



Kinkaid Lake Trail System



People like to primitive camp, fish, hunt, paddle, horseback ride, bike and hike Kinkaid Lake, The upper portion of the lake is surrounded by Shawnee National Forest and contains the Kinkaid Lake trail system. The trail system can be accessed in several places and is a great way to reach scenic and remote areas of the lake.

Trail Highlights

There are long, linear trails and shorter loop trails. Kinkaid Lake Trail is ideal for a longer hike or horseback ride. It winds along the shore of the lake from Johnson Creek Recreation Area to Crisenberry Dam and leads into remote fingers of the lake. However, you may still encounter other users, such as anglers, hunters and boaters.

Both Johnson Creek Recreation Area and Hidden Cove Trailhead offer starting points for short day-trips. Bicycling is permitted on forest roads, but not on trails or cross-country. Johnson Creek Recreation Area is at the north end of the trail system and offers amenities, such as campsites with easy access to the trails, trailer parking for equestrians, picnicking and a boat launch. Primitive camping (1/4-mile outside of the Johnson Creek Recreation Area) is permitted for up to 14 days, and must be at least 150 ft. from the shoreline of Kinkaid Lake.

Other Attractions

Johnson Creek Recreation Area, Lake Murphysboro State Park, Big Muddy River and Oakwood Bottoms Greentree Reservoir.

Length: Trail System – 31.5 miles

Kinkaid Lake Trail – 15.7 miles

Buttermilk Hill Trail – 7.8 miles

Trail Surface: Dirt and gravel

Trail Markings: See map on reverse side for trail numbers. Some trail junctions have signs.

Trail Difficulty: Moderate to Difficult

Parking: Trailhead in Johnson Creek Recreation Area accommodates equestrian trailers. Other trail-heads offer small parking areas. Access to Buttermilk Hill Picnic Area is hike-in or boat access only.

Directions: Kinkaid Lake Trailheads are accessed from either Hwy 151 on the west side or Hwy 3 on the south side.

From Murphysboro:

Buttermilk Hill Trailhead: Take Hwy 149 west 7 miles to Hwy 3, then north 2.75 miles on Hwy 3 to Buttermilk Hill Rd. Turn north on Buttermilk Hill Rd. then east on Taylor Rd.

