



































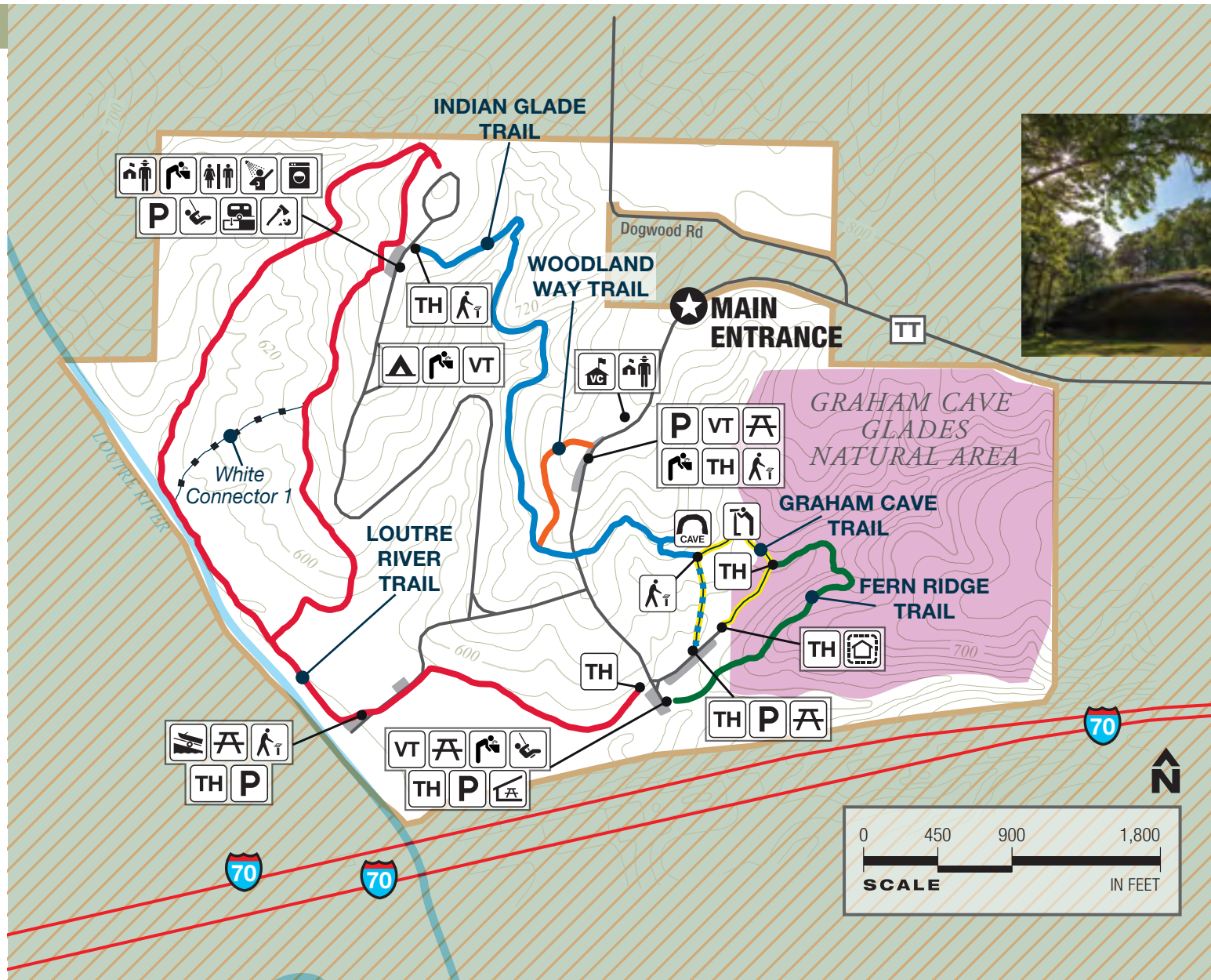


GRAHAM CAVE STATE PARK MAP

LEGEND

-  Main entrance
-  Interstate highway (multi-lane)
-  State route
-  Land contour
-  Not state park property
-  Park boundary
-  Natural area
-  Trail blazed in red
-  Trail blazed in orange
-  Trail blazed in yellow
-  Trail blazed in green
-  Trail blazed in blue
-  Trail (overlapping)
-  Trail (connector)
-  Water
-  Camping
-  Hiking trail
-  Picnicking
-  Visitor center
-  Boat ramp
-  Cave
-  Dump station
-  Interpretive panel
-  Interpretive shelter
-  Laundry
-  Overlook
-  Parking
-  Park office/Check station
-  Picnic shelter
-  Playground
-  Restroom
-  Showerhouse
-  Trailhead
-  Vault toilet
-  Water fountain
-  Woodlot



