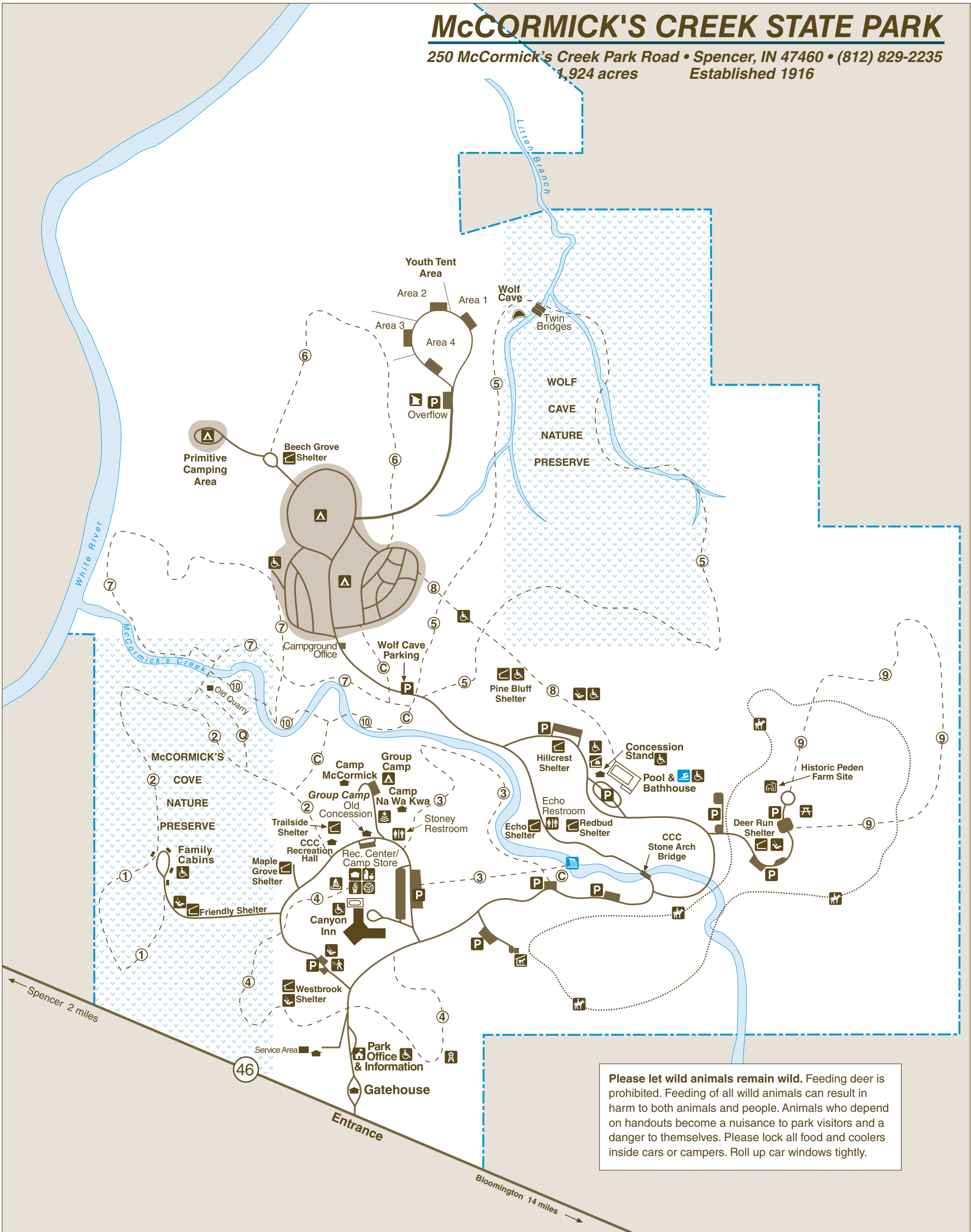


McCORMICK'S CREEK STATE PARK

250 McCormick's Creek Park Road • Spencer, IN 47460 • (812) 829-2235
1,924 acres Established 1916

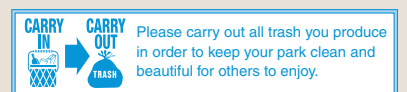
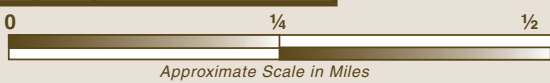


