

CRATER OF DIAMONDS STATE PARK

Among the tall pines of southwest Arkansas visitors from around the world search for diamonds in a 37-acre field. Here a unique geological occurrence brings diamonds to the surface in their natural matrix. This world famous site is the only diamond area in North America open to the public.

Over 75,000 diamonds have been found at "the Crater," an eroded volcanic pipe. An average of 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
- ◆ 1998 ~ The Strawn-Wagner Diamond, a cut white diamond weighing 1.09-carat, is graded by the American Gem Society (AGS) as a "D" Flawless 0/0/0 perfect diamond. A "one-in-a-billion diamond," stated Peter Yantzer, Laboratory Director for the AGS. This spectacular diamond is on display in the visitor center.

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

HISTORY

The first diamond was found here in 1906 by John Huddleston, who owned the property. The Crater of Diamonds has changed hands several times over the years and several unsuccessful attempts have been 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 25,000 diamonds have been found by park visitors since 1972.



DIAMOND-HUNTING TIPS

1. Look for a small, well-rounded crystal. A diamond weighing several carats may be no larger than a marble.
2. Diamonds have an oily, slick outer surface that dirt or mud will not stick to, so look for clean crystals.
3. If you think you have a diamond, hold it carefully or place it in the small sack provided by the park.
4. Diamonds may be any of several colors. The most common found at the Crater are clear white, yellow and brown.
5. Bring any stones you find to the Diamond Discovery Center for free identification and certification.

FACILITIES

This unique state park comprises 911 pine-covered acres along the banks of the Little Missouri River. Modern campgrounds, bathhouses, picnic areas, the Diamond Springs Water Park, pavilion, amphitheater and wildlife observation area are available. A gift shop, exhibits, object theater, rest rooms, and offices are located in the Visitor Center, with a seasonal restaurant and picnic area close by. Check with the Visitor Center for hours of operation for the restaurant. Tool rental, diamond and geology exhibits, a classroom and restrooms are located in the Diamond Discovery Center. Motels, hospitals, and other conveniences are a few minutes drive away in nearby towns. The park is open year-round (hours change seasonally).

INTERPRETIVE SERVICES

Programs are offered at the Diamond Discovery Center. During the summer months, 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 barrier-free with exhibits.

The Prospector Trail (1.2 miles) offers visitors a first hand view of the park's unique geological features.

FEES

Mine Admission ◆ A nominal entrance fee to the diamond field and Diamond Springs Water Park is 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: There are 59 campsites with water and electricity available. Campers must register at the Visitor Center before occupying a campsite. All sites are reservable and 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

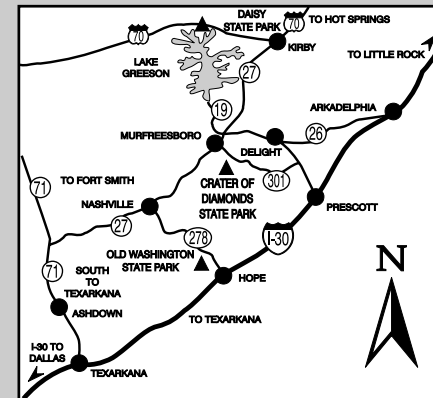
209 State Park Road

Murfreesboro, AR 71958

Telephone: (870) 285-3113

e-mail: crater@arkansas.com

www.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

Telephone: (501) 682-1191

www.ArkansasStateParks.com



As a part of its conservation mission, Arkansas State Parks has printed this brochure on recycled paper. All park services are provided on a nondiscriminatory basis. Arkansas State Parks is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

