

SHAWNEE TRAIL

10.35-Miles Forward, 10.35-Miles Reverse
20.7-Miles Total

Rated for: Scouts and Venturers

Historical Note

The Shawnee Trail, named after the St. Louis Area Order of the Arrow Lodge, was developed to be a 20 mile hiking trail mostly in the woods, so it can be hiked in the warmer weather when the days are longer and not have to shuttle cars. It is all 10% or less slope except for about 0.3 mile down in the last mile, and an occasional detour around a tree fall.

Beaumont Reservation consists of about 3 and 3/4 square miles that are part of the more than 18 and 3/4 square miles of land that was known as the Rankin Tract. Tom and David Rankin who were land speculators owned it. The Wallachs farmed the camporee areas, Cub World, and other fields in the area. Many of the Wallach men had William as a first name. The one that farmed the area around Beaumont was known as Antire Bill. He died in 1954.

Legend has it that Beaumont cub area was a one-day wagon trip from St. Louis and wagon trains going west from St. Louis spent the night there.

In the 1920's, the road from St. Louis to the Beaumont area was a gravel road. In the 1930's, US highway 66 was rerouted from Manchester Road to a newly constructed concrete highway along this route. There was no development along the highway for about 5 miles through the Rankin Tract. The ranger's house north of the road at the entrance to Beaumont was the Lodge of the Webster Groves Nature Study Society. The cave now known as Mud Cave was formerly called Lesser Rankin Cave.

In the early 1930's, the Scoutmaster of Troop 126 had the choice of having what is now Cub Area or a valley in what is now Rockwood Reservation for a troop camping area. He spent about one half hour at what is now the Cub Area and saw about 20 Copperhead Snakes. There were none at the Rockwood area, so that is where they had their camp.

The north side of Highway 44 had many vacation cottages and cabins especially on the hills near the Meramec River. This was known as Crescent Hills. When World War II came about, the U.S. Government took over the land north of the highway for storage of ammunition. Many of the bunkers are still there. After World War II, the St. Louis Council of the Boy Scouts acquired the Beaumont area and the north side of the highway became Lone Elk County Park, Tyson Research Center, and West Tyson County Park. US highway 66 was upgraded to Interstate specifications and renamed I-44.