Please let wild animals remain wild. Feeding deer is prohibited. Feeding of all wild animals can result in harm to both animals and people. Animals who depend on handouts become a nuisance to park visitors and a danger to themselves. Please lock all food and coolers inside cars or campers. Roll up car windows tightly.

LEGEND			
	Boundary		Accessible
	Road		Campground
	Hiking Trail		Playground
	Horse Trail		Camp Store
	Nature Preserve		Shelter
	Waterfall		Picnic Area
	Swimming		Amphitheater
	Restroom		Horse Stable
	Parking		Fire Ring
	Fire Tower		Tennis Court
	Nature Center		Park Office/Info
	Sports Courts		Recreation Center

TRAIL TABLE		
TRAIL	MILEAGE	TRAIL TYPE
1	0.5	Moderate
2	1.0	Moderate
3	0.8	Rugged
4	1.4	Moderate
5	2.0	Moderate
6	0.6	Easy
7	1.8	Moderate
8	0.7	Accessible
9	1.2	Easy
10	0.7	Rugged

C - Connector Trails Q - Quarry Loop



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never great enough to make them profitable. Other enterprising businessmen opened limestone quarries near the mouth of the creek, but soon ran into problems getting the cut rock across the river to the railroad line.

The turning point in McCormick's Creek history came in 1888, when part of the area was purchased by Frederick Denkwalter, a physician interested in the site's scenic and restful qualities. Dr. Denkwalter saw the tranquil peace of the canyon and its surrounding cliffs as the perfect location for a sanitarium, a place for the wealthy and weary to "get away from it all" and recuperate.

The original sanitarium, built on the present-day Canyon Inn site, was a white-sided structure with long porches on every side. It offered guests plenty of access to the loveliness of the well-landscaped grounds, where Denkwalter planted a variety of trees and shrubs. Meanwhile, local residents continued to picnic and hike along the canyon, making the spot a favorite of everyone for rest and relaxation.

With the death of Dr. Denkwalter in 1914, his estate went up for sale at a land auction. Both Owen County and the State of Indiana were interested in maintaining McCormick's Creek in its park-like setting, so the land was purchased. McCormick's Creek State Park was dedicated as Indiana's first state park on July 4, 1916, as part of the state's centennial celebration.

Canyon Inn opened its doors in the old sanitarium building. A few years later in the early 1920s, the building was remodeled and new brick siding was added. Later changes brought new wings, a banquet room, swimming pool and recreation center, but the inn still rests on the original foundations.

Originally a little more than 350 acres, McCormick's Creek State Park grew to its present size through acquisition of surrounding farms and homesteads as they came up for sale. Much of the park's building improvements came in the 1930s, when the CCC (Civilian Conservation Corps) was in the park. The CCC men constructed most of the shelter houses, the old stone bridge, and the fire tower. Another surge of development came in the early 1970s, when the present campgrounds, Nature Center and swimming pool were added. Today the park is a delightful combination of history set in modern surroundings.

THIS IS YOUR PARK

Visitors shall observe the following rules, which are designed to fulfill the purpose for which state parks were established, namely, to preserve a primitive landscape in its natural condition for the public's use and enjoyment.

8. **ACCESSIBLE** (0.7 mile)—Trail 8 is a paved trail that begins in the campground, between campsites 14 and 15, and proceeds through woodlands and the Pine Bluff picnic area, ending at the pool and concession stand.
9. **EASY** (1.2 miles)—Trail 9 loop trail begins in the Deer Run parking area and loops through hardwood forest, old farm fields and crosses the bridle trail twice before ending in the Deer Run area.
10. **MODERATE** (0.7 mile)—Trail 10 begins across McCormick's Creek, from the Old State House Quarry, and proceeds upstream to the Trail 3 stairway that leads out of the canyon.

