

Settlers Cabin Trail Notes

Blue Loop

The most direct access to the Blue Loop is via the tennis courts parking lot. The tennis courts are connected to Ridge Road by a short park road where Ridge is divided into 2 one-way streets. This is the only Blue Loop access that is not part of the picnic pavilion loop. If you park facing the building between the courts and playground, the trail runs along the edge of the lot. The trees are blazed and easy to see.

The Tomahawk Shelter parking lot is convenient since it is the first lot in the Southern half of the Pavilion drive (Teepee Rd) and the trail goes through the lot. The trail emerges from the woods near the midway point of the parking lot across from the shelter, goes along the edge of the lot and crosses Teepee Road to the Mohawk Shelter area where it goes back in the woods. The trees in the shelter areas are blazed and should be easy to find. The Iroquois Shelter is at the far end of the pavilion drive, but the parking lot has its own access trail to the Blue Loop (so you don't have to walk through an occupied shelter area to get to an access trail).

The only part of the Blue Loop that has no blazes is in a large mowed grass field next to the tennis courts. If you start in the tennis court parking lot, the blazes will disappear just after you pass the courts and enter the field. Walk along the bottom of the field towards the opposite side. You will see a path in the high grass. Follow it and the blazes will reappear when you enter the woods. Just before you enter the path in the high grass, you will see a sign for the Teepee Loop to your right. This is where the 2 trails merge. The two loops will share the same trail until they split where the trail emerges from the woods at Tomahawk Shelter. If you are walking in the other direction walk across the bottom of the field until you get to the tennis courts and look for blue blazes.

Most of the Blue Loop shares the trail with the Teepee Loop. The Teepee Loop uses red blazes.

Green Loop

The Green Loop has a long overlap with the Blue Loop (2500 feet). To try to minimize color overload on the trees, most green blazes will be put between the 2 opposing blue blazes on a marked tree. The green blaze will be facing to the side instead of facing the hiker. As you approach a blue blazed tree, you will see the green blaze appear to the side. Green blazes will be painted to face the hiker at either end of the overlap, so you can clearly see which direction to go when you join the Blue Loop and where to go when you leave the Blue Loop.

The Green Loop, after it splits off from the Southern end of the Blue Loop, goes through a large stand of mature forest and has some of the best scenery in the park. The downside to this leg of the loop is that it's very steep and a spring drains into the trail turning it into a small stream for days after a storm. The footing is difficult when the packed earth slope is wet. There is a small waterfall next to the trail on the way down the hill. The trail blazes have been routed to the side to provide a view of the valley and falls. After the trail reaches the valley floor, it follows a stream for about 900 feet before it crosses and climbs. The trail to the top is a very steep mountain bike trail. The blazes leave the trail and take a route that is less steep, then rejoin the trail at the top of the hill. This is the only major drop and climb on the loop. The Green Loop parking lot closest to the park entrance is the Tomahawk Shelter lot. Use the Blue Loop as an access trail to Green.

Purple Loop

The Purple Loop is relatively level. The only hill is on a pipeline trail that intersects the Green Loop at the Northern end of the Purple Loop. It is not an extreme grade, and if you walk the loop in a clockwise direction, it will be a descent, instead of a climb. The only way to reach the Purple Loop via blazed trail is by using the green loop. For the shortest Green Loop connection to Purple, park in the Arrowhead shelter lot at the Southern end of the picnic pavilion drive. Use the access trail from the parking lot and turn left when it intersects the Green Loop. The park office parking lot is the closest to the Purple Loop. The abandoned section of Greer Rd goes from the park office to the pipeline trail that forms the Northern end of Purple Loop.

This access has no signs or blazes, but comes within 30 feet of the Northwest corner of the Purple Loop. The turn-off from Greer into the park office lot is just before the Jersey Barrier that blocks Greer Rd. Go to the barrier and follow the paving on the other side. The road is mostly covered with grass, but paving is still visible. Follow the paving past the power lines, into the woods, to the first 4 way trail intersection (about 1100 feet from the Greer Rd barrier). The cross trail is the pipeline trail and if you look to the left, an oversize purple blaze at the Northwest corner of the Purple Loop should be visible.