

OUR MISSION

Lake Charles State Park exists to promote tourism by providing high quality services and facilities to all park visitors while protecting the resources within its boundaries.

WELCOME

We hope that you enjoy your experience on the trails of Lake Charles State Park. If you have any questions or have seen anything of interest that you would like to report, please come by the visitor center and let us know.

Interpretation at Lake Charles State Park focuses on the park's unique location on the boundary of the Mississippi Delta and the eastern Ozarks, with emphasis on the oak/hickory and bottomland hardwood forest, native fauna, and the lake environment.

TRAIL REGULATIONS

- Leave all plants, animals, and rocks, undisturbed so others may enjoy them. State parks are wildlife sanctuaries.
- Cans, bottles, cigarette butts, and other litter are not allowed on the trail.
- Please do not leave trash behind.
- Stay on the trail to reduce erosion and to protect vegetation.
- Keep pets under control on a leash.
- Camp in designated areas, and do not build fires along trails.



BUTTERFLIES & BLOOMS TRAIL

Length: .33 mile

Trailhead: Across from visitor center or White Oak Trailhead

Difficulty: Easy



This pleasant trail connects the campground with the visitor center. It meanders through wildflowers and wildlife habitat that change each week through the season. Along this trail, visitors often see wildlife including birds, butterflies, and deer. The best viewing time for wildflowers is May-September. Black-eyed Susan, purple coneflower, Indian blanket, butterfly weed, and plains coreopsis are a few of the colorful wildflowers along the trail.

CEDAR TRAIL

Length: .75 mile

Trailhead: Swimming beach parking area

Difficulty: Easy

Most of this paved trail follows the Lake Charles shoreline. There are several species of trees here, including sugarberry, white ash, eastern red cedar, and many kinds of oaks and hickories. Be sure to notice the

limestone outcrops along the shoreline. These rocks were formed from seashell and coral fragments from an ancient ocean that once covered this area.

MOCKERNUT TRAIL

Length: .75 mile

Trailhead: Across from playground

Difficulty: Easy/Moderate

Mockernut Trail loops through the forest and along the lake shoreline. Mockernut hickory trees are sought after by woodpeckers and songbirds. The thick shells of hickory nuts make removing the nuts difficult, which created the name “mockernut.” Wildlife you may see when hiking this trail includes white-tailed deer, wild turkey, gray squirrels, songbirds, woodpeckers, and herons.

WHITE OAK TRAIL

Length: 1.5 mile

Trailhead: End of Butterflies & Blooms Trail

Difficulty: Moderate

White Oak Trail crosses intermittent streams, and a portion of it parallels the lake shoreline. Walk softly and speak quietly to better your chances of viewing wildlife. Woodpeckers, herons, and ducks are just a few of the birds you may see. Also watch for white-tailed deer, armadillo, raccoon, and

opossum. White oak trees are prized for their strong wood for making furniture and flooring. These trees can be seen all along the trail. During autumn their acorns provide an excellent source of food for white-tailed deer and squirrels.

HIKING HINTS

- Wear appropriate footwear such as hiking boots or sneakers.
- In warm months, insect repellent may be necessary.
- Know how to identify poison ivy and venomous snakes — avoid both.
- Let someone know where you are going, and take a buddy.
- Carry plenty of water for you and any pets.

LAKE CHARLES STATE PARK

Trail Guide

LAKE CHARLES STATE PARK
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