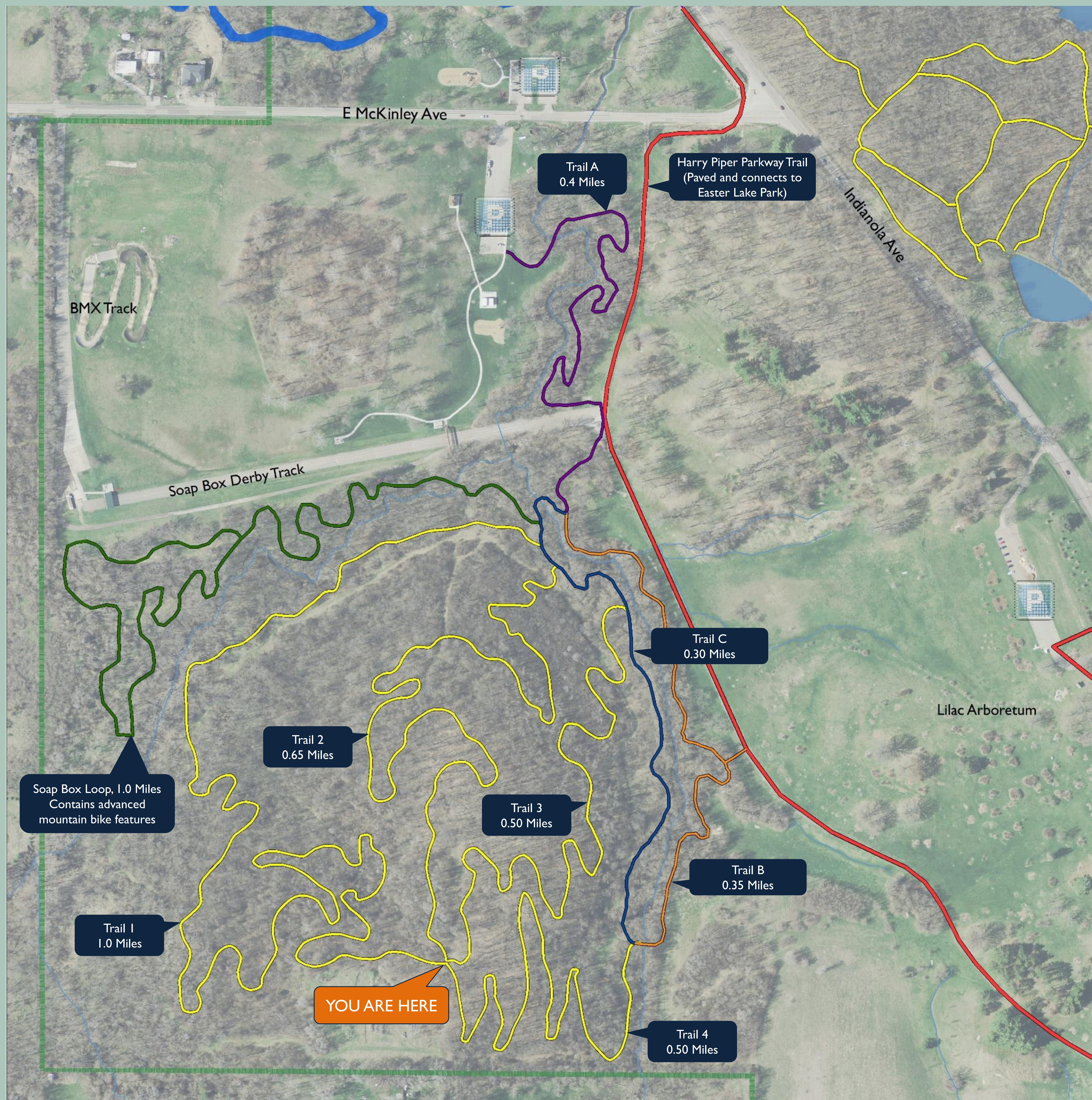


# EWING PARK NATURE TRAILS



Map created May 2014

## WELCOME TO EWING PARK

Upon her passing, Winnie Ewing Coffin (1868 – 1937) bequeathed the Ewing farm to the city as a memorial to her parents, Lucinda (1833 – 1908) and David Rittenhouse Ewing (1834 – 1902). The Ewings, including son Eugene (1858 - 1864) and daughter Minnie (1863 – 1865), moved to Des Moines in 1864.

David was esteemed by his friends and colleagues as a wise businessman, faithful Christian, and supporter of education. He was successful in the construction business and founded the Ewing & Jewett Lumber Company along with George A. Jewett. David was one of the staunchest advocates and supporters of Christianity and helped grow the Church of Christ to be the largest in the City at that time. He was also vice president of the board of trustees of Drake University. In 1878, David's friends encouraged him to run for Des Moines City Council, which resulted in him representing the third ward for two years. This, he said, entirely cured him of politics.

In 1895, the Ewings moved from the city to the 355-acre farm along Indianola Road. At David's funeral services, the pastor spoke of David's love of home, "No companionship or society furnished him half the attraction and joy that his own home altar gave him.... He lived his best, purest, truest life with its charmed circle."

After Winnie inherited the farm, she and her husband, Nathan Emory Coffin, a successful attorney, made the farm their home. Well-known as world travelers, the couple also collected art works of all kinds. In 1927, a fire destroyed their home, taking with it one of the finest collections of books and antiques in the state. When Nathan passed in 1931, Winnie donated their remaining art collection to the city. The Nathan Emory Coffin Memorial Collection remains a centerpiece at the Des Moines Art Center.

