Settlers, arriving in Missouri more than two centuries ago, encountered a landscape much different than what is found in the Ozarks today. Widely spaced trees, tall native grasses and large herbivores were characteristic of the natural communities found in Central Missouri. Through active management practices such as prescribed burning, removal of exotic species and opening of the canopy, the conditions in which these native landscapes developed are being restored. Bluestem Knoll trail goes through one of these areas, actively being managed by the park. Hiking this trail, you will see what the landscape in Central Missouri looked like centuries ago.