

The Loder Point Nature Trail is 2.1 miles in length and is situated in gently sloping terrain. The trailhead is located Northwest of the Showerhouse in Venango Park.

Use this brochure while walking the trail, which has numbered posts at various spots. Match the numbers on the trail posts with the numbers in this brochure to find out more about these plants. The map on the second page will show the locations of the stops and their numbers. **Please refrain from touching or disturbing plants, animals or the marker posts.**

Sections of the trail are near campsites so please be courteous to other recreationists and respect their privacy. Other sections follow along park roads so remember to walk along the left side of the roadways, facing oncoming traffic and stepping off the roadway when vehicles approach.

Rules and Regulations

-  **Walking is permitted on the trail only**
- No Motorized Vehicles
-  **Trail is open only during daylight hours**
-  **All Corps of Engineers regulations apply on the trail**



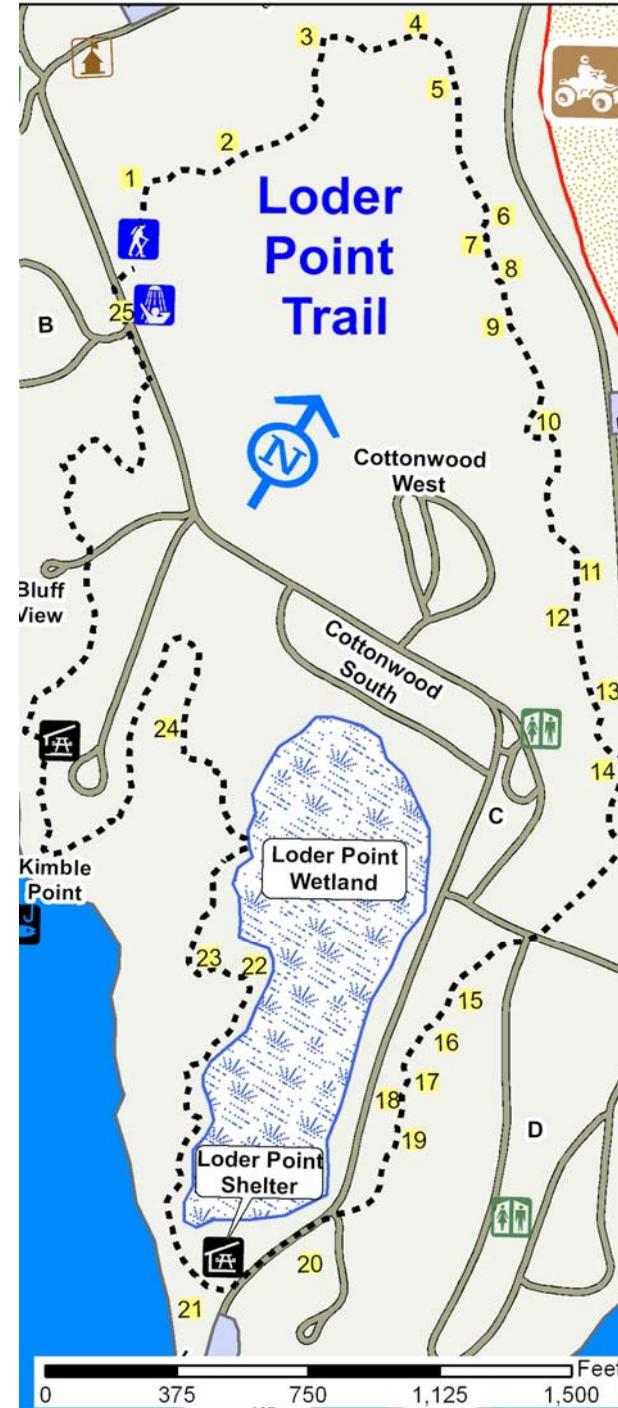
**US Army Corps
of Engineers**
Kansas City District

Loder Point Nature Trail

Interpretive Reference Guide and Map



U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Kanopolis Lake, Kansas



Posted Stops along the Loder Point Trail

- 1. Aromatic Sumac**
Also called “Stinking Sumac” or “Skunk Bush”. Birds and wood rats like to build nests in it. During the winter, wood rats, rabbits and mice eat the bark of this bush .
- 2. Smooth Sumac**
This plant grows up to 10 feet tall. The seeds are red in color. The leaves of this plant contain 13-21 leaflets and often turn a bright red in autumn. It’s name is derived from “shoe-make”, referring to the tannic acid in the plants that was once used to tan leather shoes. Some claim it’s sour fruits can be crushed and made into a lemonade-like drink.

3. Common Mullein



This plant has a wooly feel to it with a bunch of tightly packed yellow flowers at the top. It can be found in fields, and along roadsides. Native Americans used the leaves of this plant to line their moccasins to stay warm. A tea was made from the leaves as well, and the flowers and roots were used to treat ailments such as earaches.

4. Poison Ivy

Poison Ivy is distinguishable by its three leaflets. Watch out because this plant is poisonous like the name indicates. If you touch the plant the oil from the leaves can cause inflammation, itching, and blistering.

