

CLIFF CAVE PARK



Cliff Cave Park is an interesting and fun natural place to explore. It has upland forest, karst topography (caves & sinkholes), bottomland forest, wetlands and Mississippi River vistas. There is a wide variety of trails to hike in this park, so bring your water bottle and check them out!

You need to find Cliff Cave for your first question. Park in the first lot on your right and walk the trail back alongside the road towards the cave. Part of the trail is in the shallow creek bed, so be careful and don't slip on the rocks!

#1. Cliff Cave has a large gate across the entrance so that no one can go inside the cave. This is to protect the cave from vandals (do you see all the graffiti on the rocks?) and to protect the animals inside the cave. Look just past the gate and you'll see two signs inside the cave. According to the bigger sign, when was the gate installed?

_____ The smaller red & white one tells about an endangered species that lives in the cave. What is it?



#2. Head down to the big parking lot and look for the 4-sided display sign near the restrooms. On the side titled "A Shelter Throughout Time" look for the section that talks about how caves are formed. Read how the rain can change tiny cracks into a gigantic cave... but it can take a while to occur. How long does it take to create a cave large enough to admit a human being?

#3. Now move to another side of the display that is titled "A Rich Midwest Ecosystem". It talks about how there used to be a lot of grasslands and prairies in the St. Louis area and all throughout the Midwest. In fact, the grasslands used to cover more than _____ acres. Wow!

Now, less than _____% of prairie habitat remains today.

Don't forget to take a hike around one of the trails in Cliff Cave and see all the interesting animals and plants that call this park home.

