

# Garden of the Gods Wilderness / Buzzard Roost Loop

Shawnee National Forest

2020

## Trail Markings:

General Forest Trails marked by white diamonds with trail numbers written onto them.



River to River Trail (R2R) features white diamonds with a blue "i", except in wilderness where it is a natural wood diamond with the "i" routed.

**Safety:** Personal safety-make sure someone knows your route and establish a check in time. Wear appropriate clothing and footwear depending on the weather and terrain. Carry plenty of water, food, compass and a first aid kit. This hike is remote. Cell phone coverage could be spotty.

Extra caution should be used where the trail is near the bluffs and when traveling on wet slippery rocks. Beware of poison ivy and oak. Various insects including ticks and mosquitoes are present here during spring, summer and fall. Venomous snakes are also present here including timber rattlesnakes and copperheads.

**Emergencies:** The nearest hospital is Harrisburg Medical Center. Cell phone service along the trail can be spotty so be prepared and know where your closest outlet is when dialing 911.

**Camping:** There are no designated camping areas along the trail but numerous ideal trail side camping areas. Note camping is prohibited within Natural Areas. Use existing campsites, don't create new ones. Use portable camp stove for cooking. If a campfire is needed, keep it small and use existing

fire rings. Protect water quality by washing and camping 200 feet from any water sources. Leave the campsite cleaner than you found it.

**Trail Ethics:** "Please practice Leave No Trace principles" Pack It In, Pack It Out. Some rare and endangered species of plants are located in the area so please stay on the designated trails and leave the rocks and plants for others to enjoy. Equestrians frequent this trail system: hikers should yield to horses. Approximately half of this hike is within Garden of the Gods Wilderness. Please abide by wilderness guidelines and restrictions.

**Facilities:** There are no facilities along this entire trail. Bury human waste and toilet tissue in a 6 inch deep "cat hole" at least 200 feet from water.

**Avenza:** The map included with this brochure is available in the Avenza Map Store for downloading to your smart phone. The Avenza App can be downloaded by searching the app store on your phone for this:



Once the app is downloaded access the map store and search for the following map:

Shawnee NF Multi-Day Hikes

This brochure will still be a helpful handy reference to know what the points of interest might be.



