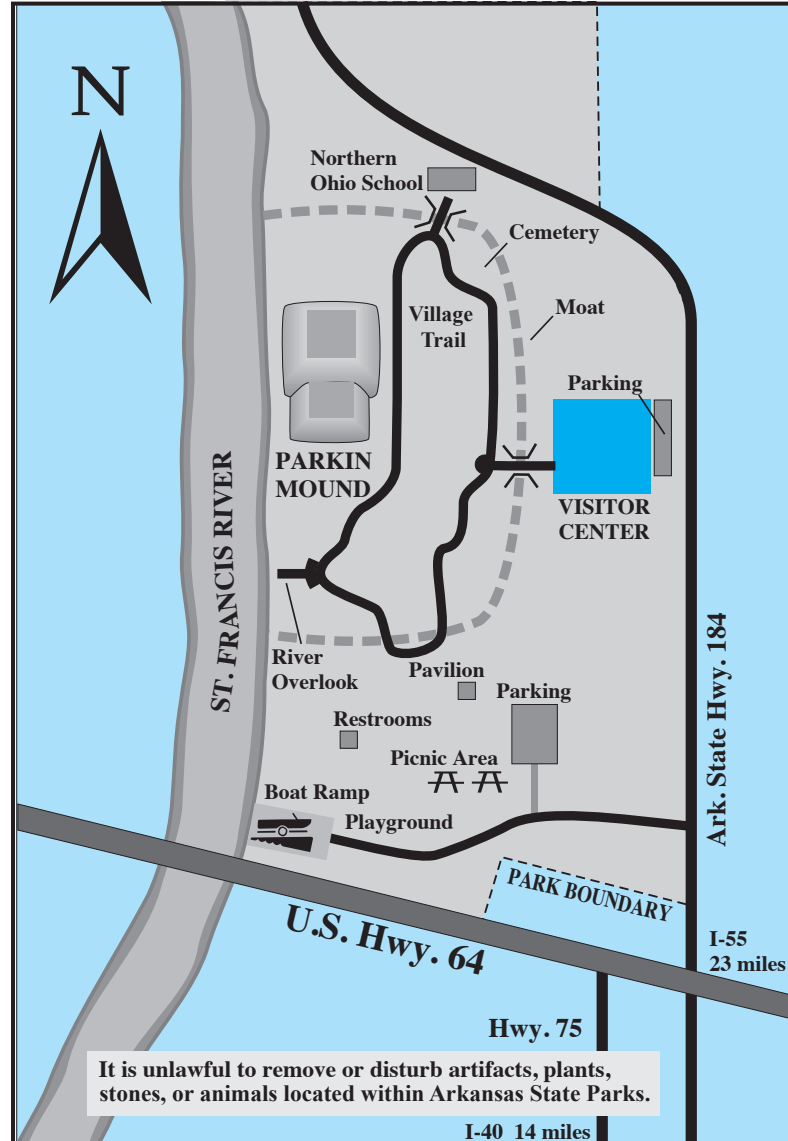


VISITOR CENTER AND MUSEUM

Along with a gift shop and friendly park staff, the visitor center offers a 12-minute introductory video, many replica items that can be handled by visitors including American Indian spears, spearthrowers, blowdarts, pottery, and other tools, Spanish Conquistador gear, and mammal furs representing many of this region's wildlife. The museum showcases some of the genuine artifacts that were excavated at Parkin and other nearby archeological sites.



THE VILLAGE TRAIL

The park offers a ¾-mile fully-paved walking trail with wayside panels that inform visitors about various aspects of both prehistoric and historic Parkin. The trail passes by the Mississippian Indian mound, the original Parkin cemetery (c. 1904-1927) and a spur leads to the restored Northern Ohio Schoolhouse. The trail also has three bridges that cross over different sections of the moat; one of them is a scenic overlook of the St. Francis River.

HOURS OF OPERATION

Open: Tuesday - Saturday: 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Sunday: 1 p.m. - 5 p.m.
Closed: Mondays (except Monday holidays)
Closed: Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Eve, Christmas Day and New Year's Day

FEES

Entry into the visitor center and exhibits, and self-guided tours of the Village Trail are all free. There is a charge for guided site tours, workshops, some special programs, and groups (see below). Please contact the park for updated information on fees.

