

# Illinois, Ottawa, Kaskaskia Canyons and Council Overhang Trail



**Distance from ? Visitor Center :**  
5 miles one way. 2 miles roundtrip from parking area **P** next to Illinois Canyon. 1 mile roundtrip from parking area next to Ottawa/Kaskaskia Canyons. 3 miles one way from Hennepin Canyon parking lot.

**Difficulty:** Easy-Moderate (2 staircases/Hennepin Canyon). Trails are not paved, sand and dirt mixture. Expect stream crossings in lower areas of Illinois, Ottawa, and Kaskaskia Canyons.

**Walking Time:** 5 hours roundtrip from Visitor Center. 1-2 hours from smaller parking lot/trailhead options.

**Trail Tidbits:** Archaeologists have found that Council Overhang has been used for hundreds of years as a Native American gathering place. It has natural acoustics due to the sandstone formation or overhang. Ottawa Canyon is one of the few canyons in the park that ice climbers are legally allowed to climb the icefalls every winter. Illinois Canyon is the longest canyon in the park at 1 mile. Spring is the best month to visit Illinois Canyon since it is covered in a blanket of Virginia Bluebells. Lone Point Shelter across the road on Route 71 offers a picnic area with shelter, fireplace, and restrooms.