



*Activity & Informational
Packet*

www.cherokeecountyparks.com

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Welcome to the Cherokee County Conservation Board's game of Hide & Seek!

We hide, you seek! This summer adventure will take you, friends, and family to exciting places in our county parks.

At each site, you'll be looking for one or several 3"x3" white tiles and each location will have a clue in this packet that will help you find it. The symbols on the pages of this book match the symbols on the tiles you will find at each location. Make a rubbing (crayons work best) in your booklet in the space provided. You may visit the sites listed in this guidebook in any order. (Tiles are accessible after hours.)

Good luck!

Be Prepared!

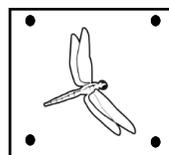
- Be prepared for any weather condition by dressing properly and don't forget to protect your skin with bug spray and/or sunscreen.
- Check each site's packet page before you head out for recommendations on extra gear or clothing you may want to wear/bring.
- *Be aware of each site's tile difficulty rating.* More stars means it's harder to find or more difficult to get to.
- Be good stewards! Make sure you're kind to the land, animals, plants, and fellow humans you encounter on your adventures. Leave the site as you found it or better than you found it.
- Bring your phone and share your adventures with us on our Cherokee County Conservation Board Facebook page or e-mail photos to ccclaura@gmail.com.

What You'll Need

- This packet
- Crayons
- Anything you need to be prepared for the outdoors!

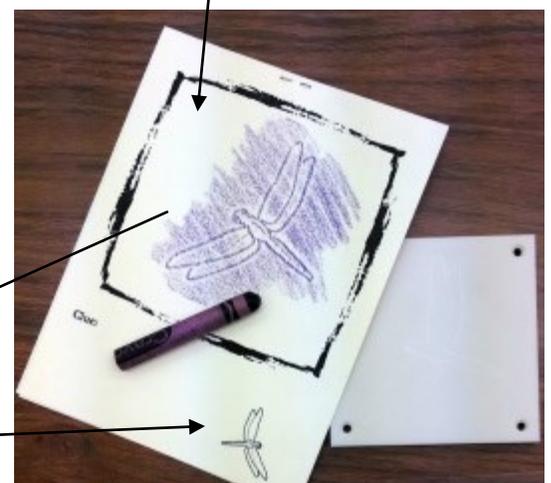
How to Make a Rubbing

1. Place the page in this packet with the rubbing area on the corresponding page over the rubbing tile. (Make sure the tile image matches the post symbol on the page.)
2. Rub the crayon lightly over the paper and watch your image appear.

