

Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area

The Official Visitors Guide to the Big South Fork

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Spring/Summer Edition 2015



Escape, Explore, Experience!

Welcome to the Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area. We hope you will enjoy spending your spring and summer in the park.

This guide is designed to help you discover, plan your stay, and enjoy everything your Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area has to offer. Everyone who comes will be seeking their own connection to their park, so we have designed the 2015 spring/summer paper around some of the park's recreational activities available to you.

The summer is the perfect time of year to come out of hibernation and get active outside! We have recreational opportunities available for the whole family. You can tent camp at one of our campgrounds, bring your horse to one of the two equestrian campgrounds, bring your RV and take hot showers at Bandy Creek, Blue Heron, or Bear Creek campgrounds, or rough it with your tent in the backcountry. While you are here you can enjoy over 400 miles of hiking trails, or you can bring your horse or mountain bike to enjoy a journey through the park. The river is the perfect place to bring your fishing pole, raft, or kayak as well! And don't forget to join a Ranger for one of our many summer ranger-led programs that will be happening throughout the park Memorial Day weekend through Labor Day.

If you would like to learn more about the park, its resources, and its recreational opportunities, talk to a ranger at one of our visitor centers or join us on one of our ranger led programs. Take the opportunity to read this guide so you can make the best use of your time while in this special place called Big South Fork National River and Recreational Area.



4 Hey Ranger!

See what the commonly asked questions are for the park. See if your questions are answered here.

8 Park Map

This map shows how to get to the most popular points of interest in our park.

12 Campgrounds

Find a campsite near your destination in the park.

Welcome to the Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area!

As Superintendent, it is my personal pleasure to extend an invitation to you to come explore Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area. From Alum Ford to Zenith and beyond, Big South Fork is a great destination for those who desire a healthy way of escaping from their busy lives and experiencing the outdoors first-hand. Big South Fork, with its ninety miles of free-flowing rivers and tributaries, hundreds of miles of well-maintained trails and developed and back country camping, provides its visitors with countless opportunities for hiking, horse riding, mountain biking, kayaking and other activities.

As you read through this visitor guide, you will become familiar with the many interesting and exciting things that are happening at your park. The visitor center and contact stations are great places to learn more about things to see and things to do. You can enjoy activities such as our scheduled ranger-led programs, learn how to become a junior ranger, and find out about our special events. Knowledgeable park rangers are there to answer your questions. Our entire staff is dedicated to making your visit with us a truly unforgettable experience.

After visiting Big South Fork, let us know how you felt about your experience and share your favorite memory. Your comments and suggestions are always welcome. Comment forms and collection boxes are located at Bandy Creek Visitor Center and Blue Heron Interpretive Center. You may also contact us on our park website at <http://www.nps.gov/biso/contacts.html>.

I wish you a safe and enjoyable visit as you create wonderful new memories, and hope you make plans to explore the over 400 national park units across the country.

Niki Stephanie Nicholas
Superintendent



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area

Mailing Address

4564 Leatherwood Rd
Oneida, TN 37841

E-mail

biso_information@nps.gov

Fax Number

423-569-5505

Park Headquarters

423-569-9778



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Follow us on Twitter

@BigSouthForkNRR

Like us on Facebook as

Big South Fork NRR

Visit our website at

www.nps.gov/biso

The National Park Service cares for the special places saved by the American people so that all may experience our heritage.



WiFi is available at the Bandy Creek Visitor Center.



Front page photos: East Rim Overlook by Jason Barnett; Angel Falls Overlook by Ben Garrett; Honey Creek Water Falls by Michael Hicks

Events Calendar

All events are Eastern Time. All interpretive programs are subject to change.

Contact Bandy Creek Visitor Center at (423) 286-7275 (PARK) or the Blue Heron Interpretive Center at (606) 376-3787 or (606) 376-5073 for program details.

SPRING PLANTING AND MUSIC FESTIVAL - APRIL 25

Bandy Creek Area 9:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. ET

Join in a celebration of spring at a 1920s era farm. Demonstrations of horse and mule drawn equipment, plowing, planting, music concerts, farm animals and tasks of the homemaker will be presented throughout the day at Bandy Creek, Lora Blevins homeplace and Oscar Blevins Farmsite. Food, craft demonstrations and sales items will also be available.

