PALISADES-KEPLER STATE PARK

700 Kepler Dr, Mount Vernon, IA 52314

Palisades-Kepler lies along the beautiful Cedar River in Linn County. The 840-acre park has dramatic river bluffs, deep ravines, majestic hardwood trees, a large variety of wildflowers and an abundance of wildlife.

POINTS OF INTEREST/THINGS TO DO

There is no better way to explore the rugged terrain of Palisades-Kepler than to set off on one of the trails that cover nearly six miles of the park. In the spring, you will find a great variety of wildflowers and may have the chance to see whitetail deer and wild turkey. Even better, enjoy a hike in the crisp air of mid-October when the forest turns to a deep gold color as the leaves begin to fall from the many black maple trees throughout the park.

Enjoy a longer stay at the campground that offers 45 campsites, over half of which have electrical hookups, with modern shower and restroom facilities.

Four cabins are also available for weekly rental during the summer season and two-day minimums in the spring and fall. The air-conditioned cabins accommodate up to four people and feature a small kitchen as well as a shower and rest room. Cabin users should bring bedding, towels, dinnerware, cooking utensils and any other supplies for the outing. The cabins are a great place for an economical family vacation.

A limestone lodge, constructed by the Civilian Conservation Corps in the 1930s, is a great place to host a wedding or family reunion in the park. The building is available for daytime rental and includes a kitchen area with refrigerator and microwave, modern rest rooms and a patio.

Fishing along the Cedar River is another great way to enjoy the outdoors at Palisades-Kepler. Many anglers try their luck along the picnic areas and sandbars that provide convenient access to the river. A wide variety of species are found in the Cedar River, including channel catfish, bass and walleye.

SPECIAL PARK RULES

Parking is not allowed along the roadways. Fires are not allowed on the sandbars of the river (only allowed in fire grills provided). Swimming is allowed in the Cedar River, but dangerous currents warrant using extreme caution. Pick up the rules/regulations booklet for more information on general park rules.

LOCAL EVENTS/ATTRACTIONS

Historic Mount Vernon is located just four miles away with local restaurants and shops. Cedar Rapids is 12 miles from the park and offers a wide variety of shopping, restaurants and movie theaters.

LOCAL CONTACT INFORMATION

Park Office: 319.895.6039
Park Ranger: Jim Hansen

SEVERE WEATHER

The park does not have a designated storm shelter. The shower building can be used for an emergency shelter during storms.
If the Linn County warning siren is sounded, all park visitors should tune to AM radio WMT 600 or FM radio 96.5 for further instructions from the Emergency Broadcast System.

For emergencies, please call 911

For reservations, visit: http://iowastateparks.reserveamerica.com or call 877.427.2757

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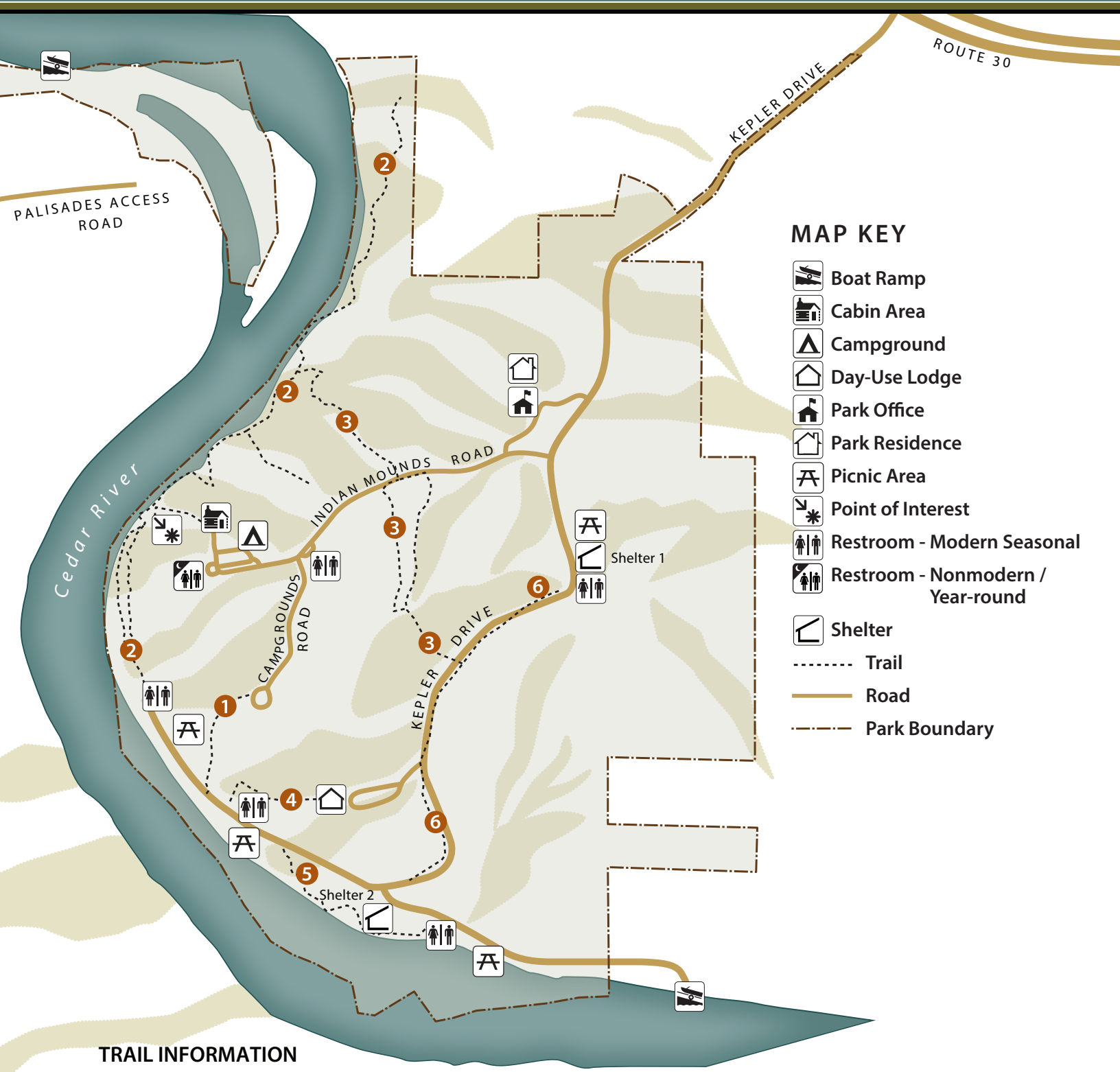

TRAIL INFORMATION

Trail Name	Trail Activity	Length	Level of Difficulty	Estimated Hike Time
1 Campers Trail	Hike	0.1 mile	Hard	2 minutes
2 Cedar Cliff Trail	Hike	2.0 miles	Hard	48 minutes
3 Cool Hollow Trail	Hike	1.0 mile	Hard	24 minutes
4 Lodge Trail	Hike	0.1 miles	Hard	2 minutes
5 Overlook Trail	Hike	0.3 miles	Easy	7 minutes
6 Woodland Trail	Hike	0.5 miles	Moderate	12 minutes

Walking times are figured at a rate of 2.5 mph.