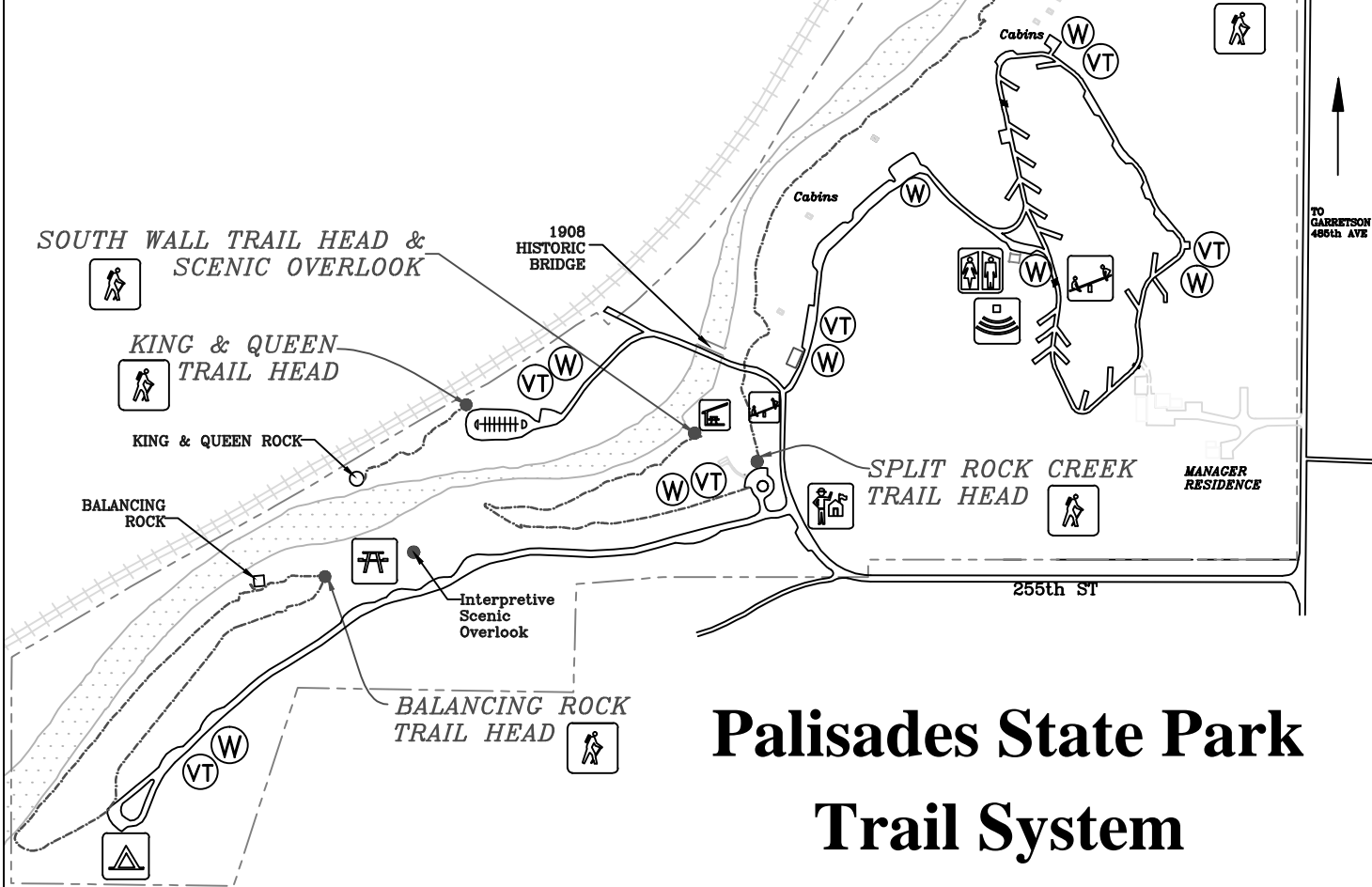


PARK LOCATION MAP



Palisades State Park Trail System



TO GARRETSON
486th AVE



HIKING TRAIL



ENTRANCE STATION



VAULT TOILET



COMFORT STATION



PLAYGROUND



AMPHITHEATER



DRINKING WATER



YOUTH GROUP CAMPING AREA



TELEPHONE



PICNIC SHELTER



PICNIC AREA



NORTH

SCALE IN FEET



Date: 11/18/2015

Palisades State Park

Balancing Rock Trail

Type of trail: Hiking

Trail surface: Dirt and mowed grass

Rated: Somewhat difficult, strenuous in some areas (stairs and steps – some steep sections)

Fee required: Park Entrance Fee

Length of trail in miles: .6 mile

Location of the trailhead: Turnaround parking lot and end of upper road

Facilities at or near the trailhead: Toilet, nearby parking, picnic tables

Facilities along the trail: Picnic tables

Will there be interpretive information available: Yes, spur trail continues east of Balancing Rock to scenic overlook platform. Interpretive sign about old town of Palisades and flour mill operation.

