

GREENLEAF STATE PARK TRAIL (Location and Trail Map)

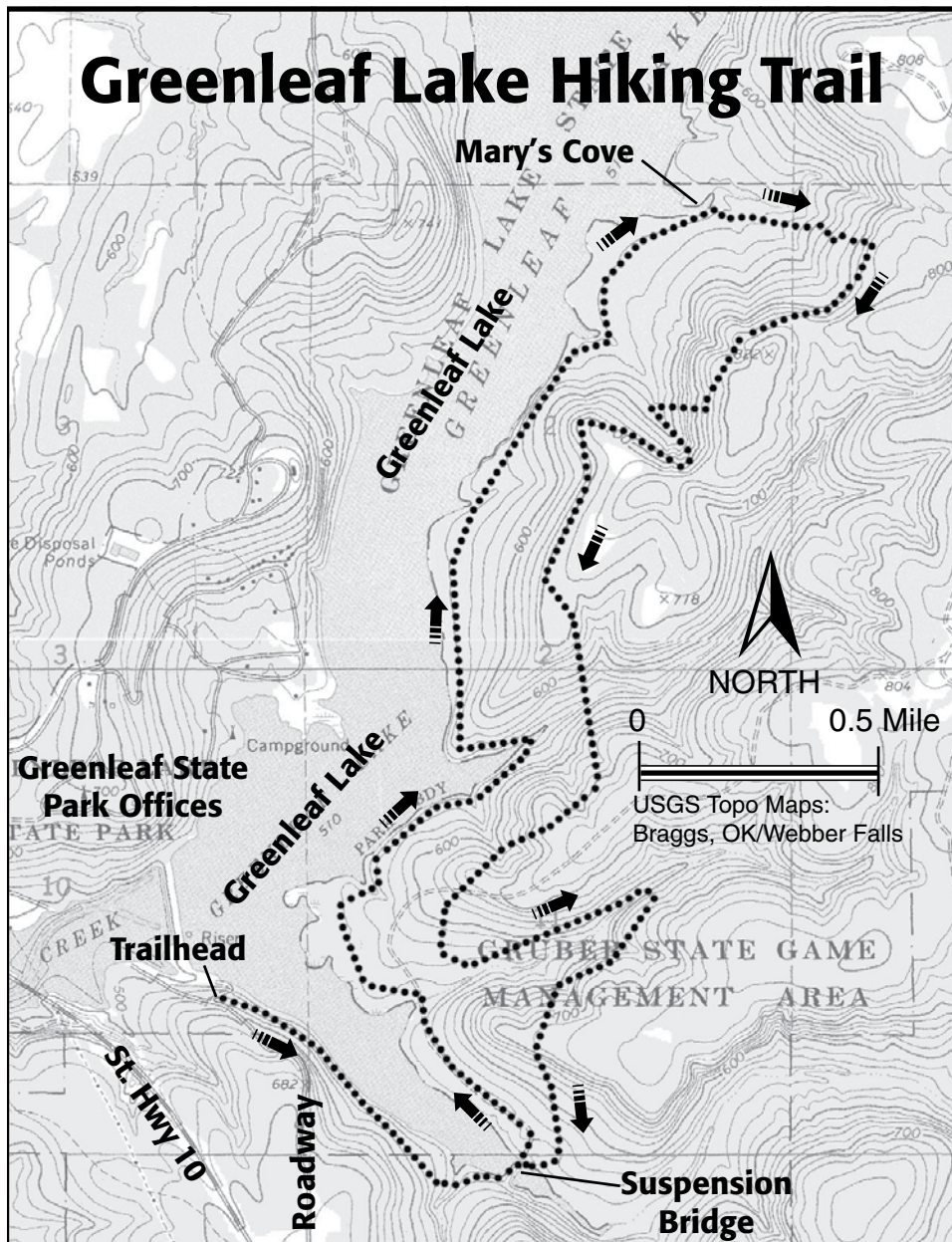
DIRECTIONS TO TRAILHEAD: One of Oklahoma's most scenic hiking trails lies just east of State Hwy 10 between Braggs to the northwest and Gore to the south. The Greenleaf Lake Trail south loop trailhead can be accessed about one mile south of the main entrance to Greenleaf State Park. Exit east from Hwy 10 just south of the Greenleaf Creek Bridge and follow the unmarked rough road north to the south edge of Greenleaf Lake. Park here and look for the blue blazes on the trail leading east through the woods.

TRAILHEAD GPS READING: N 35°36.883' W 95°10.083'

TRAIL NARRATIVE: Heavily wooded Greenleaf Lake Trail crosses more than 10 miles of secluded, uneven terrain. Although the trail is generally considered part of Greenleaf State Park, much of the route actually lies within the Cherokee Wildlife

Management Area. Most of this hiking area is on the east side of Greenleaf Lake, southeast of Greenleaf State Park. A word of warning: if you traverse these trails in warm weather, be sure to bring lots of bug repellent and powdered sulfur. Lush underbrush, thick woods, and nearby Greenleaf Lake provide a haven for chiggers, ticks, and mosquitoes. Chiggers seem to be the biggest threat. If you explore these woods barelegged and without repellent, expect several dozen chigger bites and about 10 days of itching torment. Insect bites are a small price to pay, however, for the miles of solitude and occasional glimpses of tranquil Greenleaf Lake through breaks in the heavy woods. The trails are generally well marked, and primitive campsites are available along the way. Take the trail along the south shoreline about one mile to a suspension bridge. Follow the blue blazes to the left (north) for a clockwise loop, which returns to the suspension bridge from the southeast. It takes more than a casual glance to spot the markers on the trees, but the worn pathway provides a guide along most of the trail.

The west side of the south loop offers several scenic views of the lake. The entire trail cuts through heavy woods and some tall grass. To navigate the 10-mile south loop in a clockwise direction, follow the white blazes eastward at Mary's Cove, which lies about four miles north of the suspension bridge. Watch closely for a small sign and the white blazes marking the cutoff at the cove. The blue blazes north of



the cove indicate the north loop of the trail, but they are not well marked and the trail may be difficult to follow. This north loop is not recommended for hikers unfamiliar with the area. To navigate the south loop, proceed east about half a mile following the white blazes, which may be hard to find at times. Look for blue blazes and turn south on the east side of the loop back to the trailhead. Along the eastern part of this loop you can't see the lake. The trail zigzags as it nears the south end of the lake and the return to the suspension bridge. Some steep, short grades must be ascended a few miles before the trail loops back to the bridge. All in all, this trail provides a tranquil and not overly taxing journey through thick woods with occasional postcard views of Greenleaf Lake. But don't forget the bug repellent.