

Trails: Clarno and Painted Hills

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

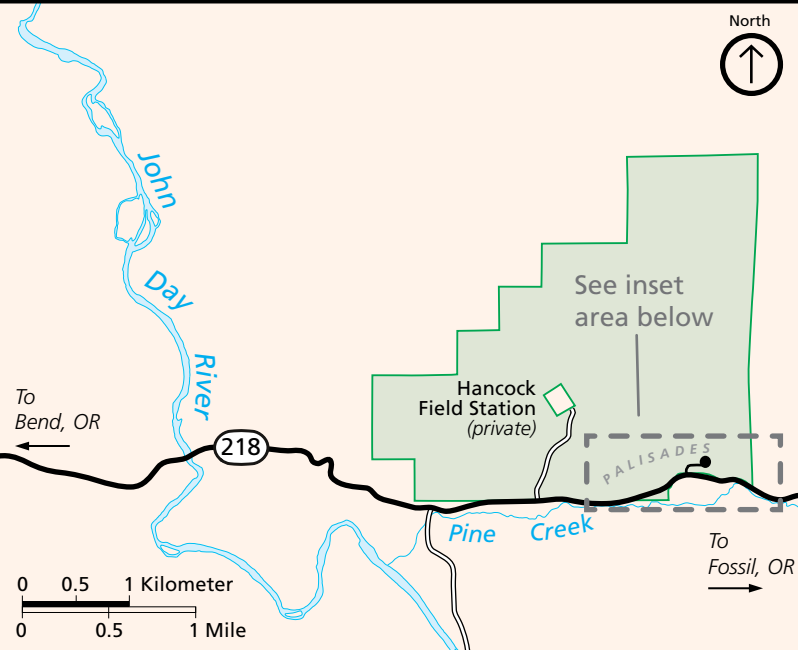
John Day Fossil Beds
www.nps.gov/joda



The colorful landscapes of John Day Fossil Beds National Monument's three units represent 40 million years of Oregon history. Evidence of volcanic activity, environmental changes, and ancient plant and animal life abounds. The monument offers many opportunities at each unit to explore these dramatic landscapes. Trails are open all year during daylight hours but may be muddy and slippery when wet. Parking is available for cars, RVs, and buses at all trailheads. Pets are welcome but they must be kept on trails and on a leash at all times.

Please remember that all fossils, historic structures, archeological features, rocks, plants, and animals are protected by law and may not be collected or disturbed. For the protection of fossils under the surface, walking on exposed fossil beds is prohibited. This includes badland-like surfaces found at the Painted Hills that have few to no plants growing on them. Please let a ranger know if you see anyone digging for fossils.

Clarno

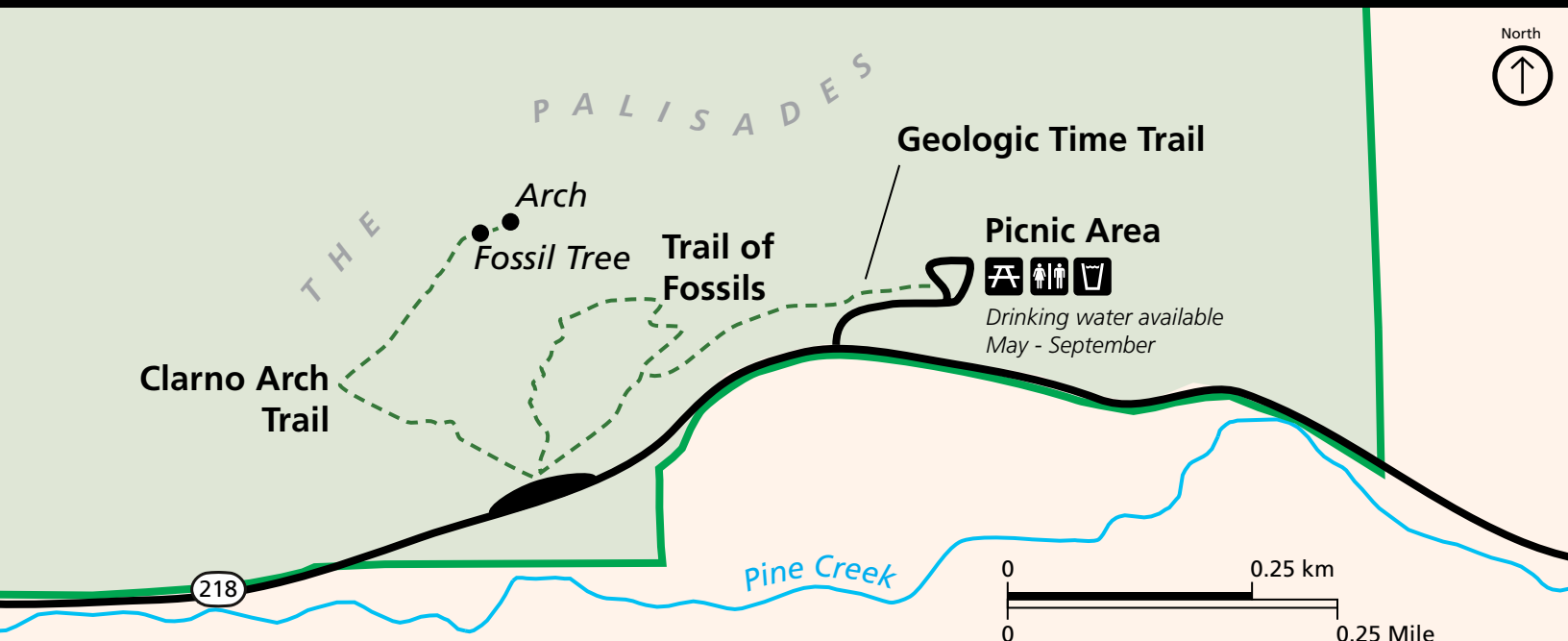


Clarno Arch Trail [1/2 mile round trip]
This rough trail climbs steeply to the base of the Palisades. The bottom of a fossilized log and the unusual stone arch are found at the trail's end.

