

CROWLEY'S RIDGE STATE PARK

Left as an erosional remnant from the natural forces of rivers 40 million years ago, Crowley's Ridge stands 100 to 200 feet above the fertile plains of the Delta in eastern Arkansas. The ridge was named for Benjamin F. Crowley, a soldier during the War of 1812 whose land grant was the first pioneer settlement in this part of the state. Crowley's Ridge forms a narrow arc of scenic rolling hills extending from Cape Girardeau Missouri into the northeast corner of Arkansas down to the Mississippi River at Helena.

Located near Paragould in lower Greene County at the site of Benjamin Crowley's original homesite, Crowley's Ridge State Park is situated on the western slopes of the ridge amid stately pines and hardwoods. Once a campground for the Tribes of Native Americans, the park offers visitors swimming and fishing in spring-fed lakes, shaded campground and picnic areas and scenic nature trails. The park was constructed by the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) beginning in 1933, establishing it as one of the six original state parks in Arkansas. Today, those original native stone and wood structures create a setting of rustic serenity among the natural surroundings.

FACILITIES

Housekeeping Cabins ♦ Two modern duplex cabins (4 units) with fireplaces for seasonal use are available. (October 1 through April 30). Nestled in the woods, cabin units include all electric kitchens with cooking utensils and tableware. Linens are provided. Cabins are heated and air-conditioned for year-round comfort. Cable television is also included. Units sleep up to 6 persons with the exception of one unit, which is barrier-free and sleeps only four. Privacy fenced picnic tables and grills make these cabins the perfect place for a weekend or a week-long "get-away." (Cabins may be reserved up to one year in advance.)

Group Lodging ♦ Overlooking the fishing lake are five heated and air-conditioned group cabins with a modern bathhouse. This combined with a large dining hall (fully accessible) provides one of the state's most sought-after group outing facilities. For a modest fee, this area accommodates groups of up to 60 people. Linens, pillows, covers, cookware, and tableware are not furnished. Larger groups can be accommodated in the dining hall on a day-use basis. A large open pavilion in the area completes this outstanding group

lodging area. (Groups may reserve the group lodging area up to two years in advance and is open year-round.)

Camping ♦ Year-round camping is available in a secluded area among the tall trees. Twenty-six campsites (18 RV sites with water/electricity and 8 tent sites) and a modern ADA accessible bathhouse provide for an enjoyable camping experience.

NOTE: 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.

Other Facilities ♦ Hospitals, restaurants, and complete shopping are just minutes away in nearby Paragould and Jonesboro.

RECREATION

Lake Ponder ♦ A massive log and stone structure known as the CCC Pavilion, accents the park's main recreation facilities. A dance floor, snack bar and bathhouse form a backdrop for one of the state's most popular swimming areas (lifeguards on duty during summer months). Visitors can refresh themselves in the cool, spring-fed waters of the lake or relax in the sun on the sandy beach. A portion of the lake has been sectioned off for use of pedal boats and water bikes, which are available for rent. A fenced playground and beach volleyball court, adjacent to the swimming beach, completes the variety of facilities found in this area of the park.

Walcott Lake ♦ This 31-acre fishing lake offers a chance at trophy-size largemouth bass, catfish and other stocked fish. The barrier-free fishing pier offers access to all. A boat launch ramp allows easy access to the lake. (Electric motors only on the lake.)

Fishing boats and canoes, located near the boat ramp, are available for rent at the Visitor Center.

Activities ♦ A large open area located just west of the Visitor Center, across Hwy 168, provides hours of sporting fun during impromptu games or organized group gatherings. Four and a half miles of hiking trails meander through the beautiful forest of Crowley's Ridge, allowing you to view some of the most unique flora and fauna found in the state.

Lake Ponder trail, .45 mile in length, is completely barrier-free.

Picnicking ♦ Coupled with the scenic beauty of the Ridge in all seasons, the picnic areas with tables and grills are located throughout the park. Group pavilions are available for rent and must be reserved at the

Visitor Center before being used (deposit required and can be reserved up to a year in advance).

INTERPRETIVE SERVICES

A complete interpretive program including guided hikes, nature talks, historic presentations, demonstrations, and evening programs are available throughout the year. Children ages 7-14 are eligible for Arkansas State Park's Jr. Naturalist and Park Explorer Programs. School groups, Boy and Girl Scouts, civic organizations, church groups and any other interested groups are encouraged to arrange special programming. Events and activity themed weekends are offered year-round. For more information concerning programs, contact the park interpreter at the Visitor Center.

LOCATION

Take U.S. Hwy. 412 off U.S. 67 at Walnut Ridge and travel 16 miles east, then go south on Hwy. 141 just 2 miles; from Paragould, follow Hwy. 412 west for 10 miles, then go 2 miles south on Hwy. 168; from Jonesboro, travel 15 miles north on Hwy. 141 to Walcott or off of U.S. Hwy 63, take Southwest Drive exit to Hwy. 141.

