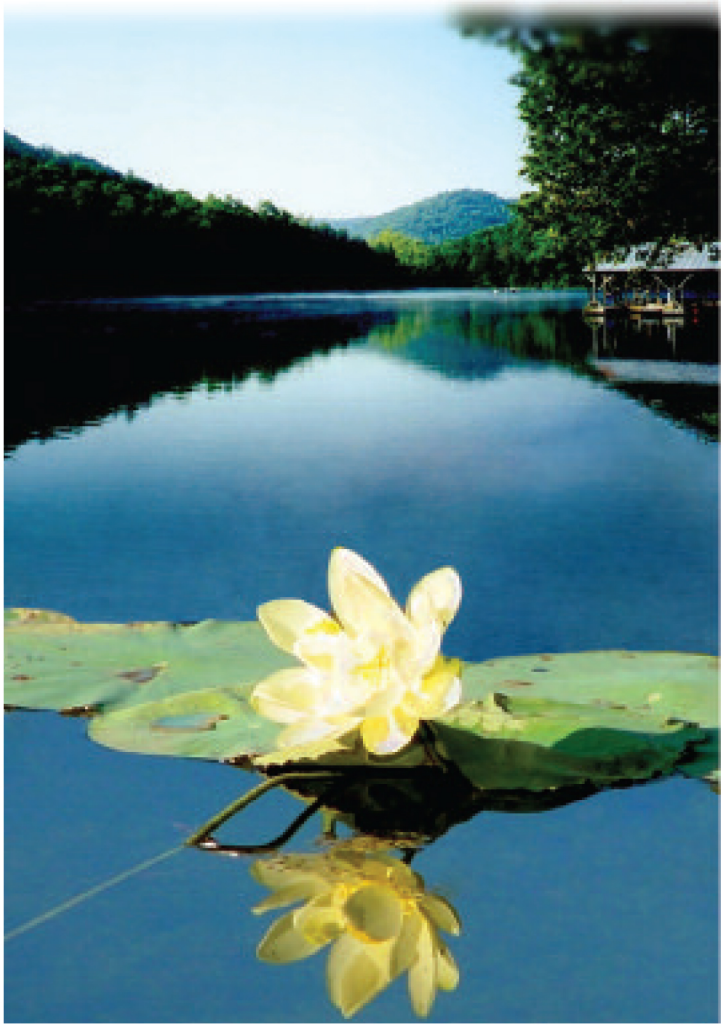




Lake Leatherwood City Park



Lake Leatherwood Diving Platform - Photos by Bob Lawrence

Welcome to Lake Leatherwood. This historic 1600-acre city park is a pristine example of Ozark Mountain countryside. Hardwood forests cover steep hills divided by a narrow 85-acre lake that is continuously recharged by cold spring water.

At the north end of Lake Leatherwood, a hand-cut limestone dam spills millions of gallons of water into a pool far below where white water curls in eddies beside the red rocks of Iron Spring to form a creek that flows across boulders and rocks on its downhill course through the lower valley.

The cut limestone-faced dam, one of America's largest, was built in the 1940s by the Civilian Conservation Corps. Both the dam and the park are listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

On the west side of Lake Leatherwood, the land rises past a small marina to broad level land that provides room for picnic areas, a barbecue shelter house, a playground, volleyball, and a WPA-era bathhouse. The hiking and mountain biking trail begins and ends here.

Treat yourself right. Spend a day enjoying one of America's largest city parks. Lake Leatherwood gives you a lot to choose from.

WILDLIFE

Shooting wildlife with a camera is legal, but be careful; they don't call 'em wild for nothing. Undeveloped areas give shelter to different kinds of park friends, including white-tailed deer, bobcat and wild turkeys. Keep an eye out for our resident ducks and geese. They can get kind of pushy around meal time.

SWIMMING

Bring a lawn chair and a book, catch some rays, and watch the clouds change shapes. We supply a WPA-era diving platform, a sandy bottom swimming area, shady picnic sites, and beautiful views of cattails, water lilies, and rugged Ozark hills.

BOATING

Throttle back and relax. This is a no-wake lake.

A paved boat ramp makes launching your own boat easy.

FISHING

Catch your own supper from the dock, the bank, or a boat: blue gill, crappie, bream, large- and small-mouth bass, and channel catfish. Lake Leatherwood has secluded inlets where you can snag the big ones or nap and tell stories about the one that got away. Those 16 years and older need an Arkansas fishing license.

For more information about Lake Leatherwood or Eureka Springs' other parks and springs, contact us at:

Eureka Springs Parks & Recreation Commission

532 Spring Street

Eureka Springs, Arkansas 72632

(479) 253-2866

esparks@arkansas.net

Reservations direct line: (479) 253-7921



TRAILS FOR EVERYONE

The trails at Lake Leatherwood City Park are designed as low-impact, single-track nature trails for foot and bike traffic. Many rocky ledges, steep slopes, extended grades, creek crossings and varied terrain make most trails challenging for both foot and bike traffic. The trails have been marked with two colors to help with orientation. Be aware that the trails are multi-use and are shared between hikers and bikers. The trails are always busiest on weekends and holidays. Proceed as though you may encounter others around any and every corner.

