In and around Tupelo, this section is a popular recreational corridor for visitors and residents alike. Go to the Parkway Visitor Center for orientation information on the parkway and national scenic trail. There are exhibits on the area’s history and natural features. At two road crossings, you must walk up to the parkway and follow the road’s shoulder: the creek crossing at mp 264.5 and the US 178 (McCullough Blvd.) crossing at mp 262.5. Be extremely careful on the road, at all road crossings, and at the railroad track crossing north of Chickasaw Village.

North of Jackson, this is the longest trail section. Eight miles run alongside the reservoir, and the other 16 go through dense forests, seasonal streams, and open pasture land. There’s a lot to see on this stretch of trail; many sites are accessible via short side trails (you may have to cross the parkway). The trail parallels the parkway roadbed; use caution at all times, especially at bridge crossings, where you must walk along the road.

To reach the MS Hwy. 43 trailhead, exit the parkway at mp 115; go west on Hwy. 43 a short distance to Yandell Rd.; turn left (south) for 100 feet; turn left into the parking area. The southern trailhead at mp 17 is not recommended for RVs because of the narrow access road and lack of turnaround space. Prepare to walk through water at stream crossings. Crossing conditions vary from muddy areas to knee-deep water, depending on rainfall. Trail improvement is ongoing; call 1-800-305-7417 for current conditions.

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