

## INTRODUCTION

Welcome to the Ozarks of north central Arkansas. Bull Shoals-White River State Park is a place where water generates life. The park was designated in 1955 to provide recreational opportunities to the public. After completion of Bull Shoals Dam in 1952, the cold tail-waters of the White River soon became a trout fishing paradise. This 732-acre park also provides unlimited scenic views and a wonderful closeness to nature. Several nature trails have been set aside for you to enjoy views of the White River, Bull Shoals Lake and the Ozark countryside. Park interpreters present a variety of interpretive programs, walks, and barge tours throughout the year.

## BIG BLUFF TRAIL

Length: 1 3/4 mile loop trail  
Trailhead: Open field area south of Rent-A-Camp  
Difficulty: Moderately strenuous  
Special Note: Children should be accompanied by an adult.

The first part of this loop trail is a level walk over the remains of the railroad tram constructed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to bring in steel and lumber from Cotter to construct Bull Shoals Dam. Once the trail crosses the paved road, it goes up the hillside to an area overlooking the White River, Bull Shoals Dam, and the Ozark hill country. The trail then leads you through cedar glades, mature deciduous forests, and across streams. These areas provide excellent habitat for colorful Ozark wildflowers. Pick up a wildflower checklist at the park Visitor Center before walking this trail.

## LAKESIDE TRAIL

Length: 1 mile  
Trailhead: East end of Lakeside Picnic Area  
Difficulty: Moderately easy  
Constructed in 1979 by the Young Adult Conservation Corps, this loop trail offers relatively easy walking. Bull Shoals Lake, combined with the Ozark plant and animal life, makes the trail an ecosystem in itself. Any season of the year, even in the deepest winter, a surprise awaits you around each corner. Eagle Point and Titmouse Alley provide excellent habitat for bird watching. Bald eagles, waterfowl, and gulls are often seen from Eagle Point in winter. During spring,

summer, and fall over 90 species of migrating and summer resident songbirds populate the area. Stop at the Visitor Center and pick up our field checklist of birds at Bull Shoals.

## HIDDEN HOLLOW WILDFLOWER TRAIL

Length: 100 yards  
Trailhead: Behind campsite #103, not clearly marked  
Difficulty: Moderately easy  
This short trail traverses a fragile woodland wildflower area. In early spring it is full of delicate wildflowers including spring beauty, trillium, dwarf larkspur, sweet anise, pale corydalis, mayapple, and many more. (Please stay on the marked trail and do **not** pick or remove wildflowers.) To get to the trailhead, you must cross a wooded area with no clearly marked trail; look for the large sign approximately 50 feet into the wooded area. Be aware of ticks and chiggers in this area.

## BLUEBIRD TRAIL

Length: 2 miles  
Trailhead: Behind the Visitor Center  
Difficulty: Easy  
Not a traditional trail, this collection of bluebird houses through the campground is a flurry of activity each spring and summer as eastern bluebirds use these homes to raise their young. Walking the grassy lawn area from house to house and enjoying the nesting and feeding behaviors of these birds is very rewarding. Be sure to pick up a Bluebird Trail brochure at the Visitor Center for more information on these birds and a map showing the locations of the houses.

