

RUFFNER MOUNTAIN TRAIL GUIDE

TRAILS OPEN FROM DAWN TO DUSK

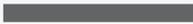
- EASY
- ● MODERATE
- ● ● DIFFICULT

MARIAN HARNACH NATURE TRAIL ●

(0.6 miles) 

A leisurely walk with a few slight inclines featuring fallen trees used as habitats for native species. See the sidewalk remnants of a proposed 1920's housing development and an old spring-fed cistern once used for drinking water.

GEOLOGY TRAIL ●

(0.3 miles) 

A short stroll featuring sandstone and limestone outcrops, including a favorite resting point called Turtle Rock., this trail connects to the Nature Trail.

TRILLIUM TRAIL ●

(0.5 miles) 

A great wildflower trail lined in Spring by Trillium, Fairywand, and Jack-in-the-pulpit. Featuring some slight, rocky inclines.

LIZARD LOOP ●

(1.0 miles) 

This loop trail has little change in elevation and was formed as part of the old rail bed used for removing ore from the mountain.

WETLANDS TRAIL ●

(0.2 miles) 

One of our easier trails, with very little elevation change. It provides great viewing of frogs, dragonflies, and native wetland plants along its boardwalks and crushed rock paths.

EASTERN TRAILHEAD ●

(0.4 miles) 

This easy trail connects the Eastern Ruffner Road entrance to Pipeline Trail.

RIDGE & VALLEY TRAIL ● ● ●

(1.7 miles) 

Our most demanding trail, it goes through 1000 feet of elevation change over its length. You will cross several small streambeds as you hike from the ridges down into the valleys.

QUARRY TRAIL ● ●

(1.2 miles) 

Our gateway trail, running along the ridgeline and connecting most of our trails. Hikers can choose to extend their hike into the limestone quarry to look for fossil remains of ancient sea life or take the Overlook Trail to Hawk's View for a spectacular city panorama. Moderate inclines.

POSSUM LOOP TRAIL ● ●

(1.8 miles) 

Opossums love the fruits of the many persimmon trees found here. It is a moderate hike. Our largest quarry can be accessed from this trail.

PIPELINE TRAIL ●

(1.3 miles) 

This wide, easy trail runs along a buried gas pipeline. It connects Lizard Loop and the eastern trailhead to the rest of the trails. It is occasionally used as a service path for gas company vehicles.

OVERLOOK TRAIL ● ●

(0.4 miles) 

Starting at Gray Fox Gap, this trail presents a challenging incline to the Cambrian Overlook above the large quarry and then on to a spectacular hawk's-eye view of the city. A smaller quarry sits below this vantage point. If you choose, you can continue up to the forested Sloss Peak (1104 ft.).

SILENT JOURNEY ● ●

(0.3 miles) 

This trail begins at Dogwood Fork and rejoins the Quarry Trail at Gray Fox Gap. Buckeye can be found on the low areas along the trail.

CRUSHER TRAIL ● ●

(0.7 miles) 

This trail has moderate inclines and can be accessed from the Ridge & Valley Trail or the Quarry Trail. It ends at a large iron ore rock crusher used during Ruffner's mining years.

BUCKEYE TRAIL ● ● ●

(0.8 miles) 