RULES AND REGULATIONS

- Do not injure or damage any structure, rock, tree, flower, bird or wild animal. Do NOT gather limbs, brush or trees (either dead or alive) for firewood because they rebuild the natural humus.
- Any firearm (except lawfully possessed handguns), BB gun, air gun, CO₂ gun, bow and arrow, paint gun or spear gun in possession in a state park must be unloaded or un-nocked and stored in a case or locked within a vehicle, except when owner is participating in an activity authorized by written permit.
- Dogs and cats must be attended at all times and kept on a leash no longer than 6 feet.
- Vending or advertising without permission of the Department of Natural Resources is prohibited.
- Camping is permitted only in the campground. Youth groups must be under adult supervision.
- Fires shall be built only in designated places.
- Please comply with the Carry In/Carry Out trash policy in all day-use areas. Overnight guests must put waste in receptacles provided for that purpose.
- Motorists shall observe posted speed limits, and park only in designated areas.
- Swimming is limited to places and times set by the DNR.
- Drinking water should be taken only from pumps, hydrants or fountains provided for that purpose. This water is tested regularly for purity.
- Report lost or found articles to the park office.
- All motorized vehicles shall remain on paved roadway. Snowmobiles are prohibited.
- Bicycles must be used only on roadways and are not allowed on hiking trails.

For a complete list of rules and regulations, inquire at park office.

ACTIVITIES AND FACILITIES

CAMPING—Campground equipped with modern restrooms, hot water and showers. Occupancy limited to 14 consecutive nights. Both Electric and Primitive sites are available. Reservations available through the Central Reservation System.

PRIMITIVE AND YOUTH TENT CAMPING—No showers or modern restrooms available. Reservations are available through the Central Reservation System.

FAMILY CABINS—Each cabin accommodates a maximum of six people and has a living area, bedroom, bathroom, screened-in porch and kitchen. Cabin 7 is accessible. Pets are not permitted in the cabin area. Open April - October. Occupancy limited to 14 consecutive nights. Reservations available through the Central Reservation System.

GROUP CAMPS—McCormick's Creek State Park features two group camps, Camp McCormick and Camp NaWaKwa. Each camp contains four sleeping barracks, capacity 25 people each; a large capacity dining hall/kitchen accommodating 100 people in each camp; and modern shower house located in the center of both camps. Reservations are available through the Central Reservation System.

HIKING—10.7 miles of easy to rugged trails.

INN—Guest rooms feature private bath, telephone, coffee pot, hair dryer, TV and air conditioning. The restaurant is open to the public and serves three meals, seven days a week, year-round. The inn's outdoor pool is open to inn guests only. No pets allowed. Guest and meeting rooms are equipped with wireless Internet service. Reservations are available through the Inns Reservation System.

INTERPRETIVE NATURALIST SERVICE—Open all year, and designed on a "Please Touch—Gently" theme, it includes natural history exhibits, nature games and quizzes, and a full range of naturalist-led activities available free of charge to park visitors. A self-guiding nature trail lies behind the center. Program schedules are available at the Nature Center, at InterpretiveServices.IN.gov or (812) 829-4344.

PICNIC AREAS—Include tables, grills, toilet facilities, playground equipment and playfields. In addition, McCormick's Creek has 7 open shelters and 4 recreation buildings. Reservations for shelters are available through the Central Reservation System.

RECREATION CENTER/CAMP STORE—Offers a fully stocked camp store with nature-themed gifts. Complete with indoor and outdoor recreational opportunities including volleyball and basketball.

CENTRAL RESERVATION SYSTEM



Reservations for all types of camping, family cabins, and shelters at state parks, reservoirs and forests can be made online or by calling toll-free.

Online: camp.IN.gov

Call: **1-866-6campIN**

(1-866-622-6746)

CANYON INN



OPEN ALL YEAR

Rooms available.

Restaurant open to the public.