5. **Prickly Pear**

The fruit of prickly pears, called "tuna", is edible, but it has to be peeled carefully to remove the "prickles from the pear". It is often used to make candies, jelly and a refreshing drink. Research is also being conducted to determine the benefits of using parts of this plant to treat diabetes and high cholesterol.

6. **Osage-orange (Hedge-apple)**

Widely planted in shelterbelts, it is often a very thorny tree. The seeds inside the fruit are a favorite food of squirrels. Turkeys will also pick and scratch open the fruit for the seed. "Bois d'arc" is a French name referring to the use of the wood by Indians for making bows.

7. **Eastern Cottonwood**

This large tree reaches heights of 60-100 feet and a diameter of 4-6 feet. It is shade intolerant, which means it's found growing in places with large amounts of sun. Open areas around the shoreline of Kanopolis Lake are full of small cottonwoods and other shade intolerant species like the Black Willow.

8. **Box Elder**

This plant's latin name means "obscure maple." It is native along Kansas streams and was also commonly planted around farmsteads. It is a rapid growing tree but like other maples, is easily damaged by storms.

9. **Eastern Redcedar**

A small to medium sized tree reaching heights of 30-40 feet and a width of 1-2 feet. Some people use this tree on holidays for decoration. It is adapted to a variety of sites but typical on poor, dry soils. Examine a Kansas prairie and often many of these junipers (not a *real* cedar) will be present.

10. **Roughleaf Dogwood**

A favorite food of the whitetail deer, this plant can be found as a shrub or a small tree, rarely reaching 40 feet in height. It is commonly found in moist areas. Roadside ditches are also good spots to see this tree.

11. **Buckbrush (Coralberry)**

A shrub occurring on dry soil along streams, in woods, field edges and prairies. Fruit is clustered, remaining in winter and is coral-red to purple in color. The fruit is preferred by many birds, including Bobwhite quail.

12. **Sandhill Plum (Chickasaw Plum)**

An excellent plant for stopping wind erosion, this plant is common in the sandy pastures of western Kansas. Fruits can be used for jelly but like most wild plums, are often wormy.

13. **Honeylocust**

A medium size tree reaching heights of 50-75 feet and a width of 2-3 feet. **WATCH OUT!** The thorns on this tree are dangerous. Thorns can reach 8 inches long so a thornless variety has been developed for landscaping purposes. The seed pods of this tree are a favorite food of whitetail deer during harsh winter months.

14. **Spikerush**

Spikerush is a perennial rhizomatous plant, common in wet meadows, seeps, lake shores, springs, and wetland environments. It can be used for erosion control due to the rapid spread of rhizomes which create a thick root mass, resistant to compaction and erosion.

15. **Hackberry**

Hackberrys are unusual in many respects. The bark is often very "gnarly" and rough. This tree will also commonly get the disease

"witches broom", which forms small, dense clusters of deformed twigs along the branches

16. **Cheatgrass**

A common weed of heavily grazed rangelands, pastures and disturbed sites. Provides forage for some species in winter and early spring and is palatable to cattle at those times. Irritating to hikers as seeds commonly poke through socks and are quite uncomfortable. Plant introduced from Asia as packing material for chinaware.

17. **Smooth Brome**

Widely planted for cover, pasture grazing, and hay. It is also planted to prevent soil erosion. It is a sod-forming grass that reproduces by seed and creeping rhizomes.

18. **Peach-leaved Willow**

This tree grows along streams, lakes, ponds, and in pasture sloughs. It is the most common large willow in the western part of the state. Their trunks often lean and the main branches turn upward as the smaller branches droop. Its root system is extensive and is an effective soil stabilizer.

19. **Buttonbush**

Common shrub around ponds, streams or lakes so red-winged blackbirds commonly nest in them. One of its main values is the protection of lakeshores from wave action.

20. **American Elm**

The most common native elm in Kansas. Highly favored as a shade tree due to its wide spreading crown, but it's seldom used anymore due to its high susceptibility to "Dutch Elm Disease"-named after Holland scientists who identified the disease. Some

claim the cooling effect of one mature elm is the same as five air conditioning units. Can reach 115' tall and a trunk diameter of 10'.

21. **Red Mulberry**

Many birds and mammals eat the fruits or build their nests in this tree. Leaves are variable and can have lobed or entire leaf margins. Grows along streams, on rocky hillsides and is often planted in shelterbelts.

22. **Switchgrass**

This native grass reaches a height of 3-6 feet. Switchgrass is a perennial grass and likes a warm climate. It is a good grazing plant for livestock. It's also has potential to be used in the production of bio-diesel fuels.

23. **Riverbank Grape**

Commonly a high-climbing vine. It's the most common grape in Kansas. Most often found along river banks or riparian areas, as the name suggests.



24. **Yucca (Soapweed)**

Common in western Kansas in dry, sandy or rocky pastures. Soak roots in water and lather them up as a soap substitute. Important shrub in the control of erosion since it breaks the surface wind, causing sand to swirl instead of blowing straight across the landscape.

25. **Austrian Pine**

Although this is a common landscape tree in Kansas it is not native to Kansas, nor is any other tree in the pine family. Its needles are virtually always in groups of two and its "armed" cones are usually 2 to 3 inches long.