

CHECK OUT FREE GUIDED HIKES + OUTSIDE FUN! **FIND 80+ LOCAL TRAILS at takeahikekc.org**

Friday, Sept 11
Ready Set GLOW! Nature Walk
7 - 9 pm
Prairie Creek Greenway North TH
13300 Sycamore Drive in Platte City MO
816-858-3419
FREE. Family-friendly half-mile nature walk to the waterfall and back. Conservation stations along the route, with live owls, snakes, opossums + other activities. Please leave dogs at home!
https://platteparks.com/ready-set-glow-nature-walk/

Friday, Sept 11
Stargaze the Blue
7:30 - 10 pm
Alex George Wetland
10633 Blue River Rd in KCMO
816-945-8505
FREE. Register at link below. Join Heartland Conservation Alliance & The Astronomical Society of KC to learn about light pollution and identify stars in the night sky! Register:
tinyurl.com/hcastb26

Saturday, Sept 12
Guided Bison Saunter
10 am - noon
Prairie State Park
128 NW 150th Lane in Mindenmines MO
417-843-6711
FREE. Advance registration required. Participation limited to 30 people - register before it fills! Guided hike through the tallgrass prairie, approximately 2 miles over uneven prairie terrain. Bring water, snacks, sunscreen, insect repellent and binoculars; wear sturdy shoes and a hat. No pets on the trail.
https://mostateparks.com/event/guided-bison-saunter-sep-2026

Saturday, Sept 12
Forest Bathing
4 - 6 pm
Ernie Miller Park
909 N. Highway 7 in Olathe KS
913-826-2800
FREE. Registration required; space is limited; register before it fills! Ages 16+. Park Naturalist leads a slow, meditative forest experience to encourage mindfulness and sensory engagement. Meet at Program Shelter #2. Dress for the weather.
https://jcprd.com/Calendar.aspx?EID=18925&calType=0&day=27&month=9&year=2026

Saturday, Sept 19
Monarch Tagging & Butterflies
2 sessions: 9 am and 11 am
Platte Ridge Park
17130 MO Highway 371 in Platte City MO
888-283-0364
FREE. Registration required; each session limited to 40 participants - register before it fills! Ages 5 - 99. Meet near the pond/shelter house. Join a conservation educator to identify and safely catch butterflies and potentially tag monarchs. Dress for the weather; insect repellent recommended.
https://platteparks.com/monarch-tagging/

Saturday, Sept 19
Hike with a Naturalist
10:30 am - noon
Lakeside Nature Center
4701 E. Gregory Blvd. in KCMO
816-513-8960
FREE. Open to the public; no registration required. Gather outside the main doors. Naturalist-led hike focusing on habitats nearby. Dress for the weather.
https://kcparks.org/event/hike-with-a-naturalist-18/

KC Hiking Season: Fall 2026 Edition

30+ FREE Group Hikes and 80+ FREE Local Trails

Tuesday, Sept 22
Fall Hike on Red Bud Trail
4 pm
Crowder State Park
76 NW Highway 128 in Trenton MO
660-359-6473
FREE. Open to the public; no registration required. Meet at the tennis court. 1.6-mile guided hike. Bring water and insect repellent and wear closed-toe shoes and weather-appropriate clothing.
https://mostateparks.com/event/fall-hike-redbud-trail

Wednesday, Sept 23
Babes in the Woods: Backdoor to Bethany Falls
10 - 11:30 am
Burr Oak Woods Conservation Nature Center
1401 NW Park Road in Blue Springs MO
FREE. Registration required. For children ages 0 - 3 with an adult. Meet at the nature center, then hike out a half-mile on a wide mowed/dirt trail across the prairie; umbrella strollers are not suitable.
https://mdc-event-web.s3licensing.com/Event/EventDetails/220162

Friday, Sept 25
Night Sounds Hike
7:15 - 8:15 pm
Burr Oak Woods Conservation Nature Center
1401 NW Park Road in Blue Springs MO
FREE. Registration required. Adults 18 and older. All-outdoor guided night hike on trails near the nature center. Explore how sensory perception changes after dark. Weather dependent. Space may be limited - register early.
https://mdc-event-web.s3licensing.com/Event/EventDetails/220163

