



IOWA STATE PARKS

LEDGES STATE PARK

1515 P Ave, Madrid IA 50156

With its distinctive geological features, breathtaking views and vibrant history, Ledges State Park is a nature lover's paradise. One of the very first state parks in Iowa, Ledges has been a must-see Iowa attraction for decades. In addition to natural beauty, several structures built by the Civilian Conservation Corps are a must see - from an arch stone bridge to a shelter in Oak Woods, stone trail steps and a shelter in Lower Ledges.

PARK AMENITIES/POINTS OF INTEREST/THINGS TO DO

The main attraction at Ledges is the canyon drive. This winding one-way road along Pea's Creek offers motorists breathtaking views of the canyon and Des Moines River valley. Sandstone ledges rise nearly 100 feet above the floor of the stream bed. The sandstone was deposited 300 million years ago following the retreat of the shallow sea that covered much of the Midwest. About 13,000 years ago, glacial melt-water began to cut down through the sandstone, forming the park's dramatic cliffs and valleys. Along the canyon drive, park visitors can stop for a picnic, wade the stream and enjoy the colors fall foliage offers. The canyon drive periodically closes to vehicle traffic during the summer due to heavy rainfall and flooding. It also closes to vehicle traffic during the winter. Even in the winter, though, visitors are allowed to hike in to the canyon to explore its winter beauty.

Four and a half miles of hiking trails lead up and down steep slopes to scenic overlooks, and provide access to spectacular views of the Pea's Creek canyon. Popular overlook locations include Inspiration Point, Crow's Nest and Table Rock. While most of the trails include steep portions, a universally accessible trail surfaced in crushed rock, leads visitors to the serene Lost Lake area in the southern area of the park.

Ledges offers a plethora of campsites, including electrical hook-ups and non-electric sites. There are also hike-in sites and one designated youth group campsite. Modern rest rooms, showers, dump station and a playground are located in the campground also.

SPECIAL PARK RULES

Per Iowa Code 461A.35; Rock climbing, rappelling and carving are not allowed on the sandstone in Ledges State Park. Pick up the rules/regulations booklet for more information on general park rules.

LOCAL EVENTS/ATTRACTIONS

A variety of attractions can be found in and around the town of Boone, including the Boone History Museums (Birthplace of Mamie Doud Eisenhower, Boone History Center, and Kate Shelley Park & Museum), Boone & Scenic Valley Railroad and Museum, The Iowa Arboretum, Seven Oaks Recreation, and the Kate Shelley High Bridge. The High Trestle Trail and Bridge are 10 miles south near Madrid. Don Williams County Park with a 160-acre lake, nine-hole public golf course and camping is located outside of Ogden. Ames is 15 minutes away and home to Iowa State University and Reiman Gardens. Highlighted area events include the park's First Day Hike (January), Ogden's Fun Days (June), Ledges Christmas in July, Boone County Fair (July), Boone's Pufferbilly Days, IMCA Super National Races, Dragoon River Romp (September), and the Ledges Campground Trick-or-Treat (October).