BLUE HERON DECORATION DAY - MAY 16

Blue Heron Area 12:00 p.m. until 4:30 p.m. ET

Big South Fork is proud to host the first annual Blue Heron Homecoming event on Saturday May 16th from 12:00 pm to 4:30 pm (ET). This event's focus is on inviting the friends and families that once lived and worked in the Blue Heron and surrounding communities to come home and reminisce with one another. The day will be accompanied by local music groups and there will be plenty of space for families to bring picnic lunches. Families are encouraged to share photographs and stories to help the park tell the full story of Blue Heron. A staff member will be available to record stories or copy photographs with permission from the participating party.

NATIONAL TRAILS DAY - JUNE 1

Volunteers will be working throughout the park on hiking, biking, horse and multiple-use trails. National Trails Day is held each year throughout the United States on the first Saturday in June. Thousands of volunteers participate in work projects in national areas, parks and forests. If you would like to volunteer, contact Effie Houston for information at (423) 569-9778 or online at www.americanhiking.org.

ASTRONOMY PROGRAMS

Paul Lewis from the University of Tennessee will be presenting astronomy programs with the help of astronomy volunteers (weather permitting).

May 23 Solar Viewing - Bandy Creek - 3:00 p.m. ET

May 23 Astronomy - Bandy Creek - 9:00 p.m. ET

June 20 Astronomy - Bandy Creek - 9:00 p.m. ET

July 18 Astronomy - Bandy Creek - 9:30 p.m. ET

August 22 - Astronomy - Bandy Creek - 9:30 p.m. ET

Tentative Program Date: October 10, 2015

BLUE HERON GHOST TRAIN - SEPTEMBER 12

Blue Heron Mining Community

The Fourth Annual Blue Heron Ghost Train is sponsored by Big South Fork in cooperation with the Big South Fork Scenic Railway, McCreary County Library and the McCreary County Performing Arts Council.

STORYTELLING FESTIVAL - SEPTEMBER 19

Bandy Creek Area starting at 9:00 a.m. ET

The 23rd Annual "Haunting in the Hills" Storytelling Festival is scheduled for Saturday, September 19, 2015. Make plans now to join thousands of folks who will come to the Bandy Creek Field and enjoy the beautiful Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area for a fun-filled day of stories, music, crafts and more. Craft classes and concerts are free and open to the public.

The featured tellers for 2015 are Carrie Sue Ayvar, Megan Hicks, Donna Washington, and Dan Keding. Each year thousands of students in area schools get to experience dynamic storytelling programs by world renowned storytellers during festival outreach programs. Local schools will again have an opportunity to see these tellers in action during the week leading up to the event

NATIONAL PUBLIC LANDS DAY - SEPTEMBER 27

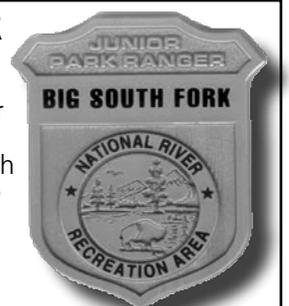
Volunteers will be working on hiking, biking, horse and multiple-use trails. Public Lands Day is an annual event traditionally held on the last Saturday in September.

Thousands of volunteers participate in work projects in national areas, parks and forests. If you would like to volunteer, contact Effie Houston for further information at (423) 569-9778 or online at www.publiclandsday.org.



BECOME A JUNIOR RANGER

Big South Fork has a Junior Ranger book and a badge for you to earn for your jacket or book bag. Kids from age 4 to 12 are invited to use this book to explore Big South Fork with Oscar, the river otter. Many activities will help you learn about animals, plants, rocks, rivers and a coal mining town.



Fee Free Days at Big South Fork

On a variety of holidays, as well as the annual “National Park Week”, entrance fees are waived at all National Parks. Learn more about fee free days in the National Parks at <http://www.nps.gov/findapark/feefreeparks.htm>.

