FT. RIDGELY STATE PARK

TRAILS

- Hiking
- Hiking/Horseback
- Fair Ridge Trail (paved hiking and horseback)
- Hiking Club
- Intersection Letters

FACILITIES

- Ranger Station
- Chalet
- Parking
- Historic Site
- Overlook
- Picnic Area
- Amphitheater
- Picnic Shelter
- Horse Riders Day-use Area
- Sliding Hill
- Campground
- Walk-in Campsite
- Group Camp
- Horse Camp
- Restroom
- Restroom/Shower
- RV Sanitation Station
- Dumpster
- Drinking Water
- Toilet
- Hitching Rail
- Manure Bin

Scale 1:14,000

0 0.1 0.2 0.3 0.4 0.5

Scale in Miles

N W E S

Buckskin Trail

Chestnut Trail

HORSE CAMP (see inset below)

610th Ave.

PRIVATE PROPERTY (stay on trail)

Fair Ridge Trail

1.1 mi

4

NOTE: Snowmobile trails exist in the park and area. Visit mndnr.gov/snowmobile for details.

Ft. Ridgely Creek

to turn right on 610th Ave.

460th St.

600th Ave.

PRIVATE PROPERTY

low water crossing

Rock Trail

Hilltop Trail

Fire Trail

W1-3

Old Fort Rd.

5

Upper Prairie Trail

service area

Fairway Trail

Fort Road

Valley Trail

Airplane Hill Trail

Cattail Trail

Oak Savanna Trail

Historic Fort Site

private cemetery

MAIN CAMPGROUND (see inset below)

Prairie Trail

Lower Prairie Trail

21

30

River View Trail

PARK ENTRANCE

MAIN CAMPGROUND

low water crossing

W1 W2 W3

Airplane Hill Trail

Upper Valley Trail

Lower Valley Trail

HOST

e = electric site

picnic shelter (non-reservable)

Ft. Ridgely Creek

GC1

HORSE CAMP

NOTE: hitching rails and drinking water located at each site.

low water crossing

e = electric site

box stalls

Farmhouse

H1 H2e H3e H4e H5e H6e H7e H8e H9e H10e H11e H12e H13e H14e

Ft. Ridgely Creek

MINNESOTA RIVER

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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 ranger station to learn more or visit 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 ranger station.
- Area cell phone service is spotty.
- In an emergency call 911.

ONLY HAVE AN HOUR?

- Visit the historic fort site, the original stone commissary and building foundations surrounding the parade grounds and monument. Outdoor signs share the fort's history. The site is run by the Minnesota Historical Society.

LOOKING FOR MORE TO EXPLORE?
VISIT 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
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
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
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
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.

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

MORE INFORMATION

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

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This information may be available in alternative format upon request.

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES