

Station 5 SPRING

Even during dry weather this small spring or seepage flows between layers of sandstone, then it comes to the surface. Iron and sulfur gives the water its yellow-orange color. They are left as deposits where the water's velocity and directions is altered. This depositing process caused the formation of stalactites and "flow stone" which you can see along the face of the bluff. Wild hydrangeas, violets, mosses, ferns, and liverworts thrive on the bluff. Many of these same plants are common to other springs on Petit Jean.

Station 6 USE GEARS

The trail is rugged and steep for the next 1/4 mile. Take your time in this area.

Station 7 THE CREEK

Streams are ever-changing places. During dry periods the creek will nearly cease flowing, and deeper pools become a haven for stream life. Fish can usually be seen in the summer when they are concentrated in the deeper pools. Sunfish are the most common, but black bass, catfish, suckers, and several types of minnows can also be seen.

Many animals feed in and around the creek. Most are seldom seen because they have learned to fear humans. Mink, kingfisher, heron, and raccoon often forage in the creek for a meal, which might include fish, frogs, crayfish, and mussels.

Stream beds are continually being eroded away. Running water cuts the bed deeper into the earth, and waterfalls erode upstream as the flowing water cuts through the rock. Think of the countless seasons the creek has worked to cut this valley.

A stream is many things to many people; a picture to an artist, a rendezvous for a fisherman, an obstacle for a highway designer, a ditch to an engineer, or a sewer for an industry or town. What is a stream? What is it for you?

Station 8 LEANING ROCK

This large leaning stone has not always been here. It fell from the hillside. Which side do you think was up before it fell? The south sides are not as weathered because they did not face upward before the rock fell.

Just beyond the leaning rock, and below the layered rocks on the bluff, a spring feeds a tiny pool. This pool is home to tadpoles, water striders and insect larvae.

Station 9 WHAT GOOD IS A DEAD TREE?

Perhaps humans see this dead tree as having no use. But nature sees otherwise. This tree is a potential home for many animals. Wood boring insects and beetles make their way up the tree trunk. Woodpeckers, such as the pileated woodpecker use their bills to dig into the wood and eat those insects. This tree could also serve as a home for the woodpeckers. Can you find holes on the trunk that a bird might live in? Just because the tree is not living does not mean it isn't important to life.

Station 10 REFLECTIONS

From this overlook you can see the valley you have traversed. Reflect for a minute on what you have seen.

Foresighted individuals helped preserve this area in the early 1900's. By learning about this and other natural areas, you may care more about helping to preserve such unique areas.

NOTE: PLEASE DO NOT STAND NEAR THE EDGE OF THE OVERLOOK! THERE IS A DEFINITE DANGER OF FALLING.

NOTICE: To preserve scenic beauty and ecology, fences and warning signs have NOT been installed in some park locations. Caution and supervision of your children is required while visiting these areas.

TRAIL REGULATIONS

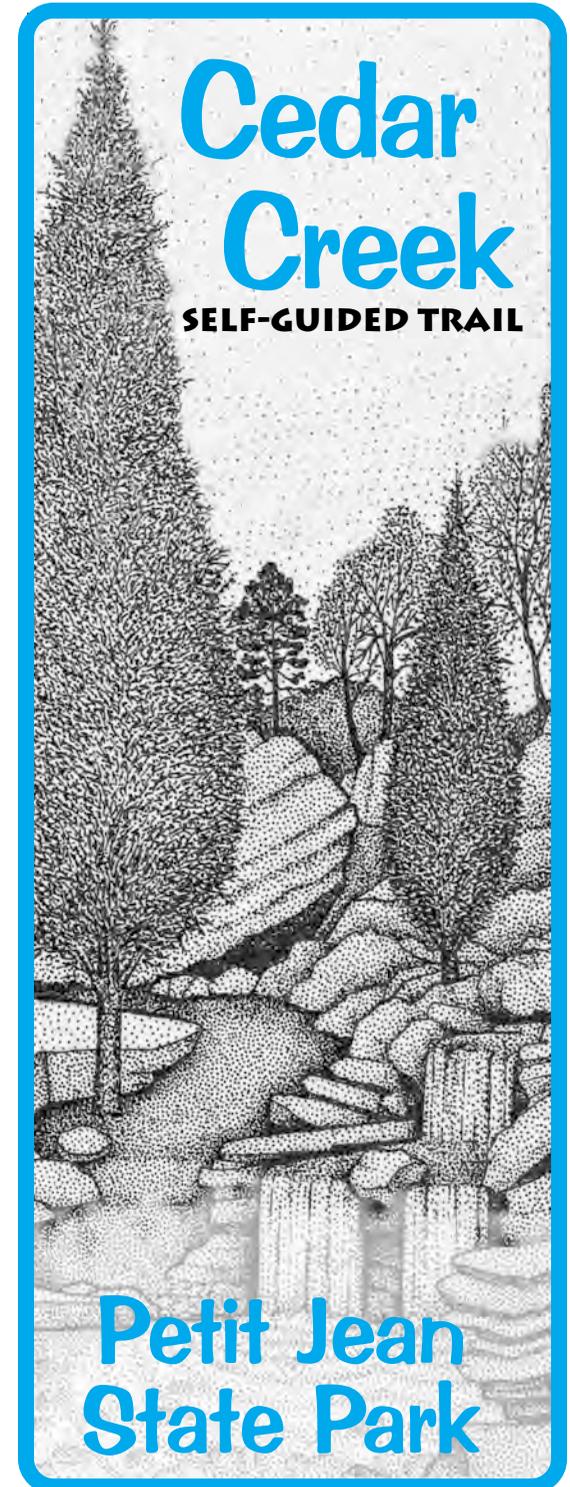
To protect the environment and the safety of you and others, it is **UNLAWFUL** to:

- ❁ Hike in designated restricted areas which are hazardous or protected.
- ❁ Swim in the pool at the bottom of Cedar Falls or in Cedar Creek.
- ❁ Possess alcoholic beverages on trails.
- ❁ Deface any natural or historical area.
- ❁ Camp overnight along trails.
- ❁ Carry bottles or glass containers on trails.
- ❁ Allow pets to run loose.
- ❁ Stray off designated trails.
- ❁ Ride bicycles or wheeled vehicles on trails.
- ❁ Ride horses on trails.

VIOLATORS ARE SUBJECT TO FINE BY LAW ENFORCEMENT PERSONNEL.



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INTRODUCTION

The story of Cedar Creek Trail, and how it was built, is a fascinating one. By following the numbered stations and reading this brochure, you can learn about some of the animals, plants, and natural forces which make Petit Jean the unusual area it is.

About 1 1/2 hours are need to walk the trail which begins and ends at the Pioneer Cabin. Walk slowly and quietly using all your senses in order to best enjoy the trail's story and to see the most wildlife.

Remember that this trail exists for all to enjoy. Please help keep it free of litter and in its natural condition by not picking flowers or disturbing wildlife. This is part of the story, too.

If you have questions, ask for the Park Interpreter (Naturalist) at the Visitor Center. Self-guiding brochures are available at the Visitor Center and at Mather Lodge.

Station 1 PIONEER CABIN

This cabin was constructed in 1845 by John Walker, the first settler on Petit Jean Mountain. Its original location, now under the waters of Lake Bailey, was north and east of the Visitor Center beside a large spring that ran into Cedar Creek. John Walker lived here for around three years, and then moved to the Cardon Bottoms after the death of his two daughters. Own West then purchased the cabin and lived in it until 1877. Walker Carlock then purchased the cabin and rebuilt it. It was re-located were the camping area D bathhouse now sits. Additions to the cabin included a screened in kitchen in the back and small enclosed sleeping rooms opposite the fireplace. A blacksmith shop was also built at the site.

The Carlock family sold the cabin and property to the state park in 1933. The Civilian Conservation Corps moved the original portion of the Pioneer cabin to where it sits today. The cabin sits as a monument to honor the pioneer spirit.

Please do you part to preserve this unique history.

Station 2 C.C.C. TRAIL

The trail you are walking was built using little or no machinery. This stone steps behind and ahead of you are good examples of Civilian Conservation Corps work. Using only hand tools and teams of mules, these steps were cut and laid by hard working men with a daily wage of one dollar.

Station 3 CARPET ROCK

The large boulder on the edge of the trail is only one of the many unusual rock formations found on Petit Jean Mountain. What appears to be a man-made pattern imprinted in the boulder's surface is actually a phenomenon known as "carpet rock." It is formed when sandstone is crisscrossed by fractures which are later filled by quartz cement. Since quartz is very resistant to weathering and erosion, the lines of the fracturing now stand out in relief.

Station 4 LIFE ABOUNDS

The rock layers beside you are alive with life. Many varieties of mosses and lichens make their

homes among the rock shelves. Lichens are typically overlooked, covering the surfaces of rocks and logs. These plants are really two organisms, a fungus and algae, living together. They can live on the surface of bare rock with little moisture, and they actually dissolve fissures into the surface with their secretions. Mosses are the more noticed plantlife; lush and green because of the moisture near the creek. How many varieties of mosses and lichens can you find?

Just beyond this abundance of life today, buried in the rock shelves, is a fossil. This fossil, called *Lepidodendron* dates back 280 to 320 million years. Its closest living relatives today are ferns. However, at the time of *Lepidodendron*'s existence, this was a giant tree, one of the largest in the forest.