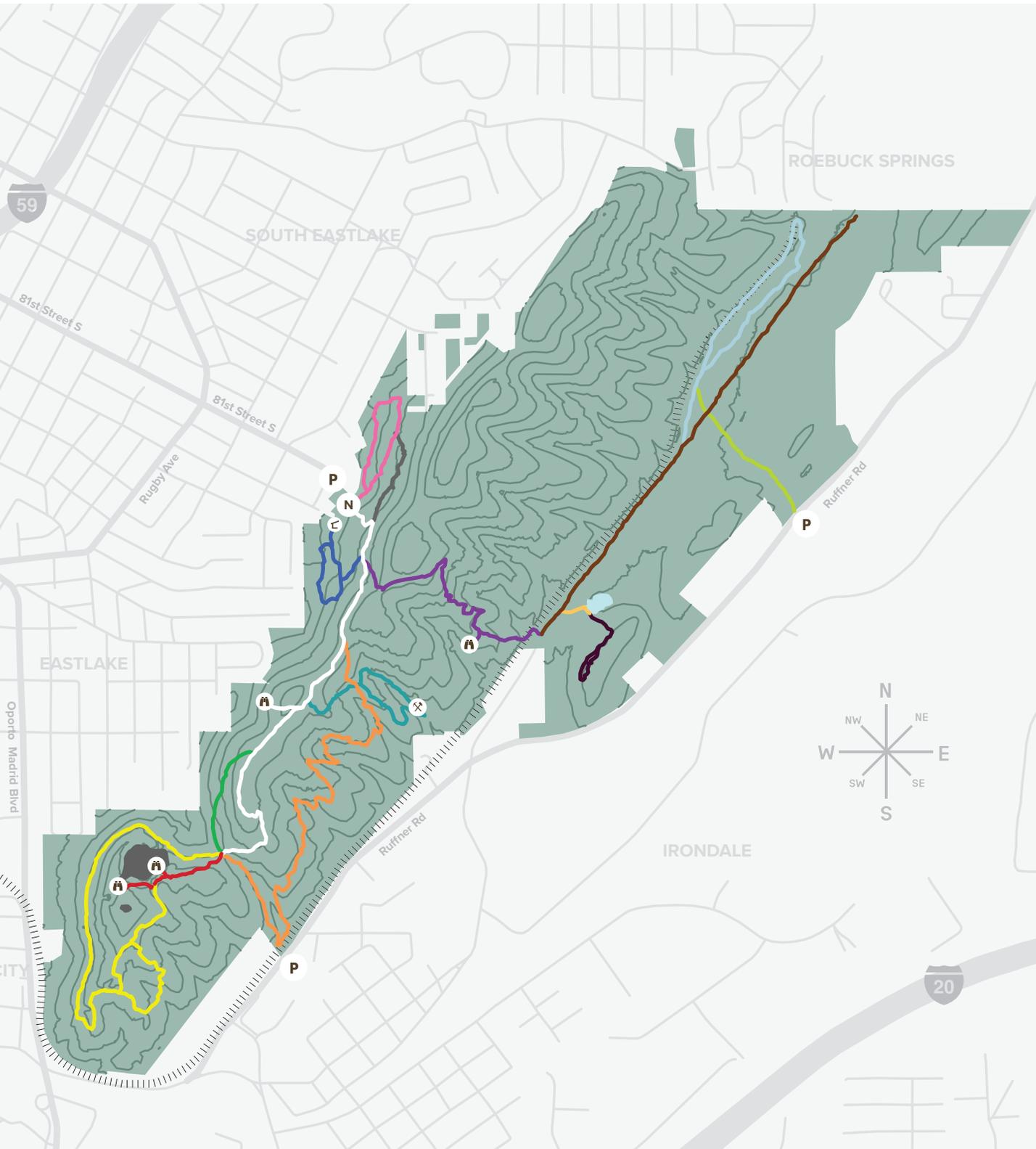
This trail takes you from the ridge top to the base of the mountain with over 300 feet of elevation change. It is a gateway to the wetlands and trails on the east side of the mountain.

SANDSTONE RIDGE ● ●

(0.3 miles) 

A short loop with moderate inclines; accessed from the wetlands Trail. Along this trail you will see unique sandstone rock formations.

PRESERVE MAP

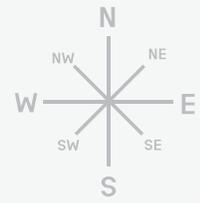


LEGEND

- N** NATURE CENTER
- PAVILION
- P** PARKING
- MINING SITE
- OVERLOOK
- WETLANDS
- QUARRY
- HISTORIC MINERAL RAIL LINE
- Historic/Former mining sites, unseen hazards, stay on marked trails**

- TRAILS OPEN FROM DAWN TILL DUSK
- ALL DOGS MUST BE KEPT ON LEASH
- STAY BACK FROM CLIFF EDGES

-
-
-



\$3
TRAIL USE FEE

Please give \$3 if you are not already a Ruffner member. Make a contribution at the trailhead, Nature Center, or follow the links below.

ruffnermountain.org/support
[@ruffnertrailfee](https://twitter.com/ruffnertrailfee)