Arkansas State Parks 2005

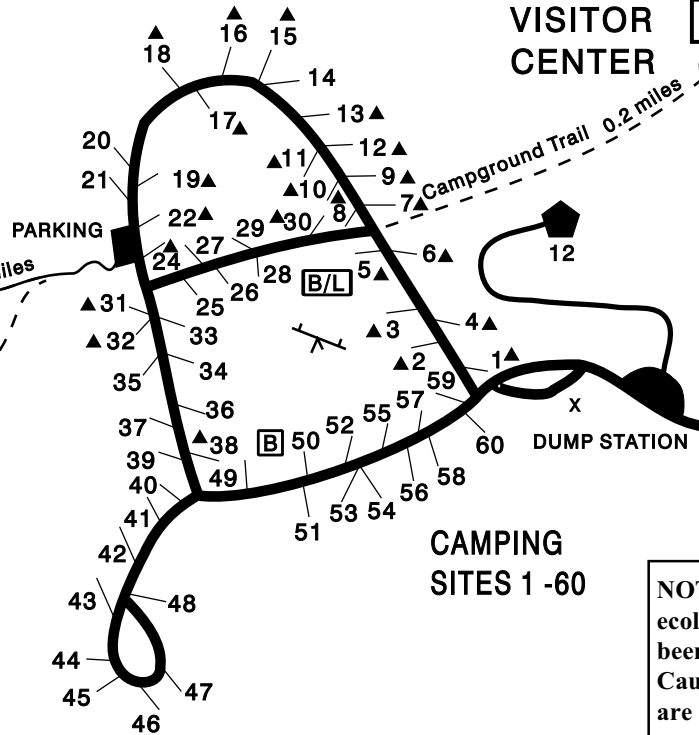
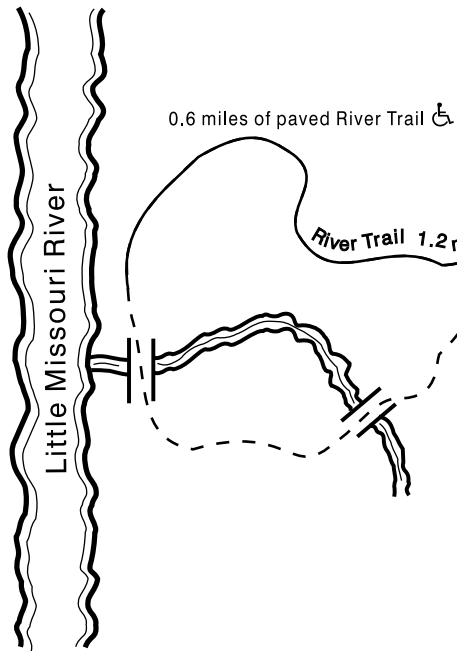
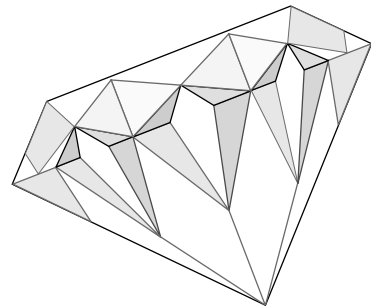
CRATER OF DIAMONDS STATE PARK