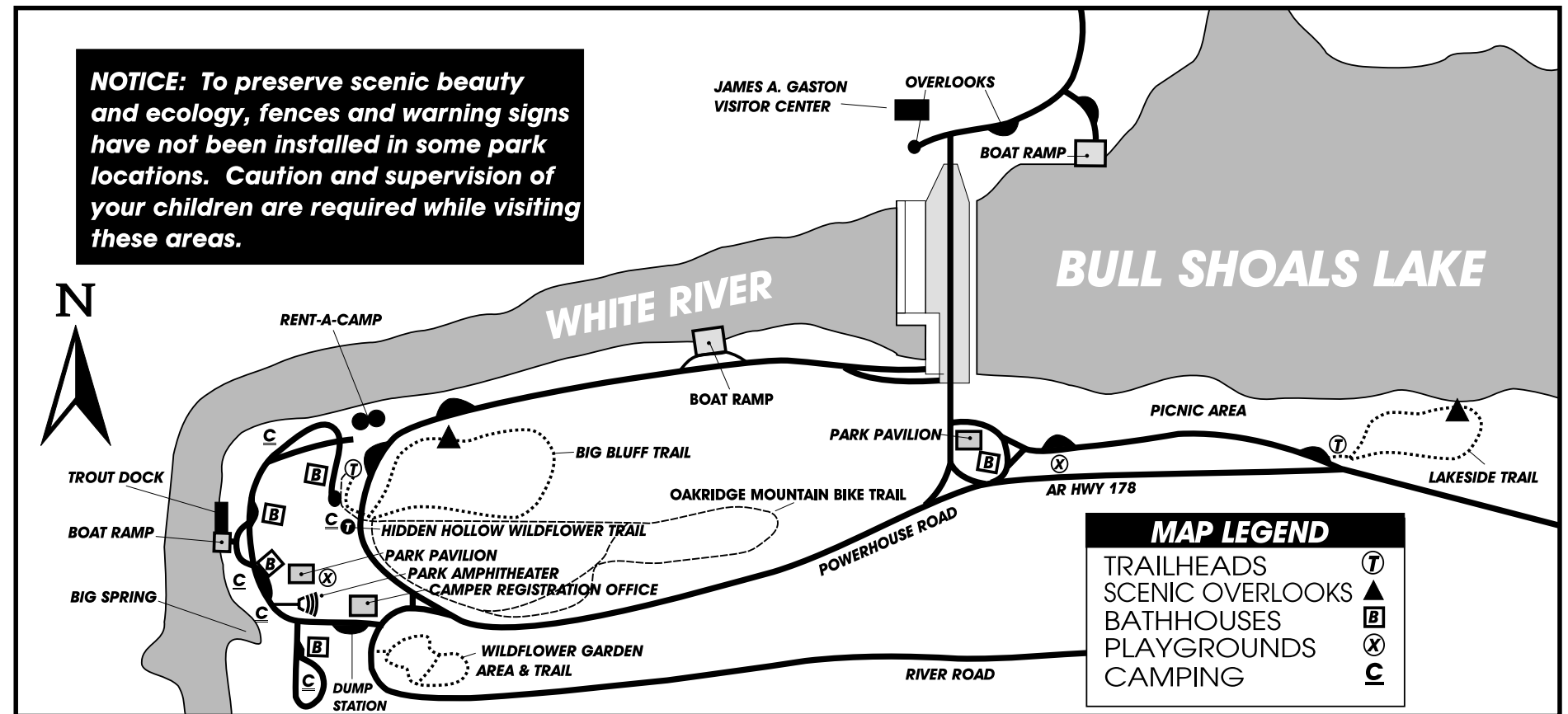
## GASTON WILDFLOWER GARDEN AREA AND TRAIL

Length: 3/4 mile  
Trailhead: Across from the Visitor Information Center on River Road  
Difficulty: Easy

This paved loop trail meanders through three acres of wildflowers that change each week through the season. Wildlife, including birds and butterflies, can be viewed throughout the trail. Several habitats, including meadow, woodland and low wetland areas can be viewed from the trail, along with their distinct wildflower species. The area is continually under development. Contributions may be made at any time; check with the park interpreter for more information.

## OAKRIDGE MOUNTAIN BIKE TRAIL

Length: 2-4 miles  
Trailhead: Open field area south of Rent-A-Camp  
Difficulty: Easy-Moderate  
Constructed by the Bull Shoals - Lakeview Rotary Club, this multi-use trail offers both hikers and mountain bikers access to remote areas of the park. The trail traverses the oak-hickory upland forest for a unique walking or



riding experience; expect creek crossings, dirt roads, open meadows, long downhills and taxing uphill. The loop trail allows users to choose from two levels of difficulty. Counterclockwise, the trail is moderately easy marked with green blazes. Clockwise, leading up the mountain, it becomes moderately difficult marked with blue blazes.

Rental mountain bikes are available at the Camper Registration Center in the park. *NOTE: Bicycle helmets are strongly recommended.*

## INTERPRETIVE PROGRAMS

Join us for the many activities available during the spring, summer, and fall seasons.