Beaumont Scout Reservation Greater St. Louis Area Council

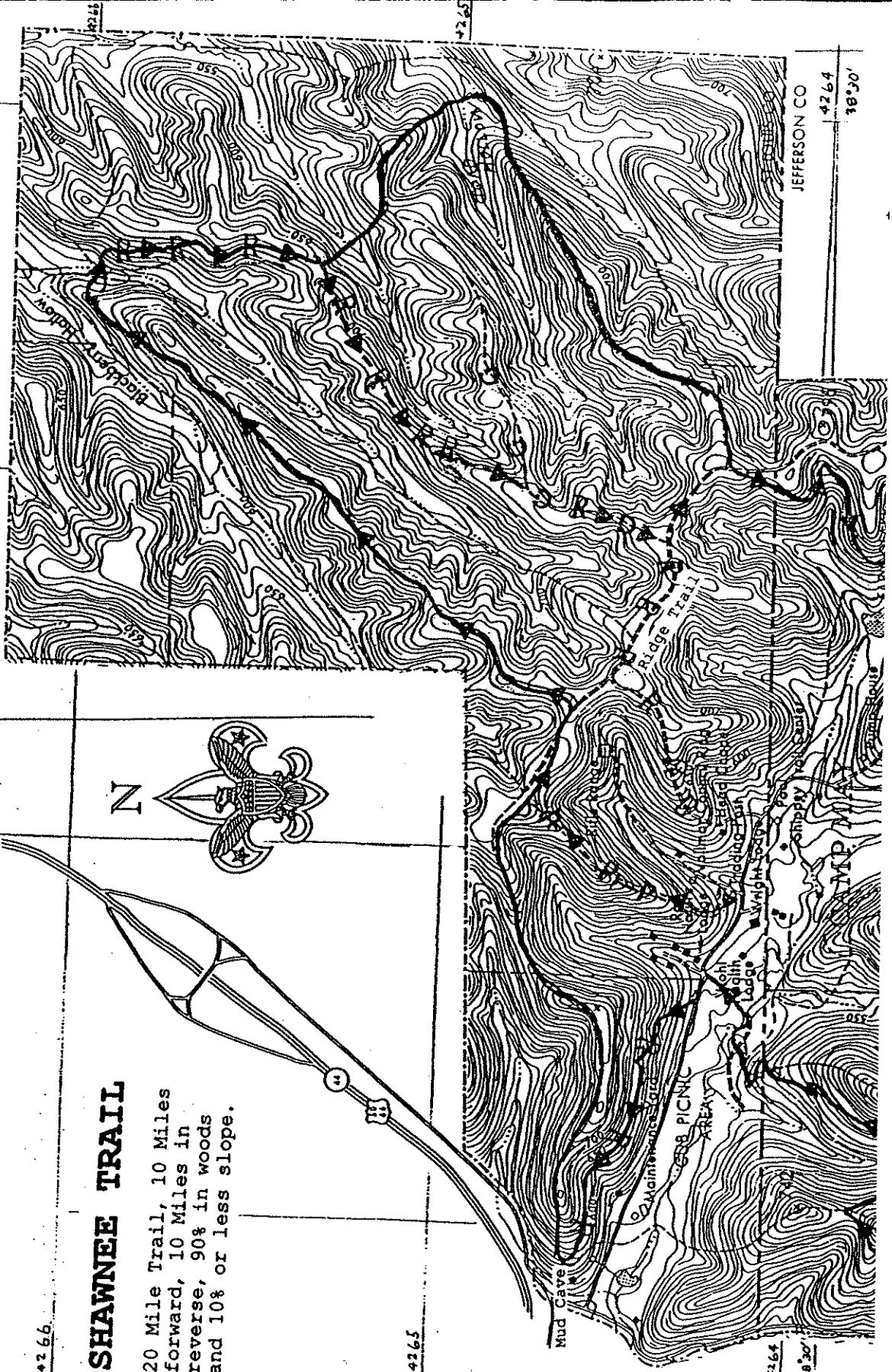
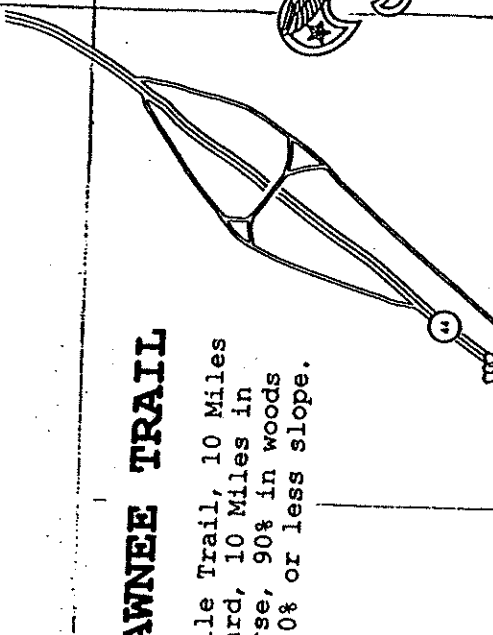
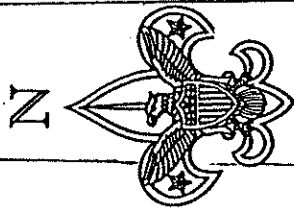
38°31'15"

4266

SHAWNEE TRAIL

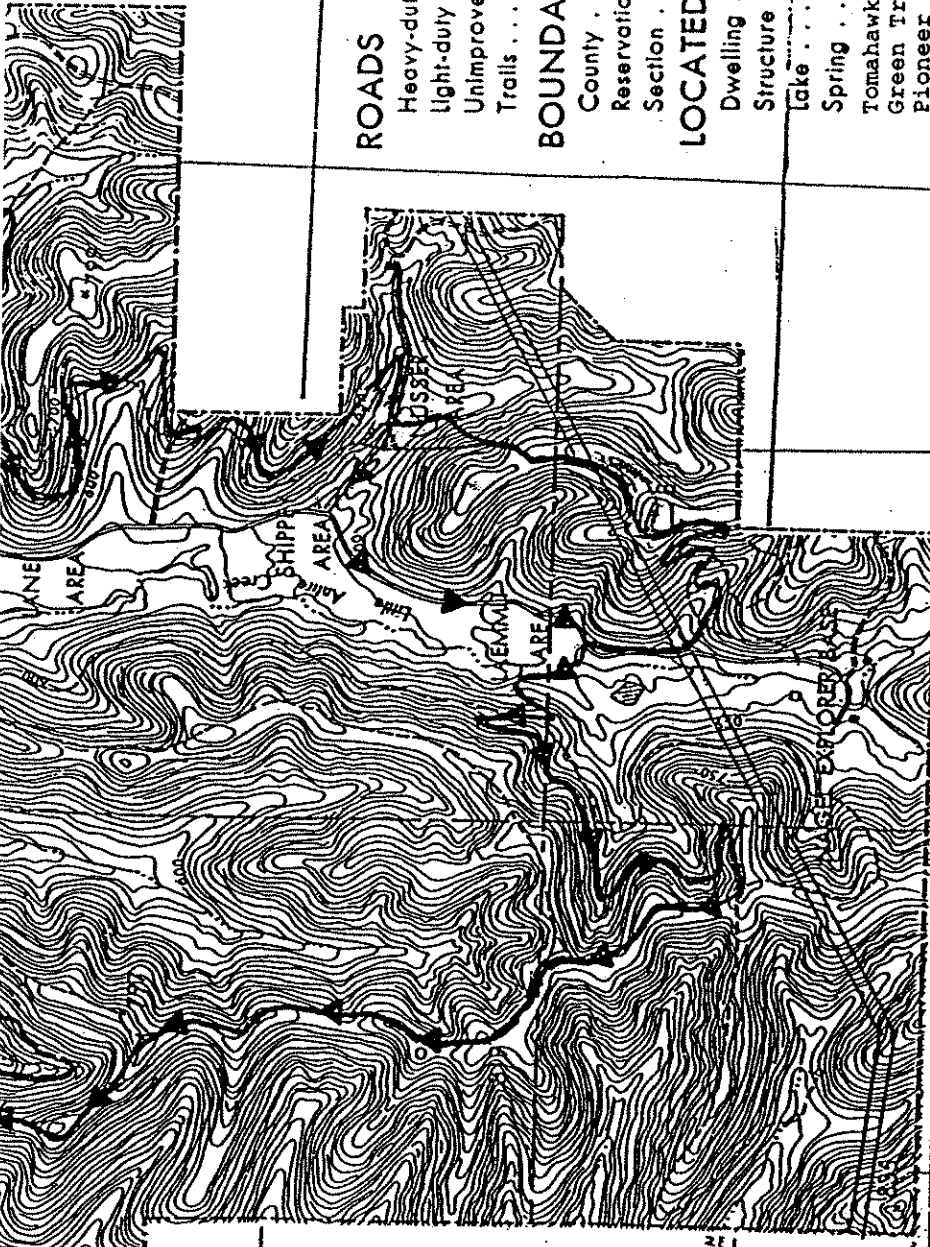
20 Mile Trail, 10 Miles forward, 10 Miles in reverse, 90% in woods and 10% or less slope.