What lodging opportunities are provided IN the park: Tent camping, electrical and non-electrical campsites, wheelchair accessible campsites, camping cabins, and group lodge

Does this trail connect with any other trails: No

Nearest facilities for purchasing snacks, sunscreen etc.:

Convenience stores in Garretson – two miles north of park

Nearest motels/restaurants OUTSIDE the park: In Garretson - two miles north

Nearest Chamber of Commerce:

Garretson Commercial Club, PO Box 445, Garretson, SD 57030

Emergency phone numbers:

Ambulance – 911

Sheriff – 911

Fire Department – 911

Do most cell phones work on this trail: Yes

Palisades State Park

Trail Guide: Balancing Rock Trail

Wildlife: Beaver, Raccoon, Squirrel, Whitetail Deer, Rabbit, Turkey, Bats, Snakes

Birds: Hawks, Sparrows, Grackles, Meadowlarks, Owls, Woodpeckers, Finches, Cardinals, Flickers, Starlings

Forrest Trees: Cottonwood, American Linden, Bur Oak, Green Ash, Silver Maple, Box Elder, Red Cedar, Honey Locust

Prairie Grasses: Big Bluestem, Indian Grass, Switch Grass

This 0.6 mile trail starts out in a mowed picnic area near a scenic interpretive overlook. From this vantage point, you will get a nice overview of the King and Queen Rock formations. Also here you will find a view that illustrates the layout and operation of the old Patton Mill, which operated during the late 1800s and drew its power from the running waters of the creek. The trail soon descends a steep set of stairs that passes one of Mother Nature's most puzzling creations. Balancing Rock is a quartzite column that seems to challenge gravity as it stands perched on the wall overlooking the creek. The trail then follows a mowed path along the bank of Split Rock Creek. Finally, the trail returns along the road to the trailhead parking lot.

Palisades State Park

King and Queen Rock Trail

Type of trail: Hiking, interpretive/viewing nature, interpretive history and rock climbing access

Trail surface: Gravel/limestone and dirt

Rated: Somewhat difficult, strenuous in some areas (some rock steps/steep sections)

Fee required: Park Entrance Fee

Length of trail in miles: .2 mile

Location of the trailhead: At turnaround, lower parking lot across old historic iron bridge

Facilities at or near the trailhead: Drinking water, toilet, parking and picnic tables

Facilities along the trail: None

Will there be interpretive information available:

Yes, interpretive plaque about historic town site of Palisades

What lodging opportunities are provided IN the park: Tent camping, electrical and non-electrical campsites, wheelchair accessible campsites, camping cabins, and group lodge

Does this trail connect with any other trails: No

Nearest facilities for purchasing snacks, sunscreen etc.: In Garretson – two miles north

Nearest motels/restaurants OUTSIDE the park: In Garretson - two miles north

Nearest Chamber of Commerce:

Garretson Commercial Club, PO Box 445, Garretson, SD 57030

Emergency phone numbers:

Ambulance – 911

Sheriff – 911

Fire Department – 911

Do most cell phones work on this trail: Yes

Palisades State Park

Trail Guide: King and Queen Rock Trail

Wildlife: Beaver, Raccoon, Squirrel, Whitetail Deer, Rabbit, Turkey, Bats, Snakes

Birds: Hawks, Sparrows, Grackles, Meadowlarks, Owls, Woodpeckers, Finches, Cardinals, Flickers, Starlings

Forrest Trees: Cottonwood, American Linden, Bur Oak, Green Ash, Silver Maple, Box Elder, Red Cedar, Honey Locust

Flowers: Tiger Lilies

King and Queen Rock trail head is located near the turnaround parking area, known as Cal's. This short 0.2 mile trail takes you to the heart of the most dramatic geologic formations in the park. The sheer vertical walls of Sioux rose quartzite appear to rise from the waters of Split Rock Creek and illustrate the effects of millions of years of erosion and weathering. The rock formations are popular with rock climbers. This trail also passes near the site of the original Palisades town site and Patton's flour mill. Along the trail you can find several points to stop and rest, including a deck style overlook. Near the deck, you will find a historical plaque secured to the vertical quartz rock wall expounding on the history of the once prosperous town of Palisades, South Dakota. At its peak the town was host to a flour mill, two hotels, pool hall, drug store, hardware store, furniture store, doctor's office, blacksmith and butcher shop, several general stores, a bank and a railroad depot. It even had its own newspaper, the Palisades Progress. At one time there was even silver prospecting done in Spilt Rock Creek. There were 300 claims stated and soon after it was discovered that the silver was of poor quality and the claims were made nearly worthless. The only two people who made money were the gentleman who sold the claims for one dollar a piece, and the gentleman that sold his claim for twenty-five dollars.