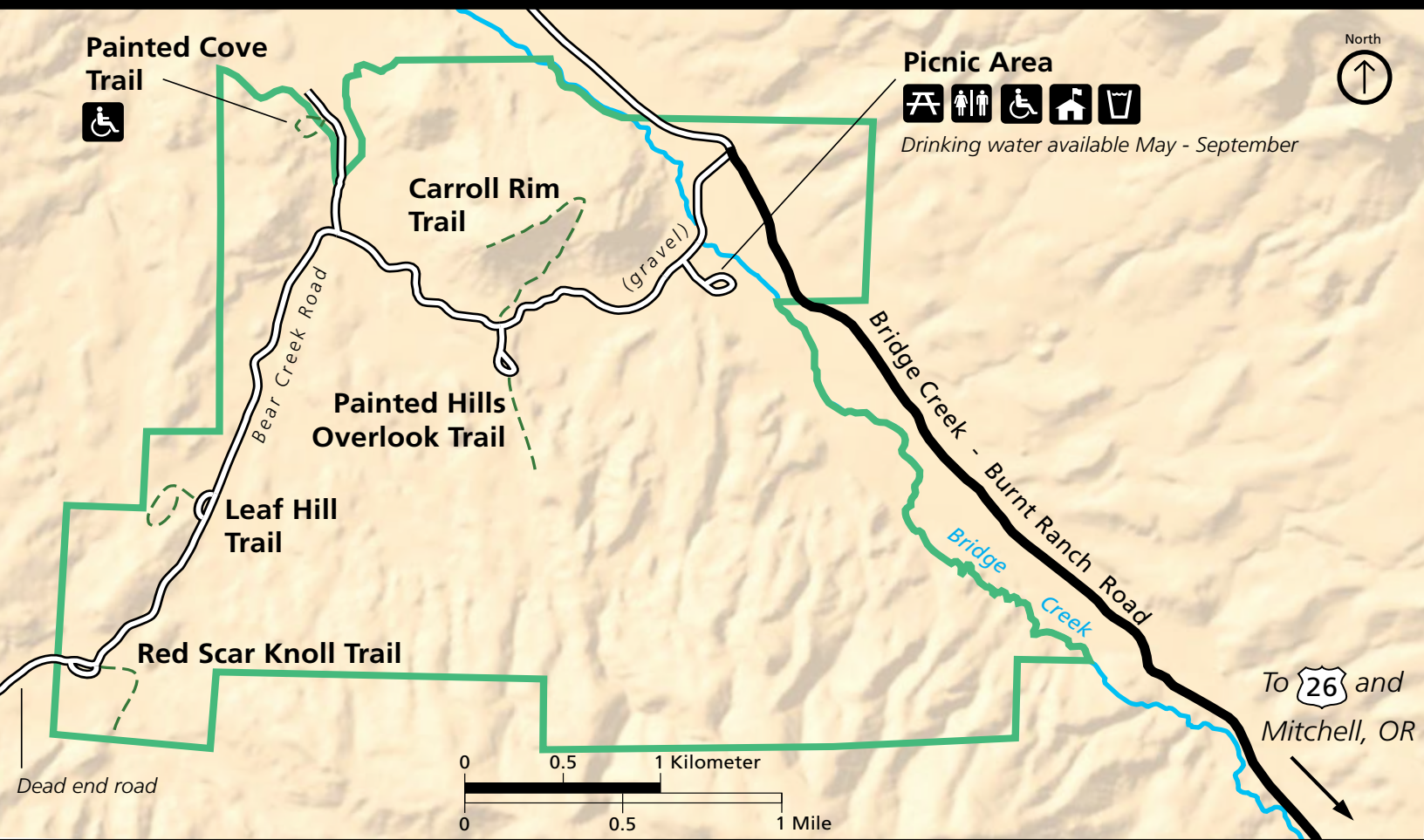
Geologic Time Trail [1/2 mile round trip]
This trail starts at the picnic area and provides a fantastic view up toward the rocky spires of the Palisades. (see photo)

Trail of Fossils [1/2 mile round trip]
This rough trail climbs steeply through a boulder field. It is the best trail to see fossils in the monument. Leaves and fossil wood are visible along the trail.

Trails at the Clarno Palisades



Painted Hills



To protect the Painted Hills walking on bare surfaces and clay hills is prohibited.

Carroll Rim Trail [1.6 mile round trip]

This trail climbs to a panoramic overlook of the Painted Hills and a view east toward the Sutton Mountain wilderness study area. The trail has 500 feet of elevation gain. There is a small parking area at the trailhead. More parking is available at the Painted Hills Overlook.

Leaf Hill Trail [1/4 mile loop]

The Leaf Hill area has been the site of extensive paleontological research. No fossils can be seen today along the trail, but an interpretive exhibit shows examples of a few leaves that have been found there.

Red Scar Knoll Trail [1/2 mile round trip]

The newest trail at the Painted Hills, this trail is mostly level and circles around a knoll with bright red and violet claystones.

Painted Hills Overlook Trail [1/2 mile round trip]

Follow this trail along a ridge for another view of the painted hills. There is 100 feet of elevation gain on this trail.

Painted Cove Trail [1/4 mile loop]

The small Painted Cove area is full of vibrantly colored rocks. A portion of the trail includes a level boardwalk.