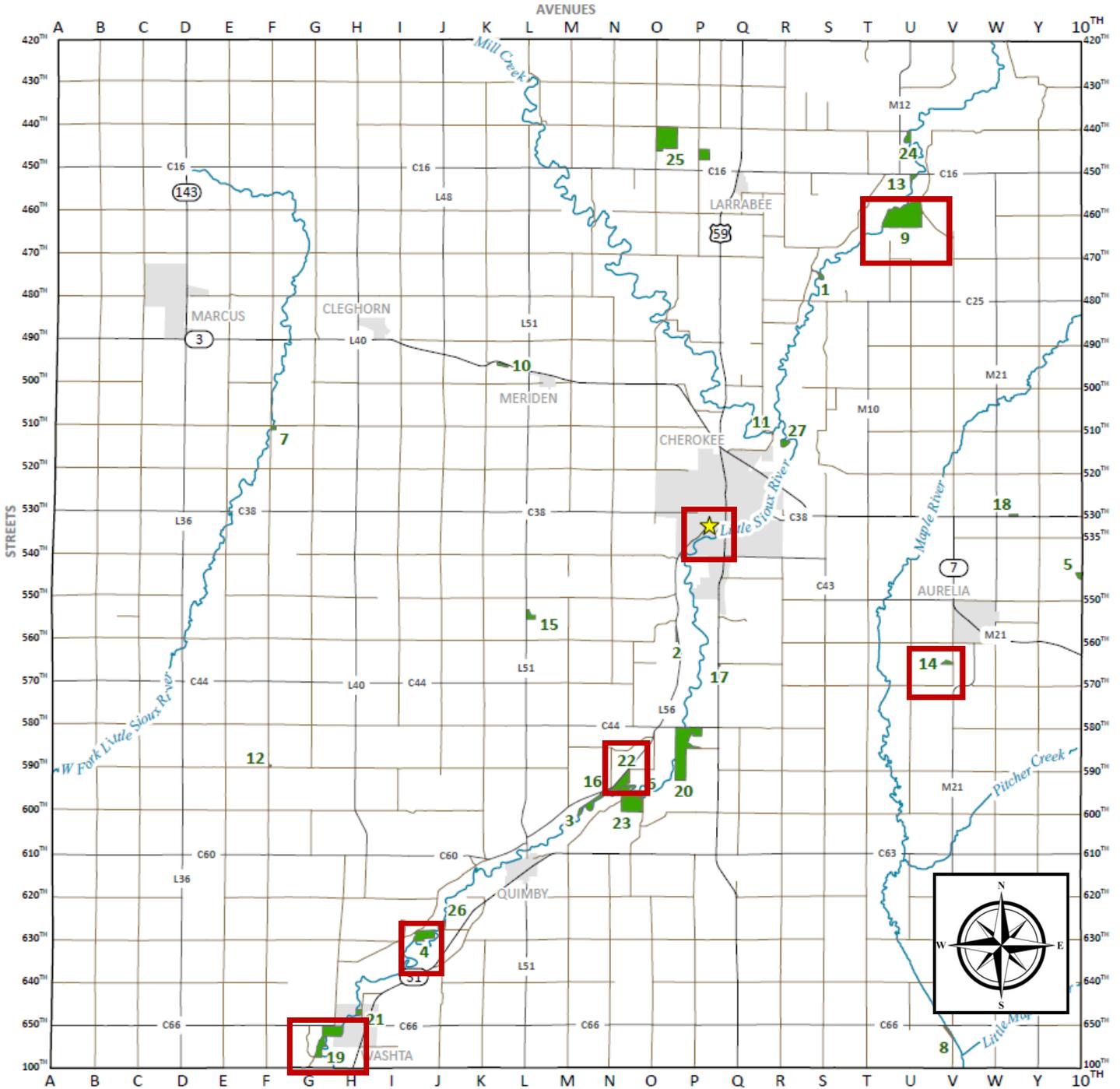


Tile example

This page is placed over the tile, then you rub the crayon lightly on the paper for the image to appear.



County Map



Key

4. Heini-Johnson Area (6270 Simonsen Rd)

9. Martins Access (4579 Martins Access Rd)

14. Nestor Stiles State Preserve (5648 V Ave)

19. Ranney Knob (760 650th St)

22. River Rd Conservation Area (5952 Little Sioux Rd)

 Denotes a county park/area with a tile in it.

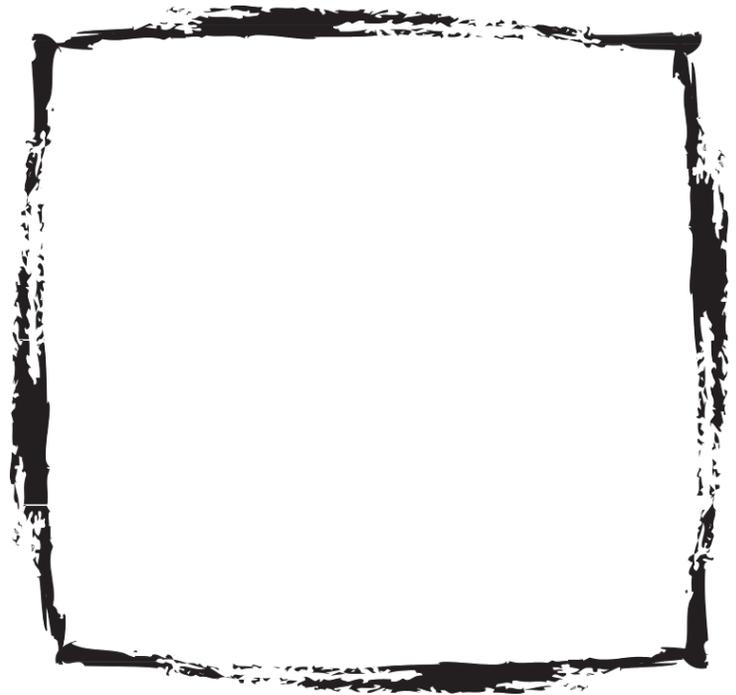
 Marks the CCCB Office (629 River Rd)