TRAIL RULES

- * No motorized vehicles or pack stock are allowed on any trail.
- * No glass containers are allowed.
- * All dogs must be on a leash at all times.
- * No fires are permitted along the trails.
- * Leave all natural and manmade objects where they lie
- * Pack it in, Pack it out - "Leave No Trace!"

HIKING LAKE LEATHERWOOD

The following are some suggestions and considerations for using the Lake Leatherwood trails.

- * **Know your limits.**
- * **Carry plenty of water.** The only potable water available is in the day-use area. Never drink the lake water or water from springs or streams.
- * **Beware of biting critters.** You might want to wear insect repellent during the spring and summer months, as ticks, chiggers and other insects are abundant.
- * **Practice low-impact hiking.** Avoid trail use when the trails are extremely wet. Don't create new trails or short cuts. Steer clear of sensitive flora and fauna.
- * **Be aware of natural hazards.** Exercise caution around bluffs, sinkholes and snakes.



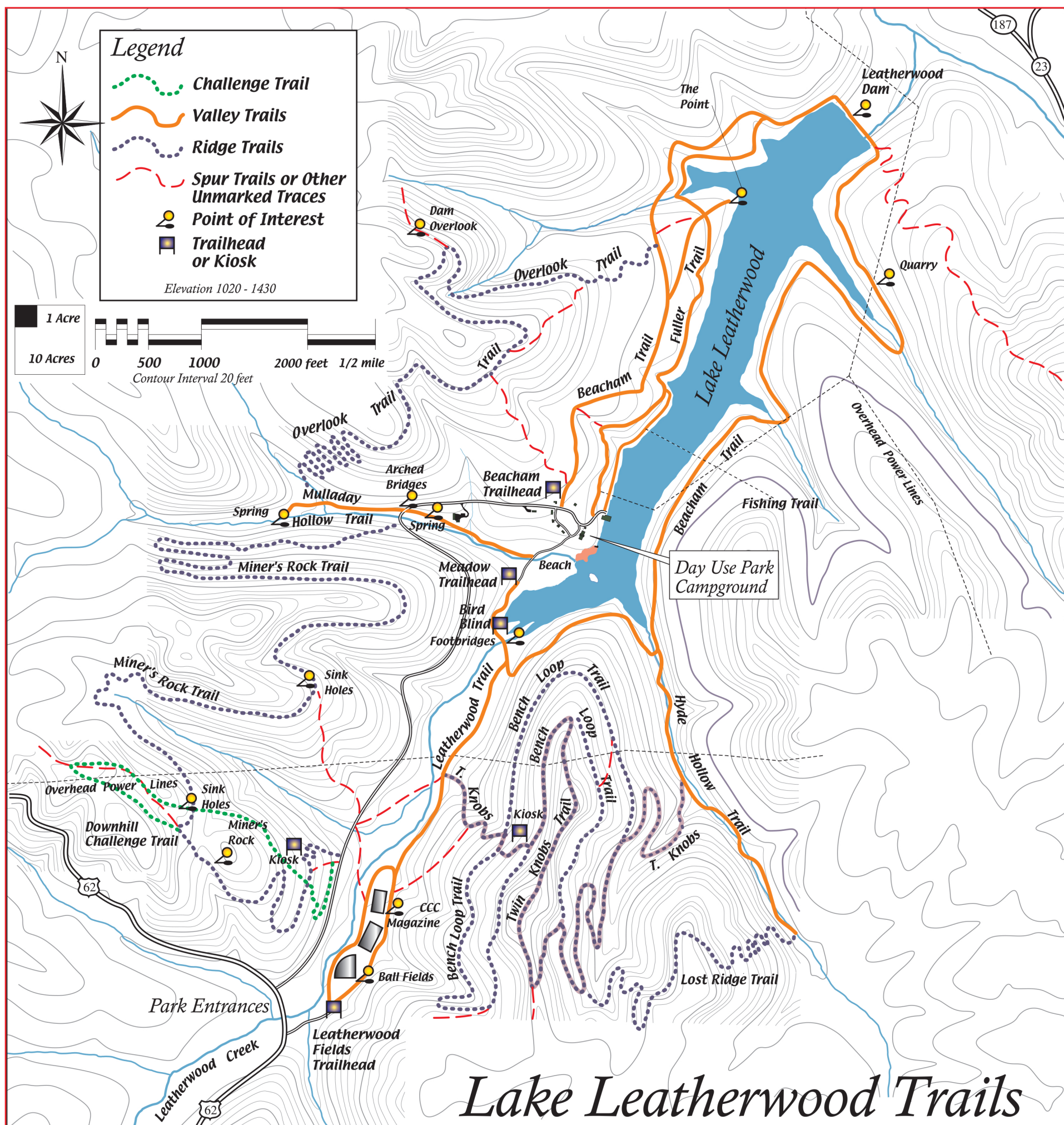
BIKING LAKE LEATHERWOOD



Lake Leatherwood trails offer many opportunities for all levels of cyclists, from flat and easy to mountainous and difficult. The following are the rules of conduct established by the International Mountain Bikers Association.

