

LOCATION

Elk City State Park near Independence boasts a growing network of trails. Table Mound Hiking Trail 2 3/4 miles, and Green Thumb Nature Trail at 2/3 mile are located within the state park Squaw Creek Area. The mile long Post oak Self-Guiding Nature Trail is located at the Overlook area.

DEVELOPMENT OF TRAILS

The Kansas Trails Council worked with many volunteers to design and construct Table Mound Hiking Trail and Post Oak Self-Guiding Nature Trail. Mel Baughman, Area Extension Forester with Kansas State University, provided leadership for these two trails with special program funding from the Se-Kan Resource Conservation and Development Area.

The mile-long Green Thumb Nature Trail was designed by Jim Arnwine and his biology students from Independence Community College. Green Thumb workers constructed the trail.

THE TRAILS AND FACILITIES

The trails are delineated by a 1 to 4 foot cleared path and by paint blazes on the trees. The surfaces are natural for the most part with the exception being Green Thumb Trail, which has a treadway of gravel along most of the route.

Camping is permitted in Squaw Creek Campground and along the Table Mound Hiking Trail south of the county road. Toilets are available at the Scenic Overlook Trailhead near the dam and at Squaw Creek Trailhead. Drinking water can be obtained at Squaw Creek area.

Cars may be parked at the Scenic Overlook or Squaw Creek Trailheads. Do not park along the county road which leads to the dam. Vehicles entering the state park are required to have a current park permit.

Campfires are permitted only along Table Mound Hiking Trail in the section south of the county road. Open fires are discouraged, stoves are preferred.

VEGETATION

Various grasses and broad-leaf plants exist in the area along with woods consisting of redbud, post oak, red cedar, red oak, buckthorn, green ash, hackberry, sumac, hickory and black walnut. In the spring and fall the three trails are alive with color.

TRAIL RULES

- ▶ No Motor vehicles or mountain bikes are allowed on the trails.
- ▶ Campfires are allowed only in designated areas.
- ▶ Vehicles entering the state park are required to have a current park permit.
- ▶ Carry out all that you carry in.
- ▶ All human wastes must be buried 6-12 inches below the ground surface.
- ▶ Please stay on the trails for your own safety.

SAFETY WARNINGS

- ▶ Because water is not available along the trails, an ample supply should be taken along.
- ▶ Hikers should be wary of poison ivy and other dangers along the trails.
- ▶ Snakes inhabit this area and some are poisonous.
- ▶ A First Aid Kit is recommended.
- ▶ Make sure all campfires are extinguished.

The Table Mound Hiking Trail and Post Oak Self-Guiding Nature Trail have been designated as National Recreation Trails.



Equal opportunity to participate in and benefit from programs described herein is available to all individuals without regard to race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age or handicap. Complaints of discrimination should be sent to Office of the Secretary, Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks, 900 Jackson St., Suite 502, Topeka, KS 66612. 06/01

Elk City

State Park Hiking Trails



Elk City State Park
4825 Squaw Creek Road
Independence, KS 67301
(620) 331-6295 (Park Office)
(620) 331-6820 (Wildlife Office)
(785) 273-6740 (Regional Office)
e-mail:

ElkCitySP@wp.state.ks.us
Department Website:
www.kdwp.state.ks.us

ELK CITY RESERVOIR HIKING TRAILS

OUTLET
AREA

Bike
Trail

Overlook
Trailhead

Gatehouse












To Hwy 75 N

Green Thumb
Trailhead

Squaw Creek
Trailhead

ELK CITY RESERVOIR

LEGEND

-  Park Office
-  Paved Road
-  Information Center
-  Pit Toilet
-  Table Mound
Hiking Trail
-  Post Oak
Self-Guiding
Nature Trail
-  Green Thumb
Nature Trail
-  Bluffs
-  State Park
-  Private Land
-  Reservoir

