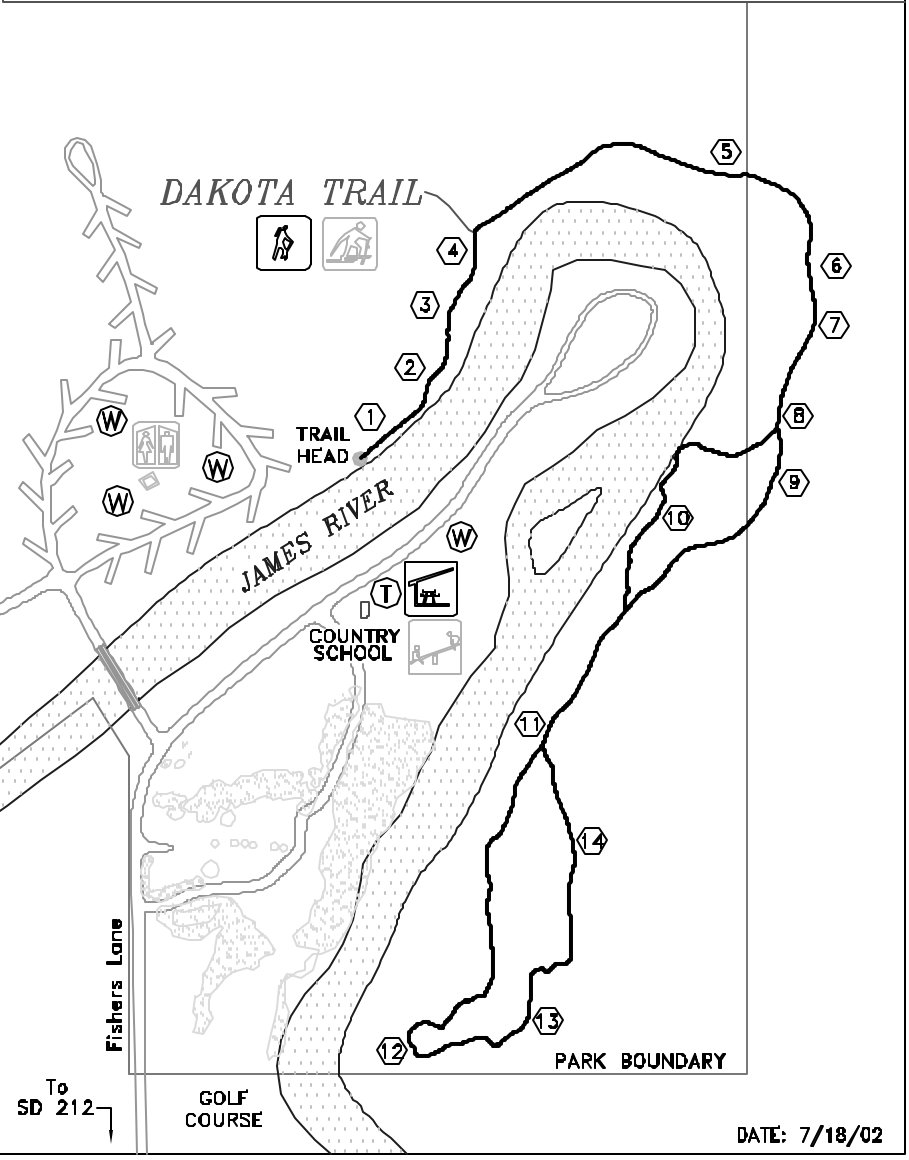
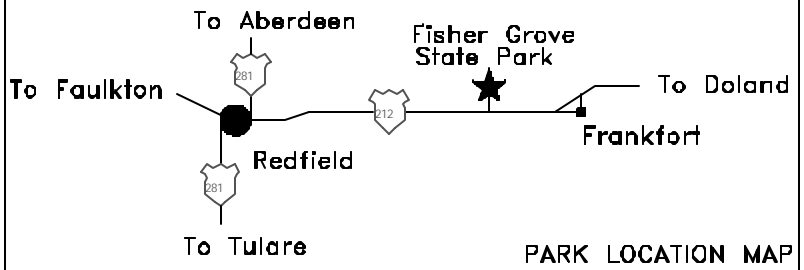
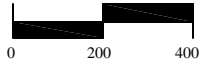


 SKI TRAIL	 HIKING TRAIL	 PICNIC SHELTER
 CANOE LAUNCH	 COMFORT STATION	 TREES
 PLAYGROUND	 VAULT TOILET	 INTERPRETIVE TRAIL STATIONS
	 DRINKING WATER	

Fisher Grove State Park Trail System



SCALE IN FEET



DATE: 7/18/02

Fisher Grove State Park

Dakota Trail

Type of trail: Hiking, interpretive/viewing nature, interpretive history and cross-country skiing

Trail surface: Dirt and grass

Rated: Easy, appropriate for all ages

Fee required: Park Entrance License required

Length of trail in miles: One mile

Location of the trailhead: Campground

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

Facilities along the trail: Bench

Will there be interpretive information available: Yes

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

Does this trail connect with any other trails: No

Nearest facilities for purchasing snacks, sunscreen etc.: Golf course country club

Nearest motels/restaurants OUTSIDE the park: In Redfield – 7 miles

Nearest Chamber of Commerce:
Redfield Chamber of Commerce, 626 Main Street, Redfield SD 57469, (605) 472-0965

Emergency phone numbers:
Ambulance - 911
Sheriff - 911
Fire Department - 911

Do most cell phones work on this trail: Yes

Fisher Grove State Park

Dakota Trail

This trail along the James River was planned for your walking convenience. Numbered stops along the routes are keyed to numbered paragraphs that follow.

