

Welcome to

Rock City!

N ↑

Nature/hiking
trails

Picnic Area

Gift Shop
self pay station

Picnic Area

Gazebo

Restrooms

Picnic/shelter house

- | | |
|----------------------|-----------------------|
| #1 Twin Sisters | #5 Turtle |
| #2 Kissing Rocks | #6 Lips |
| #3 Earth in a Saucer | #7 Historical Marker |
| #4 Bathtub | #8 Giant's Easy Chair |
| | #9 Doughnut Hole |

8 9

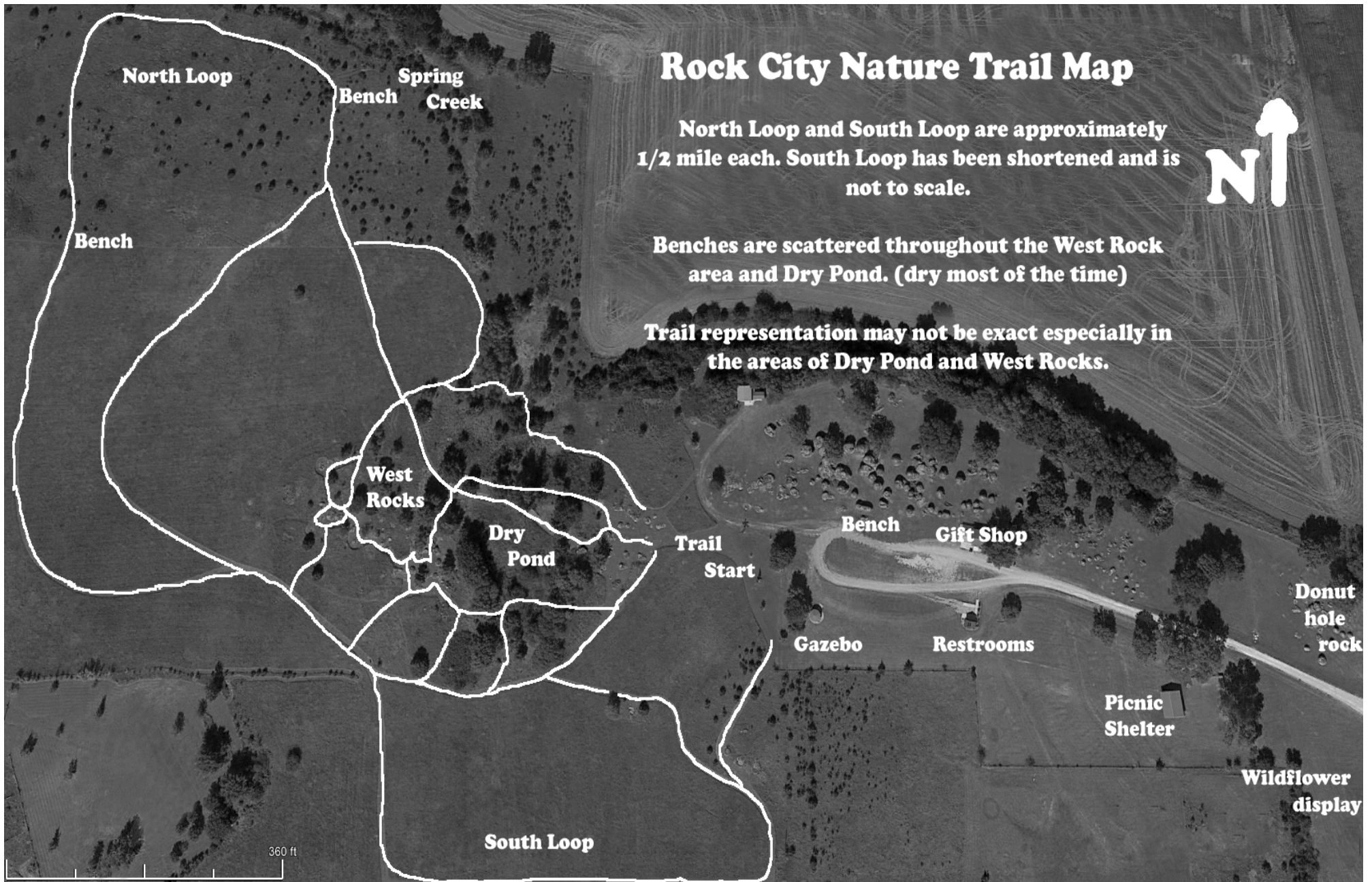
Rock City Nature Trail Map

North Loop and South Loop are approximately 1/2 mile each. South Loop has been shortened and is not to scale.



Benches are scattered throughout the West Rock area and Dry Pond. (dry most of the time)

Trail representation may not be exact especially in the areas of Dry Pond and West Rocks.



360 ft

HISTORY

You are in the heartland of America. This is the prairie that felt the feet of explorers Coronado and Pike, watched the life of the Native Americans, and witnessed the journey of the pioneers. Silently the huge boulders of Rock City awaited the arrival of those hardy pioneers who are our ancestors. Rock City is unique among the many historical attractions to be found in Kansas. The rocks at Rock City are huge sandstone concretions. Some are as high as 14 feet in an area about the size of two football fields. Over 200 boulders dot the landscape. There is no other place in the world with so many concretions of such giant size.