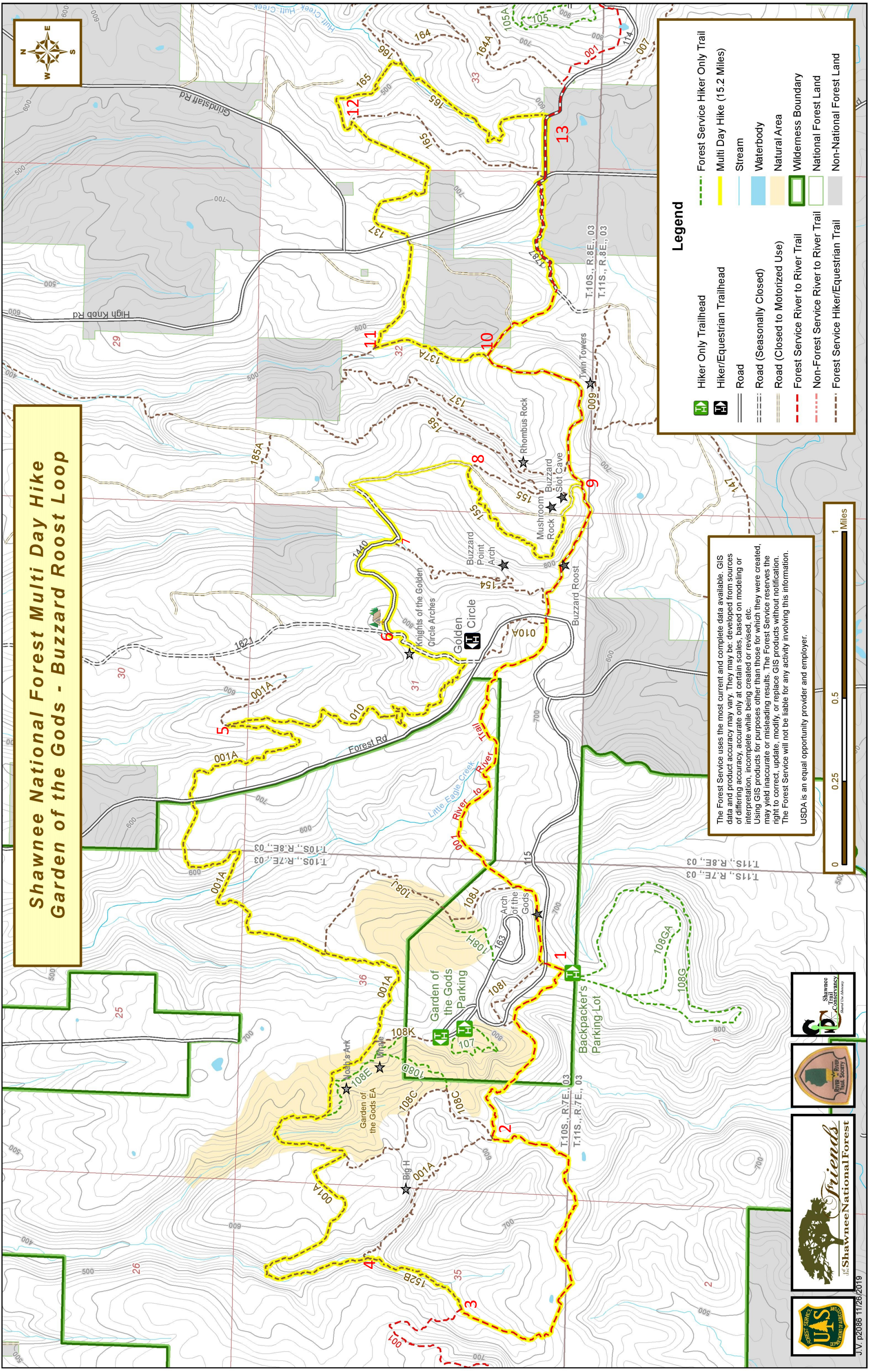
| #  | Directions (The numbers show on the map)   | Miles |
|----|--|-------|
| 1  | Start at Backpackers Parking Lot at Garden of the Gods, start heading left/west on R2R trail   | 0.0   |
| 2  | Continue left on R2R Trail.  | 0.8   |
| 3  | Veer right/NE on trail 152B leaving the R2R  | 1.9   |
| 4  | Veer left/east onto trail 001A. Continue east on trail 001A to trail 010 across Forest Road. Bypass right turns on side trails 108C, 108E, 108K and 108J.  | 2.3   |
| 5  | At points 2 or 4 a 0.25 mile trip down trail 001A will take you to the Big H Arch  |       |
| 5  | Turn right/south onto trail 010 and follow it to Golden Circle trailhead parking lot. Turn left and follow FS road 1621.   | 5.8   |
| 6  | Just past Knights of the Golden Circle Double Arch, continue on FS road 1621 for 100 yards and then turn right and go through gate and downhill on FS road 1440.                                     | 7.2   |
| 7  | At the Creek Crossing continue left on FS road 1440. A detour onto trail 154 for a short 0.2 mile hike will take you to Buzzard Point Arch across the creek near the bluffs. Return to FS road 1440. | 7.6   |
| 8  | From FS road 1440, turn right/west onto trail 155 and follow it to the top of Buzzard Roost. Then continue on the trail down to the R2R trail.   | 8.2   |
| 9  | Just before point 9, taking trail 158 left for 0.1 miles will take you to Mushroom Rock  |       |
| 9  | Turn left on the R2R trail and follow it east to trail 137A.   | 9.0   |
| 9  | An alternative is to take trail 137 on which you will pass Buzzard Slot cave, Rhombus Rock, Whiskey falls, Gorilla Rock and Rice Hollow Narrows some of which are on private property.               |       |
| 10 | Turn left/north onto trail 137A and follow it down to trail 137.   | 9.8   |
| 11 | Turn right/east onto trail 137 and take it up and out of Rice Hollow to cross High Knob Road.  | 10.2  |
| 12 | When trail 137 intersects trail 165, turn left/NW and follow it around to the R2R at High Knob Campground. (Turning right on 165 will also take you to R2R at High Knob)                             | 10.9  |
| 13 | Once at R2R at High Knob, turn right and follow R2R back to Backpackers Parking lot. The trail will pass below Buzzard Roost and the Arch of the Gods which should be explored.                      | 12.3  |
| 1  | Backpackers Lot  | 15.6  |



Some of the sights along this hike include the following:

## Garden of the Gods Wilderness - Buzzard Roost Loop

# Shawnee National Forest Multi Day Hike Garden of the Gods - Buzzard Roost Loop

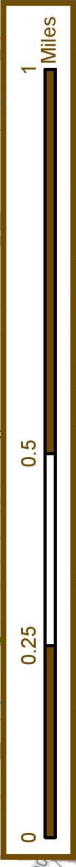


### Legend

- Forest Service Hiker Only Trail
- Multi Day Hike (15.2 Miles)
- Stream
- Waterbody
- Natural Area
- Wilderness Boundary
- National Forest Land
- Non-National Forest Land
- Hiker Only Trailhead
- Hiker/Equestrian Trailhead
- Road
- Road (Seasonally Closed)
- Road (Closed to Motorized Use)
- Forest Service River to River Trail
- Non-Forest Service River to River Trail
- Forest Service Hiker/Equestrian Trail

The Forest Service uses the most current and complete data available. GIS data and product accuracy may vary. They may be developed from sources of differing accuracy, accurate only at certain scales, based on modeling or interpretation, incomplete while being created or revised, etc. Using GIS products for purposes other than those for which they were created, may yield inaccurate or misleading results. The Forest Service reserves the right to correct, update, modify, or replace GIS products without notification. The Forest Service will not be liable for any activity involving this information.

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US Forest Service