



Beaver Dam Trail



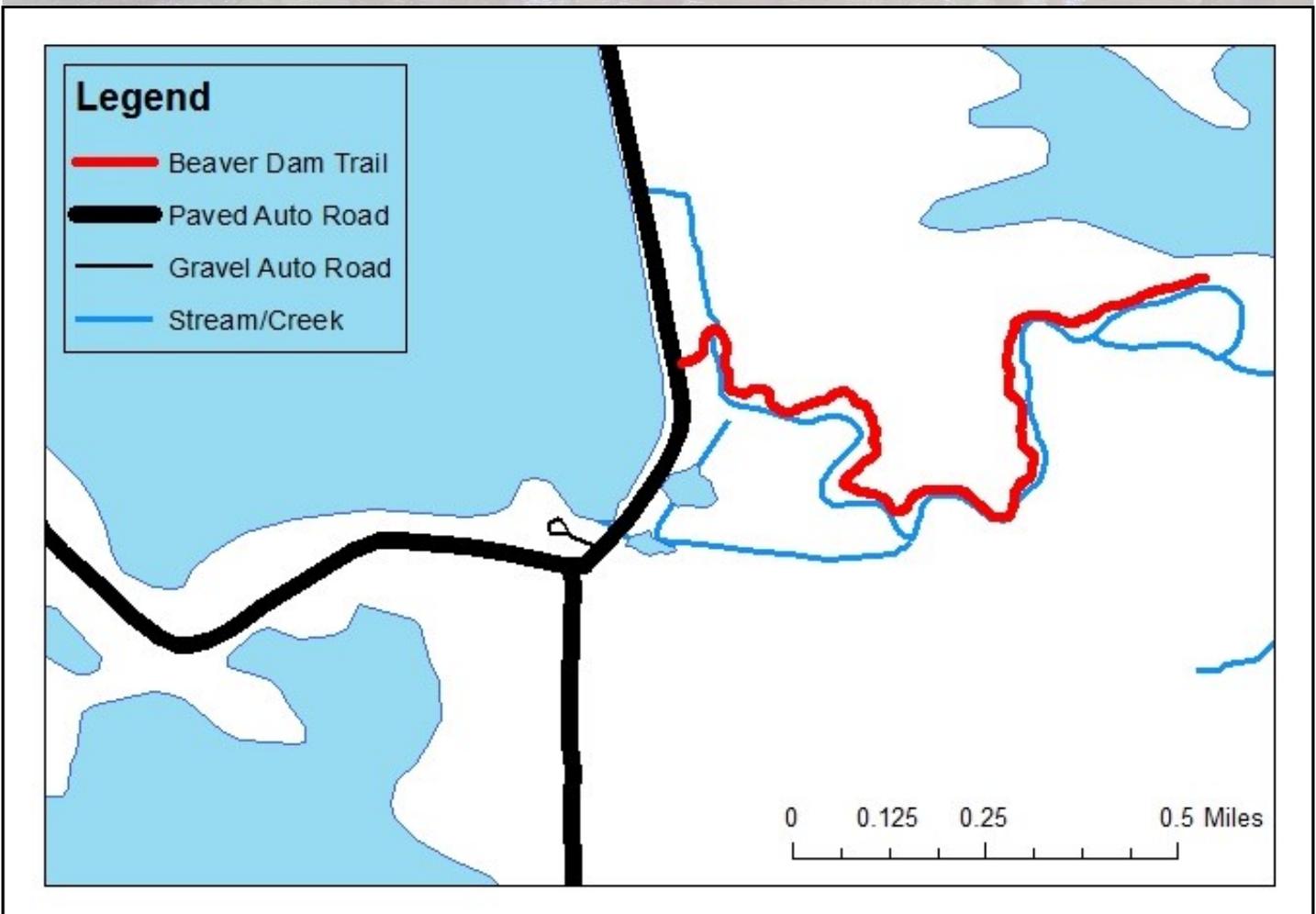
Trailhead: From Visitor Center, turn left. When the road splits, keep left. After you cross over the two bridges you will find a paved pull-off on the left and a trailhead sign on the right.

Distance: 2 miles

Difficulty: Easy (with a small set of stairs at the beginning)

Description: This trail winds through bottomland hardwood forest, while following the bank of Oktoc Creek.

Note: The end of the trail is marked by a sign reading “End of Trail”, turn around here and retrace your steps to return to the trailhead. This trail frequently floods in winter and spring, and following heavy rainfalls.





Notice the open understory of the forest near the beginning of the trail. Refuge staff and volunteers have been working to remove Golden Bamboo. If left uncontrolled, this invasive, non-native species crowds out native plants that are important to native wildlife species.



Urushiol, found in the sap of poison ivy plants, can cause an itchy rash if any part of the plant comes in contact with your skin. While many people view this plant as a nuisance, its white berries actually provide an important food source to some birds, such as the Northern Flicker.



Bald Cypress is a deciduous conifer commonly found along rivers, sloughs, and lakes in the southern United States. Valued for its water resistance, cypress were heavily logged during European settlement. Several of the trees along Oktoc Creek appear to have been left untouched by that logging activity.

Loblolly Pines were planted throughout the refuge in the 1930's in an effort to reforest an eroded agricultural landscape. But, Loblolly naturally grow in lowland areas; keep an eye out for large pines along the creek, some of the largest Loblolly Pines in Mississippi are found here on the refuge!



Crawfish are freshwater crustaceans that resemble small lobsters. The "crawfish castles" as some call these mud mounds, lead to the animal's burrow. These mounds are commonly seen along this trail.



Some people value nature for its beauty, others for its utility, and others for its wildness. What is it that you love about nature? What brings you here?

