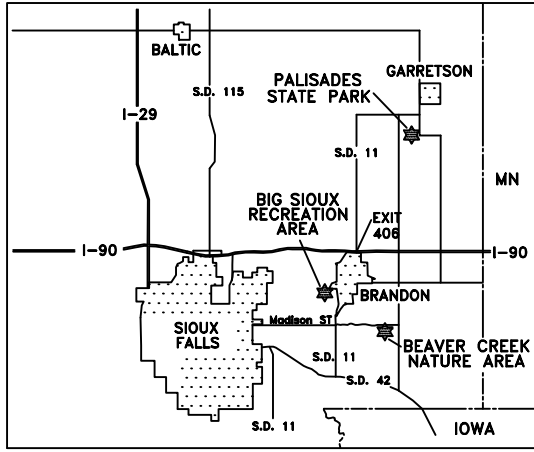
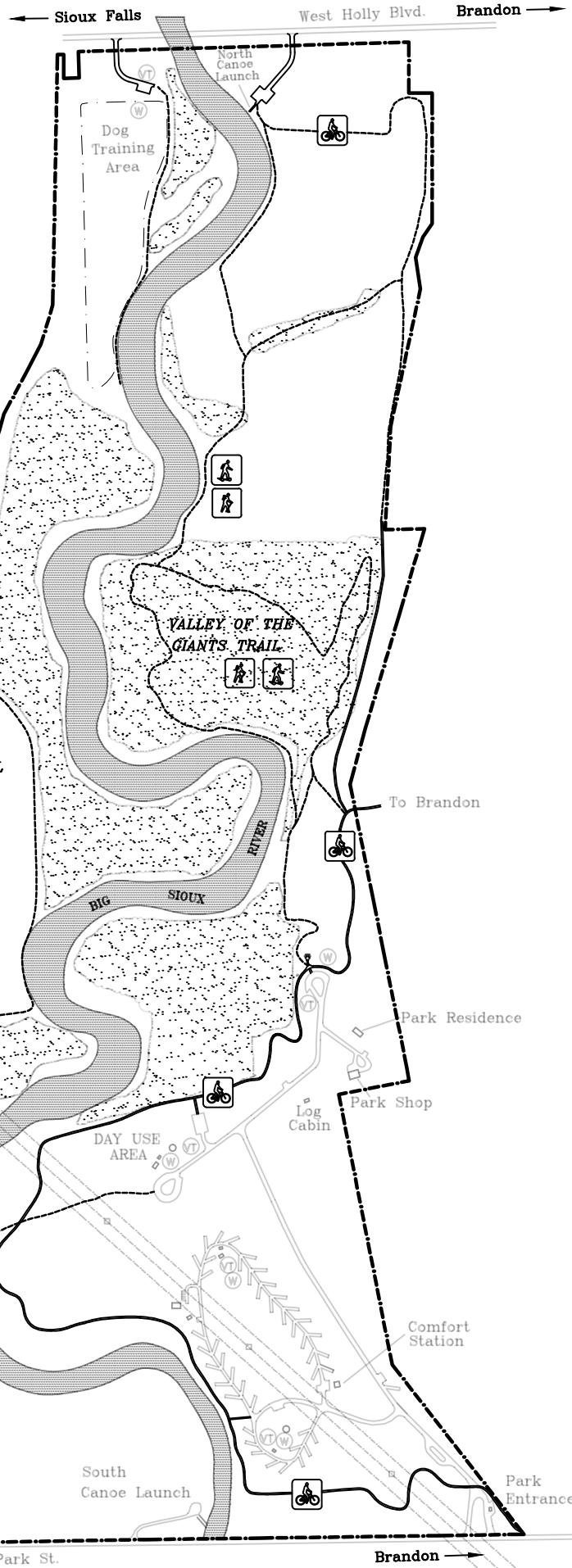


Big Sioux Recreation Area Trail System



PARK LOCATION MAP



SCALE IN FEET



-  BIKE TRAIL
-  HIKING TRAIL
-  SNOWSHOE TRAIL
-  HORSE TRAIL
-  ARCHERY TRAIL
-  VAULT TOILET
-  WATER
-  TREES

Big Sioux Recreation Area

Archery Trail

Type of trail: Archery trail with 14 stop-and-shoot points

Trail surface: Dirt

Rated: Somewhat difficult, strenuous in some areas

Fee required: Parks Entrance Fee

Length of trail in miles: One mile

Location of the trailhead: Located just west of the picnic shelter

Facilities at or near the trailhead: Drinking water, toilet, parking, picnic table, warming shelter, benches, campground

Facilities along the trail: None

Will there be interpretive information available: No

What lodging opportunities are provided IN the park: Tent camping, electrical and non-electrical campsites, wheelchair accessible campsite, camping cabins

Does this trail connect with any other trails: Yes, Prairie Vista Trail and the Bike Trail

Nearest facilities for purchasing snacks, sunscreen etc.: In Brandon, two miles

Nearest motels/restaurants OUTSIDE the park: In Brandon, two miles

Nearest Chamber of Commerce:

Brandon Valley Area Chamber of Commerce, Box 182, Brandon, SD 57005, (605) 582-7400

Emergency phone numbers:

Ambulance – 911

Sheriff – 911

Fire Department – 911

Do most cell phones work on this trail:

Yes, however there may be a couple of spots along the trail with no signal

This archery trail is unique to the area. Instead of just providing a shooting range, 14 stop-and-shoot points are in place along the trail. This is an aggressive course that challenges a person's endurance. Targets are changed regularly from May to October. Bows must be cased while walking to and from the trail. Please keep safety in mind and look before you shoot.