Ranney Knob Area

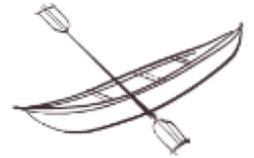
Ranney Knob Area consists of 90 acres located directly west of Washta. This beautiful recreation area includes a group picnic shelter, 3 non-electric campsites (\$5/site/night), and wooded trails, all along the Little Sioux River. The pit toilet is handicapped-accessible. This park is about 3/4 miles long and you once could drive through the park from C66/650th St to D12/G Ave. The meandering Little Sioux River channel has since eroded the road through Ranney Knob away, dividing the property into two pieces.

Note: Use the D12/G Ave entrance to find the tile.

It is recommended to wear comfortable clothes and close-toed shoes when enjoying this site. Plants and animals may not be removed from the site.



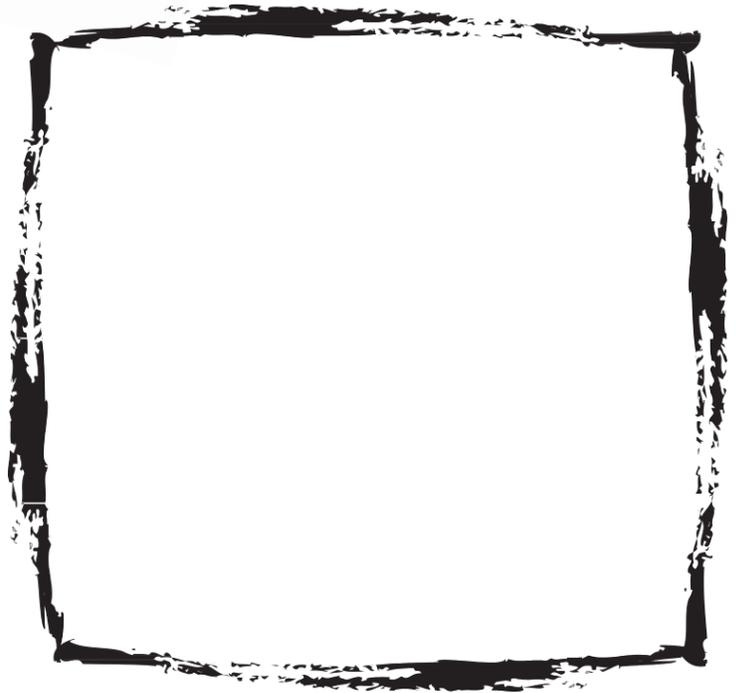
Clue: Look for this old wooden walkway.



Heinl-Johnson Area

Beginning as a 10 acre woodlot in 1969, this now 67 acre wildlife area is a floodplain that contains an old oxbow. An oxbow is an old river channel that has since been naturally separated from the river's flow because it changed paths. Oxbows create wondering watering holes and wetlands for local wildlife. (Can you count how many wood duck boxes we have installed?) This area was once only accessible from the river, but a recent acquisition has made it accessible now from the road. Across the river, is another CCCB property known as Steineke.

If you wish to walk through the property, it is recommended that you wear pants and close-toed shoes. Plants and animals may not be removed from the site.