Friday, Sept 25
Full Moon Hike
8 - 9:30 pm
Ernie Miller Nature Center
909 N. Highway 7 in Olathe KS
913-826-2800
COST TO ATTEND. $12 JoCo residents / $13 nonresidents. Advance registration required. Ages 8 and older; children must attend with an adult; all pay fee. Guided hike on non-paved trails after dark. Dress for the weather. Hike takes place even if it is overcast.
https://jcprd.com/Calendar.aspx?EID=18656&calType=0&day=27&month=9&year=2026

Saturday, Sept 26
Urban Hike: Thru-Hike 5 Neighborhoods
8:30 am - 3 pm
Anita B. Gorman Conservation Discovery Center
4750 Troost Ave. in KCMO
FREE. Advance registration required and capacity is limited - register before it fills! Adults 18 and older. Approximately 8-mile, urban thru-hike through Downtown, Westside, Crossroads, Quality Hill and River Market. Uses sidewalks while exploring nature in the city. Exact hike details will be emailed the week before the event. Lunch on your own along the route.
https://mdc-event-web.s3licensing.com/Event/EventDetails/219025

Saturday, Sept 26
Fall Hike on Tall Oaks Trail
9 am
Crowder State Park
76 NW Highway 128 in Trenton MO
660-359-6473
FREE. Open to the public. Meet at the Shelter 3 parking lot. 3.2-mile guided hike. Bring water and insect repellent and wear closed-toe shoes and weather-appropriate clothing.
https://mostateparks.com/basic-page/guided-hikes

Saturday, Sept 26
Full Moon Hike
8 pm
Crowder State Park
76 NW Highway 128 in Trenton MO
660-359-6473
FREE. Open to the public. Meet at Shelter 3. Guided night hike along portions of Tall Oaks Trail, with discussion of nocturnal animal behavior and facts about the moon. Wear sturdy shoes; bring flashlight.
https://mostateparks.com/basic-page/guided-hikes

Thursday, Oct 1
Walk the Loop: Sports Pavilion Lawrence
5:30 pm
Sports Pavilion Lawrence
100 Rock Chalk Lane in Lawrence KS
785-832-3450
FREE. No registration required. Each week explores a different 1 - 3 mile segment of the Lawrence Loop. Walkers can go as far as they wish; no pressure to complete the entire segment. Wear walking shoes!
https://lawrenceks.gov/prc/specialevents/

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Friday, Oct 2
History Hike
10 am
Crowder State Park
76 NW Highway 128 in Trenton MO
660-359-6473
FREE. Open to the public. Meet at the equestrian parking lot on Dove Lane. Guided hike follows the 3.7-mile N. Loop of Thompson River Trail, stopping at Thompson Cemetery and Thompson House to discuss history. At the Thompson House, participants may return to the parking lot independently or complete the loop with park staff. Bring water and wear closed-toe shoes.
https://mostateparks.com/basic-page/guided-hikes

Friday, Oct 2
Beginner Bird Walk
10:30 am - noon
Anita B. Gorman Conservation Discovery Center
4750 Troost Ave. in KCMO
816-759-7300
FREE. Registration required. Ages 8 and older. Guided by a Missouri Master Naturalist / Audubon member. Walk covers sidewalks and mixed natural surfaces on flat terrain while identifying birds. Meet in the lobby. Bring binoculars if you have them!
https://mdc-event-web.s3licensing.com/Event/EventDetails/219796

Saturday, Oct 3
Hike with a Naturalist
10:30 am - noon
Lakeside Nature Center
4701 E. Gregory Blvd. in KCMO
816-513-8960
FREE. Open to the public; no registration required. Gather outside the main doors. Naturalist-led hike focusing on habitats nearby. Dress for the weather.
https://kcparks.org/events/category/nature/2026-10/

Sunday, Oct 4
Walktober: Gillham Park
10 am - noon
Gillham Road & 41st Street in KCMO
816-513-7500
FREE. Walk a paved 1m loop. Parking at 41st & Gillham. Dogs on leashes welcome. First 200 receive a Walktober button. Plein-air artists will paint!
https://kcparks.org/event/walktober-2026-gillham-park/

Tuesday, Oct 6
Fall Hike, S. Loop Thompson River Trail
4 pm
Crowder State Park
76 NW Highway 128 in Trenton MO
660-359-6473
FREE. Open to the public. Meet at the campground amphitheater. 7-mile guided hike. Bring water and insect repellent and wear closed-toe shoes and weather-appropriate clothing.
https://mostateparks.com/basic-page/guided-hikes