Big Sioux Recreation Area

Bike Trail

Type of trail: Hiking/walking and biking

Trail surface: Asphalt, Concrete and Gravel

Rated: Moderate, somewhat hilly, even trail surface

Fee required: Parks Entrance Fee (if drive in), no fee (if walk or bike in)

Length of trail in miles: Two and a half miles

Location of the trailhead: Four trailheads - 1) where it connects to Brandon
2) by site 38E in campground 3) by park entrance 4) by North Canoe Launch

Facilities at or near the trailhead: Parking and campground

Facilities along the trail: None

Will there be interpretive information available: No

What lodging opportunities are provided IN the park: Tent camping, electrical and non-electrical campsites, wheelchair accessible campsite, camping cabins

Does this trail connect with any other trails: Yes, Valley of the Giants and Prairie Vista Trail

Nearest facilities for purchasing snacks, sunscreen etc.: In Brandon, two miles

Nearest motels/restaurants OUTSIDE the park: In Brandon, two miles

Nearest Chamber of Commerce:

Brandon Valley Area Chamber of Commerce, Box 182, Brandon, SD 57005, (605) 582-7400

Emergency phone numbers:

Ambulance – 911

Sheriff – 911

Fire Department – 911

Do most cell phones work on this trail: Yes

This paved trail is very popular with bikers, walkers, and joggers. The trail connects to the City of Brandon on one end, the campground in the middle, and the entrance to the park on the other end. People use the trail year-round. The trail follows along the Big Sioux River for almost a mile. In the evenings it is a great place to watch the fireflies come out and play. Be courteous to other trail users and please clean up after your pets.

Big Sioux Recreation Area

Prairie Vista Trail

Type of trail: Hiking, biking, horseback riding, snowmobiling, interpretive/viewing nature, cross-country skiing along some sections and GPS

Trail surface: Dirt

Rated: Very difficult, extremely hilly, very uneven surface

Fee required: Parks Entrance Fee

Length of trail in miles: 2.4 miles for loop, 2.8 miles if you include the river section

Location of the trailhead: Located just west of the picnic shelter

Facilities at or near the trailhead: Drinking water, toilet, and parking, picnic table, warming shelter, and campground

Facilities along the trail: None

Will there be interpretive information available: No

What lodging opportunities are provided IN the park: Tent camping, electrical and non-electrical campsites, wheelchair accessible campsite, camping cabins

Does this trail connect with any other trails: Yes, Bike Trail and Archery Trail

Nearest facilities for purchasing snacks, sunscreen etc.: In Brandon, two miles

Nearest motels/restaurants OUTSIDE the park: In Brandon, two miles

Nearest Chamber of Commerce: Brandon Valley Area Chamber of Commerce, Box 182, Brandon, SD 57005, (605) 582-7400

Emergency phone numbers:

Ambulance – 911

Sheriff – 911

Fire Department – 911

Do most cell phones work on this trail: Yes

Out-of-State Horses: All out-of-state horses are required to have a valid, clean health certificate within the last 30 days, and a negative Coggins or ELISA EIA test within the last 12 months. SDCL 40-14-2. All documents must be on person.

This 2.8-mile trail is an aggressive hiking trail that takes trail users along a scenic route of the Big Sioux River. A suspension bridge goes over the river where the majority of the trail is located. This trail winds along with the Big Sioux on one side and a large prairie area on the other. A pretty impressive hill provides an awe-inspiring view. The archery trail connects to this trail. Park visitors may want to do a treasure hike using a GPS unit to find coordinates set by park staff. Horseback riders can access the trail from their own designated parking lot. Snowmobilers can take advantage of the trail during the winter months.

Big Sioux Recreation Area

Valley of the Giants Trail

Type of trail: Hiking and cross-country skiing

Trail surface: Dirt

Rated: Somewhat difficult, strenuous in some areas

Fee required: Park entrance fee

Length of trail in miles: Two miles

Location of the trailhead: Located off northeast parking loop

Facilities at or near the trailhead: Drinking water (seasonal), parking, picnic table, shelter

Facilities along the trail: Bench

Will there be interpretive information available: No

What lodging opportunities are provided IN the park: Tent camping, electrical and non-electrical campsites, wheelchair accessible campsite, camping cabins

Does this trail connect with any other trails: Yes, bike trail

Nearest facilities for purchasing snacks, sunscreen etc.: Brandon

Nearest motels/restaurants OUTSIDE the park: Brandon

Nearest Chamber of Commerce:

Brandon Valley Area Chamber of commerce, Box 182, Brandon, SD 57005
(605) 582-7400

Emergency phone numbers:

Ambulance – 911

Sheriff – 911

Fire Department – 911

Do most cell phones work on this trail: Yes, but coverage can be spotty when trees are in full foliage

Several giant trees grow in this rich floodplain soil. This forest boasts some of the state's largest oak and cottonwood trees and near state records for elm, ash, boxelder, and willow. One oak and two cottonwoods are listed in the State Big Tree Registry. The preservation of these giant trees started with the original homesteader to the area, Ole Bergerson in 1868, who valued the protection and beauty afforded by these trees. Many species of plants and animals can be seen in and around this lush forest.