Palisades State Park

South Wall Trail

Type of trail: Hiking and rock climbing access

Trail surface: Dirt and mowed grass

Rated: Somewhat difficult, strenuous in some areas (some slippery rock-steps and stairs - steep sections)

Fee required: Park Entrance Fee

Length of trail in miles: .4 mile

Location of the trailhead: At picnic shelter just past entrance station

Facilities at or near the trailhead: Drinking water, toilet, parking, picnic shelter and picnic tables

Facilities along the trail: None

Will there be interpretive information available: Yes, interpretive overlook, which discusses the unique geology of the area

What lodging opportunities are provided IN the park: Tent camping, electrical and non-electrical campsites, wheelchair accessible campsites, camping cabins, and group lodge

Does this trail connect with any other trails: No

Nearest facilities for purchasing snacks, sunscreen etc.: In Garretson – two miles north

Nearest motels/restaurants OUTSIDE the park: In Garretson - two miles north

Nearest Chamber of Commerce:

Garretson Commercial Club, PO Box 445, Garretson, SD 57030

Emergency phone numbers:

Ambulance – 911

Sheriff – 911

Fire Department – 911

Do most cell phones work on this trail: Yes

Palisades State Park

Trail Guide: South Wall Trail

Wildlife: Beaver, Raccoon, Squirrel, Whitetail Deer, Rabbit, Turkey, Bats, Snakes

Birds: Hawks, Sparrows, Grackles, Meadowlarks, Owls, Woodpeckers, Finches, Cardinals, Flickers, Starlings

Forrest Trees: Cottonwood, American Linden, Bur Oak, Green Ash, Silver Maple, Box Elder, Red Cedar, Honey Locust

Prairie Grasses: Big Bluestem, Indian Grass, Switch Grass

This 0.4 mile trail starts behind the picnic shelter near an interpretive overlook. The display includes information about the unique geology of the park, specifically the Sioux quartzite formations and local pipestone deposits. During mid summer, you can find tadpole ponds that have formed from rain water on the quartzite. From this point the trail follows Split Rock Creek, past the site of the old mill dam and on to a popular rock climbing area called the South Wall. The vertical wall provides various challenges to climbers of all abilities. South Wall Trail is home to over forty species of lichens (a plant made up of an algae and fungus) that works together to survive and thrive on rock and tree surfaces. The trail then ascends by way of a set of stairs and steps through the middle of a large fracture in the rock giving a close-up view of the quartzite cliffs and dramatic landscape. The trail returns by way of a mowed path and woodland trail to the picnic shelter. Watch for an ever-changing display of woodland wildflowers along this trail.

Palisades State Park

Split Rock Creek Trail

Type of trail: Hiking

Trail surface: Dirt

Rated: Somewhat difficult, strenuous in some areas (some steps and stairs - steep sections)

Fee required: Parks Entrance Fee

Length of trail in miles: 1.5 miles

Location of the trailhead: At picnic shelter just past entrance station

Facilities at or near the trailhead: Drinking water, toilet, parking, picnic shelter, picnic tables

Facilities along the trail: None

Will there be interpretive information available: Not at this time but plan to add

What lodging opportunities are provided IN the park: Tent camping, electrical and non-electrical campsites, wheelchair accessible campsites, camping cabins, and group lodge

Does this trail connect with any other trails: No

Nearest facilities for purchasing snacks, sunscreen etc.: In Garretson – two miles north

Nearest motels/restaurants OUTSIDE the park: In Garretson - two miles north

Name, address, and phone numbers of nearest Chamber of Commerce:

Garretson Commercial Club, PO Box 445, Garretson, SD 57030

Emergency phone numbers:

Ambulance – 911

Sheriff – 911

Fire Department – 911

Do most cell phones work on this trail: Yes

Palisades State Park

Trail Guide: Split Rock Creek Trail

Wildlife: Beaver, Raccoon, Squirrel, Whitetail Deer, Rabbit, Turkey, Bats, Snakes

Birds: Hawks, Sparrows, Grackles, Meadowlarks, Owls, Woodpeckers, Finches, Cardinals, Flickers, Starlings

Forrest Trees: Cottonwood, American Linden, Bur Oak, Green Ash, Silver Maple, Box Elder, Red Cedar, Honey Locust

Prairie Grasses: Big Bluestem, Indian Grass, Switch Grass

Split Rock Creek, near Garretson has run for millions of years through Palisades State Park. Geologists say the Sioux quartzite spires are approximately 2.6 billion years old. The trail head for Split Rock Creek Trail is located just beyond the park entrance station, near the picnic shelter. At 1.5 miles in length, this trail meanders through one of the many wooded areas that the park features. Using stairs to navigate a steep section of the trail you will find yourself hiking on the edge of the campground and further descending towards the south shore of Split Rock Creek, for which the trail is named. From this point the trail levels out and provides quiet places to sit and reflect on the natural beauty of the park. Views from the trail include, scenic rock formations, woodland creatures, including raccoon, turkey, and whitetail deer, there also may be signs of beaver activity in the area. Song birds and seasonal wildflowers can be found in abundance on the meadows of Split Rock Creek Trail. As you approach the turn around loop at the end of the trail, you will be able to see Palisades State Park's group lodge to the right of the trail.