

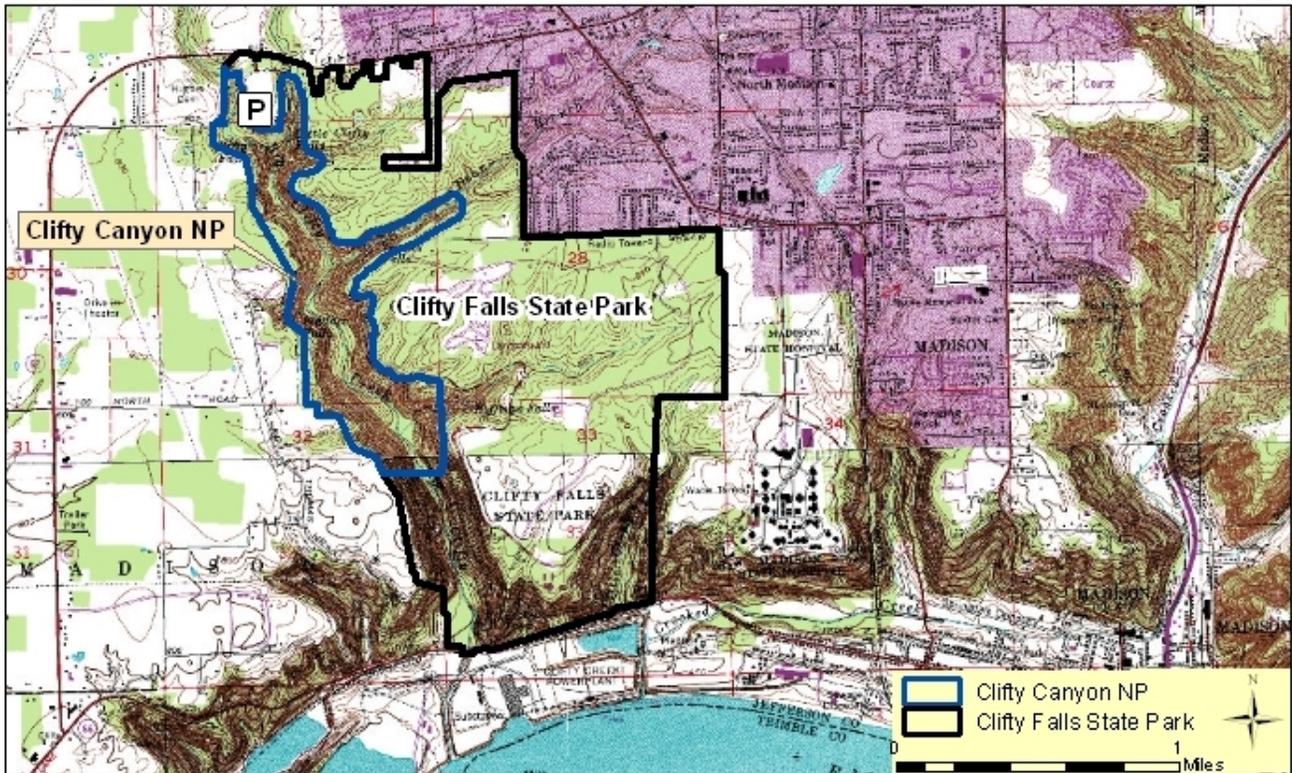
Clifty Canyon Nature Preserve

County: Jefferson Size: 179 acres
Ownership: State Parks - IDNR



Location and Access

Parking and trail. This preserve is located in Clifty Falls State Park, on the outskirts of Madison, Indiana. The preserve encompasses the majority of the valley which forms the primary natural feature of the park. Trails 2 through 8 lead through the preserve. Information is available at the park office, gate house or nature center.



Description:

This preserve is of geological as well as ecological interest. Small streams have cut deep gorges into ancient Ordovician rock beds. These rock exposures contain numerous fossils. Spectacular waterfalls on the streams which flow through the preserve are a major attraction.

There are mesic forests on the lower slopes and ravine bottoms, and dry oak-hickory forests on the upper slopes and ridge tops. In places steep ravines support undisturbed cliff communities of mosses, lichens, and ferns. Several rare plants are known to occur on these undisturbed rock communities. Common wildflowers are widespread throughout the preserve.

Further Information:

Clifty Falls State Park. 1501 Green Rd. Madison, IN 47250. (812) 265-1331. www.in.gov/dnr/parklake/
Division of Nature Preserves Southeast Regional Ecologist, Jason Larson: jl Larson@dnr.in.gov