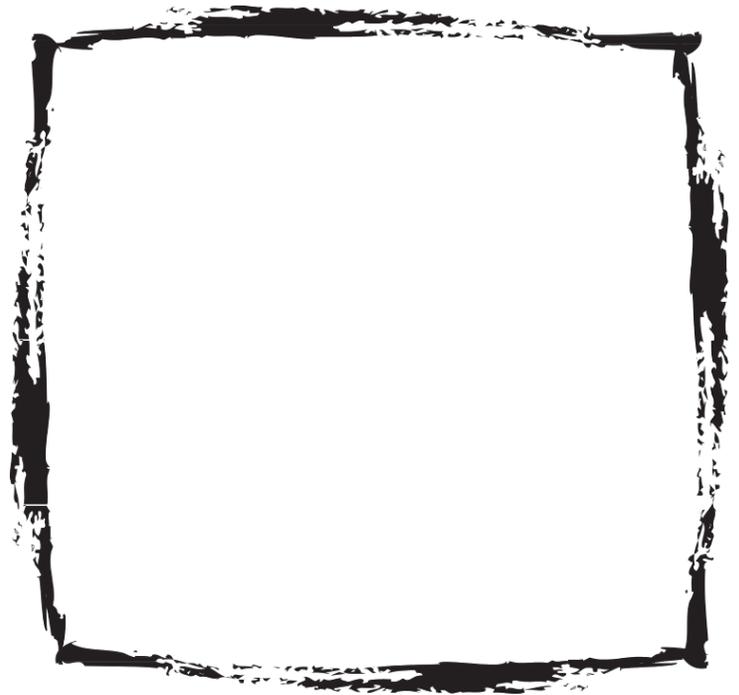
Clue: Welcome! You know you're here!



Cherokee County Conservation Board

The Cherokee County Conservation Board (CCCB) maintains over 1200 acres of parks, wildlife areas, river accesses, preserves, and natural areas. It offers five campgrounds around the county, maintains five miles of seasonal equestrian trails, and 10 miles of foot trails. Don't camp? Then reserve one of the four modern cabins at Martins Access, or the lodge at Silver Sioux.

CCCB headquarters includes an office, education room, shop, and several out buildings. The education room boasts several displays and animal mounts, so stop by sometime during business hours (M-F, 8am-4:30pm) to experience each one of Iowa's ecosystems.



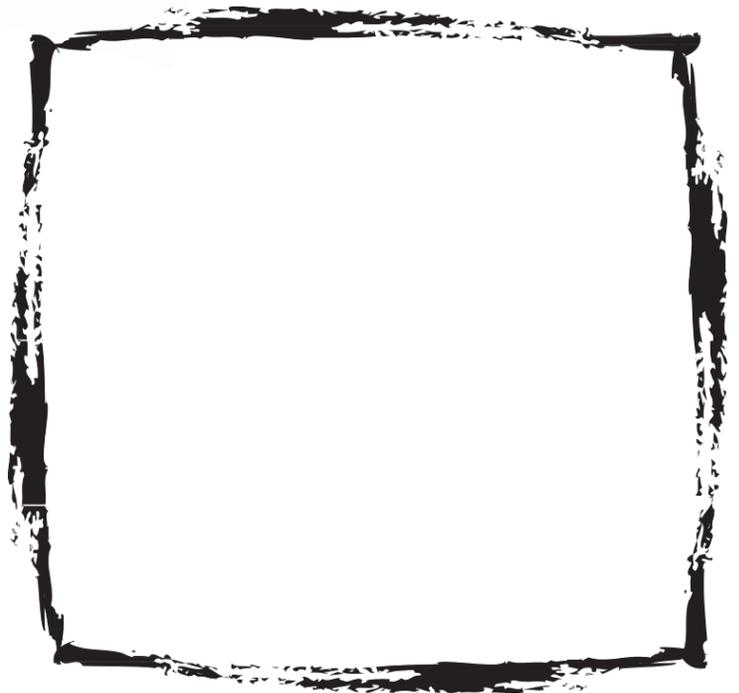
Clue: This mailbox doesn't take mail, it's a drop box.



Nestor Stiles State Preserve

This 9.5 acre state preserve is owned by the Iowa Department of Natural Resources, but managed by the CCCB. This tallgrass prairie remnant was donated to the state in 1981 by Marguerite S. Whiting in honor of her father, Nestor Stiles, a banker, conservationist, and local historian who had protected and preserved natural and historical sites throughout the county. The west side of the property contains native prairie plant species. Recently, the CCCB removed many undesirable woody shrubs that shaded out native prairie species. Using prescribed fire, we hope to encourage native prairie plants and animals to move back into the preserve.