SCHOOLS AND GROUPS

We welcome schools and other groups to the park and can offer a variety of curriculum-based interpretive programs on history and archeology. Groups should schedule their visits well in advance. Adult groups of 15 or more may receive a reduced rate by scheduling guided tours in advance.

SCOUTS

The park offers special scout patches for both Boy and Girl Scouts. Contact the park for details on special programs. Fee applies.

PICNIC AREA AND PLAYGROUND

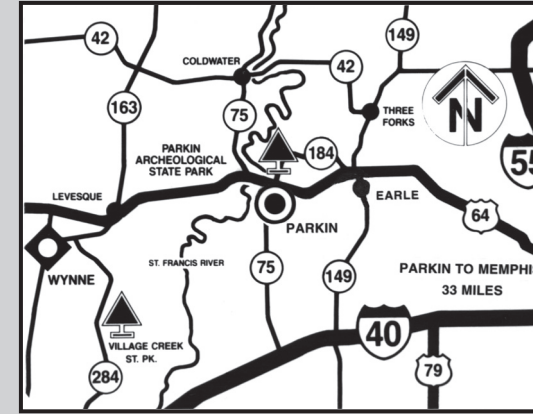
Picnic tables, charcoal grills, and a playground at the south end of the park are available for year round public use. Restrooms are also located in this area.

PAVILION

An enclosed pavilion with a group grill is available for rent year round. Contact the visitor center for reservations. Fee applies.

ST. FRANCIS RIVER ACCESS

A free boat ramp with parking area on the southwest corner of the park (near the picnic area, playground, and pavilion) is maintained by the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission.



LOCATION

Parkin Archeological State Park is on the north edge of the city of Parkin at the junction of Highways 64 and 184. Parkin is 12 miles north of Interstate 40 on Highway 75, or 23 miles west of Marion/Interstate 55 on Highway 64.

For further information on park hours, fees, or programs, contact:

Parkin Archeological State Park
60 Highway 184 N / P.O. Box 1110
Parkin, AR 72373-1110
(870) 755-2500
parkin@arkansas.com
GPS Coordinates: N56922 W11904

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

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



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Arkansas State Parks 2014

PARKIN ARCHEOLOGICAL STATE PARK



ARKANSAS
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS & TOURISM

PARKIN ARCHEOLOGICAL STATE PARK

Parkin Archeological State Park exists to preserve, collect, research, and interpret the site and its associated American Indian culture, emphasizing the period of AD 1200-1600, its interaction with the first Europeans, and the impact of historic utilization of the site area.

THE NATIVE AMERICAN VILLAGE

The 17-acre site on the St. Francis River was occupied by Mississippian Indians from A.D. 1000 to 1550. The village was surrounded by a moat and a log palisade wall for protection. Agricultural fields for growing corn, beans, and other crops were located outside the moat. A large platform mound, that served as a base for the chief's house on the bank of the river, remains today.

This site is important for understanding the history and prehistory of northeast Arkansas. There were once many archeological sites similar to Parkin throughout this

region, but careless digging and modern agricultural practices have destroyed almost all of these. The Parkin site is unique because it has been largely protected from destruction. Parkin is the best preserved village site of this time period in the region.

