



Biking Adventure

war eagle mill style



Following a hearty breakfast at War Eagle Mill's Bean Palace,

fill your water bottle, grab your sunscreen, and head out for a day of biking in the beauty of War Eagle Valley.

The Hidden Diversity Trail at Hobbs State Park Conservation Area (HSPCA) has two trail access points, the Townsend Ridge Trail Access, just west of the War Eagle turnoff, two miles south of Hwy. 12 on Townsend Ridge Road; and Piney Road Access, just past Hwy. 303, one mile south of Hwy. 12 on Piney Road.

Since mountain biking thrives in a natural environment, this ride fits the bill with mountains, streams, caves, springs, and undisturbed nature. Trails at HSPCA are maintained, in part, by Ozark Offroad Cyclists, who rake, clip, prune, construct crib walls and clear trail surfaces. Maintenance crews at Hobbs State Park Conservation Area provide day-to-day maintenance, including erosion control.

The single-track Hidden Diversity Trail twists through the forest for 22 miles, offering an energetic aerobic workout. Since the trail is a fusion of four loops, you can ride nine miles, six miles, three miles, the entire 22 miles, or any combination. The longest loop, **Little Clifty Creek Loop**, circles Van Winkle Hollow and crosses Little Clifty Creek in two places, one of which has a beaver pond. Six-mile long **War Eagle Loop** can be daunting with its steep challenges, but the reward is fabulous views of the historic War Eagle Valley.

Parking at the Piney Road lot is within one-half mile of access to two three-mile loops.

The Bashore, sometimes spelled Bayshore, **Loop** and the **Dutton Hollow Loop** wind like long strands of spaghetti to the ridges and hollows of Blackburn Creek. There is an easily found spur at the Bashore Loop, which provides access to Beaver Lake.

The looping trails in Hidden Diversity showcase gorgeous views of Beaver Lake before plunging down to cool, shaded hollows filled with oak, pine and hickory trees, limestone bluffs, and an abundance of wildlife. There is plenty of room for everyone in the 12,000-acre park, so even though the trails are shared among hikers, bikers and horseback riders, it is common to feel delightfully alone in the wilderness.

Trail maps are posted at all trail access points.

Hikers and horseback riders do have the right-of-way on the trails, as they are the slower means of travel. No motorized vehicles are allowed on the trails in Hobbs State Park Conservation Area.

Hobbs State Park Conservation Area is 25 miles south of Eureka Springs. Located on the south shore of Beaver Lake, it's an easy 10-mile drive from downtown Rogers on the west, or the same mileage from Hwy. 23, near Clifty, on the east.