If you wish to walk through the property, it is recommended that you wear pants and close-toed shoes. Plants and animals may not be removed from the site.



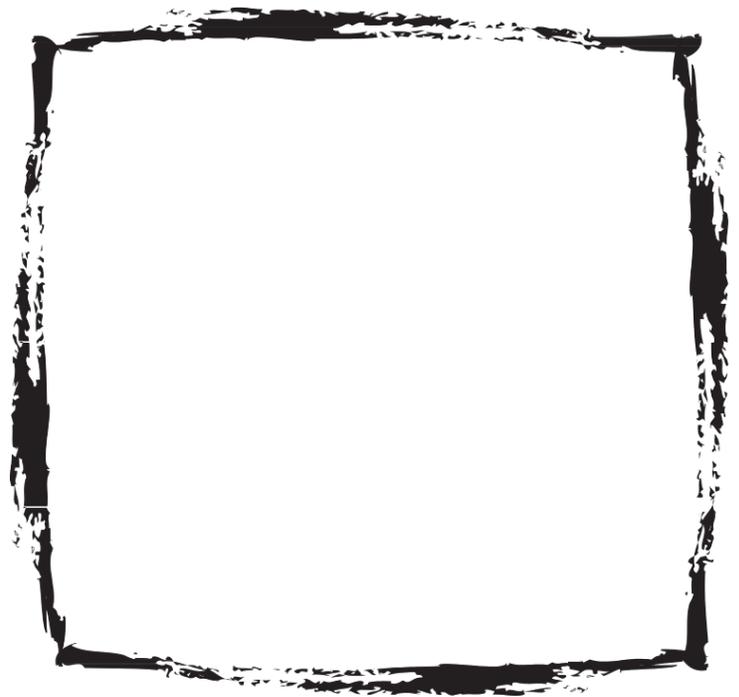
Clue: What is the name of this place?



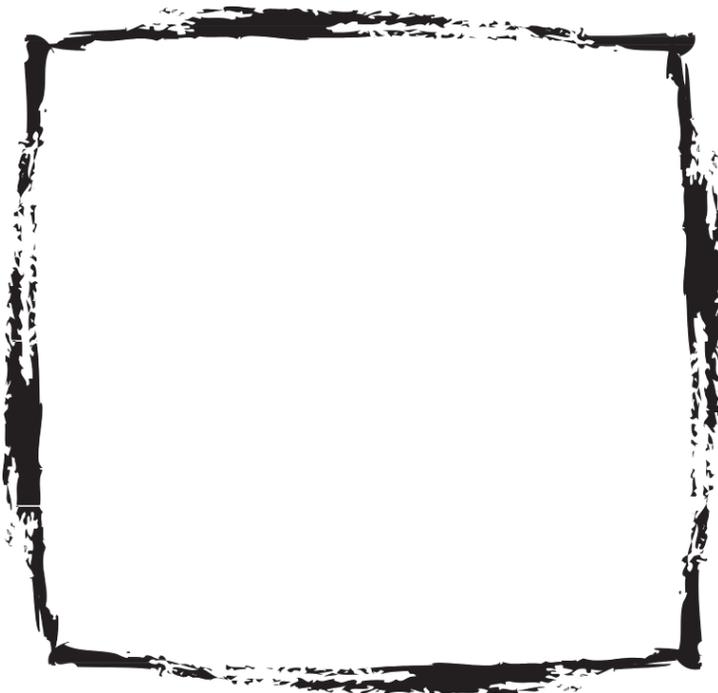
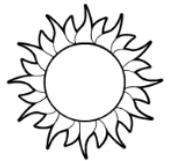
River Road Conservation Area

This park is the newest addition to the CCCB. Donated by Tom and Karen Nelson, this 60 acre area was once an old gravel pit. Though it does not contain unique plant or wildlife because it was mined, it does provide three ponds and great views of the Little Sioux River. The family cabin located on the property is in the process of being refinished with hopes that it will be available to rent sometime during the summer of 2020. Since the property is new, it had not been fully developed. The CCCB has plans to improve this area in the future and does intent on adding hiking trails that will connect it to Pearse Access, a CCCB property located just south of this one.

