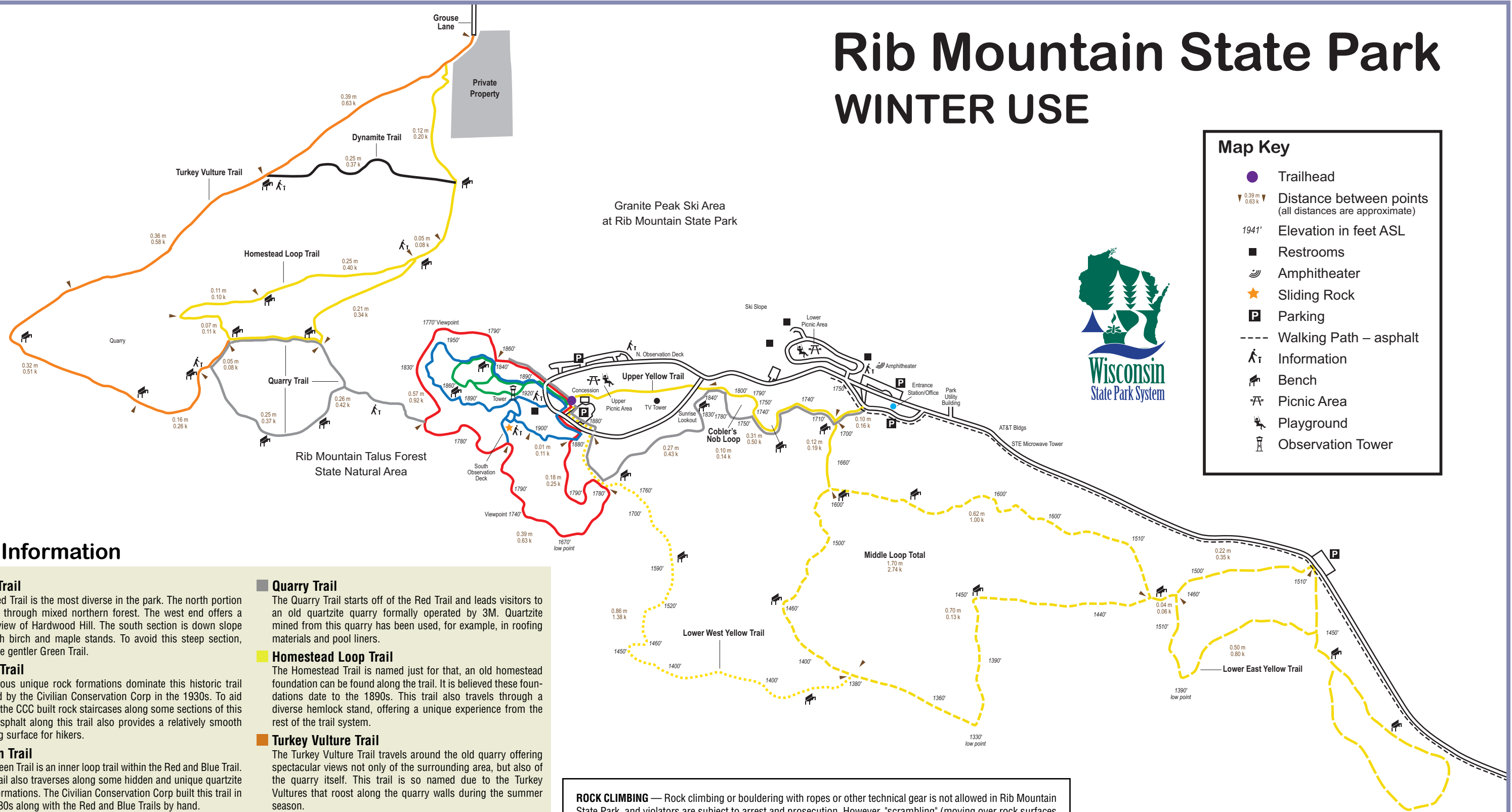


# Rib Mountain State Park

## WINTER USE



### Map Key

- Trailhead
- ↕ Distance between points (all distances are approximate)
- 1941' Elevation in feet ASL
- Restrooms
- ⌋ Amphitheater
- ★ Sliding Rock
- P Parking
- Walking Path – asphalt
- ℹ Information
- ⌋ Bench
- ⌋ Picnic Area
- ⌋ Playground
- ⌋ Observation Tower



### Trail Information

- Red Trail**  
 The Red Trail is the most diverse in the park. The north portion travels through mixed northern forest. The west end offers a great view of Hardwood Hill. The south section is down slope through birch and maple stands. To avoid this steep section, take the gentler Green Trail.
- Blue Trail**  
 Numerous unique rock formations dominate this historic trail created by the Civilian Conservation Corp in the 1930s. To aid travel, the CCC built rock staircases along some sections of this trail. Asphalt along this trail also provides a relatively smooth walking surface for hikers.
- Green Trail**  
 The Green Trail is an inner loop trail within the Red and Blue Trail. This trail also traverses along some hidden and unique quartzite rock formations. The Civilian Conservation Corp built this trail in the 1930s along with the Red and Blue Trails by hand.
- Yellow Trail**  
 The Yellow Trail, the most physically demanding in the park, travels down the south slope through a highly aesthetic mature maple forest. This trail is wide, covered with woodchips and serves as an excellent snowshoe route in winter. Expect some deep breathing with traveling upslope.
- Gray Trail**  
 The Gray Trail traverses both the north and south slopes of the park. This trail offers a relatively short walk to all of the main features of the park, including the 60' observation tower. The northern portion of the trail is closed during the downhill ski season.
- Quarry Trail**  
 The Quarry Trail starts off of the Red Trail and leads visitors to an old quartzite quarry formally operated by 3M. Quartzite mined from this quarry has been used, for example, in roofing materials and pool liners.
- Homestead Loop Trail**  
 The Homestead Trail is named just for that, an old homestead foundation can be found along the trail. It is believed these foundations date to the 1890s. This trail also travels through a diverse hemlock stand, offering a unique experience from the rest of the trail system.
- Turkey Vulture Trail**  
 The Turkey Vulture Trail travels around the old quarry offering spectacular views not only of the surrounding area, but also of the quarry itself. This trail is so named due to the Turkey Vultures that roost along the quarry walls during the summer season.
- Dynamite Trail**  
 So named because of the former location of a dynamite storage facility at the western edge of the trail. The dynamite storage facility was used by 3M to store dynamite for use in nearby mining operations.

**ROCK CLIMBING** — Rock climbing or bouldering with ropes or other technical gear is not allowed in Rib Mountain State Park, and violators are subject to arrest and prosecution. However, "scrambling" (moving over rock surfaces without ropes or technical gear) is allowed.

The Department of Natural Resources DNR has long recognized rock climbing as a recreational activity. In 2003 through 2005, the DNR developed a long-range plan for Rib Mountain State Park. During this process, rock climbing and other activities were studied. We met with rock climbers about the potential for technical climbing in the old quarry site in the park. The department and climbers mutually agreed not to allow technical climbing there due to the fractured rock.

During the same planning process an area was designated as the Rib Mountain Talus Forest State Natural Area (SNA). This area contains the park's highest concentration of rare plants. There are several areas of quartzite talus (piles of broken rock), some with artesian seeps. These areas provide micro-habitats for many rare plants and animals. The SNA designation provides a new set of guidelines on climbing. The DNR's "Rock Climbing Policy for DNR-Managed Properties" prohibits rock climbing in SNAs. A copy of the policy is available at the park office.

