



Jackson Falls Trail









Shawnee National Forest

Hidden Springs Ranger District

Length: To Jackson Falls - 1/4 mile

Travel Time: 20 minutes

Surface Type: Dirt and natural rock

Difficulty Level: Moderate

Recommended Season: Spring, summer & fall

Facilities: Small parking area and a vault toilet.

Trailhead Access:

From Harrisburg: Take Highway 145 south, 11 miles to Burden Falls Road. Turn west onto Burden Falls Road, go 5 miles and at the 'T' turn right and continue 3.7 miles to Glen Street Falls Road. Turn left (south) onto Glen Street Falls Road; go 2 miles to the Jackson Falls Trailhead.

From Vienna: Take Highway 45 north 12 miles to Ozark Road. Turn east onto Ozark Road and continue 4.5 miles to Glen Street Falls Road. Turn right (south) onto Glen Street Falls Road; go 2 miles to the Jackson Falls Trailhead.

Note: Glen Street Falls Rd. is a winding gravel road that can become washed out after heavy rains and is best suited for high-clearance vehicles.

Safety: Extra caution should be used where the trail is near the bluffs and when traveling on wet slippery rocks. Your safety is your responsibility. Response by emergency personnel can be delayed due to the remoteness of the area.

Outdoor Ethics: Practice Leave No Trace ethics (www.lnt.org). Stay on designated trails. Hikers yield to equestrians. Rare & endangered plants grow along the rock bluffs –Confine rock climbing activities to existing climbing routes to avoid resource damage. Use bolts that are already in place.

Literally in the heart of the Shawnee National Forest, Jackson Falls offers a remote experience in nature even though it is easily accessible by vehicle. Wooded hills, winding trails, and the beauty of the sandstone rocks draw people to the area for a variety of activities including hiking, rock climbing, mushroom hunting, wildlife hunting and nature viewing. During the spring and fall seasons it is not unusual for the area to become congested with vehicles and people. Like all general forest areas, camping is allowed at no charge, but limited to a maximum 14-day continuous stay.

Trail Highlights

A short trail leads from the trailhead through the forest, where the treeline opens as you approach Jackson Falls from above. Waterfalls in this region are seasonal, meaning flow is dependent upon the amount of recent rainfall. Well known for its scenic sandstone bluffs, this area has an extensive trail system. The bottom of the Falls can be accessed via Trail #049; a 3.25 mile hike (roundtrip) from where Trail #049 intersects Glen Street Falls Rd.

Surrounding Area

Bay Creek Wilderness, Burden Falls Wilderness, Bell Smith Springs Recreation Area, Millstone Bluff Archaeological Site, Indian Kitchen State Natural Area, Lusk Creek Wilderness.

Emergencies

The nearest hospital is Harrisburg Medical Center in Harrisburg.

For More Information

Hidden Springs Ranger Station 602 North First Street Vienna, IL 62995 (618) 658-2111 www.fs.usda.gov/shawnee

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