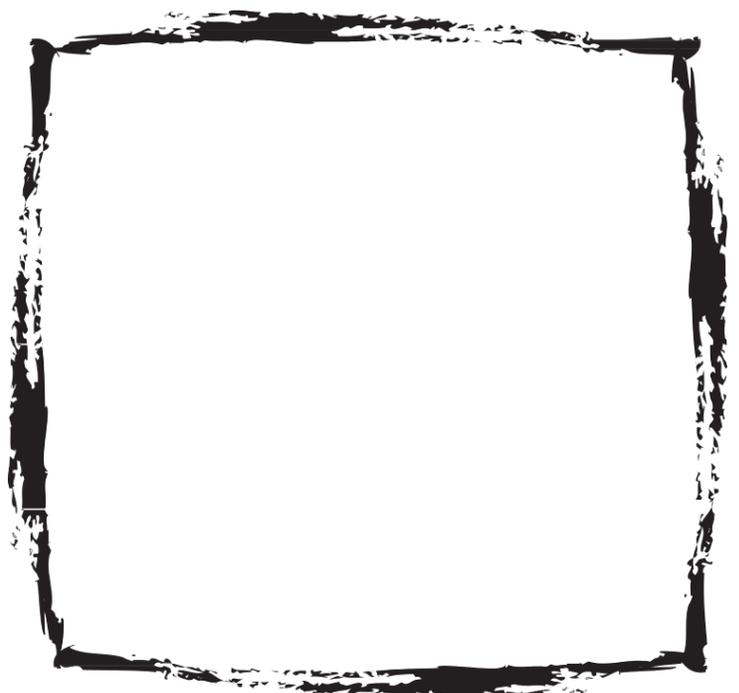
It is recommended to wear comfortable clothes and close-toed shoes when enjoying this site. Plants and animals may not be removed from the site.



Clue: You better “stop” at this pond overlook.



Clue: Walk this old road for a deck view of this pond.



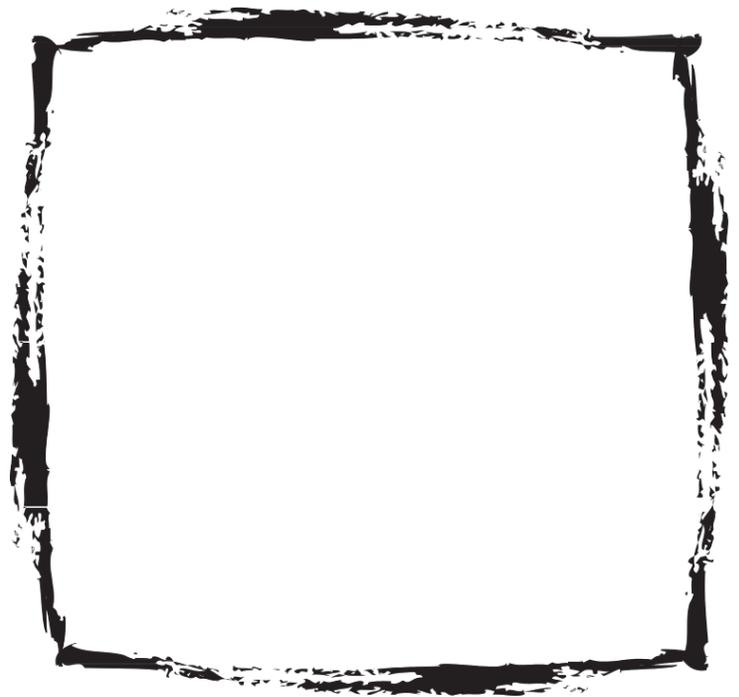
Clue: Welcome! Take a short stroll to this sign.



