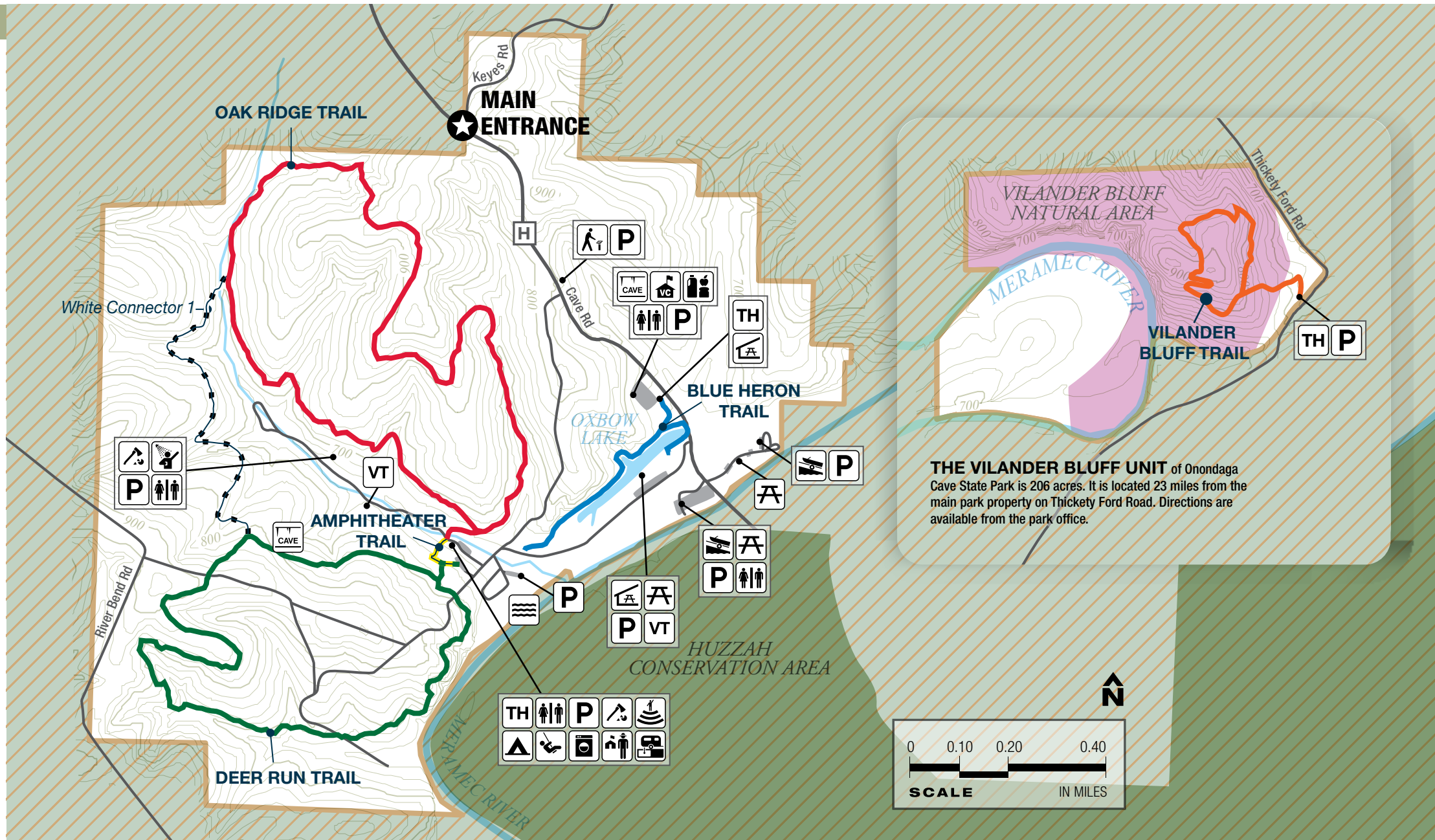


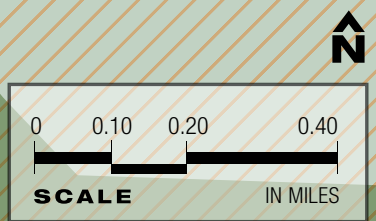
ONONDAGA CAVE STATE PARK MAP

LEGEND

- Main entrance
- U.S. highway (two-lane)
- State route
- Land contour
- Missouri Department of Conservation
- Natural Area
- Not state park property
- Park boundary
- Stream or creek
- Trail blazed in red
- Trail blazed in orange
- Trail blazed in yellow
- Trail blazed in green
- Trail blazed in blue
- Trail (connector)
- Water
- Camping
- Park store
- Hiking trail
- Bicycling trail
- Picnicking
- Visitors center
- Amphitheater
- Boat ramp
- Cave
- Dump station
- Laundry
- Parking
- Park office
- Picnic shelter
- Playground
- Restroom
- Showerhouse
- Trailhead
- Vault toilet
- Water access
- Woodlot



THE VILANDER BLUFF UNIT of Onondaga Cave State Park is 206 acres. It is located 23 miles from the main park property on Thickety Ford Road. Directions are available from the park office.



