

found it very low. The majority of mature trees are locust and osage orange, although pines, autumn olive, honeysuckle, oak and walnut trees have been planted. Many wildflowers are found on the hillsides and along the creek. Dove, quail, and songbirds familiar to the area may be observed. The fox squirrel and rabbit are plentiful and deer and turkey are frequently seen. In the evening you can watch the bats feeding high above the camping areas.

From camp, there are two trails to choose from. We started with the one that goes south with several loops and connectors. The trail crosses under Highway 101 along Williams Creek. Exploring these trails went quickly, but we did take a break to enjoy the rest area provided.

Most of the trails are on the north side of the highway and were fun to explore. After riding north for awhile we turned east and eventually discovered a cabin that had recently been built to overlook the trail. It too was a nice place for a break. Several trails converge at the cabin, which makes exploring more fun. We continued east and eventually the trail turned south where we came to a small covered bridge. While we were not allowed to cross the bridge, it makes for an interesting conversation piece. The trail eventually passes close to more modern restrooms near the non-equestrian campgrounds.

On our second day of exploring we headed north into a myriad of looping trails. We came across a very nice picnic area, a handicapped hunting area, and a nice little pond. We also passed the cabin a couple times as the trails looped around and around some more. Maps and a GPS receiver are very valuable while riding the Weinberg-King trails!

When we ride trails we are always looking for trash. We didn't find very much at Weinberg-King, which is great. However, we did find one unusual item that we had never come across in the many years we have been riding. How many times have you come across a saddle blanket? We are still scratching our heads on how you can lose a blanket and not notice it.

Like most parks, the actions of nature can result in closed roads, trails and other facilities. It is wise to contact the park office before you make your trip, at P.O. Box 203, Augusta, IL 62311, 217-392-2345. For more information on tourism in Illinois, call the Illinois Department of Economic Opportunity, Bureau of Tourism at 1-800-2Connect.

We didn't try it, but fishing is popular in Williams Creek, which contains bluegill, bullhead, channel catfish, and smallmouth bass for bank fishermen. There are three ponds that are also available for fishing. One

of those ponds is adjacent to the equestrian camping area.

A word of caution. Most of the Fish & Wildlife Area is available for upland game hunting in season. If you visit the park during the open seasons, please wear blaze orange to make yourself visible.

The Illinois DNR says in their brochure "We hope you enjoy your stay. Remember, take only memories, leave only footprints". We support this thought and hope you do too.

