

## **Know your trails at Kennekuk County Park**

### 1. River Bluff Trail

Scenic bluff views of the Middle Fork River and the Kennekuk Marshes can be found on this one-mile, moderate hiking trail. There is also a wildlife blind overlooking the marsh where hikers can look for painted turtles, frogs, great blue herons, and waterfowl. The trailhead can be found at the parking lot of the Middle Fork River Canoe Access Point.

### 2. Raccoon Run Trail

This trail is ¾ mile long and is accessible at either Adrian's Pond parking lot or the first parking lot on Hickory Hollow Road. One half of the trail follows the pond edge before looping back through the forest. It is an easy-to-moderate hiking trail and provides hikers an excellent chance to see beaver activity, deer, squirrels, and woodpeckers.

### 3. Hidden Valley Trail

This one-mile, moderate hiking trail is found near the Kennekuk Education Center. At times, the trail follows a meandering stream and passes through a young maple tree grove. To return to the trailhead, hikers can choose to walk the "Woodland Path" or the "Prairie Path."

### 4. Wheeler Foundation Nature Trail (All-accessible Trail)

The 1/3-mile, all-accessible concrete trail can be found near the Kennekuk Education Center and White Oak Barn. Three wooden overlook platforms provide opportunities to look and listen for wildlife. Learn about Vermilion County wildlife with six interpretive educational signs found along the trail.

### 5. Look-Out Point Trail

Bridges, steps, and handrails guide hikers along the one-mile, moderate hiking trail as it follows a meandering stream through an oak-hickory forest. At the midway point of the trail, hikers can look out across the Middle Fork River Valley. This "look-out point" is one of the highest elevations in Kennekuk County Park. The trail forms a loop and can be found at the Oak Bluff Picnic Area.

## **Know your trails at Heron County Park**

### 1. Wetland Boardwalk Trail

The ½-mile floating trail provides an excellent opportunity to walk out into the wetland area where the North Fork River enters Lake Vermilion to view ducks, herons, bald eagles, and more.

### 2. Heron Nature Trail

This trail is located north of the parking lot so please be cautious crossing West Newell Road. The trail is about one-half mile in length and easy hiking along the edge of wetland areas that used to be part of the North Fork River. These pond areas are called oxbows and provide an excellent opportunity to see aquatic wildlife.

## **Know your trails at Forest Glen Preserve**

### 1. Big Woods Trail

This 4/5-mile, rugged trail begins at the Duffin Nature Area Parking Lot just inside the woods near the front entrance, and ends at the Observation Tower on Hawk Hill Trail. The trail is entirely forested and passes through two deep ravines. Handrails, steps, and bridges make the trail less rugged, but steps and slopes are steep in several places.

### 2. Beech Grove Trail (All-accessible Trail)

Large Sugar Maples, Beech, and Tulip trees are located along the 1/3-mile paved trail, as well as Dogwood, Paw Paw, Spicebush, and other plants. It is located at the east end of the park, just off the main entrance drive. Walking time is about 20 minutes.

### 3. Hawk Hill Trail

This trail is less than one mile in length, beginning near the Observation Tower and ends at the Vermilion River. It follows a ridge edged by deep ravines on each side. There is one steep hill down to the river valley. Walking time one way is approximately 20 minutes.

### 4. Hickory Ridge Trail

Hickory Ridge is about 1-1/2 miles in length. It begins near the Vermilion River, and can be reached through the Hawk Hill Trail or Tall Tree Trail. It is a moderate trail to hike, but since it is accessible only by means of other trails, allow two hours to hike this trail.

### 5. Tall Tree Trail

Tall Tree Trail is a one-mile looped trail, connecting with the Hawk Hill Trail and Hickory Ridge Trail. It is a moderate trail, passing through second growth Oak-Hickory woodlands and open meadows. Walking time is about 30 minutes.

### 6. Old Barn Trail

This moderate trail is about 1-1/3 miles in length, beginning near the Audubon Barn. Equipped with steps, handrails, stepping-stones, and bridges, the trail passes through meadows, bogs, and open woods. Allow 45 minutes to Old Barn Trail.

### 7. Deer Meadow Trail

This one-mile trail is relatively easy walking. It begins at the Campus area, passing by the Pioneer Homestead, open meadows, valleys, and Oak-Hickory woods. Walking time is about 60 minutes.

### 8. Crab Tree Trail

Crab Tree is about 1-1/2 miles in length, beginning and returning to the same parking lot. It is a versatile trail, passing through open woods, successional fields, and a Beech Woods Loop surrounded by deep ravines. Walking time is about one hour.

### 9. Willow Creek Trail

This trail begins at the Parking Lot northeast of the Campus Area. The trail follows the Willow Creek through meadows and woodlands. Willow Creek is one mile in length.