

About Craighead Forest Park

Craighead Forest Park opened when the Young Men's Civic Club began work on the lake in 1937. It is now a city-owned park that is situated in the scenic beauty of Crowley's Ridge. This 692-acre park offers many recreational opportunities for the public to enjoy.

Park Guidelines

- The park is open from 6 a.m. until 10 p.m. every day of the year
- All dogs must be on a leash.
- Campground quiet hours are from 6 a.m. until 10 p.m.
- All vehicles must remain in designated areas or on paved roads.
- Boats are permitted on the lake from the boat launch all year during park hours with a 5-mph speed limit and a "no wake" rule.

Contact Information

For additional information, please contact
Jonesboro Parks and Recreation

1212 Church Street
Jonesboro, AR 72401

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www.jonesborosports.org



Craighead Forest Park

*A Distinctive Recreational Park
in Northeast Arkansas*



City of Jonesboro



Rotary Centennial Park

Rotary Centennial Park, located on Rotary Way, is designed so that handicapped children can play alongside able-bodied friends. The park not only includes a playground, but it also includes a bankshot basketball court and a splash pad. Rotary Centennial Park was made possible by the three Rotary Clubs in Jonesboro (Rotary Club of Jonesboro, Rotary Club of Jonesboro - University, and Rotary Club of Jonesboro - Metro), and it was dedicated to commemorate the 100th anniversary of Rotary International.



Castle Playground

The castle playground, located at Access #3 of Craighead Forest Park, is a handicapped-accessible playground. In this magical place, children can allow their imaginations to whisk them off to a time and place of kings, queens, knights, maidens, dragons, and ogres.

Family Fishing Area

The Family Fishing Area is located near Access #5. With its location near Rotary Centennial Park and by being fully handicapped-accessible, the family fishing area was created to help handicapped children enjoy outdoor recreation and fishing. This part of the lake is extra special because the Arkansas Game & Fish Commission stocks this area more heavily with brim, bass, and catfish, and adds trout in the winter and tilapia in the summer. Anyone can fish in the Family Fishing Area as long as they have a child with them.

Crowley's Ridge Nature Center

Forrest L. Wood Crowley's Ridge Nature Center offers visitors the chance to experience and explore a unique piece of North America and its wildlife. The facilities may be toured Tuesday-Friday from 8:30 a.m. until 4:30 p.m., Saturday from 9 a.m. until 6 p.m., and Sunday from 1 until 5 p.m. In addition to self-guided exhibits and trails, the center offers many nature education programs and activities. The daily "Feeding Frenzy" happens at 3:30 p.m., and the popular "Crowley's Ridge Movie" runs every half-hour. The weekends bring the "Creature Feature" at 10 a.m. on Saturday and the "Sunday Matinee" at 2 p.m. For more information, call (870)933-6787, or visit www.crowleysridge.org.

Picnics

Scattered throughout the park are several spacious picnic areas. Six large pavilions are available on a reservation basis for family reunions, corporate picnics, or other group gatherings. Please call (870)933-4604 for fees and availability. Eleven smaller pavilions are offered on a first-come, first-served basis.