WALK THROUGH ANCIENT HISTORY AT Graham Cave State Park



Nestled in the hills above the Loutre River in Montgomery County, Graham Cave State Park features an unusual dolomite and sandstone cave that contained early American Indian artifacts and helped rewrite the history books. Graham Cave became historically significant when University of Missouri archaeologists discovered how long ago human occupancy had occurred.

Extensive excavations beginning in 1949 uncovered artifacts revealing human use of the cave dating back to as early as 10,000 years ago. Further excavations revealed clues to the lifestyle of the ancient Dalton and Archaic period inhabitants who once used the cave for shelter. Today, visitors are allowed in the entrance of the cave, where interpretive signs point out interesting discoveries. Photography opportunities abound.

Surrounding Graham Cave is 386 acres of naturally diverse land designated as Graham Cave State Park. Several trails wind throughout the park's woodlands and glades. A boat ramp on the Loutre River provides access for boating and fishing. An open picnic shelter, playground areas and picnic sites make the park an ideal place for a day of family fun. For those in need of a longer retreat, a wooded camping area offers basic and electric campsites, modern restrooms, and hot showers.

CONTACT INFORMATION

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DISCLAIMER: This map is not a legal survey. The Missouri Department of Natural Resources makes no warranty, expressed or implied, as to the accuracy of the data or related materials and is not responsible for any damage or loss resulting from its use.

FERN RIDGE TRAIL

0.40 miles one way TRAIL RATING: Rugged
ESTIMATED HIKING TIME: 25 minutes

Fern Ridge Trail passes through Graham Cave Glades Natural Area. Animals that live on the glades include the lichen grasshopper, the slender glass lizard and the prairie lizard. The narrow trail winds just below the ridgetop then descends into a timbered valley containing wet-weather waterfalls and a rich variety of wildflowers. Bordering the valley are picturesque sandstone ledges, often covered with lichens, mosses and ferns.

Fern Ridge Trail leads from the lower (south) parking lot near the playground to the intersection with Graham Cave Trail. Trail users can follow the yellow blazes on Graham Cave Trail, which passes an overlook at a wet-weather waterfall before leading to the entrance of Graham Cave.

GRAHAM CAVE TRAIL

0.30-mile loop TRAIL RATING: Moderate
ESTIMATED HIKING TIME: 15 minutes

Graham Cave Trail's natural surface section leads to Graham Cave, passing by an interpretive shelter with wayside exhibits and an overlook at a wet-weather waterfall. The paved section has a high degree of incline and leads directly to Graham Cave, with an open front and wayside exhibits that define the history and natural communities surrounding the cave. Here, Indian Glade Trail ascends the sandstone outcroppings above the cave to the left, turning westbound toward the campground.

A historic treasure, Graham Cave contained significant archaeological evidence used to date its use as a shelter up to 10,000 years ago. The cave was designated a National Historic Landmark in 1961 and added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1966. Visitors can learn about the archaeological research that revealed the early American Indian presence.

As hikers follow the natural surface trail to Graham Cave, they will be hiking along the edge of Graham Cave Glades Natural Area. The trail intersects with Fern Ridge Trail on the upper bend. As part of Missouri's natural area system, this area still possesses much of the same character experienced by American Indians when they inhabited the region. Ascending from the valley, there will be views of sandstone ledges, often covered with lichens, mosses and ferns. Above the ledges are open, rocky glades.

Plants such as prickly pear cactus, rushfoil, pinweed, rose verbena, prairie fame flower, Missouri brown-eyed Susan, hairy lip fern and adder's tongue fern are well adapted to life in the extremely hot and dry glade environment. It's a hike back through time to see the natural environment and the cave that helped humanity survive here for thousands of years.