- * **Ride on open trails only.** Some trails dead end into or lead to private property. Stay on the marked trails.
- * **Leave no trace.** Practice low-impact cycling. Avoid trail use when extremely wet. Pack it in, pack it out.
- * **Control your bike.** Inattention, for even a second, can cause problems for you or another user. Be smart and alert.
- * **Yield the trail.** Don't startle others. Let them know you are approaching. Pass safely and be prepared to stop, if necessary.
- * **Never scare animals.** The park is full of deer and other wildlife. Give animals extra room and time to adjust to you. Keep your head up.
- * **Plan ahead.** Know your equipment, your ability, and the area in which you are riding. Prepare accordingly. Always wear a helmet.

Have fun and be safe!



VALLEY TRAILS

These trails stay on or near the valley floors. They have fewer hills, however contain rugged terrain and more creek crossings.

Beacham Trail

4 mile loop *2 hours*
Beacham Trail circles the lake, passing Leatherwood Dam, the dam quarry and other interesting destinations. Although this trail traverses few extended hills, the varied terrain makes it especially challenging for bicyclists. It begins at either Beacham Trail Head or Meadow Trail Head.

Leatherwood Trail

1 mile *30 minutes*
Leatherwood Trail connects the main park facility with Leatherwood Fields, Eureka Springs' Municipal Ball Park. It is predominantly flat and perfect for the light hiker, runner or beginning cyclist. The trail can be accessed from the Meadow Trail Head or the Leatherwood Fields Trail Head.

Fuller Trail

2 miles *1 hour*
Fuller Trail follows the shoreline of the lake from near the boat ramp to Leatherwood Dam. A short spur leads to The Point, a great picnic spot with a view of the dam. This trail is mostly flat, but has a few tricky rocky areas and stream crossings.

Fishing Trail

Fishing Trail provides lake side fishing from rock ledges and bluffs. Please pack out trash.

Bird Blind

Lake Leatherwood Bird Blind is located in the meadow close to the Beacham Trail entrance. Over 179 bird species have been documented by the State of Arkansas.

Orange Disks

Hyde Hollow Trail

2 miles *1 hour*

This route crosses a tributary creek six times. Lush ground cover and seasonal springs are the highlights of this trail. Slick creek rocks make the trail challenging any time water is present, and during high water, the route can be impassable. The trail can be accessed from Beacham Trail. It is also an access to Twin Knobs Trail.

Mulladay Hollow Trail

1 mile *30 minutes*
This trail is completely flat, allowing an easy stroll or spin. The route passes two springs and several Civilian Conservation Corps stone structures. It is a favorite trail for viewing wildlife and enjoying seasonal flowering plants and trees.

RIDGE TRAILS

These trails follow mountain ridges, are hilly, and take you to the parks' extremities.

Overlook Trail

2.5 mile loop *1.5 hour*
This trail leads to a bluff overlooking Leatherwood Dam. The dam is highly visible only when the leaves have fallen. There is a long climb either way to the dam overlook. Moss-covered bluffs line the ridge. This is a nice loop when combined with Beacham and Mulladav Hollow Trail.

Lost Ridge Trail

One of the newest trails in the park, the trail traverses a bench littered with interesting bluffs including a Pivot Rock formation. If approached from Hyde Hollow the trail climbs 10 switchbacks and 300 feet in elevation.

Miner's Rock Trail

3 miles *1.5 hours*
Once up the long, steep hill, several miles of mildly graded trail meander along benches beneath beautiful rocky bluffs. This trail is a favorite of local mountain bikers, and leads to Miner's Rock, a unique geological formation. You can use the Park road to make a loop.

Twin Knobs Trail

3 miles *1.5 hours*
By far the most physically challenging trail in the park, this trail climbs over 300 vertical feet. It can be accessed from either Leatherwood or Hyde Hollow trails. Views from the "knobs" are great during the winter and early spring. This trail shares routing along the Bench Loop Trail. Use Hyde Hollow and Beacham Trails to create a loop.

Bench Loop Trail

3 mile loop *2 hours*
Bench Loop Trail is located on the same mountain as Twin Knobs Trail. It is comprised of two benches at different elevations that are connected by short grades. The trail passes several rock outcroppings and bluffs. It can be accessed only by ascending the Twin Knobs Trail.

Downhill Challenge Trail

1 mile
The only one-way trail in the park, this trail caters specifically to skilled mountain bikers. Many TTF's (Technical Trail Features) make the trail especially challenging. It is recommended riders use extreme caution and wear appropriate gear when riding this trail.