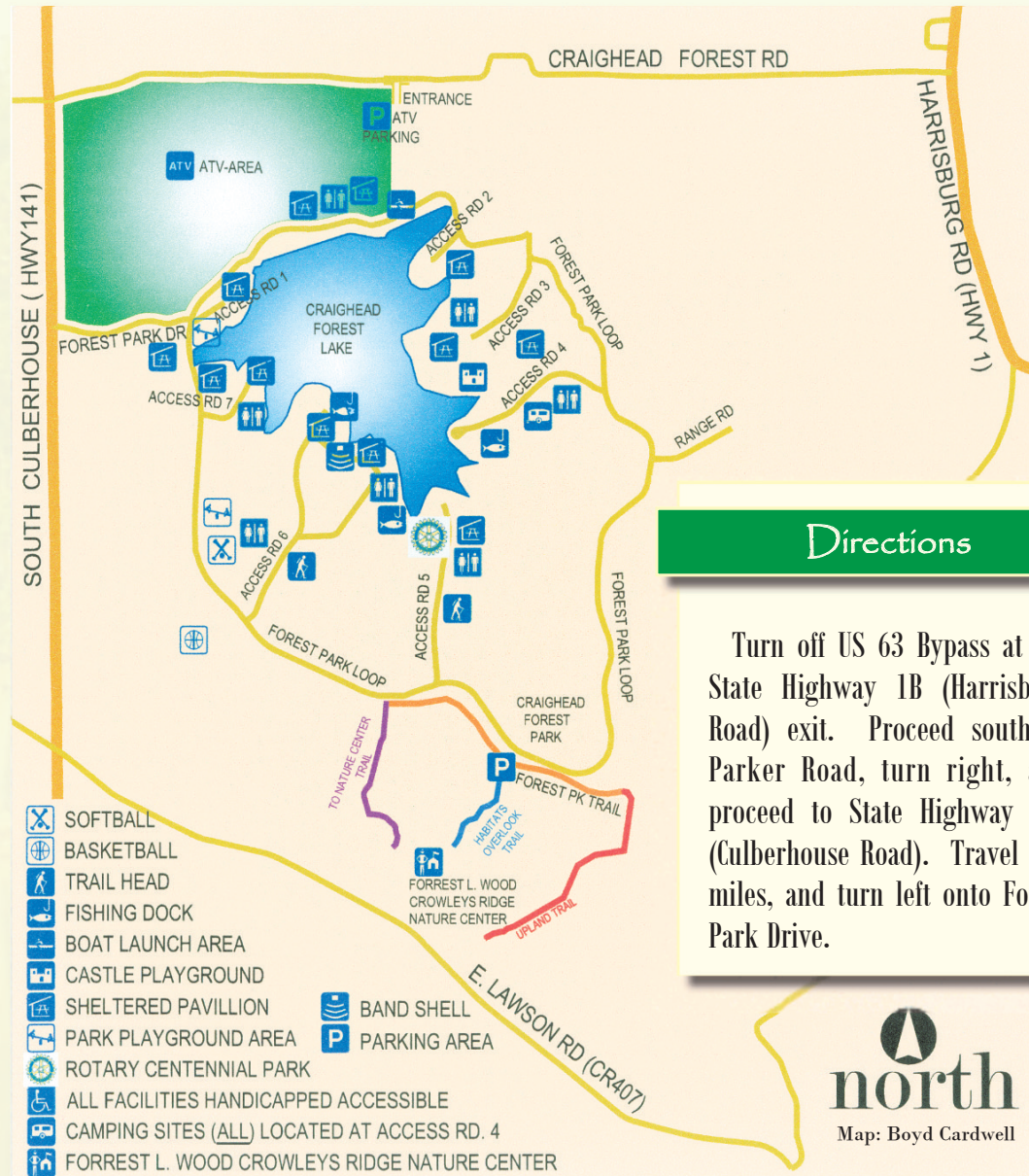
Recreation

Craighead Forest Park offers recreational areas for basketball, softball, horseshoes, volleyball, disc golf, and many other outdoor sports and games. Park visitors might also find a variety of events, celebrations, or concerts, like 4th in the Forest, the Labor Day Blues Fest, fun runs, and triathlons.

Camping

The campground at Craighead Forest Park offers visitors a home-away-from-home atmosphere with rustic surroundings. The park has 26 tree-shaded asphalt pads equipped with water, electrical outlets, picnic tables, and grills, and 5 primitive tent campsites right on the edge of the lake. A central bathhouse and waste evacuation station are also located near the campgrounds.

Craighead Forest Park Map



Directions

Turn off US 63 Bypass at the State Highway 1B (Harrisburg Road) exit. Proceed south to Parker Road, turn right, and proceed to State Highway 141 (Culberhouse Road). Travel two miles, and turn left onto Forest Park Drive.

Trails

Craighead Forest Park offers the outdoor enthusiast a brisk workout on any of the park's walking, hiking, or biking trails. Approximately 15 miles of mountain bike trail weave through the forest, 2.4 miles of chat trail skirt the edge of the lake, and 2.9 miles of paved road circle the park. The park also offers an exclusive area for ATV riders, and many of the wooded trails also accommodate horses. For a more complete nature experience, three trails lead to the Forrest L. Wood Crowley's Ridge Nature Center.



Fishing

Fishing at the 60-acre Craighead Forest Lake is a favorite pastime of local residents and of campers who visit the park. Anglers can fish from the docks and jetties, or they can launch boats to fish on the lake. The Arkansas Game & Fish Commission stocks the lake with bass, bream, catfish, crappie, and tilapia.