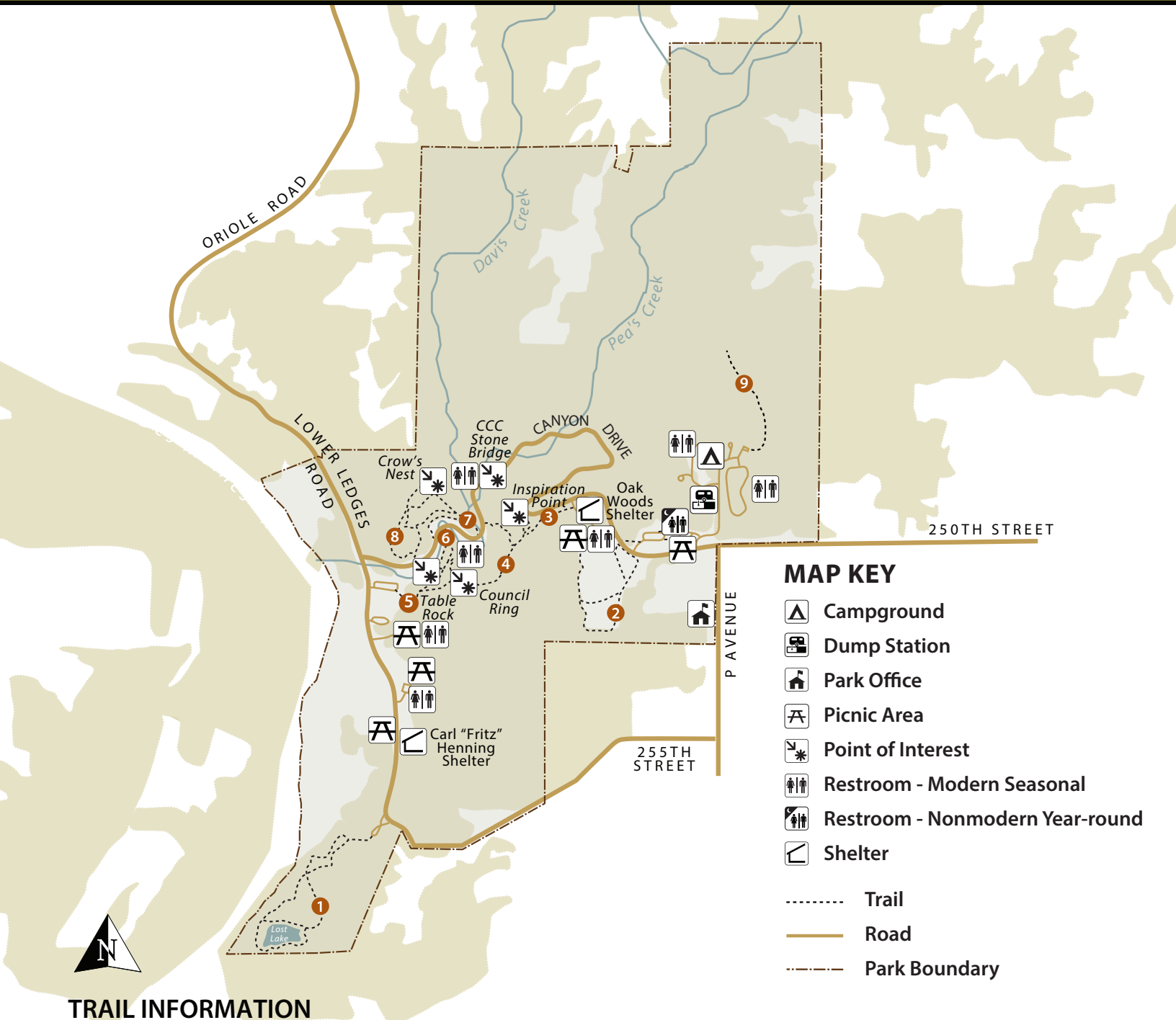
LOCAL CONTACT INFORMATION

Park Office: 515-432-1852
Park Ranger: Klint Peterson
Park Manager: Andy Bartlett

SEVERE WEATHER

There is no designated storm shelter in the park. In the event of severe weather, park staff will make every effort to notify campers and park visitors.

For emergencies, please call 911.



TRAIL INFORMATION

Trail Name	Trail Activity	Length	Level of Difficulty	Estimated Hike Time
1 Lost Lake Interp Trail	Hike, X-Country Ski, Interpretive, ADA-accessible	1.15 miles	Easy	27 minutes
2 Prairie Trail	Hike, X-Country Ski	.91 mile	Easy	22 minutes
3 Oak Woods Trail	Hike	.16 mile	Easy	4 minutes
4 Hog's Back Trail	Hike	.5 miles	Hard	12 minutes
5 Mesquakie Trail	Hike	.66 miles	Hard	16 minutes
6 Reindeer Ridge Trail	Hike	.66 miles	Hard	15 minutes
7 Old Indian Trail	Hike	1.0 mile	Hard	24 minutes
8 Crow's Nest Trail	Hike	1.0 miles	Hard	24 minutes
9 Hike-in Campsite Trail	Hike	.31 mile	Easy	7 minutes

Walking times are figured at a rate of 2.5 mph.