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## Ridgeland's Great Outdoors

When it comes to enjoying outdoor activities, Ridgeland is wide open! The city covers a 17-square mile area that features abundant parks, the Natchez Trace Parkway, the Ross Barnett Reservoir, and one of the most spectacular and extensive walking and biking trail systems in the state. From cycling to jogging, horseback riding to tennis, boating to baseball, there's something for everyone, and with an average temperature of 75.6 degrees, folks can enjoy outdoor activities in Ridgeland year-round.

Ridgeland's Multi-Use Path is an alternate route for cyclists to utilize through the Ridgeland area of the historic Natchez Trace Parkway. The path is over 14 miles and travels from Harbor Drive to Rice Road to Highland Colony Parkway near the Natchez Trace Parkway. Several side trails bring users of the path to schools, shops and businesses. A designated Bicycle Friendly Community by the League of American Bicyclists, Ridgeland is also home to the Natchez Trace Century Ride, a scenic bike ride on the beautiful Natchez Trace Parkway. Looking for something a little more intense? The Mag-Ridge BMX Park hosts races on weekends in the spring, and Ridgeland Trails for mountain biking offer 10 miles of fast singletrack with unusual rolling hills and rock formations.

Named for the 52nd governor of the State of Mississippi, the Ross R. Barnett Reservoir creates a haven for many outdoor adventures. Its 105 miles of shoreline are bounded on the north by the historic Natchez Trace. Boating, sailing, water sports, camping, fishing, picnicking or bird watching offer endless hours of pleasure. Visitors have the opportunity to view and participate in national and regional fishing tournaments, weekend regattas as well as the many festivals held at the reservoir. Make yourself at home at the five campgrounds, 16 parks, 22 boat launches, three handicapped accessible trails, a mountain bike trail, and two multi-purpose trails. Boat rentals are available at Main Harbor Store Boat Rentals in Harbor Station.

The west shore of the reservoir is bordered by historic Natchez Trace Parkway, a 444-mile drive through exceptional scenery and 10,000 years of North American history. Used by American Indians, "Kaintucks," settlers, and future presidents, the Old Trace played an important role in American history. Today, visitors can enjoy not only a scenic drive but also hiking, biking, horseback riding, and camping. The Trace runs 444 miles from Natchez, Mississippi to Nashville, Tennessee, and Ridgeland is one of the most scenic stops. Visitors can enhance a scenic drive with hiking, biking, horseback riding, and camping. Discover the world of boatmen and bandits, Chickasaw and Choctaw, and forest and wildlife.

Ridgeland offers ample opportunities to enjoy outdoor walks in athletic, playground or nature settings. There are three major parks, operated by the Ridgeland Recreation and Parks Department. In addition to tournaments for tennis, soccer, baseball and softball, visitors enjoy the walking trails, playgrounds and picnic pavilions. Come visit us soon, and enjoy the great outdoors, Ridgeland-style!

For more information about Ridgeland Tourism, please visit [www.visitridgeland.com](http://www.visitridgeland.com).

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### **The Ridgeland Tourism Commission**

The Ridgeland Tourism Commission markets and promotes the City of Ridgeland as a destination of travel providing support for the Ridgeland Tourism industry and fostering awareness of the industry's significance to create economic growth and opportunity through its travel industry.