

CRATER OF DIAMONDS STATE PARK

Exists to responsibly manage and interpret this unique site and to provide a meaningful diamond mining experience for all guests and future generations. Among the tall pines of Southwest Arkansas, visitors from around the world search for diamonds in a 37-acre field. Here, a massive volcano brought diamonds to the earth's surface. This famous site is the only diamond-producing area in the world open to the public. Over 75,000 diamonds have been found at "The Crater."

Although genuine diamonds are the chief attraction to the Crater, other semi-precious stones can also be found. Amethyst, agate, jasper, quartz, calcite, and barite are but a few of the gems and minerals that make this Arkansas State Park a rock hound's delight.

FAMOUS FINDS

On average, more than 600 diamonds are found each year, including such notable finds as:

- ◆ 1924 ~ The Uncle Sam. At 40.23 carats, the largest diamond found in North America
- ◆ 1956 ~ The Star of Arkansas - 15.33 carats
- ◆ 1975 ~ The Amarillo Starlight - 16.37 carats
- ◆ 1981 ~ The Star of Shreveport - 8.82 carats
- ◆ 1997 ~ The Cooper Diamonds - 6.72 & 6.0 carats
- ◆ 1998 ~ The Dickinson-Stevens Diamond - 7.28 carats
- ◆ 2006 ~ The Roden Diamond - 6.35 carats
- ◆ 2006 ~ The Sunshine Diamond - 5.47 carats
- ◆ 2009 ~ The Arabian Knight - 5.75 carats
- ◆ 2011 ~ The Illusion Diamond - 8.66 carats
- ◆ 2015 ~ The Esperanza Diamond - 8.52 carats

In 1998 The Strawn-Wagner Diamond, a cut white Crater diamond weighing 1.09-carats, was graded by the American Gem Society (AGS) as a "D" Flawless 0/0/0 perfect diamond - "one-in-a-billion diamond," stated Peter Yantzer, Laboratory Director for the AGS. This spectacular diamond is on display in the visitor center.

HISTORY

The first diamond was found here in 1906 by John Hudleston, who owned the property. The Crater of Diamonds changed hands several times over the years and many unsuccessful attempts were made at commercial mining. All such ventures are shrouded in



mystery; lawsuits, lack of money, and fires are only a few of the reasons for failure. The mine was operated by private interests as a tourist attraction from 1952 to 1972, when it was purchased by the state for development as a State Park. Over 30,000 diamonds have been found by state park visitors since 1972.

DIAMOND-HUNTING TIPS

- ◆ Look for a small, well-rounded crystal. The average diamond is about the size of a kitchen match head. A diamond weighing several carats may be smaller than a marble.
- ◆ Diamonds have a slick outer surface that dirt or mud will not stick to, so look for clean crystals.
- ◆ If you think you have a diamond, hold it carefully or place it in a small paper sack, available at the Diamond Discovery Center.
- ◆ Diamonds may be any of several colors. The most common found at the Crater are clear white, yellow, and brown.
- ◆ Bring any stones you find to the Diamond Discovery Center for free identification and diamond certification.

FACILITIES

This unique state park comprises 911 pine-covered acres along the banks of the Little Missouri River. The park offers 47 Class AAA campsites with 50 amp, water and sewer, and five tent sites with water only. Free public wireless internet access is provided around both campground and bathhouse facilities. Picnic areas, the Diamond Springs Water Park, an enclosed pavilion with air-conditioning, amphitheater, and wildlife observation station are also in the park. A gift shop, exhibits, restrooms, and offices are located in the visitor center, and a seasonal restaurant and picnic area are close by. Check with the visitor center for hours of operation for the restaurant. Tool rental, diamond and geology exhibits, a meeting room, and restrooms are located at the Diamond Discovery Center. Motels, hospitals, and other conveniences are available in nearby Murfreesboro. The park is open year-round; hours change seasonally.

INTERPRETIVE SERVICES

Guided programs and activities are offered at the park. During the spring and fall, evening programs covering a variety of subjects including nature, geology, diamond searching methods, and history are available to all park visitors. Organized groups may request special

programs to meet specific interests, if scheduled in advance. A unique set of curriculum-oriented programs is available for schools.