Please stay on the marked trail, for many of Nature's plants have sharp spines, fruits that might stain your clothing, or poisonous barbs.

Many of the plant species that are common in the James River Valley are found along this trail. A few of these plants have been described in this information to acquaint you with how the earliest white settlers and American Indian people used gifts of nature.

We hope you enjoy your hike. Walk slowly, listen and watch for wild birds and animals.

Station 1 –The Dakota Trail begins at the east side of the campground. As you walk, enjoy the plants, scenery, and history of this river that was given the Sioux Indian name for friend or ally, Dakota.

Station 2 - The large trees in this area are ash trees. During times of flood, these trees sit in many feet of water.

Station 3 - American elm trees surround this stop. Dutch elm disease has killed many of these popular shade trees across our nation.

Station 4 - This site provides an excellent view of one of the most curvy and flat rivers in the nation.

Station 5 - The furrows in the sod at this station were cut by the wheels of wagons that used this trail more than a hundred years ago.

Station 6 - The two depressions in the ground are the remains of either American Indian food caches where the people used the coolness of the ground to help preserve their food or the depressions were used as smoke pits. Some believe that smoke signals were sent from here.

Station 7 - The number post is located down by the river. The wooden boards along the trail are the remains of an old set of steps that was part of the hiking trail years ago.

Station 8 - The steps from the original hiking trail came back up the hill to this spot. Notice the variety of plants growing around this station.

Station 9 - It was downstream from here that both American Indian people and white settlers crossed the river on rocks placed at the bottom of the river. The site was called Belcher's Ford. The early mail runs between Pierre and Watertown crossed here.

Station 10 - This island is called Motley's Island after a man with that name. A footbridge once connected the land to the island.

Station 11 - The numerous woody vines growing into the trees and shrubs in this area are American bittersweet. The fruits ripen from green to orange in color and then burst in October to reveal scarlet seed coverings.

Station 12 - Hackberry trees have very rough bark. When ripe, the hackberry fruits are sweet, giving the tree its other name, sugarberry tree.

Station 13 – From this station the trail follows the edge of the woods and cultivated field. The soil of the cultivated field is a fine sandy loam deposited by past river floodwaters.

Station 14 - There is a short side trail that takes walkers to the river and back. Notice the heavy underbrush that provides good habitat for many animals. After getting back on the main trail, follow it back to the trailhead.

Come back often and enjoy the trail during different seasons.

Wildlife Sightings

Many wild animals find homes in the James River valley. Some of them are:

White-tailed Deer	13-Lined Ground Squirrel	Fox Squirrel
Raccoon	Badger	Weasel
Coyote	Spotted Prairie Skunk	Mink
Cottontail Rabbit	Muskrat	Franklin Ground Squirrel
Skunk	Red and Gray Fox	Field Mice
Beaver	Jackrabbit	Shrew

Bird Sightings at Fisher Grove State Park:

Pied-billed Grebe	Western Kingbird	Myrtle Warbler
Double-crested Cormorant	Trail's Flycatcher	Ovenbird
Great Blue Heron	Barn Swallow	Wilson's Warbler
Black-crowned Night Heron	Blue Jay	American Redstart
Mallard	Common Crow	House Sparrow
Wood Duck	Black-capped Chickadee	Bobolink
Red-shouldered Hawk	White-breasted Nuthatch	Western Meadowlark
Swainson's Hawk	Brown Creeper	Yellow-headed Blackbird
Sparrow Hawk	House Wren	Red-winged Blackbird
Ring-necked Pheasant	Catbird	Orchard Oriole
Killdeer	Brown Thrasher	Baltimore Oriole
Black Tern	Robin	Common Grackle
Mourning Dove	Wood Thrush	Brown-headed Cowbird
Rock Dove	Hermit Thrush	Rose-breasted Grosbeak
Yellow-billed Cuckoo	Swainson's Thrush	Indigo Bunting
Screech Owl	Gray-cheeked Thrush	Diskcissel
Great Horned Owl	Veery	American Goldfinch
Common Nighthawk	Eastern Bluebird	Lark Bunting
Belted Kingfisher	Loggerhead Shrike	Grasshopper Sparrow
Yellow-shafted Flicker	Starling	Slate-colored Junco
Red-headed Woodpecker	Black-and-white Warbler	Tree Sparrow
Hairy Woodpecker	Orange-crowned Warbler	Song Sparrow
Downy Woodpecker	Yellow Warbler	Chestnut-collared Longspur
Eastern Kingbird		