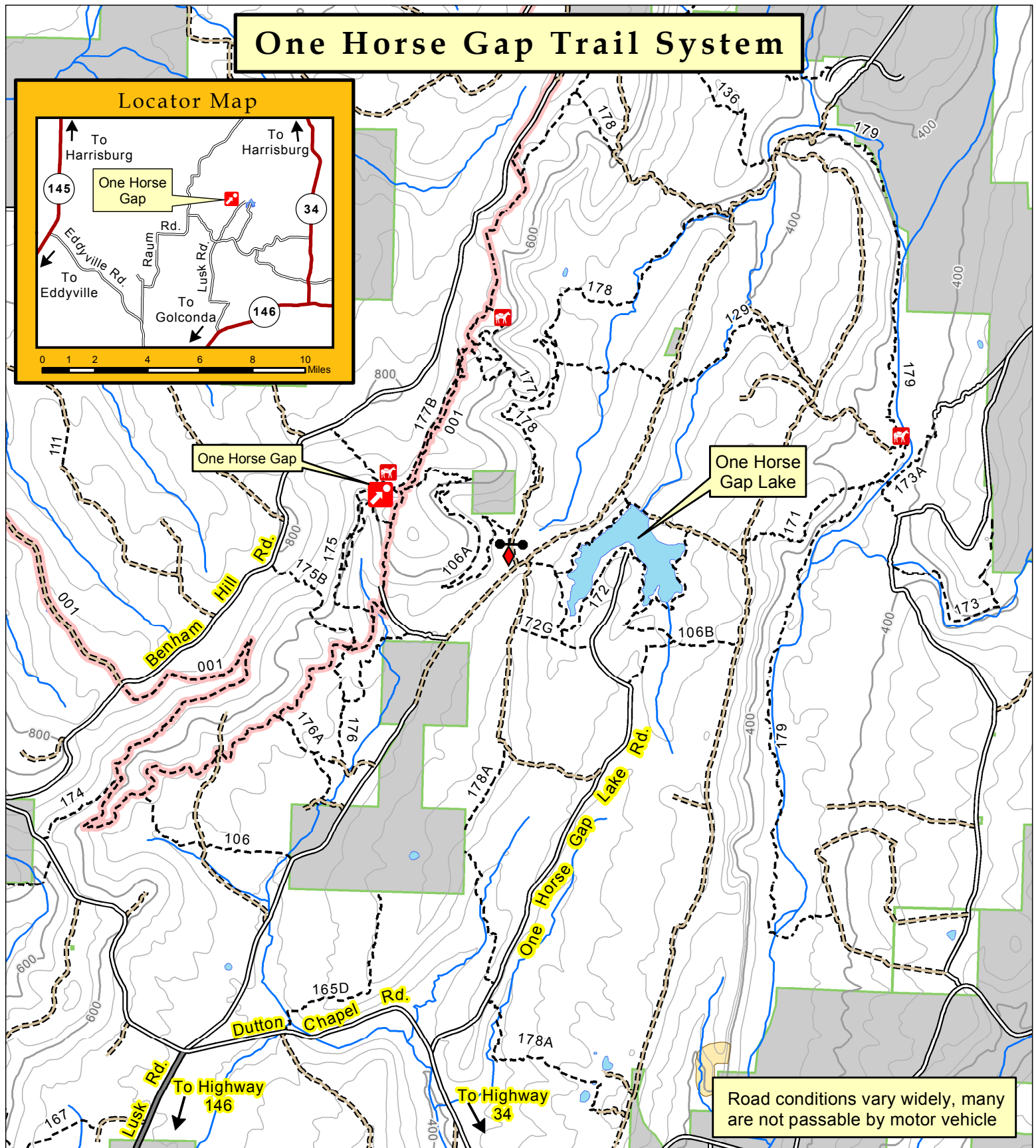
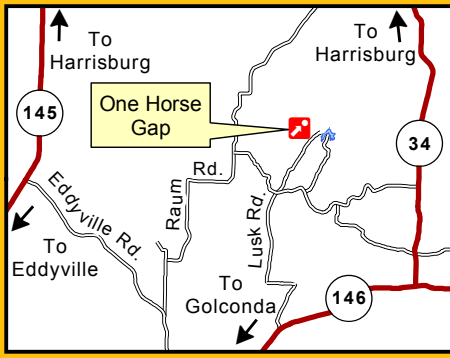
Trail Ethics: Pack it in, Pack it out. Stay on the designated trail and leave the beauty of the rocks and plants for others to enjoy. Equestrians are prohibited in designated Natural Areas. Natural Area boundaries are marked with flexible plastic yellow posts.

For More Information

Hidden Springs Ranger District
602 North First Street
Vienna, IL 62995
(618) 658-2111
www.fs.usda.gov/shawnee

One Horse Gap Trail System

Locator Map



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Legend

- | | | | | | | | |
|--|-----------------|--|---------------|--|------------------------|--|--------------------------|
| | Point of Access | | State Highway | | Road | | Stream |
| | Horse High Line | | Paved Road | | Hiker/Equestrian Trail | | Natural Area |
| | One Horse Gap | | Dirt Road | | River to River Trail | | National Forest Land |
| | | | | | | | Non-National Forest Land |

Contour interval = 40 feet

0 0.5 1 2 Miles