ARKANSAS

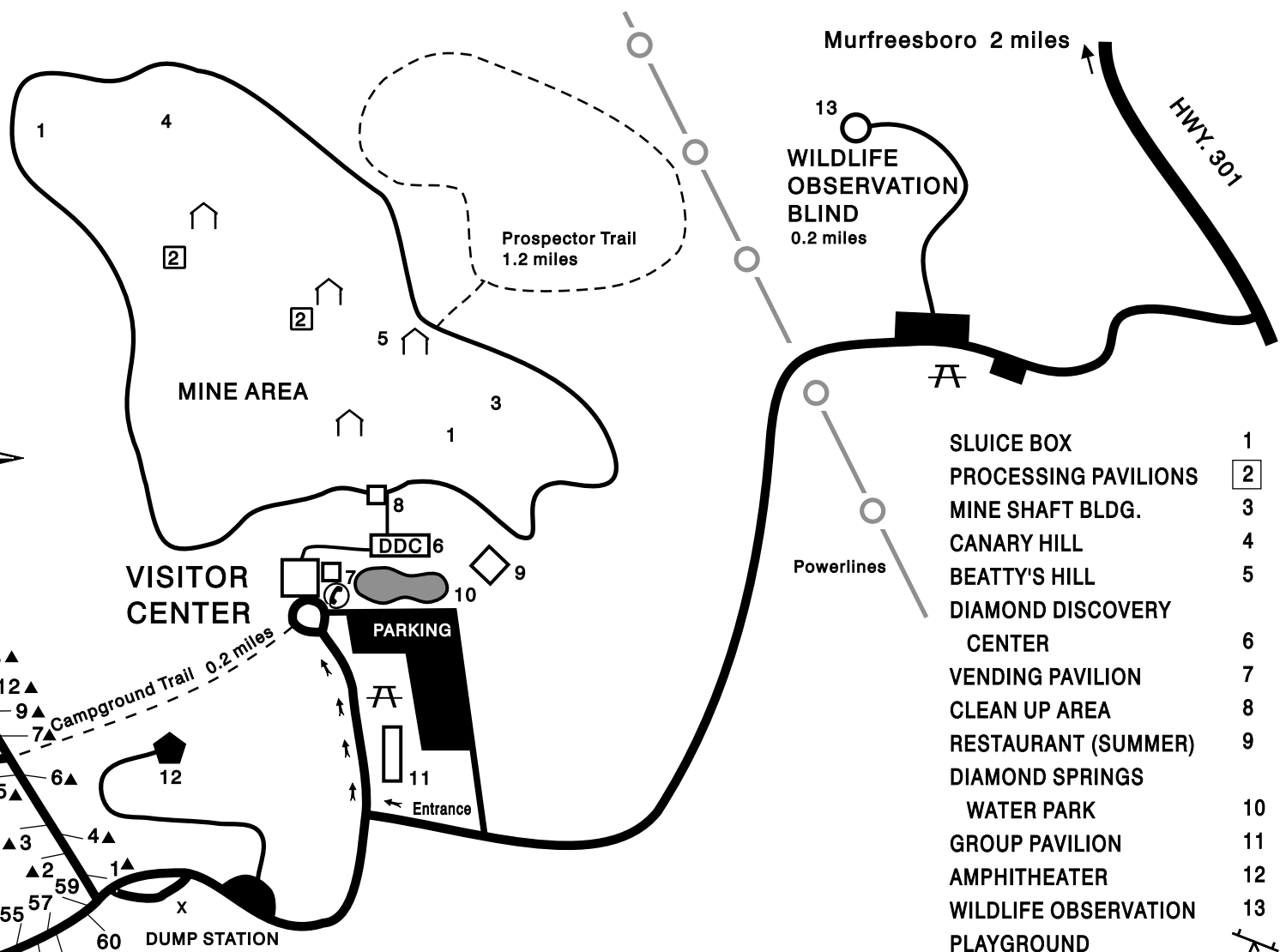
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS & TOURISM

CRATER OF DIAMONDS STATE PARK



**CAMPING
SITES 1 - 60**

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 PROCESSING PAVILIONS
- 3 MINE SHAFT BLDG.
- 4 CANARY HILL
- 5 BEATTY'S HILL
- 6 DIAMOND DISCOVERY CENTER
- 7 VENDING PAVILION
- 8 CLEAN UP AREA
- 9 RESTAURANT (SUMMER)
- 10 DIAMOND SPRINGS WATER PARK
- 11 GROUP PAVILION
- 12 AMPHITHEATER
- 13 WILDLIFE OBSERVATION BLIND
- ▲ PLAYGROUND
- ▲ SUN SHELTER
- ▲ PICNIC AREA
- ▲ BATHHOUSE
- ▲ BATHHOUSE & LAUNDRY
- ▲ PUBLIC PHONE
- ▲ TENT SITE

Murfreesboro 2 miles
HWY. 301



EXPLORE THE BEAUTY & HISTORY OF ARKANSAS!