The Ledges of Grand Ledge

The Ledges of Grand Ledge are located west of Lansing in Eaton County. Those ancient rock formations—the largest of their type in Central Michigan—span both banks of the Grand River for more than a mile. As the historical photo reveals, Michiganders have long appreciated the Ledges for their beauty and have enjoyed hikes near the formations. Today, the Ledges are accessible from several parks in the area, and some people even climb the Ledges for sport.

The history of the Ledges predates any human presence in Michigan. The rocks began to form more than 300 million years ago when Grand Ledge was a lagoon surrounded by swampland. Strong winds and waves pushed sand and sediment onto the shore. Today, fossils of plants, invertebrates, and vertebrate fish can be found in the Ledges. Those fossils and layers of sediment revealed to scientists how the local environment changed across the millennia. For approximately 15,000 years—following glacial melting—the Grand River has flowed between the Ledges.