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.

AMPHITHEATER TRAIL

0.10 miles one way TRAIL RATING: Easy
ESTIMATED HIKING TIME: 5 minutes

Amphitheater Trail is a gravel trail leading from the amphitheater/showerhouse parking area to the amphitheater. Lights along the trail make it easy to access the amphitheater for evening programs. The trail bisects Deer Run Trail.

BLUE HERON TRAIL

0.50 miles one way TRAIL RATING: Moderate
ESTIMATED HIKING TIME: 15 minutes

Blue Heron Trail is a wide, level trail that leads from the park visitor center along the north edge of the Oxbow Lake to the park campground. Along the trail, hikers will pass over a “waterfall,” which is really an old mill raceway that was powered by water from Onondaga Spring. A dam and millrace constructed in 1886 detains the water before it spills into the Spring Lake. Possible wildlife sightings include beaver, river otter, muskrat and perhaps the trail’s namesake, great blue heron.

DEER RUN TRAIL

2.50-mile loop TRAIL RATING: Moderate
ESTIMATED HIKING TIME: 1 hour, 55 minutes

Deer Run Trail is a hilly, natural trail with steps and bluff heights of 100-plus feet along the Meramec River. It passes through dolomite woodland and a south-facing glade that is under restoration to eliminate invasive red cedar trees. At one point, the trail passes a concrete building that is the man-made entrance of Cathedral Cave, another significant cave in the park. The 0.80-mile White Connector 1 trail provides access to Oak Ridge Trail for a longer hike.

OAK RIDGE TRAIL

3.10-mile loop TRAIL RATING: Moderate
ESTIMATED HIKING TIME: 2 hours, 20 minutes

Oak Ridge Trail is a hilly, natural trail with a wet-weather stream crossing and some trailside drop offs. Wet-weather waterfalls in a ravine on the north end of the loop are a bonus for those not intimidated by rainy weather. A large, south-facing dolomite glade is an interesting change from the shaded wooded trail. Chinquapin oak, fragrant sumac, buckthorn, bluestem and switch grasses are present. Yellow coneflower, orange puccoon and Indian paint brush add splashes of color. A 0.80-mile White Connector trail provides access to Deer Run Trail to extend the hike.

VILANDER BLUFF TRAIL

1.30-mile loop TRAIL RATING: Moderate
ESTIMATED HIKING TIME: 1 hour

Vilander Bluff Trail is named for Vilander Bluff, the highest bluff along the Meramec River. The natural surface trail provides trail access to Vilander Bluff Natural Area, a 206-acre natural area known for its ancient eastern red cedars. Some of these cedars, from 300 to 500 years old, grow out of the rocks along the bluff. The trail features an outstanding example of a dry cliff community that contains two very rare species of lichens. The trail also takes hikers through a dry chert woodland and chert savanna before returning to the parking lot.

The trail was built and is maintained by the Miramigoua Chapter of the Missouri Master Naturalists from Franklin County. In an effort to protect the rare species and the area’s natural features, the trail is limited to hiking only and was constructed without major ground disturbance.



TRAIL NAME	MILEAGE	BLAZE COLOR	APPROVED USAGE	RATING	TRAIL EXPERIENCE *
Amphitheater Trail	0.10	Yellow		Easy	2, 3
Blue Heron Trail	0.50	Blue		Easy	2, 3, 9, 11
Deer Run Trail	2.50	Green		Moderate	2, 3, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 12
Oak Ridge Trail	3.10	Red		Moderate	2, 3, 7, 8, 10
Vilander Bluff Trail	1.30	Orange		Moderate	2, 3, 7
Connector Trail ()		White			

Connector trails are available on some trails, are numbered and will modify your hike. See map for more information.

*** 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

Things to Know Before You Go

The trails in Onondaga State Park are yours. Please help to maintain and preserve their beauty by following these rules:

- Only hikers and bicyclists, as designated, are permitted on park trails.
- All pets must be leashed for their protection and that of other visitors and wildlife.
- All other rules and regulations pertaining to park use are applicable to trail users.

NOTE: Ticks, chiggers and mosquitoes are common in Missouri April through October. Be prepared with insect repellent.



CONTACT INFORMATION

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