ILINIWEK VILLAGE STATE HISTORIC SITE MAP



06/24

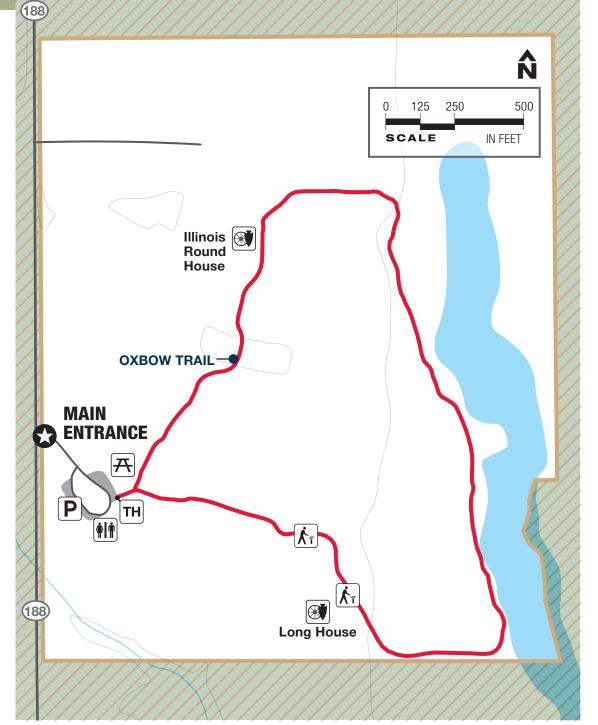
LEGEND





CONTACT INFORMATION

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TRAIL NAME	MILEAGE	BLAZE COLOR	APPROVED USAGE	RATING	TRAIL EXPERIENCE *
Oxbow Trail	1.10	Red	Ŕ	Easy	2, 3, 8

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 ⑪ Water/ stream crossings without bridges ① Occasional water over trail ⑫ Road/highway crossing ⑧ Emergency response signs ⑪ Narrow passages ⑧ Raised or protruding obstacles ⑥ Electric fence crossings ⑫ Bison ⑧ Rapidly changing weather conditions ⑲ Motorized boat traffic ⑳ Unexpected waves ④ Changing water levels ㉒ Surface or submerged objects

OXBOW TRAIL

1.10-mile loop TRAIL RATING: Easy ESTIMATED HIKING TIME: 35 minutes

History is the focus of the Oxbow Trail that explores the location of the village inhabited by American Indians of the Iliniwek Confederacy when explorers Louis Jolliet and Father Jacques Marquette visited during their 1673 expedition. The trail begins on level terrain then descends until it reaches the bottom of a bluff.

On the crest of the bluff, before the trail begins its descent, is the reconstructed remnant of a long house typical of the style the Iliniwek (or Illinois) Indians used. There is also a small oxbow lake cut off from the old Des Moines River channel, where a variety of native plants can be seen. Ducks, turtles, muskrats and many amphibious animals can be seen on this section of trail. Along the oxbow lake are some small wooded areas where ash, cherry, hickory and cottonwood are the predominant trees. During the time of Indian inhabitance, very few trees would have been found at this site. After leaving the lake area, the trail passes through a sand prairie with mixed grasses and sedges. Halfway across the open sand prairie is an example of an Illinois round house, again in the style found on the site during the Illinois occupation.



Rules of the Trail

- Only hikers as designated, are permitted on the park trails. Bicycles are prohibited.
- All pets must be leashed for their protection and that of visitors and wildlife.
- Removal of plants, animals, rocks, downed timber, artifacts or relics is prohibited.
- Cutting implements such as saws and hatchets are not allowed on trails.
- No hunting or discharging of firearms is permitted.
- All other rules and regulations pertaining to park use are applicable to trail users.

NOTE: Mosquitoes, ticks and chiggers are abundant May through mid-October. Be prepared with insect repellent.



