

LAKE FORT SMITH STATE PARK

Lake Fort Smith State Park is your gateway to adventure in the natural diversity of the Boston Mountains. The park overlooks Lake Fort Smith in the rugged Boston Mountain Range of the northwest Arkansas Ozarks.

Originally a 1930's WPA Fort Smith city park, the area became a popular state park in 1973. Following a move from its original location, the state park reopened in 2008. It is on the western side of a 1,400-acre reservoir made by enlarging and joining lakes Fort Smith and Shepherd Springs. This has created a beautiful lake surrounded by the Ozark Mountains, and an expanse of surface water for recreation, plus, water storage to supply Fort Smith and the surrounding area.

The 165-mile Ozark Highlands Trail has its western trailhead in the park. This backpacking trail, heralded as one of the most scenic in the nation, begins by skirting Lake Fort Smith, and then enters the Ozark National Forest where it takes the hiker across hills and hollows, crevices, bluffs, and past numerous waterfalls. When this connection is complete, the backpacker will be able to walk from the state park, across the Ozark National Forest, through several wilderness areas, and along the Buffalo National River.

The park offers hiking and backpacking workshops, boating and kayaking courses, birding and wildlife courses, nature photography, art, and journaling classes, outdoor cooking, and many overnight adventures by land and water.

Every season is a new adventure in the Ozarks. From the splendor of the blooming dogwoods and redbuds in the spring to the blaze of bright oranges, reds and yellows in the fall, the mountains are always alive. A few moments of quiet observation in the early dawn or dusk can reveal the sounds and sights of the bountiful wildlife which live here.

FACILITIES

This all-new state park includes 20 campsites with full hook-ups and 10 campsites with water & electric, group lodging with kitchen, picnic sites, a pavilion, playground, swimming pool, marina with boat rentals, hiking trails, and a visitor center with interactive exhibits and a meeting/classroom.

Marina ♦ Rent canoes, kayaks, pedal boats, and fishing boats, and purchase bait, tackle, vending, and other supplies at our marina near the boat ramp.

Trails ♦ A perfect way to enjoy the seasonal beauty of the Ozarks is to hike the trails at Lake Fort Smith State Park.

The park is the western terminus of the Ozark Highlands Trail (OHT), a trail offering hiking and backpacking as scenic and challenging as found anywhere in the country. This 165-mile trail passes through the heart of the Ozark Mountains.

INTERPRETIVE SERVICES

The visitor center includes a large exhibit gallery emphasizing that through time, good water has made this valley a place of hope, faith, and sacrifice. You will see a log cabin, covered wagon, a recreated Shepherd Spring, and lake diorama. A 16-minute video further connects the water resources of the valley with man's presence here.

Interpretive programs are offered to all park visitors throughout the year. Programs include guided hikes, nature talks, wildlife viewing, kayaking, lake tours, and demonstrations throughout the park and at the visitor center.

Lake Fort Smith State Park is your gateway to adventure in the natural diversity of the Boston Mountains. The park specializes in adventure activities. These include workshops to prepare for outdoor activities, schools in backpacking and kayaking, and overnight trips in the Ozarks surrounding the park. Outdoor skills workshops may include campfire cooking, birding, safety and survival, outdoor ethics, journaling, art, photography, and more.

Groups may request special programs to meet specific interests year-round. Advance arrangements are necessary.

The Arkansas State Park System is a leader in providing curriculum-based, hands-on resource support for teachers and students. Lake Fort Smith staff offer curriculum-based educational programs in which the lessons of the classroom become real in the resources of the park. These are outlined in our teacher's handbook available on our website (www.ArkansasStateParks.com/lakefortsmith).

LOCATION

The park is 26 miles north of Alma, and 32 miles south of Fayetteville. From I-540 take exit 29 at Mountainburg, then scenic highway 71, 8 miles north to the park entrance road.

