

Points of Interest along the Trail:

1. On your right, as you begin your hike, a creek that empties into **Trapper Lake**. Notice the old beaver dams built years ago. The dams were built to include several distinct features of this type of habitat: small pools control erosion and offer a quick shelter for protection. They also store food (small limbs) for future use by the beaver, especially in the winter.
2. The watershed pond, located at the back of the trail is man-made. Water from high points on the surrounding ridges runs into this depression. The water collects, and is unable to sink through the soils to the groundwater below because of the clay-like soils in the pond. The pond is representative of what a beaver can turn a creek into if a dam was built. The pond is home to many animals including frogs, fish, turtles, snakes, and insects. Mammals and birds use the pond as a water supply. **Please stay off the South bank of the pond. It is fragile and collapsing due to erosion. This area is closed to visitors, and considered very dangerous!**
3. In several locations along this trail, you may notice a tree with long thorns growing along its trunk and branches. This is a **Honey Locust**. The thorns are defense against predators. What would eat this tree? The sap, inner wood layers, and seed pods have a sweet taste, causing the tree to be a favorite food to beavers, deer, and other animals. **We ask that you not break any spikes off these trees because that would expose them to predation and eventual death.**
4. Arkansas is home to many types of animals. When walking our trails, you'll have the chance to see **deer, turkey, squirrel, fox,**

snakes, turtles, and more! The forest is important to animals in that it provides shelter and food. **Squirrel, bird, bear, bobcat, deer, and others** use the trees for shelter, food, or camouflage from predators. **Foxes, ground-hogs, and chipmunks** dig underneath the earth to create their homes. These animals use their homes to protect themselves and their young from predators and the weather.

5. Just before the **“L” bridge**, notice the small trail that crosses **Trapper Lake Trail**. Beaver created this trail as an entrance into the lake. When the beaver gather plants on this side of the lake, they drag the branches down this trail, and store them under the water at the end of the trail. The path is kept muddy, creating a slide for the beavers for a quick get-away when they are threatened on land. The branches create a habitat for bass and other fish, providing shelter and food in the branches' leaves.

6. Trapper Lake is home to many fish, including **catfish, smallmouth and largemouth bass, crappie.**

Amphibians, including **bullfrogs, spring peepers, and green treefrogs**, are animals that spend one stage of their life living in water, and the second stage on land. Frogs begin their lives as tadpoles, living and breathing in the water of the lake. Once they mature and form legs, frogs leave the water to live on land. Amphibians need to live, and can always be found, around a source of water. Their skin needs to stay moist because it helps them breathe. Oxygen travels across the cells of their skin and into their bloodstream. It flows across the skin and into the muscles cells underneath, reducing the need for a complex internal circulatory system.

7. Many snakes and reptiles can be found around Trapper Lake. Most commonly are the **water moccasin or cottonmouth, banded watersnake, and copperhead**. It is important to identify any snake seen because the cottonmouth is sometimes mistaken for a nonpoisonous water snake. Their behavior often gives them away. Cottonmouths will stand their ground and open their cotton-white mouths or move slowly off when threatened; watersnakes will quickly flee into the water. ***If a snake is found on the trail, please do not approach or threaten it!***

Trapper Lake is also home to turtles, including the **alligator snapper, box, and sliders**. The alligator snapping turtle possesses a tongue that looks like a worm. It will sit on the bottom of a lake or pond with its mouth open, waving its tongue to entice fish. As a fish swims to investigate the waving appendage, the turtle will snap its mouth shut, catching its meal! You can often see these turtles sunning themselves on logs in the middle of the lake.

Notice: To preserve scenic beauty and ecology, fences and warning signs have not been installed in some park location. Caution and supervision of your children are required while visiting these areas.



Old Davidsonville State Park
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Trail Regulations:

- * Removal or destruction of plants, rocks, or animals is not permitted.
- * Littering on trails is unlawful.
- * Camping or campfires are not permitted on trails.
- * Horses are not permitted on the park's trails
- * Motorized vehicles and bicycles are restricted to marked roads due to the causation of erosion.



**Old Davidsonville
State Park**

Trapper Lake Trail

Trapper Lake Trail

Introduction

Old Davidsonville State Park was created to preserve the townsite of Davidsonville, one of the first pioneer towns with a post office, courthouse, and Federal Land office, in what would become the state of Arkansas. The frontier town was very active culturally and politically from 1815 to 1830. When the town developed in 1815, the land now called Arkansas was part of Missouri territory. Davidsonville was named the first county seat of **Lawrence County** in 1815 and continued to be until the land became part of the Arkansas Territory in 1819. The town flourished until 1826 or 1827, when its decline began. The transferring of the courthouse northwest to Jackson, Arkansas in 1829 completed the town's desertion.

Old Davidsonville State Park contains four trails for visitors to enjoy: **Black River Trail, Trapper Lake Trail, Scott Cemetery Trail, and the Historic Townsite Trail.** As you walk along these trails, think back to early Arkansas when the natural world played such a vital role in ones survival for food, clothing, and shelter. As you walk the **Historic Townsite Trail**, read the *Davidsonville Discovered brochure* and the twelve wayside markers for a more detailed look into the lives and times of Davidsonville, Arkansas.

Trapper Lake Trail meanders around the 12-acre lake built in 1980 for fishing and wildlife viewing. The trail, marked with blue blazes, is a one-mile, dirt path that

takes around 45 minutes to complete. From the **Visitor Center**, the trail leads to the day-use parking lot and down the hill to the north across the lake's feeder stream. The trail then follows the shoreline. An intersection at the dam allows you to

cross the dam to return to the trailhead, or to continue on for a longer woodland hike along the **Black River Trail**. After crossing the dam, the trail follows the park road to the *barrier free fishing pier* and continues along the lakeshore to the

trailhead at the day-use parking lot.

