The Eagle Rock Trail, located about 5 miles northwest of Independence just north of the dam of Elk City Reservoir, was opened in November of 1996.

The trail is approximately 4 miles long and begins with a loop through the big sycamore and oak trees along the Elk River just north of the reservoir outlet. This gives way to a demanding trek through the trees and the ice age boulders that cover the hillside portion of the trail. The third segment of the trail winds through the tall native grasses in the center of the course framed by the river and the hillside.

The trail was designed and laid out as a one-way course with careful consideration of the area’s natural beauty and ecology. This was done under the auspices of the Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism and the Kansas Trails Council, with some funding contributed by the National Recreational Trails Grant. Overriding consideration was given to avoiding potential erosion problems as a result of developing the trail.

There is ample parking for large groups and excellent campground facilities near by. Out of town riders are urged to contact the Elk City State Park office ahead of time at (316) 331-6295. During periods of wet weather the trail will be closed due to heavy releases of water from the reservoir or due to slick and muddy conditions.

The trail was designed for a beginner to learn on and for an expert to excel on. It has roller coaster dips, straight and winding climbs, down hills, and log jumps with ride-arounds provided in most places for the less skilled riders. It is a trail that a family or individual can enjoy for the ride and for the scenery. For those that both bike and hike there are some excellent hiking trails located just a short distance from this bike trail. Eagle Rock Trail, though, was designed and built exclusively for mountain biking.
CODE OF ETHICS AND RULES OF THE TRAIL:

1. Except for the trail-head segments, this is a one-way trail to be ridden always in a clockwise rotation. Simply follow the directional arrows on the Carsonite trail markers.

2. Stay on the trail, observe the information on the trail markers, and anticipate course changes.

3. Do not attempt to alter the course as it is designed in any way.

4. Exercise extreme caution at the intersection where the trail crosses itself. Rider from another direction may be at the intersection as you come through.

5. Observe the trail head signs. If the trail closed signs are posted, respect them and refrain from riding the trail. The closed sign usually means that the trail is partially flooded and/or too muddy, slick, and hazardous.

6. Slower riders should yield the right-of-way to faster, more experienced riders and allow them to pass on the left.

7. All riders are encouraged to wear a helmet on the trail to avoid the possibility of head injuries.