

Buckeye Trace Nature Preserve

Hiking Trails



• Meadow Trail – 0.2 miles

Most of this trail follows the route of an old road that wagons took to the sand mines. A moderate climb along a gravelly path leads to a meadow at the top of the hill. Look for the tiny vernal pool to the right as you approach the meadow.

• Incline Trail – 0.1 miles

This short, meandering trail passes through stands of Osage orange trees and vestiges of the old sand mining operation. Mounds of sand can still be seen where the carts were unloaded, as well as the concrete foundations that supported the cables for the incline.

• Box Turtle Trail – 0.4 miles

The longest of Buckeye Trace's trails, the Box Turtle Trail can be accessed from the lower part of the Meadow Trail, or at its top, where the trail re-enters the forest after crossing the meadow. Some of the largest trees in the preserve can be seen along the trail, which follows a scenic gorge before leveling out farther downhill.

• Old Oak Trail – 0.1 miles

Our most recently constructed trail winds steadily uphill to explore the northern part of the preserve, ending at the base of a massive chinquapin oak tree.

Trail Guidelines

- Please stay on marked trails and be sure to carry a mobile phone in case of emergencies.
- Dogs should be kept on a leash. Be courteous to other hikers and clean up after your pets.
- Mountain bikes, horses, and motorized vehicles are prohibited on the trails.
- Leave wild things in the wild! Do not disturb or remove plants or animals found in the preserve.