Although Big South Fork does not collect entrance fees, we do have use fees. The park’s Superintendent is in support of fee free days for backcountry camping, swimming pool use, and camping at Alum Ford Campground. Permits will still be required, but there will be no charge when they are obtained at one of the park contact stations (see page 16). The following dates are the official fee free days of 2015:

- January 19 - Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
- February 14-16 - President’s Day weekend
- April 18-19 - Opening weekend of National Park Week
- August 25 -- National Park Service’s 99th Birthday
- September 26 -- National Public Lands Day
- November 11 -- Veterans Day



Be a part of our team... Become a Volunteer

For information on how you can become a National Park Service Volunteer, contact the Volunteer Coordinator at (423) 569-9778 or email us at biso_information@nps.gov. Visit us online at www.nps.gov/biso/supportyourpark/volunteer.htm to see all of the wonderful opportunities that are available.



Weddings in the Park



Special events such as weddings, foot races, and endurance rides require a special use permit. If you need more information about how to obtain a special use permit, contact the Fee Program Manager, Letitia Neal, at 423-569-2404, ext. 240, or by email at tish_neal@nps.gov. Information can also be found on our website at www.nps.gov/biso/planyourvisit/permits.htm.

User Fees of Big South Fork NRA

CAMPING FEES

BANDY CREEK CAMPGROUND		
ELECTRIC HOOK-UPS	96 SITES	\$22.00-NIGHT (6 PERSON MAX.)*
NON-HOOK UPS	49 SITES	\$19.00-NIGHT (6 PERSON MAX.)*
GROUP CAMP	2 SITES	\$100.00-NIGHT (25 PERSONS)
		(\$3.00 additional per person per night)

BEAR CREEK HORSE CAMP		
ALL SITES	22 SITES	\$28.00-NIGHT (6 PERSON MAX.)*

BLUE HERON CAMPGROUND		
ALL SITES	45 SITES	\$17.00-NIGHT (6 PERSON MAX.)*

ALUM FORD CAMPGROUND		
ALL SITES	6 SITES	\$5.00-NIGHT (6 PERSON MAX.)*

BANDY CREEK POOL FEES

ADULT	\$3.00 – PERSON*
CHILD (6 to 12 years old)	\$2.00 – PERSON*
CHILD (5 and UNDER)	FREE
INDIVIDUAL SEASON POOL PASS*	\$25.00
AFTERHOURS RENTAL	\$25.00 - PER HOUR up to 25 persons
	<i>A special use permit is required for groups of more than 25 persons</i>

CAMPGROUND FACILITY USE BY NON-CAMPERS

DUMP STATION	\$5.00 – VEHICLE*
SHOWERS	\$2.00 – PERSON*
F-LOOP SHELTER (DAY USE ONLY)	\$10.00-DAY (non-refundable fee)
POOL SHELTER (DAY USE ONLY)	\$20.00-DAY (non-refundable fee)

PERMITS

BACKCOUNTRY CAMPING PERMITS	
1 to 6 person(s)	\$5.00*
7 to 12 persons	\$10.00*
13 to 18 persons	\$15.00*
19 to 24 persons	\$20.00*

HOG PERMITS	\$5.00*/PERSON
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PASSES

INTERAGENCY SENIOR PASS	\$10.00 ONE TIME FEE
INTERAGENCY ACCESS PASS	FREE WITH PROOF OF DISABILITY
INTERAGENCY PARK PASS	\$80.00
INTERAGENCY MILITARY PASS	FREE WITH PROOF OF ACTIVE MILITARY DUTY

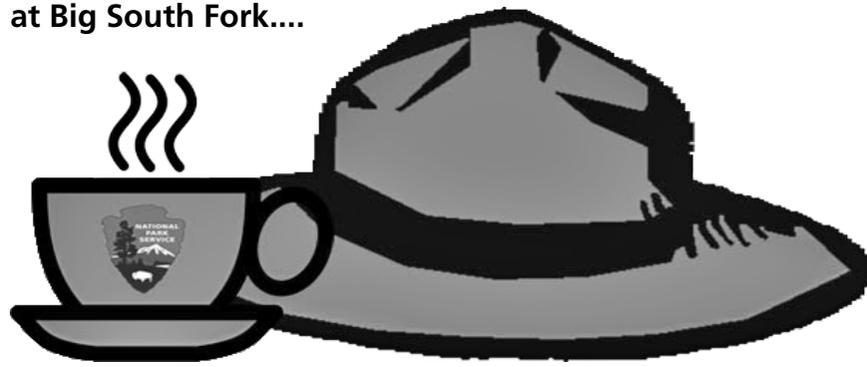


GET YOUR INTERAGENCY PASS ONLINE AT store.usgs.gov/pass/index.html or at one of our visitor centers.