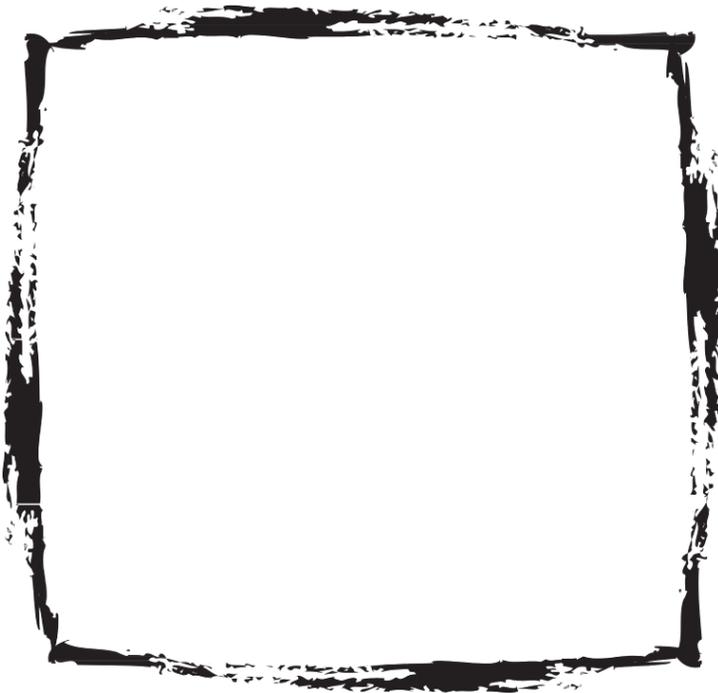
Martins Access

One of the CCCB's first parks, this popular county area contains 300 acres of land consisting of remnant oak savanna, reconstructed prairies, oak forest, one modern and four primitive camping areas, four rental cabins, and miles of both hiking and multi-use trails. The park and multi-use trails are day-use only and allow for horseback riding from June-September (during dry weather conditions). Hiking trails are open year-round. A self-guided trail is located by the bathrooms at the south entrance. Trail maps are located at the south entrance kiosk.

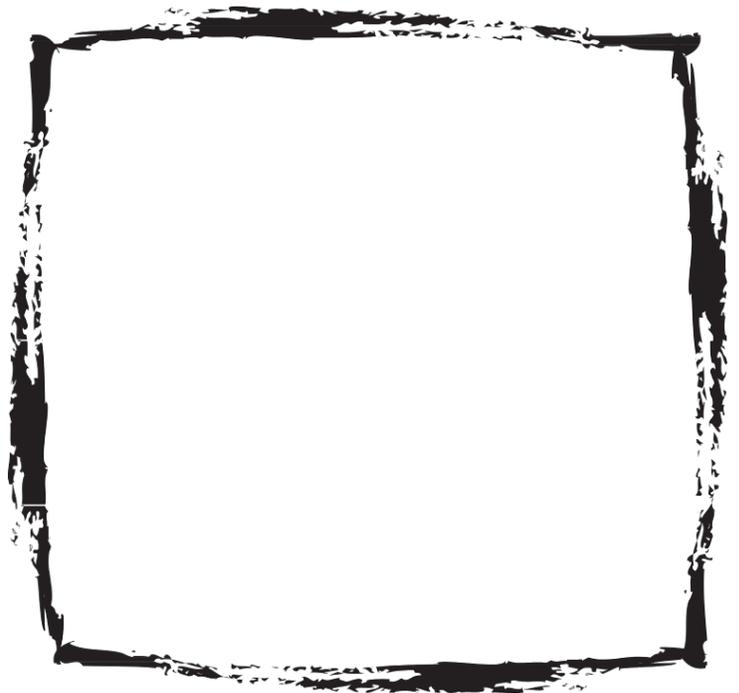
It is recommended to wear comfortable clothes and close-toed shoes when enjoying this area. Plants and animals may not be removed from the site.



Clue: This trailhead parking provides a great view of a bluebird box.



Clue: Hike from campsite #39, then take a break on a bench for John Gilchrist.



Clue: Campsite #25 has their own path to a cool bridge.