The **River Trail** (1.2 miles) winds its way through the woods to the scenic Little Missouri River. It provides a relaxing 1-hour walk over level terrain. Half of the trail is paved and barrier-free with exhibits. Several cross-training fitness stations are also provided along this trail.

The **Prospector Trail** (1.2 miles) offers visitors a first-hand view of the park's unique geological features. Access to this trail requires admission fee to the mine field.

FEES

Admission ◆ Entrance fees to the diamond search area and Diamond Springs Water Park (open seasonally) are charged to adults and children.

Group Rates ◆ Any organized group of 15 or more may search for diamonds at one-half the regular fee. Advance notice must be given to obtain reduced group rates. Special programs can be scheduled at this time.

NOTE: Campers must register at the visitor center before occupying a campsite. All sites may be reserved up to one year in advance. Please call to check availability.

LOCATION

Two miles southeast of Murfreesboro on Arkansas Highway 301.

For further information on park hours and fees, contact:

Crater of Diamonds State Park
209 State Park Road
Murfreesboro, AR 71958
(870) 285-3113
e-mail: craterofdiamonds@arkansas.com
CraterofDiamondsStatePark.com



For further information on Arkansas's other fine state parks, contact:

Arkansas State Parks
One Capitol Mall, 4A-900
Little Rock, AR 72201
(501) 682-1191
ArkansasStateParks.com