*Holders of the Interagency Senior or Access Passports pay only half the fee.

Hey Ranger!

Most commonly asked questions at Big South Fork....



Why shouldn't I throw away food scraps in my campfire?

Bears and other wild animals are attracted to food scraps and burned residue. Bears that become habituated to human food often stop foraging for food and are typically the animals that cause problems.

Can I camp in a rockshelter or historical buildings?

No. Park regulations have been established to protect the cultural and historical significance of these structures.

What are those trees with the two-foot long leaves?

Most likely the tree is either a Big Leaf Magnolia or an Umbrella Magnolia.

Can I drink water out of the streams or river?

Yes, but you need to filter the water.

Do I need a backcountry permit to camp in the woods?

Yes. Backcountry camping permits are available online at <http://www.nps.gov/biso/planyourvisit/permits.htm>. Permits will also be sold at park visitor contact stations (see page 16) and at selected local vendors (see page 5). All locations will accept cash. In addition, the Bandy Creek and Blue Heron Visitor Centers can process credit card orders in person or over the phone.

How many bears are in the park?

The most recent scientific study indicates there are approximately 300 bears living in Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area and Daniel Boone National Forest.

What kind of poisonous snakes live in the park?

Timber rattlesnakes and copperheads.

Is Big South Fork a National Park?

Yes. Big South Fork NRA is one of over 400 park lands managed by the National Park Service.

Where can I buy one of the Interagency Passes?

You can purchase any of the Interagency passes at one of the visitor centers (see page 16 for locations and operational hours) or online at <http://store.usgs.gov/pass/index.html>.

Where does the Big South Fork River flow?

The river flows north from Tennessee to Kentucky into Lake Cumberland.

Safety Tips

Keep safe and enjoy your trip to Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area by following these precautions:

- (1) Be aware that there are poisonous snakes (copperheads and timber rattlesnakes), ticks, chiggers, and poison ivy found here. Be cautious as you hike the trails or use the backcountry. Always use a flashlight when walking at night to avoid stepping on a snake.
- (2) Plan ahead and leave information about your trip with someone at home.
- (3) Backcountry camping permits are required. These provide information to park rangers in case of emergencies. Obtain a permit online or at a park visitor center.
- (4) Store all food, food containers and coolers out of reach from wildlife. Hang food in the backcountry so bears cannot reach it. A copy of the food storage regulations can be obtained from the visitor centers or the campground kiosks.
- (5) Ticks and chiggers can cause irritating itchy bumps and sometimes a rash. Other insects like gnats, deer flies and mosquitoes can also be a nuisance while camping, horseback riding or hiking. Ticks can carry diseases. Protect yourself and your pets by using an insect repellent. Check yourself after being outdoors to remove ticks.

LOST AND FOUND

Report any lost items to rangers at Bandy Creek Visitor Center in Tennessee or at Blue Heron Interpretive Center in Kentucky. Found items should be turned in at Bandy Creek, Blue Heron or either campground kiosk.

RESOURCE PROTECTION HOTLINE AVAILABLE

Any park visitor or neighbor who witnesses what they believe to be an illegal activity such as digging arrowheads, poaching wildlife or harvesting plants is encouraged to call the Resource Protection Hotline at (423) 569-2404, ext 505. All information will be treated confidentially. No name or phone number will be required; however, persons wishing to leave contact information may do so.

TRAILS CONDITION REPORTING HOTLINE AVAILABLE

Park visitors or neighbors are encouraged to report any trail conditions they find by calling the Trails Condition Reporting Hotline at (423) 569-2404, ext. 505.