For further information:

Crowley's Ridge State Park

2092 Hwy 168 North

Paragould, AR 72450

Telephone: (870) 573-6751

Fax: (870) 573-6758

For cabin reservations ONLY call 1-800-264-2405

e-mail: crowleysridge@arkansas.com

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

Arkansas State Parks
One Capitol Mall, 4A-900
Little Rock, AR 72201
Telephone: (501) 682-1191
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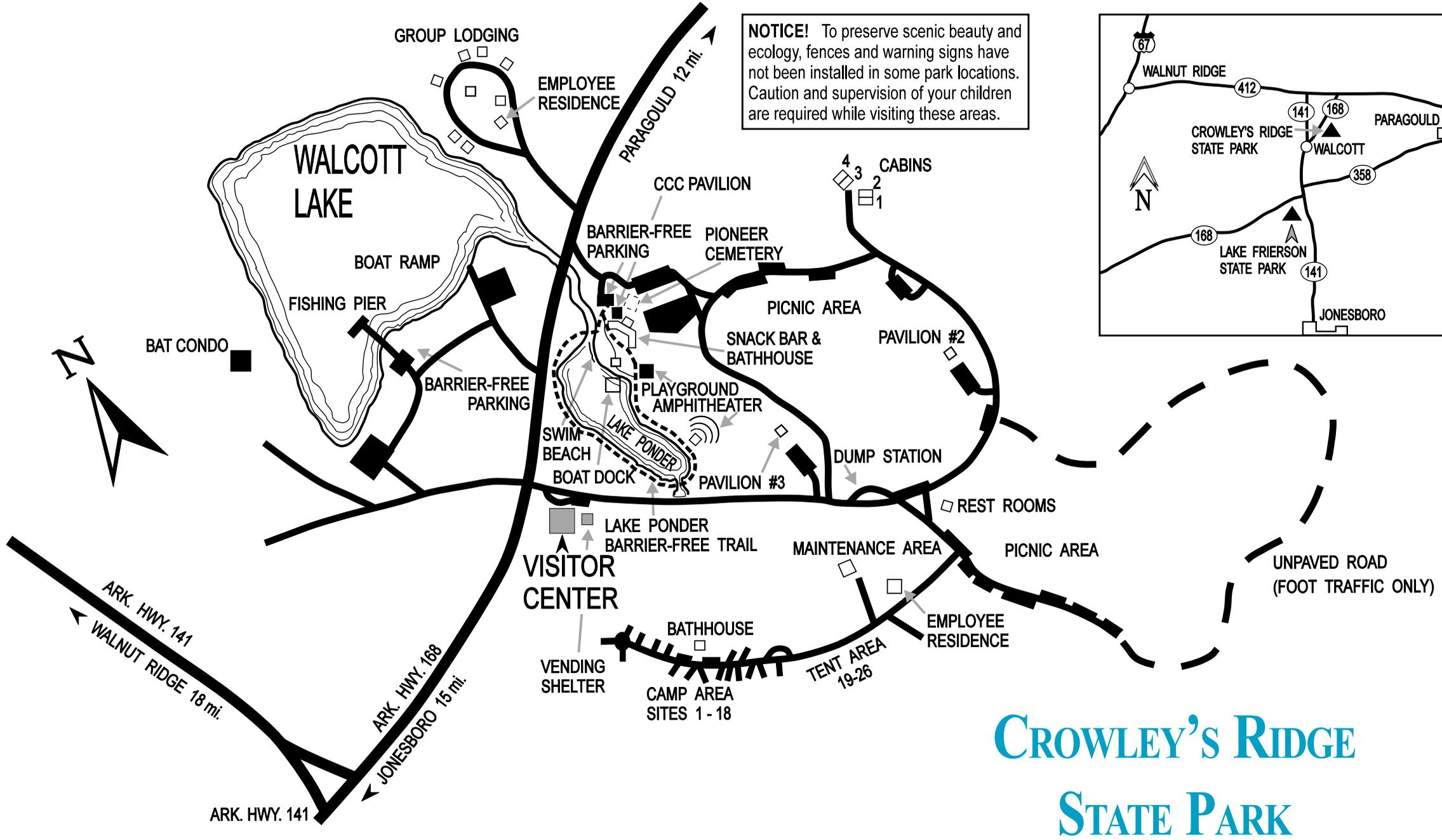
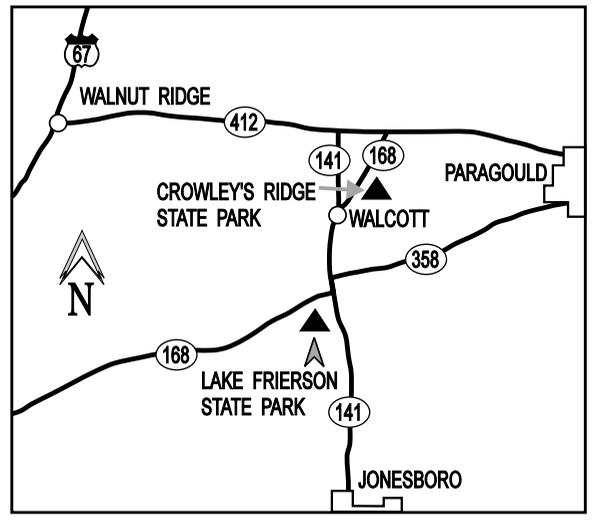
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ARKANSAS
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS & TOURISM



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.



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