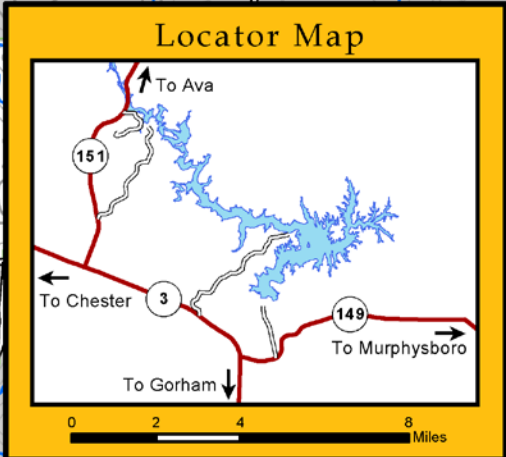
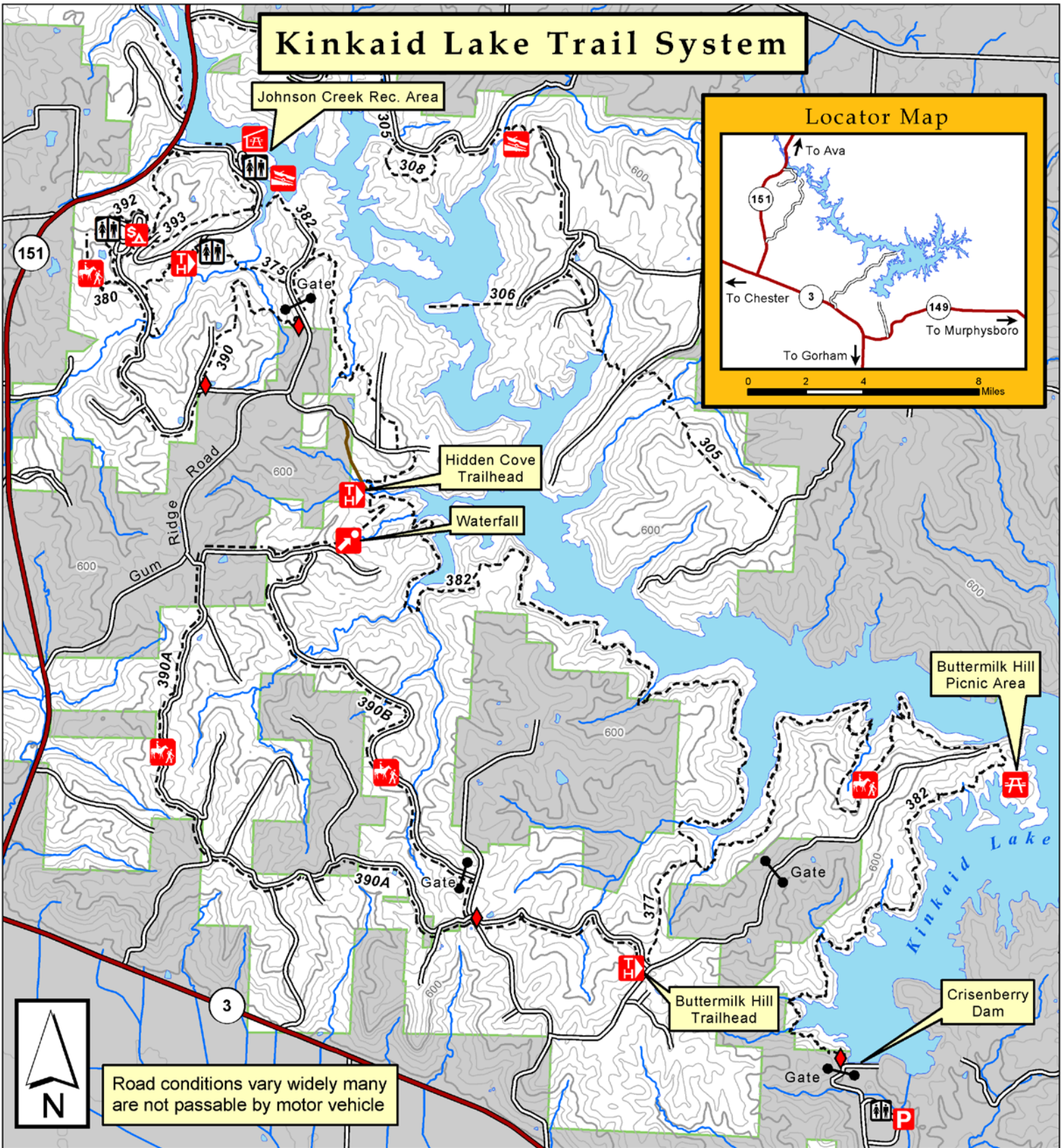
Hidden Cove Trailhead: Take Hwy 149 west 7 miles to Hwy 3, then north 4.5 miles on Hwy 3 to Hwy 151. Go north 1.2 miles on Hwy 151 to Gum Ridge Rd., turn right onto Gum Ridge Rd., go 2 miles and turn right onto John Lee Road and proceed past private land ownership to the trailhead.

Safety: Summertime brings the usual pests, such as mosquitoes, biting flies, wasps, chiggers and ticks. Carry plenty of water or be prepared to treat or filter water taken from streams. Be aware of hunters during hunting season. Poison ivy is present along the trails.

Trail Ethics: Practice Leave No Trace ethics (Int.org). Stay on designated trails. Hikers yield to equestrians. **No camping within 150 feet of Kinkaid Lake.** Camp away from trails and other visitors. In popular areas use existing campsites.



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Road conditions vary widely many are not passable by motor vehicle

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Legend

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|------------------------|----------------|--------------------------|------------------------|
| Point of Access | Picnic Area | Fee Campground | Hiker/Equestrian Trail |
| Parking Area | Picnic Shelter | Boat Ramp | Stream |
| Trailhead | Restroom | State Highway | National Forest Land |
| Hiker/Equestrian Trail | Road | Non-National Forest Land | |

Contour interval = 40 feet