For further information on park hours, fees, and services, contact:

Lake Fort Smith State Park

P.O. Box 4

Mountainburg, AR 72946

Telephone: (479) 369-2469

Fax: (479) 369-4412

e-mail: lakefortsmith@arkansas.com

Visitor Center GPS:

35° 41' 72.1" N / 94° 07' 14.1" W

Book Online Reservations:

www.ArkansasStateParks.com

LAKE FORT SMITH STATE PARK



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

Arkansas State Parks

One Capitol Mall, 4A-900

Little Rock, AR 72201

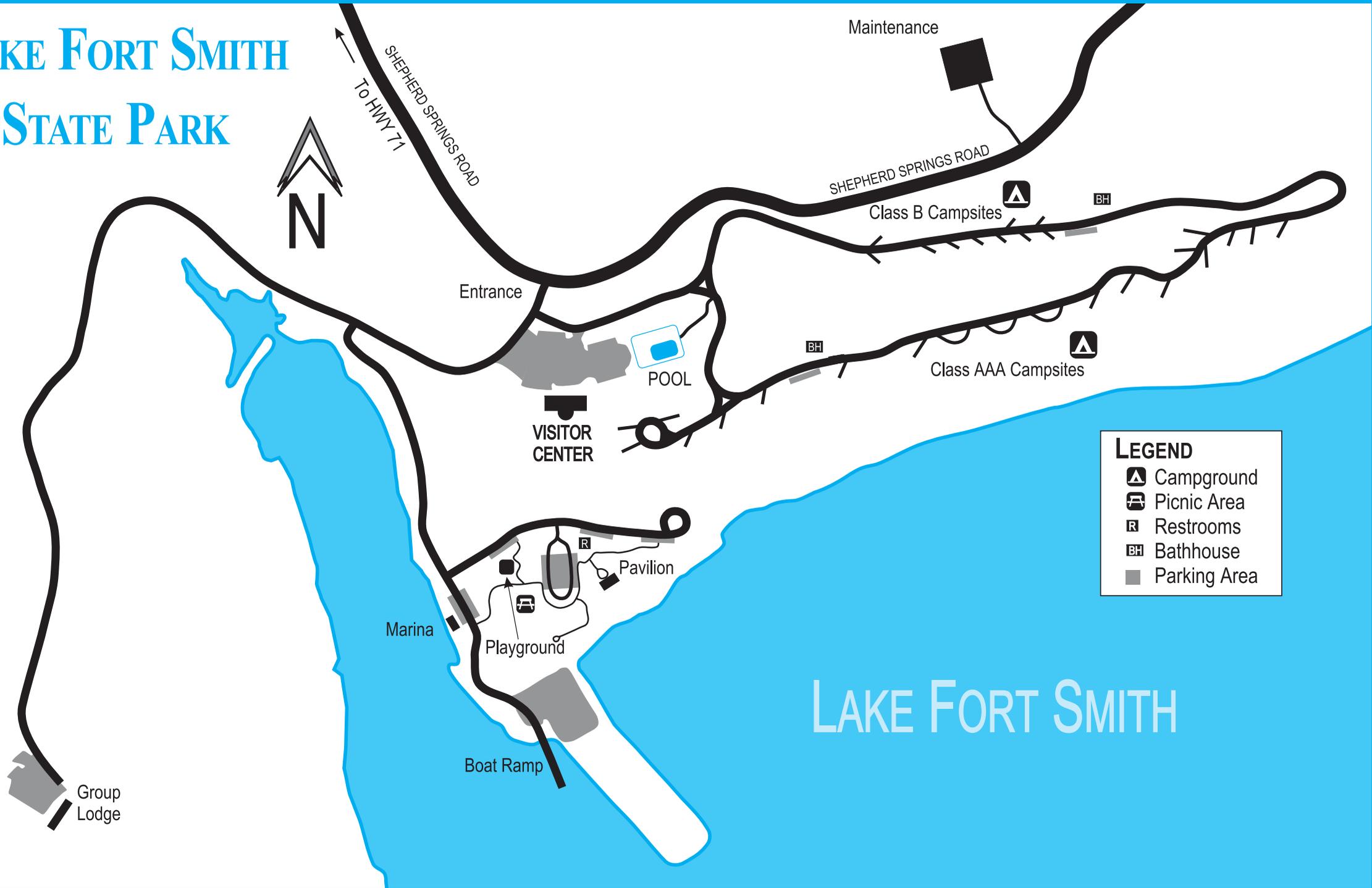
Telephone: (501) 682-1191

www.ArkansasStateParks.com



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