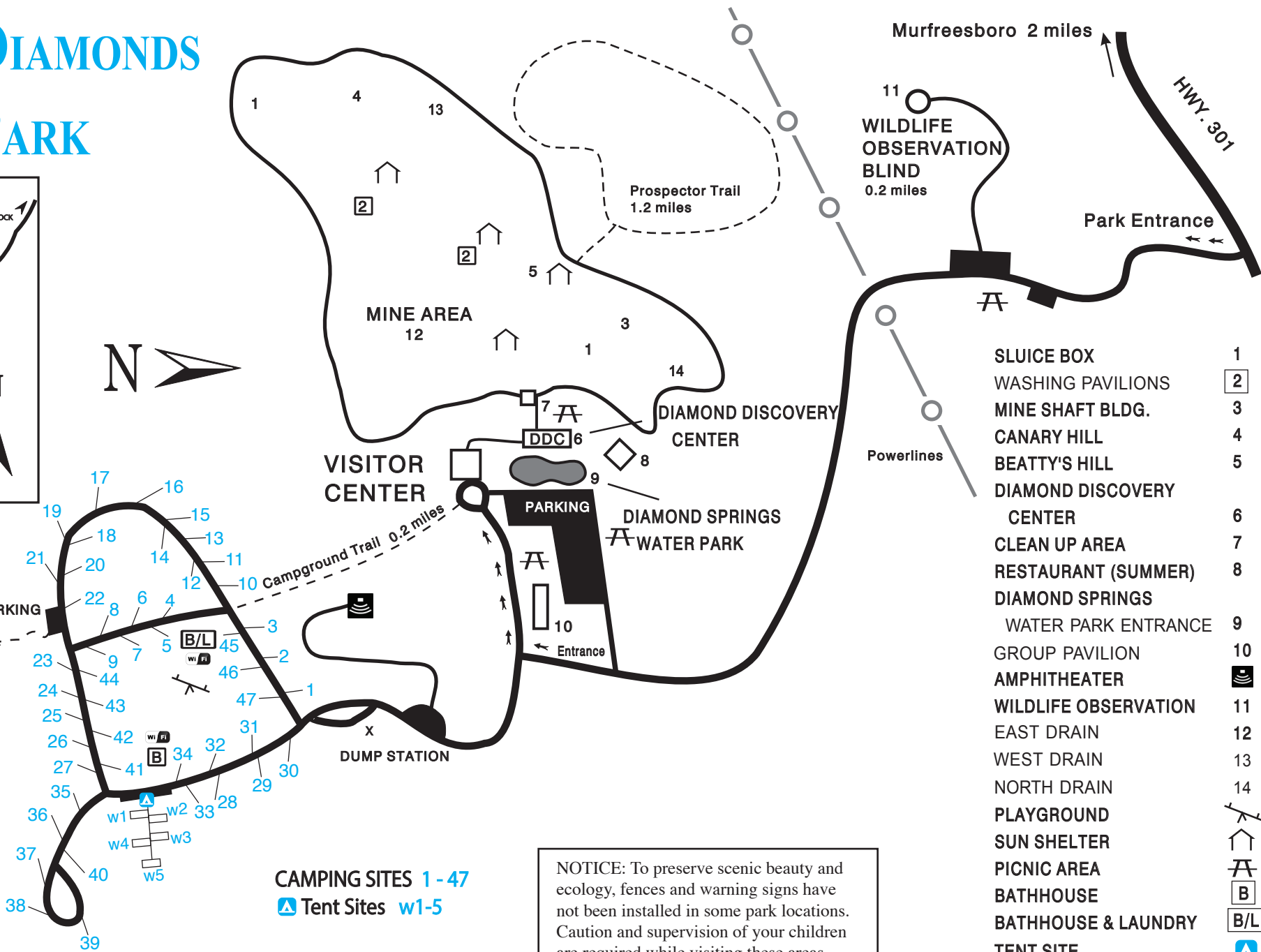
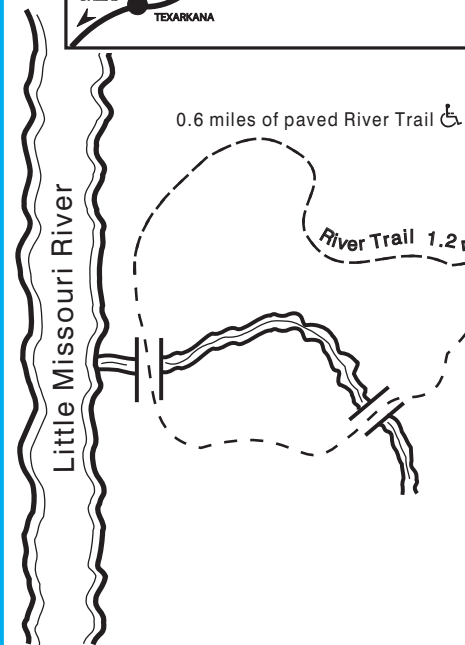
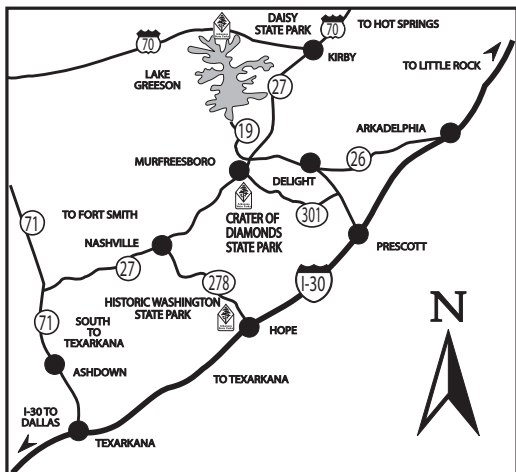
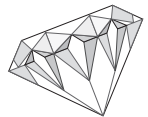


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CAMPING SITES 1-47
▲ Tent Sites w1-5

NOTICE: To preserve scenic beauty and ecology, fences and warning signs have not been installed in some park locations. Caution and supervision of your children are required while visiting these areas.

- 1 SLUICE BOX
- 2 WASHING PAVILIONS
- 3 MINE SHAFT BLDG.
- 4 CANARY HILL
- 5 BEATTY'S HILL
- 6 DIAMOND DISCOVERY CENTER
- 7 CLEAN UP AREA
- 8 RESTAURANT (SUMMER)
- 9 DIAMOND SPRINGS WATER PARK ENTRANCE
- 10 GROUP PAVILION
- 11 WILDLIFE OBSERVATION
- 12 EAST DRAIN
- 13 WEST DRAIN
- 14 NORTH DRAIN
- PLAYGROUND
- SUN SHELTER
- PICNIC AREA
- BATHHOUSE
- BATHHOUSE & LAUNDRY
- TENT SITE
- PUBLIC WiFi



EXPLORE THE BEAUTY & HISTORY OF ARKANSAS!