The Palisades-Dows Observatory is located at 1365 Ivanhoe Road, 15 miles southeast of Cedar Rapids and approximately 20 miles north of Iowa City/Coralville at the southeastern edge of Palisades-Kepler State Park.

From the Cedar Rapids metro area and points north of the Coralville Lake, Ivanhoe Road can be reached from Highway 27 (Interstate 380) and Highway 30. From points near Mount Vernon and south of the Coralville Lake, such as Iowa City, Ivanhoe Road can be reached from Highway 1.

The observatory is indicated by brown State Park signs at the entrances to Ivanhoe Road and near the observatory’s driveway. Watch out for deer!