

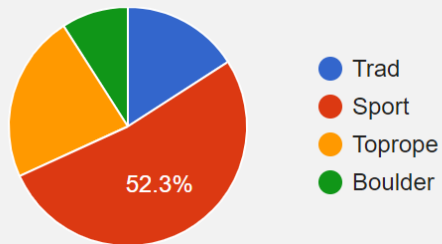
Cliff Drive, Missouri

by Neale Flynn & Carol Fittell

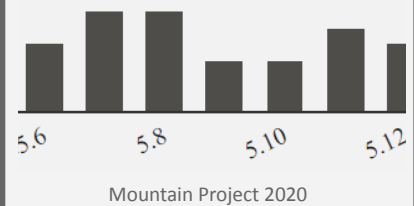
DRIVE TIME
FROM KC

.1H

30+ Routes



Grade Distribution



Cliff Drive, located in the heart of KC, has a reputation for soapy, dirty, loose, and chossy climbs, but approached with stoke, humility, and a sense of urban adventure, Cliff Drive can be a surprisingly enjoyable time. Routes are typically 30-40 feet tall. The majority are bolted with anchors, and some require setting up a top rope anchor via trees on top of the cliff. About half of the climbs are sport 5.10 to 5.12. In 2013 - 2015, much of the hardware was replaced with glue-ins by Kansas City Climbing Community member Dakota Walz and friends. A handful of moderate lines were also bolted. For a packing list, check out [KC Day Trips](#).



CLIMBING

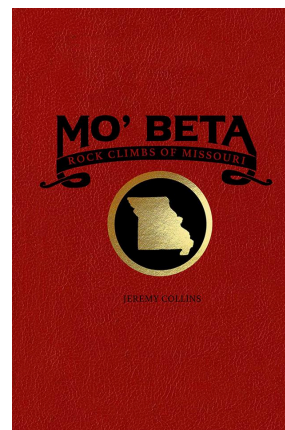
Sport climbing on chossy limestone.

Routes: ~30 [Mountain Project Beta](#)

Guidebook: [Mo'Beta by Jeremy Collins](#)

Recommended Rack:

Quickdraws, though there are a few completely perma-drawn routes, too. Most routes have perma-draw anchors, so no need to clean. (There are also a few trad routes.) To drop top ropes, bring a static line to stay protected on top of the cliff. The top is very slippery/steep/crumbly. Be aware of climbers below if walking above.



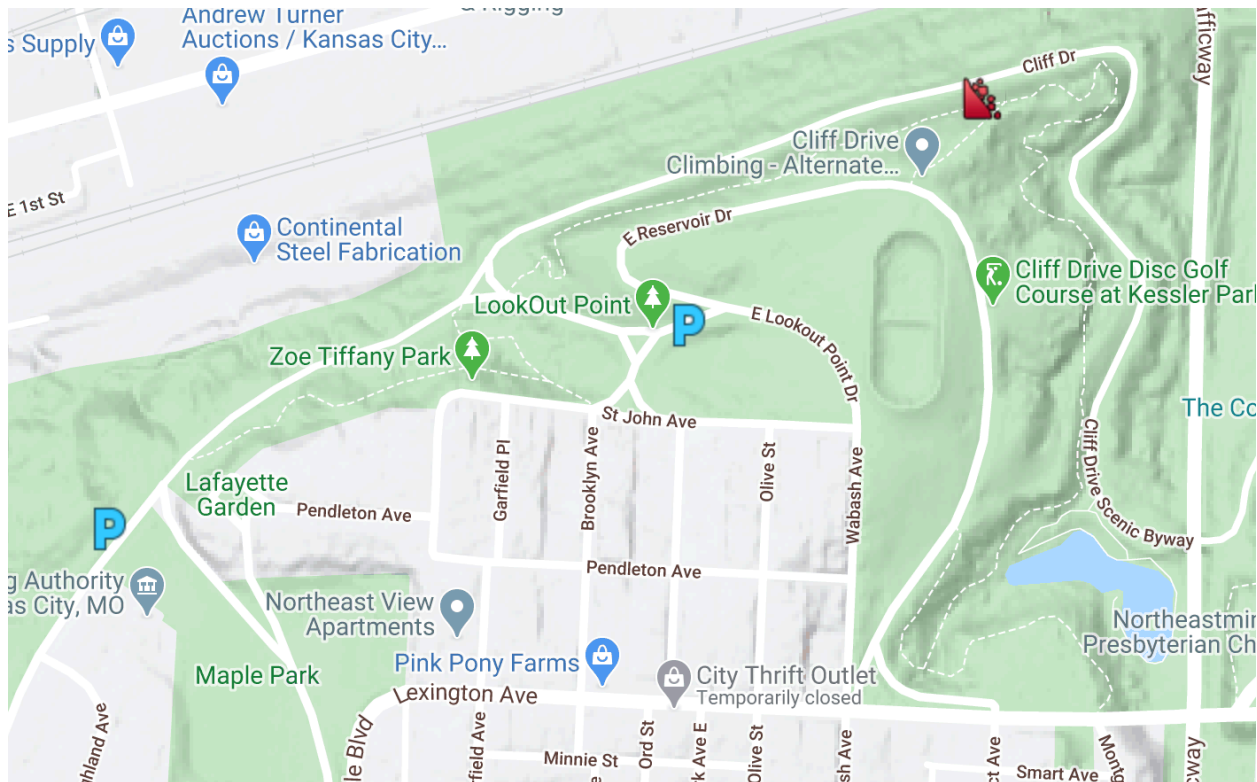
AREA INFORMATION

1. No amenities.
2. Park before the gates and hike in (0.5 - 0.8 miles) via the road.
3. Cliff Drive is closed to motor vehicles on weekends (and sometimes during the week) making it quieter, safer (no vehicular traffic), cleaner (no illegal dumping), and generally just more enjoyable. When the gates are open, they only allow one-way traffic (west to east). Honor these closures and encourage others to follow them as well.
4. Kessler Park also includes a disc golf course, mountain bike trail, tiny reservoir, fountain, lots of homeless camps, and numerous illegal dumping sites.

APPROACH

Most of the time, park and walk in. When the gates are open, the road is wide enough to park at the cliffs, but make sure to maintain the one-way traffic when driving out.





From the West side of the park you can come in on The Paseo. Traveling north from Independence Ave (24 HWY) you will soon find the gates. If the gates are closed, park near them and walk on down Cliff Drive staying left at the fork in the road at a second gate. The cliffs become taller and more climbable the further east. There is currently no documented climbing beyond the curve where the road turns south.

Reservoir Dr To park within Kessler Park, rather than on city ROW across from Section 8 housing, park on E Reservoir Drive and either walk in the road, or find the faint, steep, and slippery climber's trail straight down.

DIRECTIONS

From the downtown loop (I-35 N/I-70 E) to the crag.

1. Head **east** on **I-35 N/I-70 E**
2. Take exit **2H** for **U.S. 24 E** 0.2 mi
3. Slight right onto **US-24 E/E Independence Ave** 0.2 mi
4. Turn left onto **The Paseo** 0.2 mi
5. Slight right to stay on **The Paseo** 0.4 mi
6. Continue onto **Cliff Dr** 0.6 mi

For an interactive map, [click here](#).