Today, lilacs flourish at the former home site. Stone Pillars flank the historic driveway entrance and display a memorial plaque to the Ewing family.

## EWING PARK NATURE TRAILS

The Central Iowa Trail Association (CITA) builds and maintains sustainable, shared "singletrack" dirt trails for mountain biking, running, hiking, and exploring. There are over 4 miles of dirt nature trails in Ewing Park thanks to the volunteerism of CITA and the partners below.

## NATURE TRAIL RULES

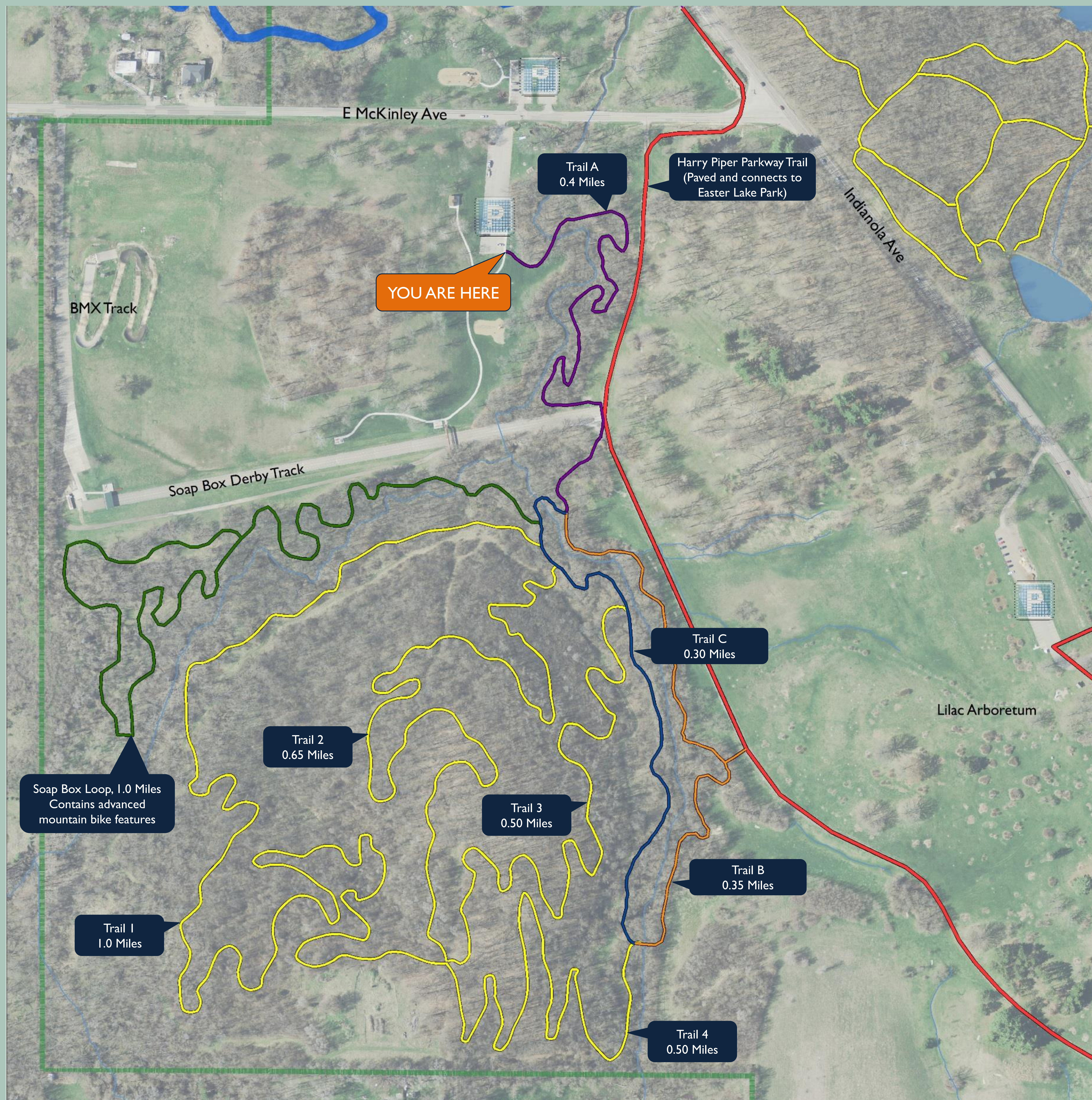
1. Use Open Trails: Respect trail closures and do not create new trails.
2. Leave No Trace: Stay off of wet and muddy trails; they are vulnerable to erosive damage from hikers and bikers. Take all of your trash out with you.
3. Control Your Bicycle: Inattention for even a moment could put yourself and others at risk.
4. Yield Appropriately: Let your fellow trail users know you're coming — use a friendly greeting or ring your bell. Bicyclists yield to pedestrians. Bicyclists traveling downhill yield to those headed uphill.
5. Respect the Environment: Don't disturb plant and animal life. Give animals enough room and time to adjust to your presence.
6. Plan Ahead: Always wear a helmet and appropriate safety gear when bicycling. Keep your equipment in good repair and carry emergency supplies.

For more information visit:  
[www.dmparks.org](http://www.dmparks.org) or [www.centraliowatrails.org](http://www.centraliowatrails.org)

These trails were made possible through partnerships with the following organizations:



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Map created May 2014

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