

Willow Prairie Horse Trails Description

Disclaimer - trail rating is for equestrian and equine with average skills.

The trail junctions are marked with numbered posts. Numerous hand-made signs also help to direct.

Horse Camp to Junction #1 – Ride out past the cabin and through a gate. Please close gate behind you (keeps the cows out). Wide easy trail.

Junction #1 to #2 - Wide easy trail

Junction #1 to #8 - Wide easy trail

Junction #2 to #4 - Wide easy trail

Junction #4 to #5 - Cross graveled road and trail is narrower but easy to follow.

Junction #5 to #6 - Wide easy trail

Junction #6 to #7 – Trail descends downhill with brush on both sides. One lane trail through here, but easy to follow.

Junction #7 and the loop – Part of the trail is on graveled road (locked gate at the highway so no vehicle traffic). Watch for the loop trail to take off to the left. You may go either direction. Loop trail follows old roads in some areas and trail in others. Watch for turns off old roads. Somewhat steep in a few sections. Enjoyable, with some nice spots to stop for lunch.

Junction #5 to #6 – Nice little loop you can go either way. Somewhat rocky in spots. Couple steep sections. Water trough located at Rd 3735 crossing.

Junction #3 to #4 – Wide easy trail, crosses graveled road, some up and down hills.

Junction #3 to #8 - Wide, old road mostly

Junction #8 to #9 – Creek crossing. Early in the year this can be difficult due to high water and rocks, but doable. Steep section south of creek crossing. Rest of trail is old road, is easy to follow.

Horse Camp to Junction #9 – Go through gate. Please close gate behind you. Trail is about 50'-75' to the right of graveled road, parallels road. Wide easy to follow.

Junction #9 to #10 – Part old road, part trail. Climbs for a distance right after #9. Crosses the paved highway. Watch/listen for traffic. Good wide trail, easy to follow. Note: About half way to the highway there is a busy 4-way intersection of other trails/cow trails etc. Watch for the signs to the highway/#10.

Junction #10 to #11 – Steady climb on trail, somewhat rocky.

Junction #11 to #12 - #11 is by a traveled gravel road. The trail parallels the graveled road. Wide, mostly level. Then it breaks open onto a road. Continue on this road to #12.

Junction #12 to #11 – This is the loop trail to Rye Meadow. A beautiful meadow surrounded by tall old growth trees. Going this direction is preferred by most because it is a steep climb with several switchbacks. Early in the year this trail may be difficult to follow and may not be cleared. Ask the camp host. Once at the meadow, go across the meadow and pick up the trail about 75' beyond. Again, this may be difficult to find, but it's there. Travel down the trail. At one point a side trail takes off to the right and goes down to Rye Spring where there is a water trough. Its down the hill outside of the barbed wire enclosure. If you prefer less steep, go from #11 to the meadow and back. It is much less steep and just as beautiful.

Junction #12 to #13 - Road and trail, easy to follow.

Junction #13 loop to #14 – This section is not used much. Its old road mostly.

Junction #13 to #14 – Short trail to connect to old road.

Junction #10 to #14 - Not a well-used route. Mostly old road that parallels Hwy 140.

NOTE: There are many other trails that have been made by cows and equestrians throughout the area. They are not marked nor approved by the Forest Service, so travel at your own risk.