

# Mark Twain National Forest

*Missouri*

## Crane Lake Trail



Eastern Region, USDA Forest Service

July 26, 2012.

### Highlights

The Crane Lake Trail is a five mile double loop trail for hiking, equestrian and mountain bike use (horses permitted on the west side from the jct. of the Marble Creek Section of the Ozark Trail to the north end of the lake). The trail was constructed in 1975 by the Youth Conservation Corps, and became a designated National Recreation Trail in 1980. The geology, vegetation, terrain and natural features along the trail are quite varied. The predominant timber species on both sides of the lake are white oak, black oak, scarlet oak, post oak, hickory and shortleaf pine, with post oak, hickory and cedar south of the dam.

Large boulders and scenic overlooks of the rocky gorge, lake, and shut-ins, and close-up views of Crane Lake are year-round attractions; fall color can be spectacular; and the spring hiker can enjoy flowering dogwood, redbud, and other spring wildflowers.

### Trail

The northern loop of the trail circles Crane Lake is approximately 3 miles and can be hiked in about 2 hours. The southern loop continues on south of the Crane Lake Dam, is 2 miles long, and can be hiked in about 1 1/2 hours. The southern portion includes some steep rocky areas and passes through a series of glades, shut-ins, fields and oak hickory and pine forest.

Most grades are 5-10%, with a few short pitches of about 25% slope. Tread is of native material, with an abundance of protruding rocks and roots, and occasional obstacles. Be prepared to cross a creek.

### For More Information

*Potosi Fredericktown Ranger District*

*Hwy 8 West, PO Box 188*

*Potosi, MO 63664*

*Phone: (573)438-5427 voice/tdd*

*Fax: (573)438-2633*

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

**Directions:** From Ironton, MO, take Hwy E south for 9 miles; turn right on Iron County Road 124 for 2.5 miles, then left on Iron County Road 131 for 2 miles.

**Difficulty Level:** Moderate

**Length:** 5 miles

**Best Seasons:** Fall, winter, spring

**Leave No Trace:** Pack out what you pack in

**Restrictions:** No motorized use, no camping within 100 feet of the trail or lakeshore.

**Other Activities:** Backpacking, bird watching, fishing/boating on Crane Lake.

**Safety:** During temperate months, be prepared for biting insects, poison ivy and high temperatures. Be advised of hunting seasons. Avoid using the trail during excessively wet periods.

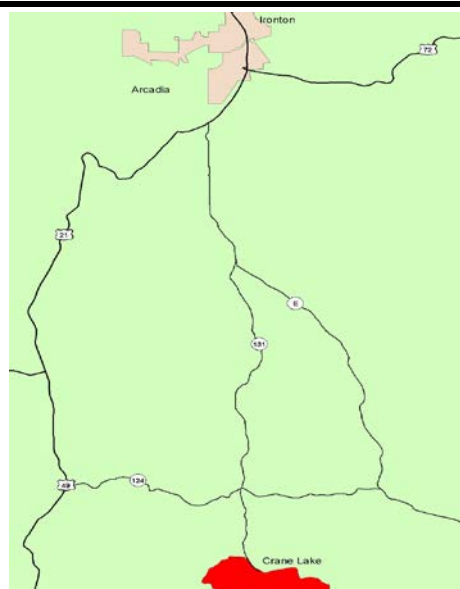
**Surface Type:** Unsurfaced, native material

**Nearby Facilities:** Silver Mines Recreation Area, Marble Creek Recreation Area.

**Assistance:**

Iron County **Sheriff:** (573) 546-7321

Arcadia Valley **Ambulance:** (573) 546-2311



Vicinity Map

“The USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.”

**Mark Twain National Forest**

401 Fairgrounds Road, Rolla, MO 65401

<http://www.fs.usda.gov/mtnf>

