Welcome to Lane Spring Recreation Area

Lane Spring Recreation Area is a jewel of the Ozarks. Part of Mark Twain National Forest, the recreation area has a campground, several picnic areas, two loop trails just over one mile each, and wading and fishing in Little Piney Creek. Just 13 miles south of Rolla, Missouri on Highway 63, Lane Spring Recreation Area is in the headwaters of Little Piney Creek and is open from March 1 through October 31. The area is gated during off-season but there is a small parking area near the gate and you are welcome to hike into the recreation area.

Follow the sidewalk beside the bulletin board in the picnic area to the spring, which flows into Little Piney Creek. There is a scenic overlook at the spring. The trail then travels on to Little Piney Creek.

Trout in Little Piney Creek draw anglers from all over Missouri. Once stocked with trout, the Little Piney at Lane Spring now has a population of wild trout. A trout management area of Missouri Department of Conservation, anglers must follow all state fishing rules and regulations. Little Piney Creek also has small mouth and rock bass and sunfish.

The campground has 18 campsites. Campsites cannot be reserved and are available on a first come basis. Each site has a tent pad, picnic table, fire ring and lamppost. The campground has drinking water and vault toilets and is open from April 1 through October 31. Lane Spring Recreation Area is a fee area.

There is a $2/vehicle fee for day use fee for hikers, picnickers and anglers. Camping fee include day use. Fees collected at this site are reinvested in the site.

Popular for picnicking, there are single and groupings of picnic tables with grills. There are also two pavilions, which can each seat over eighty people. Pavilions have water and electrical outlets. Popular for family reunions and wedding receptions, the main picnic area has an open area and an area with playground equipment. Pavilions can be reserved for a fee by calling 1-877-444-6777 or through www. Recreation.gov. If the pavilions have not been reserved, they are available on a first come basis and there is no charge.

Trailheads for the two loop trails are located near the picnic area. Blossom Rock Trail starts near the entrance to the campground. The trail climbs from the creek bottom to the high ridge tops, past unusual rock outcrops and geological formations. The trail also offers excellent views of the Little Piney Creek valley.

Next to the entrance to the main parking lot is the trailhead for Cedar Bluff Trail. The trail gradually climbs the hillside to a rocky cedar glade with a spectacular view of Little Piney Valley before descending to the stream bottom and returning to the picnic area. Both trails are open to mountain biking but horses are not allowed in the recreation area.