First Annual Photo Contest



**We want to see the Big South Fork
THROUGH YOUR EYES**

The National Park Service (NPS) invites photographers to submit entries for an exhibit at the Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area. The NPS is looking for striking digital images highlighting the spectacular views, historic sites, recreational opportunities, and diversity of life in the park. Images may show wildlife, plant life, natural landscapes, historic areas, weather, or people interacting with nature within the boundaries of the Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area. All photographs, except those submitted in the artistic category, should accurately reflect the subject matter and the scene as it appeared.

Photographs may be submitted into one of seven categories:

- Action/Adventure (photographs of people participating in recreational activities),
- Artistic (artistic compositions in nature both natural and manipulated in post processing)
- Cultural (photographs that illustrate historic or culturally significant structures)
- Flora & Fauna (animals in their natural habitat, including close-ups of invertebrates, or plants in their natural habitat, including close-ups of flowers, fungi, lichen, and algae)
- Kentucky Landscapes (expansive and dramatic views of the land and its features within the Kentucky park boundaries)
- Tennessee Landscapes (expansive and dramatic views of the land and its features within the Tennessee park boundaries)
- Youth (entries in any category by photographers under 18 years of age).

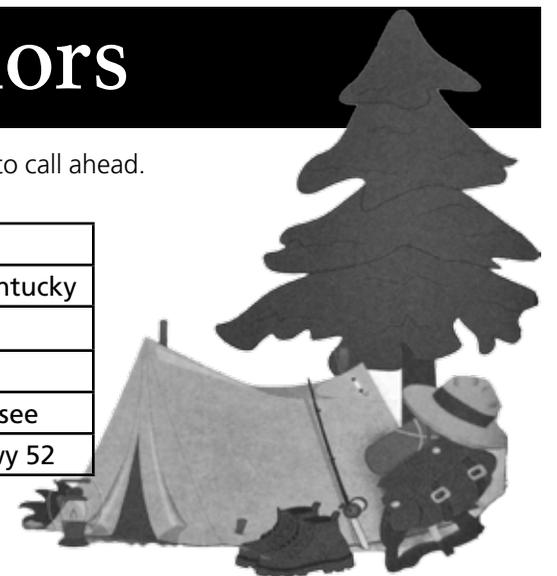
Entries will be judged on technical excellence, originality, creativity, visual impact, and artistic merit. Judges' decisions are final. Selected images will be printed for an exhibition at the Bandy Creek Visitor Center that will open on Saturday, September 5, 2015. Selected images may also be displayed on the internet and other venues.

Contest is open to all photographers except NPS employees and their immediate families and household members. Each person can only submit three photos into the competition. All photos must be in a digital format. Entries must be received no later than Tuesday, July 21, 2015. Each entry must be accompanied by a completed entry form with all information clearly filled out. Entry forms may be downloaded from <http://www.nps.gov/biso/photosmultimedia/biso-photo-contest.htm>. Entries may be emailed to biso_information@nps.gov or dropped off at or mailed to the park headquarters at Big South Fork NRR, 4564 Leatherwood Road, Oneida, Tennessee 37841.

Backcountry Camping Permit Vendors

These vendors provide backcountry camping permits at their locations near the park. Hours of operation will vary so be sure to call ahead.

VENDOR NAME	LOCATION	PHONE NUMBER	LOCATION
One Stop	Whitley City, KY	606-376-9200	Intersection of Hwy 700 and US 27, Kentucky
McCreary County Tourism Office	Whitley City, KY	606-376-3008	Downtown Whitley City, Kentucky
Lil South Fork General Store	Stearns, KY	606-376-3229	West of Yamacraw Bridge, Kentucky
R&M Brooks	Rugby, TN	423-628-2533	West of Rugby on Rugby Road, Tennessee
Henbos Number 2	Jamestown, TN	931-879-0366	At the intersection of BYP 127 and Hwy 52