Thursday, Oct 8
Walk the Loop: Grace Presbyterian Church
5:30 pm
Grace Presbyterian Church
3312 Calvin Drive in Lawrence, KS
785-832-3450
FREE. No registration required. Part of Lawrence's Walktober series exploring different 1 - 3 mile portions of the Lawrence Loop. Walkers can go as far as they wish. Wear comfortable walking shoes.
https://lawrenceks.gov/prc/specialevents/

Saturday, Oct 10
Fall Hike, N. Loop Thompson River Trail
9 am
Crowder State Park
76 NW Highway 128 in Trenton, MO
660-359-6473
FREE. Open to the public; no registration required. Meet at the equestrian parking lot. 3.8-mile guided hike. Bring water and insect repellent and wear closed-toe shoes and weather-appropriate clothing.
https://mostateparks.com/basic-page/guided-hikes

Saturday, Oct 10
Blue River Discovery Days Festival
9 am - 2 pm
Blue Valley Park
6498 23rd St. in KCMO
816-945-8505
FREE. Family-friendly; please register at link below. Includes guided hikes + birding, kayaking, native-food foraging, other conservation activities. Guided activities are offered during the event and drop-ins are welcome. Bring your own water bottle.
https://www.heartlandconservationalliance.org/blue-river-discovery-days/

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30+ FREE Group Hikes and 80+ FREE Local Trails

Saturday, Oct 10
Smithville Lake Hike
1 - 3 pm
Smoke & Davey Trailhead at Smithville Lake
Smithville MO
816-228-3766
FREE. Registration required. Register soon, before it fills. Ages 7+. Meet a Burr Oak Woods naturalist at the Smoke & Davey Trailhead for a 2-mile loop hike, and learn about local wildlife + benefits of hiking. Partially paved trail of moderate difficulty. Dress for the weather and bring water.
https://mdc-event-web.s3licensing.com/Event/EventDetails/217491

Sunday, Oct 11
Walktober: Kemper Education Center
10 am - noon
8201 S. Jasper Bell Road in Blue Springs MO
816-513-7500
FREE. Walktober outing hosted with Jackson County Parks + Rec. Check in at the Kemper Ed Center. Leashed dogs welcome. First 200 participants receive commemorative Walktober button. Plein-air artists will paint!
https://kcparks.org/event/walktober-kemper/

Wednesday, Oct 14
Park Town Hall Meeting + Guided Hike
1 pm meeting / hike at end of mtg
Clark's Hill/Norton State Historic Site
Osage Hickory St. in Osage City MO
573-449-7402
FREE. Meet in the parking lot from 1 - 2 pm to ask questions + learn about park; guided hike follows immediately after. The short trail follows in the footsteps of the Lewis and Clark Expedition, passing two Native American mounds to an overlook.
https://mostateparks.com/event/public-meeting-and-guided-hike

Thursday, Oct 15
Walk the Loop: Burroughs Creek + Linear Park
5:30 pm
900 E. 15th St. in Lawrence KS
785-832-3450
FREE. No registration required. Part of Lawrence's Walktober series exploring different 1 - 3 mile trail segments. Walkers can go as far as they wish. Wear comfortable walking shoes.
https://lawrenceks.gov/prc/specialevents/

Saturday, Oct 17
Fall Hike, River Forks Trail
9 am
Crowder State Park
76 NW Highway 128 in Trenton, MO
660-359-6473
FREE. Open to the public; no registration required. Meet at the lake parking lot. 2-mile guided hike. Bring water and insect repellent and wear closed-toe shoes and weather-appropriate clothing.
https://mostateparks.com/basic-page/guided-hikes

Saturday, Oct 17
Introduction to Orienteering
9 am - noon
Ernie Miller Nature Center
909 N. Highway 7 in Olathe KS
913-826-2800
COST TO ATTEND. $20 JoCo residents / $22 nonresidents. Registration required. Ages 16+; children ages 10+ may participate with a registered parent/guardian. Possum Trot Orienteering Club instructors teach basic map + compass skills followed by a practice orienteering hike. Workbook and loaner compass provided. Dress for the weather.
https://www.jcprd.com/calendar.aspx