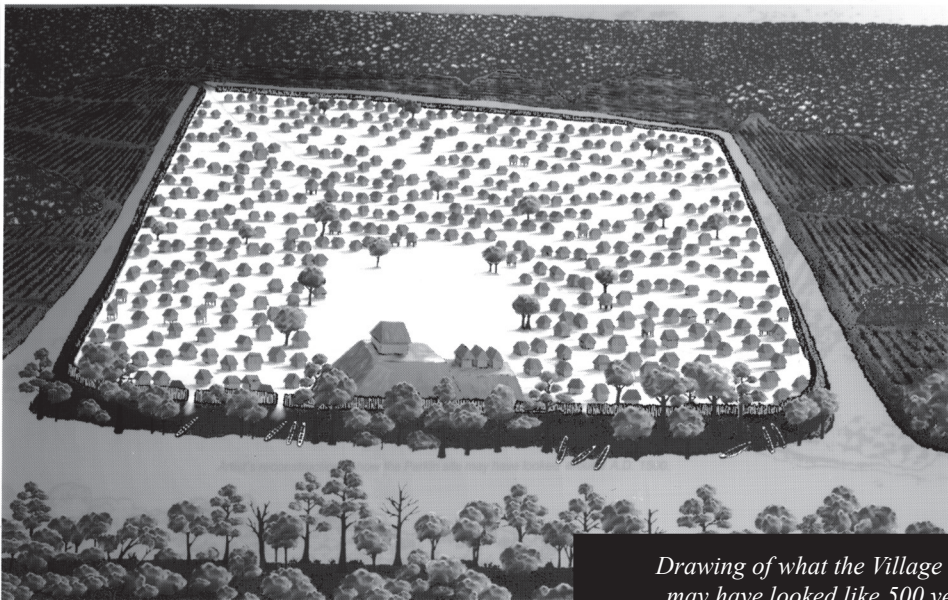
The Parkin site is designated as a **National Historic Landmark** by the U.S. National Park Service, one of only 16 such sites in Arkansas. It is also listed on the **National Register of Historic Places**. These designations emphasize the site's importance.

THE DE SOTO EXPEDITION

The Parkin site is also important because many scholars believe it is the American Indian village of Casqui, visited by the expedition of Hernando de Soto in the summer of 1541. Four written accounts of this expedition are important sources of information about the American Indian groups living in the southeastern United States when the first Europeans arrived.

The de Soto expedition, which traveled around what is now Arkansas for two years (1541-1543), had a profound effect on the natives. Diseases, such as smallpox and influenza, accidentally introduced by the Spaniards resulted in numerous deaths. Spanish demands for food, language interpreters, and equipment bearers led to clashes between the explorers and natives in many parts of the Southeast. Many of these clashes are described in the de Soto expedition accounts.

The encounter at Casqui was one of the few friendly contacts recorded between the de Soto expedition and American Indians. When the expedition arrived in the area, the chief and many residents of Casqui walked over a mile from the village at Parkin to greet de Soto.



Drawing of what the Village of Casqui may have looked like 500 years ago.

They invited the Spaniards to stay in the town, but the explorers chose to make camp outside of the village. After listening to a religious speech by de Soto, the chief and a number of villagers were baptized as Christians and helped the Spaniards erect a large wooden cross on top of the chief's mound.



A brass bell from Parkin, probably brought by de Soto.

THE SAWDUST HILL COMMUNITY

In the early 1900s, a sawmill was established at the Parkin site by the Northern Ohio Cooperage and Lumber Company. Some of the mill workers built houses and lived next to the factory, establishing a community atop the same land as the Mississippian Indian village that was abandoned 300 years earlier. Sawdust from the mill was dumped into the moat around the American Indian village site. The area became known as Sawdust Hill. The sawmill operated at the site until 1946. Sawdust Hill community and many of its families remained until the land was purchased to create the park in 1994.



THE NORTHERN OHIO SCHOOLHOUSE

Associated with the Northern Ohio Cooperage and Lumber Company was a one-room school house for the African American children whose parents worked at the mill. After the mill closed, and up until the 1990s, this structure was privately owned. Upon purchase by the park, a grant was secured and the Northern Ohio Schoolhouse was restored back to its 1940s condition.

Interpretive panels outside the building speak to visitors about what it was like to go to school there and to live in the community years ago. The schoolhouse is open during guided tours and for special programming. Even self-guided tourists are welcome to peek through the windows for a view of life from a different time! The Northern Ohio School is on the **National Register of Historic Places**.

PARKIN ARCHEOLOGICAL RESEARCH STATION

In conjunction with the founding of the State Park, a Research Station was established at Parkin by the Arkansas Archeological Survey. Artifacts from major excavations during the 1960s and 1990s are still being analyzed, and test excavations still occasionally occur on site. Archeology can tell us much about the site and its inhabitants that we could not know otherwise. As research continues, we will learn more about the original residents of Parkin, their encounter with Spanish explorers, and the more recent residents that were the founders of Sawdust Hill.



THE PAST SHOULD BE FOREVER



ARKANSAS ARCHEOLOGICAL SURVEY



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