Rock City is a special place overlooking the peaceful Solomon River Valley and lying at the foot of the beautiful Smoky Hills. Basic improvements such as picnic areas, gift shop, and restrooms have been built by Rock City, Inc. Rock City is now as it has been for thousands of years. As the seasons change, unfolding new beauty, Ottawa County awaits to show visitors its natural beauty and attractions.

SCIENTIFIC EXPLANATION

For these sandstone concretions the formation process began during the late Crustaceous Period. This area was the coastline of a great seaway that covered everything from Mexico to northern Canada and from Kansas to Nevada. This seaway was known as the Great Western Interior Seaway. Although concretions occur wherever there is sedimentary rock, the Rock City concretions are remarkable because of their gigantic size and large number.

This great seaway, known as The Western Interior Sea, came and went several times depositing sand several miles thick. After the sea water receded the final time, the bottom of the sea became the land surface. Ground waters containing dissolved calcium carbonate (the key element in modern day concrete) seeped through the porous sandstone cementing the sand grains together. The spherical concretions slowly increased in size as additional layers of sand grains were cemented.

Eventually the softer, surrounding sandstone was eroded by wind, rain and floods, lowering the land surface. This left many of the cement-hard concretions totally exposed, while other are still partially embedded with only their rounded tops showing.

These boulders are exactly where they have always been. Other examples of sandstone concretions can be found elsewhere but most are cannonball sized orbs. No place on Earth has such a large collection of these huge concretions.

FLOWERS AND WILDLIFE

Although the greatest attraction of Rock City centers on the enormous concretions, the vegetation and animals of the park and immediate vicinity are also of great interest.

The plants here are native to the area: moss, bluestem grass, wild rose, wild grapevine, black-eyed Susan, sandhill plums, sedum and sumac. Be sure to look at the vegetation in the cracks of the rocks and the trees that have grown up through the rocks.

Birds are numerous in the park. Common species are Blue Birds, Cardinals, Finch, Starling, Swallow, and Killdeer. As you venture through the park, take time to listen for the wildlife that inhabits the area.

NATURE HIKING TRAILS

Hike as much or as little as you want to explore our nature trails. A trail map with bench locations can be found in the brochure box. When hiking on the south loop, you might catch sight of a Native American Bison grazing in the pasture across the road south of the park.

When exiting the park, notice our one acre native wildflower display on the right side of the driveway.

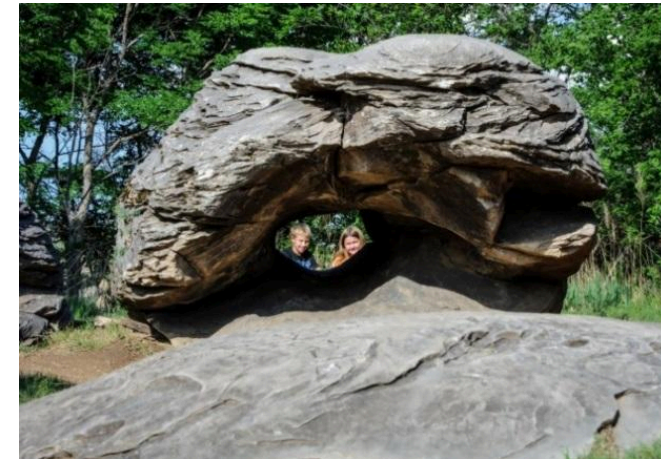
**Google us on the Internet
Rock City Kansas
or
Like us on Facebook
Where y'all from?**

We have visitors from every state and many foreign countries. Please sign the visitor registry.

Rock City is one of five National Natural Landmarks in Kansas recognized by U.S. National Park Service.



Rock City, near Minneapolis, is one of the 8 geographical Wonders of Kansas



Check out the Donut Hole Rock at the east end of the park.

Rock City is located 20 miles north of the I-70 and I-135 interchange or 3.6 mi. southwest of Minneapolis, Kansas. Watch for the Rock City signs.



This map depicts the Great Interior Seaway over North America.

Rock City Park

We're more than just rocks!

Take a short stroll on our nature trail, through the prairie grass, or in search of more sandstone concretions you can find along the way.

Take in our abundant flora and fauna. Most of the plants and grasses you'll see are native to the area. Most of our boulders have one or two species of mosses not typically found in this dry climate.



Please enjoy the rocks and facilities respectfully

- Dogs are welcome if they are on a leash and controlled. Please pick up after your pet.
- Please do not deface, carve or damage these soft sandstone concretions.
- Please use the trash receptacles.
- Fires and fireworks are prohibited.
- No firearms, pellet guns or paintball guns.
- No overnight camping. Campsites are located in the City Park 2 miles north on K-106.

Donations are appreciated to help us maintain the park.

School and church groups are free. Special tour and group rates available for birthday parties, weddings, reunions, corporate picnics, or other special occasions. To reserve picnic shelter call: 785-392-2092

The Rock City gift shop features a wide selection of souvenirs, and t-shirts, as well as handcrafted items by area artisans.



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