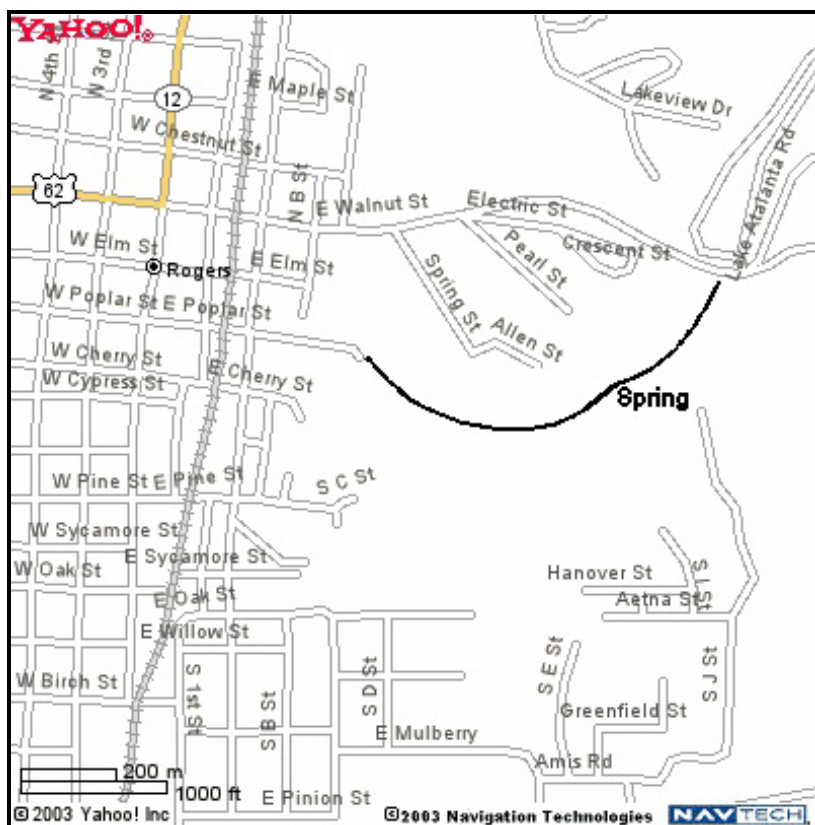


Frisco Springs Trail



Orientation map: Frisco Spring Trail extends from the Frisco Park Pavilion on First St. to the Clark Pavilion at Lake Atalanta Park. The principal feature en route is the historic Frisco Spring.

Arguably the most rustic, picturesque, and historic trail in the Rogers Park System is Frisco Spring Trail.

Description

The built portion of the trail extends from a well-marked trailhead at the east end of Poplar St. to the Clark Pavilion on East Walnut St. at Lake Atalanta Park. As an element of the overall trail system being developed by the Greenways and Trails Committee, it actually begins at the Frisco Park Pavilion on First Street and follows Poplar Street across the Frisco tracks to the information sign marking the entrance to the forested downhill portion.

Tracking the Trail

Starting at the Pavilion, opposite the Iron Horse on First Street (elev. 1,380), go south to Poplar St. Cross the Frisco Track and Arkansas Street; continue past the Rogers Grain and Feed to the trailhead at the end of East Poplar (1,170 ft. from starting point).

This part of the trail is nice and wide as it slopes down, bounded by landscape timbers. The surface is wood chips. At the bottom is a sturdy wooden footbridge (1,625) crossing a wet-weather stream which comes in from the right and joins a small creek that parallels the left side of the trail. The approach to the bridge is a series of three or four large, irregular rock ledges stepping downward. There is a bench on a pad to the right.

Across the bridge the trail ascends and becomes narrower (~3 ft.). It is partly terraced with landscape-timber steps. There is a crest at about 1,775, with a bench. The trail then descends to a second footbridge at 2,340. The bridge crosses a running creek which comes in from the right to join the main stream.

At 2,620, the trail reaches the Frisco Spring. There is a sizable concrete structure and there are



Trailhead at east end of Poplar Street, showing downward slope towards first footbridge..



The Frisco Railroad water tower, early 1880's

Portion of a display board at the spring, showing a tower to which water was pumped uphill for the railroad. Structure in background appears to be a depot.

two explanatory display signs. (See photos.) On December 24, there was water flowing from the spring into the discharge stream which parallels the trail on the right. Beginning at the Spring, the trail is paved with fine gravel and is suitable for a wheelchair. The ground is mostly open and flat, with the trail raised several feet.

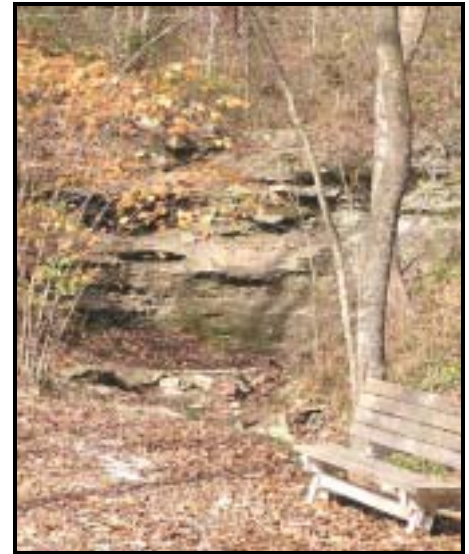


Dawn Farver and Bob Morgan (with GPS) at second footbridge

At 2,825, the stream on the left crosses under the trail via a concrete channel, merging with the stream from the spring, continuing on the right on its way to join Prairie Creek, which flows into Lake Atalanta.

On the left, at 3,135, is a large wet-weather waterfall about fifteen feet high, and a picnic table. At 3,585 there are more picnic tables and a grove of trees.

At 3,980 there is another footbridge approaching the Diamond Spring area, and children's playground equipment. The Clark Pavilion is at 4,100 (elev. 1,243).



Wet weather falls to left of trail on level section at 3,135 ft.

The edge of Walnut St. is at 4,235; and on the north side of the street, at 4,310, a large wooden Lake Atalanta Park sign with a nearby parking area.

In this area is a display board describing the former Electric Springs resort, including an impressive hotel built in 1888. The hotel is shown in a 1910 photo.

There is a well-traveled dirt road and trail all around Lake Atalanta. And there is another, parallel foot trail above the lake along part of the west side. This trail can be seen on the locator map, parallel to the lake road. Access is via a steep up slope from the area of the Lake Atalanta sign. The trail passes by a large rappelling pad, built by the Boy Scouts, below a high bluff in that area. The rappelling facility is also used for training by the Rogers Fire Department.