



# MAP AND GUIDE: FORT RIDGELY STATE PARK

72158 COUNTY ROAD 30  
FAIRFAX, MN 55332  
NICOLLET/RENVILLE COUNTY  
507-426-7840



## ! VISITOR TIPS

- Fort Ridgely is one of several area historic sites. Stop at the park office to learn more or visit [mnhs.org](http://mnhs.org).
- Steep trails can become slippery after it rains.
- Horse riders, only use water crossings when the creek is shallow enough to cross safely.
- Horse riders 16 and older, don't forget to get your horse pass at the park office.
- Area cell phone service is spotty.
- In an emergency call 911.

## 🕒 ONLY HAVE AN HOUR?

- Visit the historic fort site. The museum is run by the Minnesota Historical Society and requires a separate fee or membership. If the museum is closed, you can still explore the grounds. Outdoor signs share the fort's history.
- Find historic buildings built by Civilian Conservation Corps and Veteran Conservation Corps crews.



LOOKING FOR MORE TO EXPLORE?  
VISIT [MNDNR.GOV/FORTRIDGELY](http://MNDNR.GOV/FORTRIDGELY)

## ABOUT THE PARK

Fort Ridgely State Park was created in 1911 as a memorial to those who fought in the US-Dakota War of 1862. The fort within the park was built in 1853 as a United States Army outpost and training ground, housing 300 soldiers and civilians. In 1862, the Dakota made two attacks on the fort. The war had lasting impacts on the state of Minnesota and the nation. Visit the park today to find more reminders of the area's history. You may discover stone structures built by Civilian Conservation Corps and Veterans Conservation Corps crews in the 1930s.



Explore historic Fort Ridgely.

## TRAIL HIGHLIGHTS

- |   |                    |
|---|--------------------|
| Upper Prairie Trail   | 2.5 miles loop     |
| Mostly flat • Mowed grass<br>Hike this prairie trail encircling the Historic Battlefield as it follows the edge of the Minnesota River bluff.           |                    |
| River View Trail  | 1-mile one-way     |
| Rolling hills • Packed dirt<br>Treat yourself to amazing views of the river valley along this trail and at the scenic overlook.                         |                    |
| Fort Road Trail   | 1.25 miles one-way |
| Rolling hills • Packed dirt<br>Follow the historic Fort Road which served as the main land route between Fort Ridgely and Saint Peter in the 1800s.     |                    |
| Hilltop Trail   | 1.5-mile loop      |
| Rolling hills • Packed dirt<br>Walk along the top of the ridgeline and spot woodland flowers blooming. Don't miss the scenic overlook on Airplane Hill. |                    |

## MORE TO EXPLORE AT THE PARK

- Look for interpretive programs in the summer.
- Enjoy the sliding hills in winter.
- Bring a picnic basket and find many scenic places for a quick bite or a leisurely lunch.
- Ride miles of horse trails within the park.
- Camp at the horse camp, group camp, drive-in campsites or walk-in campsites.
- Stay overnight at the park's renovated farmhouse.
- Rent the historic stone picnic shelter for special events.

## SO EVERYONE CAN ENJOY THE PARK...

A full set of STATE PARK RULES AND REGULATIONS is available at [mndnr.gov](http://mndnr.gov).



### PARK OPEN

8 a.m.–10 p.m. daily.



### VEHICLE PERMITS

Permits required; purchase at park office or entrance kiosk.



### PETS WELCOME

Keep on 6-foot leash; pick up after; attend at all times; not allowed in buildings or at beaches.



### CAMPGROUND QUIET HOURS

10 p.m.– 8 a.m.; only registered campers may be in campground during quiet hours.



### FIREWOOD

Must be purchased at this park or from vendors who sell wood approved for this park; no gathering firewood in the park.



WANT TO MAKE A RESERVATION?  
CALL 866-857-2757 OR VISIT  
[MNDNR.GOV/RESERVATIONS](http://MNDNR.GOV/RESERVATIONS)

## ? MORE INFORMATION

Minnesota Department of Natural Resources  
Information Center  
500 Lafayette Rd., St. Paul, MN 55155-4040  
888-646-6367 or [mndnr.gov/parks](http://mndnr.gov/parks)

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources  
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This information may be available in alternative format upon request.

**m** MINNESOTA  
STATE PARKS AND TRAILS