- Slide presentations, campfire stories, music, games, owl prowls, and night hikes are a few of the evening programs.
- Birds, wildflowers, and history are covered on guided nature walks held during the morning and evening hours.
- Nature demonstrations, trout fishing workshops, and cooking demonstrations provide activities throughout the day.
- Certificates and badges are awarded to children ages 7-14 for participating in the Junior Naturalist or Park Explorer programs.
- Lake and river cruises are offered from April through October.
- Throughout the year there are special events to help you better enjoy the Ozark's nature and culture. A few special events to note are:
  - Eagle Awareness Weekend ~ January
  - Troutfest Weekend ~ June
  - Fall Frenzy Weekend ~ October

Check the interpreter's program schedule posted on all park information boards. And see our programs listed at [www.ArkansasStateParks.com/bullshoalswhiteriver](http://www.ArkansasStateParks.com/bullshoalswhiteriver)

## TRAIL RULES

- Stay On Marked Trails - All trails are marked with blazes painted on trees. Stepping off the trail kills delicate plants, compacts the soil, and destroys the natural beauty.
- Watch Your Step - The main reason for accidents in the park is not watching the spot your foot will fall.
- Do Not Harm - Never harm any wildlife or plant! The park was set aside for their protection.

- Avoid Unwanted Encounters - At one time or another, snakes will be encountered. Poison ivy is also common near trails. Our best advice is to stay on designated trails.
- Wear Appropriate Footwear - Hiking boots or sneakers are recommended.
- Take Water With You - Especially When It's Hot! - Take a canteen or a plastic bottle of water. Glass containers on state park trails are prohibited.
- Don't Hike Alone - Hike with someone, or tell someone where you are going and when you should return.
- Ride On Open Trails Only - The Oakridge Trail is the only multi-use trail in the park. Please do not ride on the Lakeside or Big Bluff Trail.
- Always Yield The Trail - Slow down and communicate with other trail users.

## TRAIL REGULATIONS

To protect the environment and for the safety of you and others, it is unlawful to:

- \* Possess alcoholic beverages on trails.
- \* Carry glass containers on trails.
- \* Litter.
- \* Deface natural or cultural features.
- \* Allow pets off their leash.
- \* Ride ATVs on trails.
- \* Harass or kill wildlife or remove any wild plants.
- \* Camp or build campfires on trails.
- \* Be on trails after dark.

## VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

If our trails have provided you with beauty and recreation, please give something back by becoming a trail volunteer. Volunteer trail maintenance can be as easy as picking up litter and cleaning small debris off trails. Stop by the Visitor Center or call (870) 431-5521 if you are interested in helping.

## OFF-SEASON PROGRAMMING

Special programming for schools and other organized groups may be scheduled during the months of November through March. These programs must be scheduled in advance. Please contact the park interpreter for available dates and further information. Phone: (870) 431-5521.

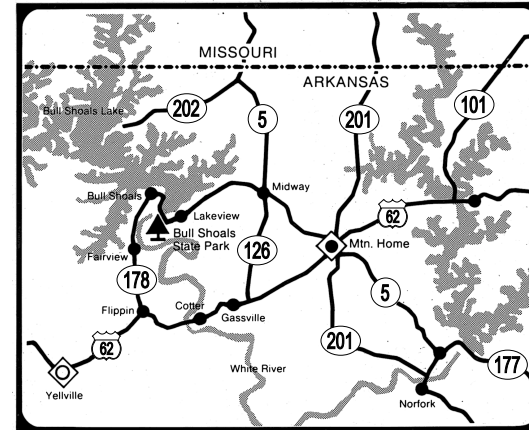
## CONCLUSION

The best way to enjoy Bull Shoals - White River State Park is to explore its natural beauty along its trails and to participate in our many interpretive programs. It is our hope that together we can protect park resources for today and the future.

## IN AN EMERGENCY

Notify the Visitor Center, Trout Dock, or Good Sam Host, or call from one of the pay phones in Camp Areas 'A' or 'B'.

**911 - Emergency**  
**431-5521 - Park Ranger**  
**425-2400 - Sheriff's Office**



## BULL SHOALS-WHITE RIVER STATE PARK

153 Dam Overlook Lane  
 Bull Shoals, AR 72619

PHONE: (870) 431-5521

FAX: (870) 431-4511

E-MAIL: [bullshoalswhiteriver@arkansas.com](mailto:bullshoalswhiteriver@arkansas.com),

or visit us and other parks at

[www.ArkansasStateParks.com](http://www.ArkansasStateParks.com)



As a part of our conservation mission, the Arkansas State Parks Department has printed this on recycled paper.

# INTERPRETIVE PROGRAM & TRAILS GUIDE

*"Bull Shoals-White River State Park, where water generates life."*

