

Welcome

Take a journey through the 0.5 mile Osage Orange Explorer Trail using this self-guided handout. At the end of your adventure, head back to the welcome center and share your experience with our Interpretive Rangers!

Our Rangers LOVE photos, so snap away! Remember to leave only footprints and take only photos.

Grab your water and hiking boots! It's time to explore!

Trail Rules

- Always have a parent with you.
- Always wear shoes when exploring the creek.
- Always watch the weather. Flash flooding occurs quickly along Beckley Creek.
- Always be kind to other users and share the trail, track box and areas of play.
- Always use your imagination to play, learn and explore!
- Always be safe and have fun!
- Please practice principles of *Leave No Trace*

For your enjoyment:

- Plan ahead
- Stay on the trail
- Carry out what you carry in
- Leave what you find
- Respect wildlife
- Be considerate of other visitors



Nature Hunt

The natural world is full of treasures. Some are hidden; others are in plain sight. Can you find these wonders along the trail? Remember to leave only footprints and take only pictures.

- Hole in a tree
- Thorns on a tree
- Tree roots
- Osage orange fruit
- Moss on a rock
- An orange root
- Needle like leaf
- Bark that peels
- Bark that looks hairy
- Scat (poop)
- Deer track
- Nutshell
- Rotting log
- Tree with two trunks
- Animals/insect home
- Crayfish
- Crunchy leaf
- Two different bird sounds
- Bird flying in the sky
- Wildflower
- Fungus

THE OSAGE ORANGE EXPLORER TRAIL



Play, learn, explore!



Step 1 – Ancient History

Imagine you're the scientist who discovered this tree. Can you create a story about why it has so many BIG and SHARP thorns?

Have an adult help you write your answer:

Step 2 – Storybook Forest

Welcome to enchanted lands where stories come to life!

Can you use natural materials in the area to create a fairy castle? Or maybe you can act out your favorite story under the canopy of Osage Orange Trees!

It's time to let your imagination blossom.

Step 3 – Track Box



Who has visited the area?

Identify one track (or more!) and sketch what you see.

Step 4 – Creek Exploration

Welcome to my home! Take some time to explore where I live, but please be careful to return everything the way you find it.

If you find me, take a picture!

- Crayfish
- Snake
- Fish
- Turtle
- Frog
- Dragonfly nymph



Step 5 – PNC Center

YOU DID IT! You may be finished with this trail, but the adventure isn't over. Ask a ranger about one of our many other trails you can explore!