

The Janet Huckabee Arkansas River Valley Nature Center offers more than 4 miles of trails, two of which meet Americans With Disabilities Act requirements.

Don't forget your binoculars and camera – you may see raccoons, beavers or even deer. The fishing piers around Wells Lake makes for some exciting angling. Keep your eyes and ears open for signs of wildlife. More than 140 species of birds have been spotted on these trails.

You may notice some areas on the trails that are affected by prescribed burning. Why do we burn? It stimulates native plants, improves wildlife habitat, controls tree diseases, and reduces fuel on the ground and unplanned fires.



If you are on hand to see a beautiful sunrise like this one over Wells Lake, it's an excellent time for viewing wildlife.

JHARVNC 2004 Photo Contest, Fort Chaffee Images, 1st Place, Frank Hilswordth

Beaver Creek Trail, 0.25 miles

This boardwalk skirts the edge of a braided stream. Signs of beavers often can be seen along the bank. Many wetland plants such as rose mallow thrive here.



Kathy Haaga

Look for beaver dams on the Beaver Creek Trail. They create wetlands that attract other wildlife.

Field and Forest Trail, 0.5 miles

Hike through remnants of farm fields and young oak-hickory forests. Watch for a variety of birds and look carefully for the rain lily that blooms after rains in September and October.



Gary Felker, Natural Imaging.com

North Boundary Trail, 1.1 miles

A small creek crosses this scenic path during wet periods. The trail also enters a dry, upland region along the nature center's boundary. Deer and many bird species may be found here year-round. Listen closely for snorting deer. The trail leads hikers to a road. Return on the road or the trail.

On the Oak Savannah Trail, you will see grasslands, thickets and shrubby areas. You also will see scattered pines, cedars and oaks.

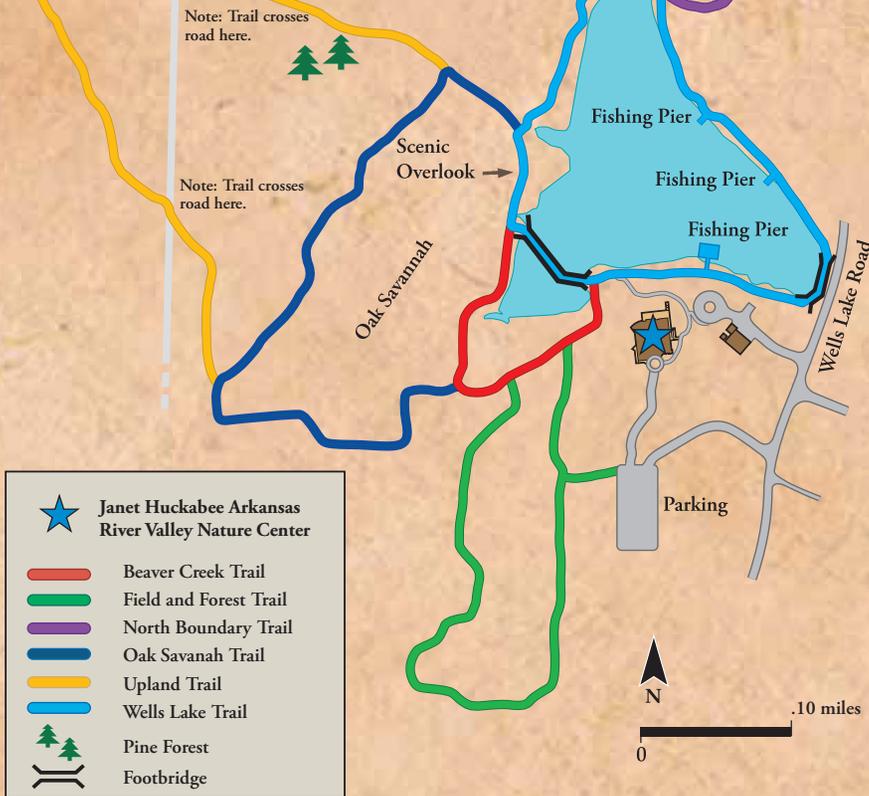


Trail Map



- Beaver Creek Trail: 0.25 miles
- Field and Forest Trail: 0.5 miles
- North Boundary Trail: 1.1 miles, round trip
- Oak Savannah Trail: 0.5 miles
- Upland Trail: 0.5 miles
- Wells Lake Trail: 0.7 miles

* Trail's Highest Point



Oak Savannah Trail, 0.5 miles

Oak savannahs were once a common feature throughout the Ozarks. Prescribed fires have slowly returned some of the forests to this more open landscape with a few large oaks in a grass and shrub understory. Look for indigo bunting nests in the shrubs.

Upland Trail, 0.5 miles

A spur of the Oak Savannah Trail cuts through a shortleaf pine forest. Little bluestem is common, and look for evidence of coyote and deer.



Gary Felker, Natural Imaging.com

You may see the yellow-breasted chat along the Oak Savannah Trail in spring and summer.

Wells Lake Trail, 0.7 miles

Follow the edge of Wells Lake on a paved path that's ADA-compliant. Watch for great blue herons fishing along the shore or bring your fishing rod and join them. Canada geese are year-round residents.



Gary Felker, Natural Imaging.com

The pine warbler is seen near the Upland Trail most of the year.



Kelly Mulvihill

The rare rain lily sometimes is seen blooming along the Field and Forest Trail after rains in September and October.

Tips for the trails

Wildlife on the grounds is just that – wild.

- Don't chase or try to catch wildlife
- If you want a closer look, please use binoculars
- Don't feed wildlife, this includes geese
- All animals at the center, including snakes, are protected
- Collecting wildlife, leaves, plants, rocks and fossils from the grounds is prohibited without a special permit

Watch where you place your hands, feet and seat outdoors.

- Poison ivy isn't the only plant that can give you a rash
- Wasps, bees and other stinging insects don't like their nests being trampled

Remember, you are sharing the trails with other visitors and the animals that live here.

Walk quietly – stomping or shuffling your feet will scare animals before you get the chance to see them.

Don't forget drinking water and insect repellent.

Please help keep your trails free of litter.

Animals appreciate you not smoking on trails.



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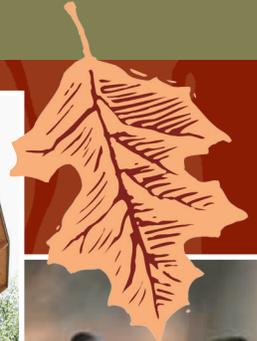
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Trail Guide



ARKANSAS
Game & Fish Commission