INDIAN GLADE TRAIL

0.90 miles one way TRAIL RATING: Moderate
ESTIMATED HIKING TIME: 40 minutes













Indian Glade Trail spans the central portion of the park, crossing diverse woodland landscapes from the camping area to Graham Cave, Graham Cave Trail and the lower picnic area. Along the route, the trail intersects with Woodland Way Trail, which offers a short hike to the park office and exhibit area.

Historically, open oak woodlands dominated the rough terrain along river valleys. Although uniform in appearance, these woodlands often vary considerably depending on bedrock geology (sandstone or limestone), soil type, direction of the slope, and natural disturbances such as fire. As a result, they support many species, including a variety of birds. Characteristic woodland birds include the wild turkey, the summer tanager and the Kentucky warbler. Fire pink and yellow crownbeard are wildflowers that are part of the very diverse ground cover. Indian Glade Trail has many interesting sandstone and limestone geologic features. Following the eastern section of Indian Glade Trail, there is a spur that leads to the cave roof, where sandstone glades are being restored. Visitors should stay on the trail and safely away from the cave ledge. Wayside exhibit panels are located at the campground trail access and in front of Graham Cave.

LOUTRE RIVER TRAIL

2.50-mile loop TRAIL RATING: Moderate
ESTIMATED HIKING TIME: 1 hour, 50 minutes

Named for the historic river with Boone family legacy, Loutre River Trail starts near the picnic shelter at the lower picnic area, travels west to the river, then north along its banks with a 1.50-mile loop trail connecting to the campground. In the river basin, the trail passes a bottomland forest dominated by bur oaks and Kentucky coffee trees. Below the tree canopy is an understory of pawpaws, Ohio buckeyes, spicebush and wildflowers such as the showy blue-eyed Mary. Wildlife includes birds

| TRAIL NAME | MILEAGE | BLAZE COLOR | APPROVED USAGE | RATING | TRAIL EXPERIENCE* |
|---|---------|--|--|----------|----------------------|
| Fern Ridge Trail | 0.40 |  Green |  | Rugged | 2, 3, 6, 7, 9, 11 |
| Graham Cave Trail | 0.30 |  Yellow |  | Moderate | 2, 3, 6, 9 |
| Indian Glade Trail | 0.90 |  Blue |  | Moderate | 2, 3, 6, 7, 8, 9, 12 |
| Loutre River Trail | 2.50 |  Red |  | Moderate | 2, 3, 7, 11, 12 |
| Woodland Way Trail | 0.20 |  Orange |  | Moderate | 2, 3 |
| Connector Trail ()  White | | | <i>Connector trails are available on some trails, are numbered and will modify your route. See map for more information.</i> | | |
| <p>* YOU MAY EXPERIENCE: ① Slippery conditions and/or downed vegetation ② Natural surface: dirt, mud, gravel, loose rocks, slippery surface, etc. ③ Rocks, roots and/or downed vegetation on trail ④ Low-hanging vegetation ⑤ Physically challenging obstacles ⑥ Wood or stone steps ⑦ Steep grades and inclines over 10% ⑧ Bluffs or drop-offs next to trail ⑨ Bridges and/or structural crossings ⑩ Water/stream crossings without bridges ⑪ Occasional water over trail ⑫ Road/highway crossing ⑬ Emergency response signs ⑭ Narrow passages ⑮ Raised or protruding obstacles ⑯ Electric fence crossings ⑰ Bison ⑱ Rapidly changing weather conditions ⑲ Motorized boat traffic ⑳ Unexpected waves ㉑ Changing water levels ㉒ Surface or submerged objects</p> | | | | | |

like northern parula warblers and butterflies such as the zebra swallowtail. To connect with the 1.50-mile loop, hikers should park near the boat ramp and take the trail northwest along the river, then north to the camping area, where drinking water and restroom facilities are available. Showy dogwoods are a treat in spring. White Connector 1 is available to shorten or lengthen the hike.

WOODLAND WAY TRAIL

0.20 miles one way TRAIL RATING: Moderate
ESTIMATED HIKING TIME: 10 minutes

Woodland Way Trail connects Indian Glade Trail to the upper (north) parking area just south of the park office. Woodland Way Trail passes through open oak and hickory woodlands. Historically, open oak woodlands dominated the rough terrain along river valleys. Prescribed burns and exotic species control are among management activities used to restore and maintain the oak woodlands at the park. These activities allow oak reproduction as a part of a healthy, diverse and resilient natural community that is preserved for future generations.