Saturday, Oct 17
Hike with a Naturalist
10:30 am - noon
Lakeside Nature Center
4701 E. Gregory Blvd. in KCMO
816-513-8960
FREE. Open to the public. Gather outside the main doors. Naturalist-led hike focusing on habitats around the center. Dress for the weather. This hike coincides with Lakeside's FREE What's Out at Night wildlife event, 10 am - 2 pm.
https://kcparks.org/event/hike-with-a-naturalist-20/

Sunday, Oct 18
Walktober: With Wyandotte County Parks
10 am - noon
Wyandotte County Park Museum
631 N. 126th St. in Bonner Springs, KS
816-513-7500
FREE. Walktober outing hosted with WyCo Parks.. Check in at the museum. Leashed dogs welcome. First 200 participants receive commemorative Walktober button. Plein-air artists will paint!
https://kcparks.org/event/walktober-2026-dotte/

KC Hiking Season: Fall 2026 Edition

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Thursday, Oct 22
Walk the Loop: Baker Wetlands
5:30 pm
Baker Wetlands Discovery Center
1365 N. 1250 Road in Lawrence KS
785-832-3450
FREE. No registration required. Participants explore a 1 - 3 mile segment starting at Baker Wetlands and may walk as far as they wish. Wear comfortable walking shoes.
https://lawrenceks.gov/prc/specialevents/

Saturday, Oct 24
Fall Hike on Connectors 2 and 3
9 am
Crowder State Park
76 NW Highway 128 in Trenton, MO
660-359-6473
FREE. Open to the public. Meet at the campground amphitheater. 5-mile guided hike on White Connectors 2, 3. Bring water, insect repellent; wear closed-toe shoes and weather-appropriate clothing.
https://mostateparks.com/event/fall-hike-connectors-2-and-3

Sunday, Oct 25
Walktober: Truman Courthouse
10 am - noon
112 W. Lexington Ave. in Independence MO
816-513-7500
FREE. Walktober outing based at the Truman Courthouse. Leashed dogs welcome. First 200 participants receive a commemorative Walktober button. A plein-air Quick Paint competition will also take place along the route.
https://kcparks.org/event/riverfront-heritage/

Saturday, Oct 31
Halloween Event: Storytelling, Night Hike and Crafts
6 - 9 pm; night hike 8 - 9 pm
Crowder State Park
76 NW Highway 128 in Trenton, MO
660-359-6473
FREE. Halloween evening includes storytelling and crafts, followed by a guided night hike from 8 - 9 pm. Check with the park for weather-related changes or additional instructions.
https://mostateparks.com/basic-page/guided-hikes

Friday, Nov 6
Beginner Bird Walk
10:30 am - noon
Anita B. Gorman Conservation Discovery Center
4750 Troost Ave. in KCMO
816-759-7300
FREE. Reg required. Ages 8 and older. Guided by a Missouri Master Naturalist / Audubon member. Walk covers sidewalks and mixed natural surfaces on flat terrain while identifying birds. Meet in the lobby. Bring binoculars if you have them! Registration opens 9/18.
https://mdc-event-web.s3licensing.com/Event/EventDetails/219798

Saturday, Nov 7
Hike with a Naturalist
10:30 am - noon
Lakeside Nature Center
4701 E. Gregory Blvd. in KCMO
816-513-8960
FREE. Open to the public. Gather outside the main doors. Naturalist-led hike focusing on habitats around the center. Dress for the weather!
https://kcparks.org/event/hike-with-a-naturalist-21/

Saturday, Nov 7
Guided Bison Saunter
1 - 3 pm
Prairie State Park
128 NW 150th Lane in Mindenmines MO
417-843-6711
FREE. Advance registration required. Participation limited to 30 people - register before it fills! Guided hike through the tallgrass prairie, approximately 2 miles over uneven prairie terrain. Bring water, snacks, binoculars; wear sturdy shoes. No pets.
https://mostateparks.com/event/guided-bison-saunter-nov-2026

Saturday, Nov 21
Earth Keepers: Nature Hike + Wildlife Programs
10 am - 2 pm
Lakeside Nature Center
4701 E. Gregory Blvd. in KCMO
816-513-8960
FREE. Learn ways to support wildlife and habitat. Scheduled hike as well as indoor activities. Programs include amphibians at 11, Lights Out for Wildlife at noon + broad-winged hawk/migration program at 1.
https://kcparks.org/events/category/nature/2026-11/