



# Godwin Trail



One of the most popular trails in the Shawnee National Forest, the Godwin Trail crosses both the Bald Knob and Clear Springs Wilderness, two of the largest wildernesses in the Forest. It is also part of a linear long distance trail called the River to River Trail. All the trails in this area are designated horse/hiker use. A few side trails leave the Godwin Trail, offering the opportunity of creating loop trips.

Beginning at the western trailhead along Pine Hills Road, the Godwin Trail meanders along several ridge tops before descending to Hutchins Creek, a candidate Wild and Scenic River. After crossing the creek much of the rugged terrain is behind you and the trail stays in the valley where it leads through an old Poplar plantation and cane thickets.

## Wilderness & Wildlife

The Godwin Trail is located in large non-motorized areas called 'Wilderness.' Because there are no roads in these wildernesses, access is limited and you'll encounter less people than other places in the Shawnee National Forest. Instead, you're more likely to see a variety of wildlife. Here is a sample of what lives there: woodland songbirds, opossum, white-tailed deer, bobcat, skunk, wild turkey, woodpeckers, raccoon and several reptiles and amphibians.



## Surrounding Area

LaRue-Pine Hills Research Natural Area, Giant City State Park, Inspiration Point Trail, Pomona Natural Bridge Trail, McGee Hill overlook.

## Emergencies

The nearest hospital is Carbondale Memorial Hospital in Carbondale. The nearest public phone is in Alto Pass, Giant City State Park or Carbondale.

**Length:** 6 miles

**Travel Time:** 5 – 8 hours

**Surface Type:** Dirt

**Difficulty Level:** Difficult

**Recommended Season:** Spring, early summer and fall

**Facilities:** East and west trailheads both have minimal parking (too small for trailers).

**Access:** From Alto Pass: Take Bald Knob Rd. west 2.5 miles, trailhead will be on the right side of road. From Jonesboro: Take Highway 146 west 8 miles. to Highway 3; then north 8 miles on Hwy 3 to Big Muddy Levee Rd. Then east 3 miles to LaRue Rd. to the 'T' and turn left. Proceed 0.4 mile on LaRue Rd. then turn right onto Pine Hills Rd. for 1.2 miles to Godwin trailhead. Trailhead will be on the left side of Pine Hills Rd.

**Safety:** Carrying a map, compass and plenty of water is recommended. Be aware of hunters during hunting season. Poisonous snakes and poison ivy are present in the area. Hutchins Creek rises fast after heavy rains so take the proper precautions.

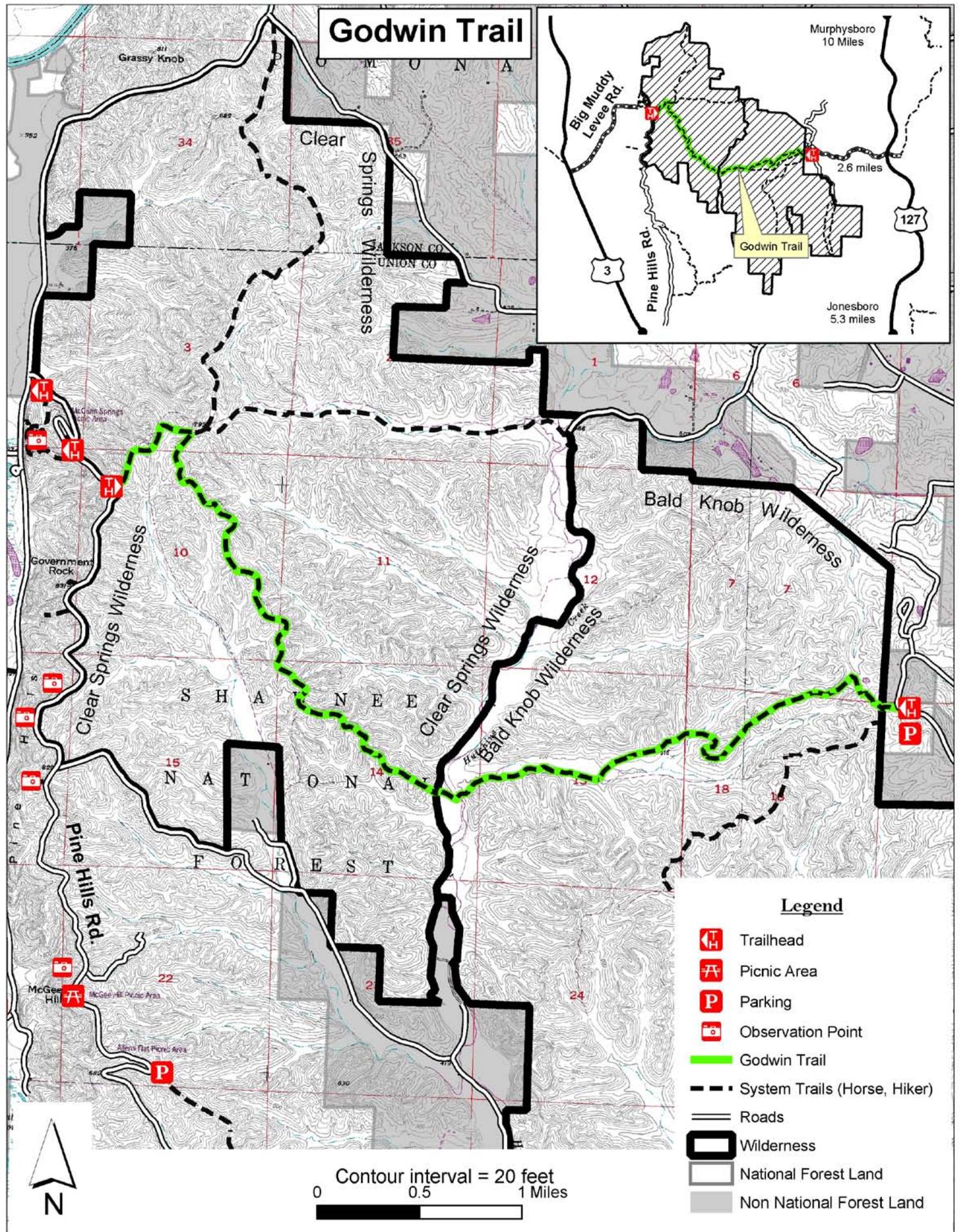
**Trail Markings:** Routed wooden signs

**Trail Ethics:** Please practice the Leave No Trace principles of (visit [www.LNT.org](http://www.LNT.org)):

- Plan ahead & prepare
- Travel & camp on durable surfaces
- Dispose of waste properly (Pack it in, Pack it out)
- Leave what you find
- Minimize campfire impacts & use
- Respect wildlife
- Be considerate of other visitors

## For More Information

Mississippi Bluffs Ranger District  
521 North Main  
Jonesboro, IL 62952  
(618) 833-8576 (618) 687-1731  
[www.fs.fed.us/r9/forests/shawnee](http://www.fs.fed.us/r9/forests/shawnee)



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