4265



1:31" 27 MILS
5" 89 MILS

UTM GRID AND 1968 MAGNETIC NORTH
DECLINATION AT CENTER OF SHEET



LEGEND

- ROADS**
- Heavy-duty
 - light-duty
 - Unimproved dirt
 - Trails

BOUNDARIES

- County
- Reservation
- Section

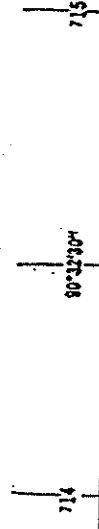
LOCATED OBJECTS

- Dwelling
- Structure
- lake
- Spring
- Tomahawk Trail
- Green Trail
- Pioneer Trace
- Red Trail
- Shawnee Trail

SCALE 1:15,840 (1 inch = 1/4 mile)



CONTOUR INTERVAL TO FEET



4263

4262

38°28'45"

713000±E

714

80°32'30"

715

716

80°31'15"

SHAWNEE TRAIL DESCRIPTION

The Shawnee Trail starts behind the Trading Post on the rock road up to the Ridge Trail. It is the reverse direction of the Pioneer Trace, which in 2004 was marked in both directions with 2"x 6" painted blazes which were supposed to be orange but are almost red.

Just before reaching the Ridge Trail, the Tomahawk Trail (white 2" x 6" painted blazes in the forward direction and 2" x 2" blazes in the reverse direction) crosses the road heading east. Follow the Tomahawk Trail about 300 yards east to the ridge going northeast toward Blackberry Hollow. Follow the Tomahawk Trail until it joins the Red Trail. Follow the Red Trail in the forward direction past where the Tomahawk Trail turns to the southeast toward Toad Hollow and joins the Green Trail in the reverse direction past the High Ropes Course to the Ridge Trail.

The Shawnee Trail turns left (east) on the Ridge Trail to where the Tomahawk Trail again crosses the Ridge Trail. There is a yellow and black metal sign up on a tree at this point. Turn right (south) and follow the Tomahawk Trail to the Nusser Camporee Areas. Turn right on the Nusser camp road and continue to the main camp road. At this point, turn left (south) to the south end of the Laemmli Camporee Area to again join the Tomahawk Trail. There is another yellow and black metal sign on a tree.

Follow the Tomahawk Trail across the creek, up to the top of the west ridge, and go north to the Ray Nature Lodge parking lot. Here the Shawnee Trail follows Tomahawk Trail and goes off to the northwest across the main camp road and joins with the Red Trail to Mud Cave. The end of the first 10 miles is at Mud Cave. Turn around and go back the way that you came.

All grades are 10% or less except about 1/4 mile of the first mile up and the last mile down. This 1/4-mile is about a 15% slope.

There are latrines and freeze proof water spigots at the camporee areas and the Sunnen Shooting area.