Information toll-free: 1-877-922-6966

1-812-829-4881

Reservations: **1-877-lodges1**

(1-877-563-4371)

Online: Indianalns.com

FOR MORE INFORMATION



Write: McCormick's Creek State Park

250 McCormick's Creek Park Road

Spencer, IN 47460

Call: (812) 829-2235

Online: dnr.IN.gov

Nature Center information

Call: (812) 829-4344

Saddle Barn information

Call: (812) 829-8848

SPECIAL NOTE

Receipts from admission and service charges are used to help defray the operation and maintenance costs of the park. List of fees available in the park office.

The programs, services, facilities, and activities of the Indiana Department of Natural Resources are available to everyone. DNR prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, sex, or disability. If you believe that you have been discriminated against in any program, activity, or facility as described above, or if you desire further information please write to: Department of Natural Resources, Executive Office, 402 W. Washington St., W256, Indianapolis, IN 46204, (317) 232-4020.



Please carry out all trash you produce in order to keep your park clean and beautiful for others to enjoy!

SADDLE BARN—Trail rides and Hayrides offered. For reservation information, contact McCormick's Creek Stables at (812) 829-8848

SWIMMING—Park pool open the Saturday before Memorial Day to no later than Labor Day. For swimming availability, contact the park office.

TENNIS COURTS—Lighted for night playing. Located behind Canyon Inn.

DESCRIPTION OF TRAILS

1. **MODERATE** (0.5 miles)—Trail 1 is a loop trail that begins between family cabins 6 and 14, loops through large native timber in McCormick's Cove Nature Preserve and ends at the entrance to the Family Cabin Area.
2. **MODERATE** (1.0 mile)—Trail 2 begins behind the CCC Recreation Hall, ventures into McCormick's Cove Nature Preserve and ends between family cabins 11 and 12. Trail 2 also offers access to the Quarry Loop Trail for observation of the Old State House Quarry.
3. **RUGGED** (0.8 mile)—Trail 3 is a loop trail that begins across from Canyon Inn and offers access to the falls and canyon before ending at Stoney restroom. There are no bridges crossing the creek. Fluctuating creek levels may make areas of the trail seasonably inaccessible.
4. **MODERATE** (1.4 miles)—Trail 4 begins behind the Canyon Inn pool and travels toward the Recreation Field, McCormick's Cove Nature Preserve and the CCC fire tower. Trail 4 ends on the road near Canyon Inn.
5. **MODERATE** (2.0 miles)—Trail 5 is a loop trail that begins at the Wolf Cave Parking Area, enters Wolf Cave Nature Preserve, loops through a Beech-Maple forest, crosses Litten Branch, and offers access to Wolf Cave before ending near the Wolf Cave parking lot.
6. **EASY** (0.6 mile)—Trail 6 begins beside Beech Grove Shelter, travels through dense forest and ends in the Class A campground between campsites 19 and 20.
7. **MODERATE** (1.8 miles)—Trail 7 is a loop trail that begins across from the Wolf Cave parking lot, and travels along the canyon rim before descending toward the White River. Along the way hikers encounter a boardwalk. Fishing is permitted on the river.

PLEASE STAY ON MARKED TRAILS.

DNR Indiana Department of Natural Resources

INDIANA

McCORMICK'S
CREEK
STATE PARK

Imagine an area filled with canyons and ravines far too rugged for even Native American settlement. McCormick's Creek State park is such an area. Long before pioneers entered the land now known as McCormick's Creek, the Miami roamed, camping along the banks of the White River to the north and south. The eventual park land became a hunting ground, offering deer, squirrel, grouse, and fish from its deep woods and clear streams.

In 1816, the area's first settler, John McCormick, homesteaded nearly 100 acres along the canyon by the waterfalls. Since it was then common practice to name physical landmarks after the people who owned them, the area became McCormick's Creek.

Early residents in the area cut timber, grazed livestock on the steep slopes and farmed small patches of flat upland ground. They also tried building sawmills on the creek, but the water level and force were