

Souris River Bend Equestrian Trails

These trails have been developed and are maintained by volunteers for everyone to enjoy. Please leave them as you found them, remove your garbage and scatter your manure. Due to erosion

please no vehicle traffic on equestrian trails. If you would like to volunteer to help with trail maintenance either physical work or financial assistance or you have any comments or suggestions

please contact:

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Red Trail

13.5 miles – Gregory's Mill Trail

From middle camp (Compton's Valley): Leave camp to the east. Cross river which is stony but firm and usually about 2 feet deep. Follow red and blue markers up steep climb for nearly a mile. There is an alternate easier route, which is not as steep, marked in green. At top you will reach marker for junction of red and blue trails. Turn left (north) and follow red trail. Trail remains on top of valley for nearly a mile and then turns left (west) and descends into valley and turns right (north) for about ½ mile to river.

Cross river and follow bush to the junction of red difficult trail and alternate green easier trail. The red trail climbs very steeply, breast collars are recommended. The view at the top is spectacular. This is called the amphitheatre. Descend down hill to the west, back to the easier trail. Trail follows through forest trails and open meadow and back into the bush. The trail soon starts into the "roller coaster" section, which are sharp little hills that travel up high above the river.

After roller coaster section, trail follows along the river for some distance where there is one of the largest cottonwood trees in Manitoba – it is in the Manitoba Archives. The trail comes to the old mill run which is a ditch dug by horses nearly a century ago to run water to a grist mill to grind flour (Gregory's Mill). Follow the mill run for nearly a mile and cross a small creek. Continue to follow the mill run until the trail turns sharp to the left (west). Gregory's Mill is directly across the fence (north) near the trail. The old foundation is still there.

Follow the trail back to the south for a short distance and cross the creek again. Trail goes in the bush and gradually climbs up out of the valley. At top, the trail takes a sharp turn to the left (east) and goes down a ravine. Trail curves around in the ravine and then goes up a climb back up to the top. At the top it follows the edge of the valley with another spectacular view. Shortly it comes to an open field and North Camp. Trail follows the edge of valley for about ½ mile and then descends a very steep hill into a narrow ravine.

Follow ravine up to a fence line. Follow the fence line a short distance and turn left (south) into bush trail. The trail goes south a short distance and turns right (west). Trail goes west approximately 1 mile and then turns sharp to left (south). Trail travels south another mile and then descends another steep ravine and comes out to the river in about a mile. The trail follows along the riverbank for some distance.

The trail will then cross the river again at the same crossing as on the "OUT" (meaning out from base camp) trail. Follow "IN" (meaning into base camp) trail back to the first river crossing back to middle camp.

Blue Trail

6.5 miles – Lang's Crossing Trail

Leave middle camp the same way as the red trail and follow the common red/blue trail to the top of hill. Turn to the right (south) on blue trail. Trail meanders between bush and open hay fields with lots of great views back down to the river and camp. Follow trail approximately 2.5 miles to the south and then down a steep hill and back up to a hayfield. Cross hayfield to the southwest and follow along the edge of bush and then down to river. Cross the river.

After crossing the river the trail goes through bush back onto a two track trail. Stay on two track trail back to the right (west and north). Go up the hill and join up with common purple trail. Trail goes into the bush along the top of valley. Pass the junction of where purple trail goes down into valley. At junction of purple "out" trail and blue "in" trail turn right (east) and go down the "Elk Trail", a narrow section of twisty single track. At bottom, the trail comes out onto a two track trail which goes along the river to the hayfield. Follow around the hayfield to the middle camp.

Purple Trail

4 miles – Spring Hill Trail

Leave middle camp to the south around hayfield. Once around the field the trail turns right (west) into bush and up the hill. The hill is steep and passes beside a spring, which is a watering spot for wildlife. At top of hill the trail turns to the left (south). Follow trail to junction of blue "in" trail and purple "out" trail. At junction turn right (west).

Follow trail out to PR346 gravel road and then turn to the left back up the hill. Follow two track back to the junction of blue trail. Follow common blue/purple trail to the left (north). The purple trail soon splits to the right (east) and descends into valley. At bottom turn left (north) along grassy trail. After short distance trail turns left backup the hill and soon joins up with blue in trail and returns to middle camp.

Be Aware

Please exercise caution, there are very steep hills to climb and river conditions can vary. There are alternate routes (marked in green) around some of the steep climbs. The use of a breast collar on your horse is recommended. The river crossing can sometimes, especially early in the season, be too deep to cross, again exercise caution.