

Sioux Falls area climbers, in cooperation with the Department of Game, Fish and Parks, have developed this brochure to promote climbing safety and to preserve the natural features in Palisades State Park.

Climbing Safety

Rock climbing is a risk-oriented activity. While novices view injuries as random and uncontrollable events, experienced climbers know that climbing accidents are usually the result of failure to use safe climbing procedures. New climbers should get instruction in safety procedures and in the use of equipment from a qualified teacher. Climbing technique can then be learned and improved under safe conditions. Equipment cannot replace good judgment, training and experience.

Accidents

Report all accidents to the staff at the entrance station. If the station is unattended, use the pay phone west of the station and dial 911.

Access

Climbers can walk to the top and bottom of many of the climbs in the park, while others require anchoring at the top, lowering to the base of the climb and belaying from above.

Anchors

Top-rope anchor possibilities vary at Palisades. Some climbs have trees available

and these should be avoided or used with care to avoid damage to the tree. Some large boulders can be slung with webbing, but most climbs require anchors built with webbing and nuts or cams. Building a safe top-rope anchor requires technical skill. Get instruction from someone who is qualified. Tie yourself into an anchor while rigging at the top of a climb. If you see an unsafe top-rope anchor, you SHOULD tell the responsible party about it.

(Continued on back cover.)

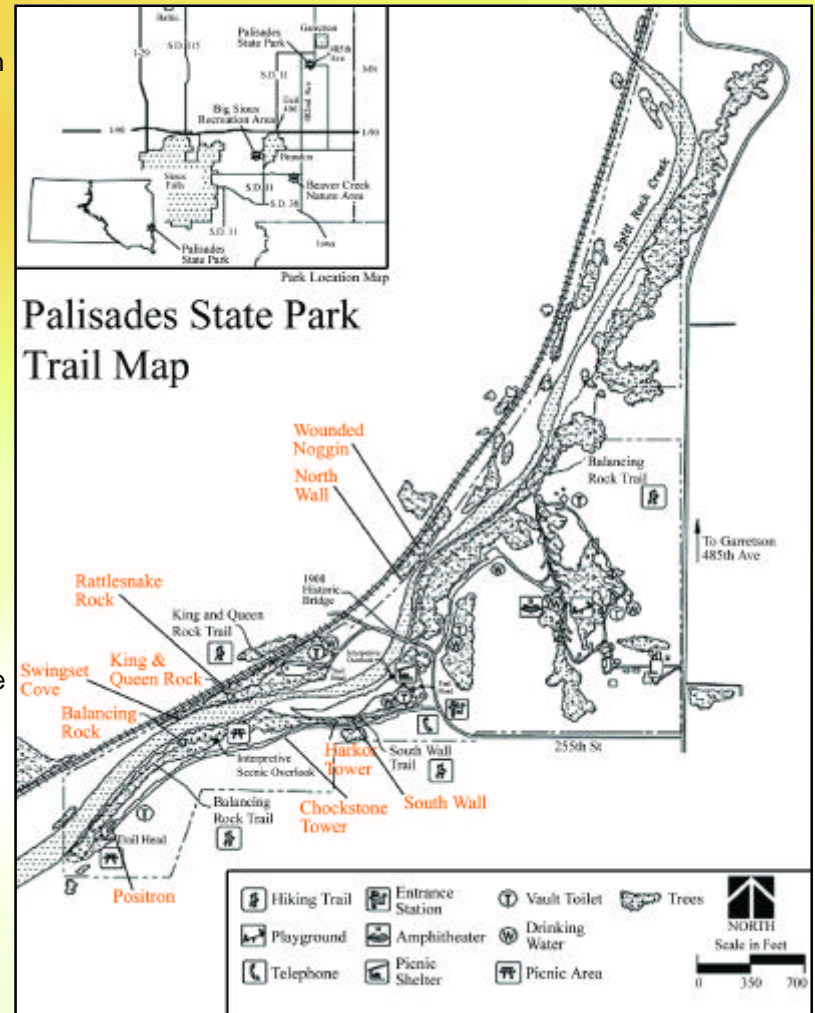


Photo by South Dakota Tourism

Palisades State Park

...a unique climbing experience

The Rock

The Sioux Quartzite exposed at Palisades is a smooth, dense rock with unique climbing features. The surface conditions range from slightly gritty on fresh surfaces to glacier-polished and lichen covered. The rock offers a mixture of face and crack climbs.

Preserving the Palisades

- Be sure to support the park by purchasing a park entrance license on arrival. If entrance station is closed, you must self-register with envelopes provided.
- Use established trails.
- Avoid cutting, pulling, trampling and stepping on vegetation.
- The use of climbing chalk is a personal decision. Use only as much as you need. A chalk ball prevents spills and delivers a controlled amount.
- Fixed protection, drilling, bolting and rock alteration (chipping) are strictly prohibited. There are a few fixed pieces left at Palisades from past times. These should be left alone.

For additional information contact:

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(605) 594-3824 • PalisadesPark@state.sd.us

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Belaying

Know how to belay. Know your belayer's skill and trustworthiness before you climb. Never let go of the rope with your brake hand. Set up a separate anchor for the belayer on all climbs that are belayed from above. Pay attention to the climber you are belaying at all times.

Lead Climbing

Some of the climbs may be led, but experience and care are required. The climbs are short with the attendant risk of ground fall. The low-friction rock does not provide reliable traction for camming devices.

Climbing Etiquette

Climbers are a small percentage of the park visitors, but their impact can be high because of the visibility of their activity. Take responsibility for your actions and follow these suggestions to make recreation at Palisades enjoyable for everyone.

anchors: Do not rig anchors or stretch webbing across trails. It is unsafe and unnecessary.

Group Outings: A ratio of 1 leader to 6 climbers is recommended; 1 to 4 is better if the climbers are beginners. If you plan to bring a large group to climb, be courteous and notify the park in advance.

Routes: It is not good form, and it is unfair for anyone to monopolize routes when not climbing them. If you've set up a climb, other climbers will be happy to share routes and ropes with you. If you decide to climb on a rope you didn't set, ask permission and check the anchors yourself. Experienced climbers will expect you to check their anchors.

Litter: Carry out everything you bring in. Be helpful by picking up litter that is not yours.

Rock Climbing

Safety and Etiquette

at Palisades State Park



South Dakota **STATE PARKS**
Department of Game, Fish and Parks