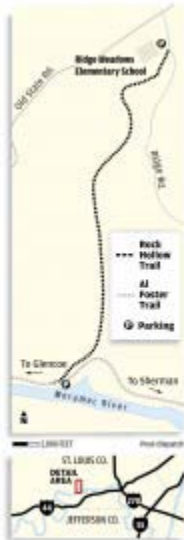


# Rock Hollow Trail

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A box turtle surveys its surroundings before burrowing beneath the leaves at Rock Hollow Trail in Wildwood. (Harry Jackson Jr./P-D)



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Since Rock Hollow Trail officially opened in May 2010, in effect burying Zombie Road as a Halloween hike attraction, the only thing haunting about the trail is its diverse natural appeal.

**Where** • Wildwood. Manchester Road to Old State Road, south to Ridge Road, east a quarter mile to the entrance.

**How long** • 4.6 miles round-trip.

**Surface** • Paved, asphalt, wide.

**Difficulty** • Easy, but it's downhill from the trailhead to the Meramec River and uphill heading back to the entrance.

**Can be used for** • Walking, bicycling.

**User notes** • The trail is a route that was once carved out of the native rock to provide commercial access to a Meramec River crossing. Trees stressed by last summer's heat wave have dropped their leaves more quickly this year. This provides an opportunity to marvel at the other colors that live well into the autumn. Shiny-green ferns, bonsai-size evergreens and trees, red berries on bushes, late-blooming flowers and the diverse brown shades of the forest floor make for brilliant nature art. Also, the bare trees offer an opportunity for birdwatchers to map the number of birds nests, some enormous, to track the species when they return next year. Quick chipmunks, noisy squirrels, box turtles and other small critters play undisturbed close to the trail's edge among the rocks, downed logs and rocky creek beds. About midway, the trail opens into wide flatlands that are haven to wildflowers in the spring. The trail has emergency location markers, benches and more than a dozen short bridges.

**Hours** • The trail is open a half-hour before sunrise to a half-hour after sunset and these times are enforced by Wildwood police.

**Wheelchair accessible** • Yes. But the incline will be challenging.

**Parking** • At the Ridge Road entrance, parking is in the adjacent Ridge Meadows Elementary School parking lot on weekends or after school hours. At the opposite end, find parking where the trail connects with the Al Foster Memorial Trail.

**Facilities** • None, but many are on Manchester Road. Bring your own water.

**Dogs** • Leashed.

**More information** • Wildwood Parks and Recreation, 636-458-0440; or Great Rivers Greenway, at 314-436-7009 or visit [greatrivers.info](http://greatrivers.info).