Guided Walks and Talks

Schedules are effective from Memorial Day Weekend until Labor Day 2015

TENNESSEE

PROGRAM TITLE	LOCATION	DURATION	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
Ranger's Choice Back Porch Talk Come by the Bandy Creek Visitor Center to learn about some of the spectacular natural and cultural features of this park that make this remote region of the Cumberland Plateau so special. 	Bandy Creek Visitor Center	20 - 30 minutes			9:30 AM	9:30 AM			
Leatherwood Ford Trails Hike Enjoy a moderate walk along the river through the Big South Fork gorge. These ranger-led hikes begin at Leatherwood Ford River Access and will follow trails up or down river to O & W Bridge or Angel Falls rapids respectively. This program starts at the Leatherwood Ford Gazebo.	Leatherwood Ford River Access Area	1 - 2 hours	2:00 PM						
"Explore, Learn, and Protect!" Hey kids, Would you like the opportunity to join the National Park Service "family" as a Big South Fork Junior Ranger? Each weekend, one of our park rangers will present a youth-oriented activity that provides kids an opportunity to earn their own National Park Service badge. Junior Rangers are typically between the ages of 5 to 13, although people of all ages can participate.	Bandy Creek Visitor Center	30 - 45 minutes	9:30 AM						9:30 AM
Mountain Bike Monday This program begins with a short easy ride from Bandy Creek Visitor Center out along the Duncan Hollow Road. The ranger will stop along the way and present an interpretive program on the history of the American chestnut tree and the current efforts to return these trees to our eastern forests. After the program, a ranger will remain on site to provide detailed information about several mountain bike routes ranging from flat and easy gravel surface roads to our IMBA-endorsed EPIC Big South Fork/All 5 ride. At this point, cyclists are on their own to enjoy a mountain biking experience along this park approved mountain bike trail.	Bandy Creek Visitor Center	Times Vary		9:30 AM					
John Litton Farm Hike and Talk Join a park ranger for this hike to the John Litton Farm. Visitors are welcome to attend a short ranger-led program at the farm to gain insight into the land and people who farmed it. Afterwards, attendees may continue hiking around the John Litton Loop Trail on their own or return back to the starting point at Duncan Hollow Road with the park ranger.	Intersection of Duncan Hollow Road and John Litton Farm Access Road	1 - 2 hours					9:30 AM		
Healthy Hike of the Week Step out in a healthy direction by getting outdoors and hiking the trails at Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area. On Fridays, a park ranger will lead a narrative hike along some of our most popular trails. Don't forget your four-legged friends. They are invited too. However, they must be leashed and well-behaved.	Bandy Creek Visitor Center	Times Vary						9:30 AM	
Charit Creek Lodge Program Come discover Charit Creek Lodge. Join a park ranger on the front porch for a walking tour around Charit Creek Lodge. This interpretive program offers visitors insight into many of the often overlooked architectural features of these rural log structures. Afterwards, a ranger will be available to provide guidance about the park's well-maintained beautiful system of trails. Remember access to this remote lodge is by foot, bike or horse only.	Charit Creek Lodge	40 - 60 minutes							12:00 PM
Bandy Creek Evening Campfire Program Come enjoy a Saturday evening program covering one or more aspects of the natural and cultural history of the land that became Big South Fork. Up-to-date program announcements for this program are posted throughout the Bandy Creek campground and visitor center. 	Bandy Creek Campfire Circle	45 - 60 minutes							7:00 PM



RUGBY

PROGRAM TITLE	LOCATION	DURATION	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
Gentleman's Swimming Hole Hike Join a ranger to enjoy on a short, moderately difficult hike to the Clear Fork River. This guided hike offers park visitors with a great opportunity to experience the spectacular scenery.	<i>Gentleman's Swimming Hole Trailhead</i>	<i>60 - 90 minutes</i>	9:30 AM						9:30 AM

KENTUCKY

PROGRAM TITLE	LOCATION	DURATION	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
Blue Heron Depot Talks Blue Heron Coal Mining Talks provide park visitors with a unique opportunity to gain insight into the cultural heritage of Blue Heron Mining Community. This program is scheduled during the time that the Scenic Railroad is at Blue Heron, so if you join us by train make sure not to miss this program! 	<i>Blue Heron Interpretation Center</i>	<i>20 minutes</i>	1:00 PM			12:15 PM	12:15 PM	12:15 PM	12:15 PM 3:45 PM
Yahoo Falls Nature Hikes Join a ranger at the Yahoo Falls Scenic Area to enjoy on a short, moderately difficult hike to Yahoo Falls. This guided hike offers park visitors with a great opportunity to experience the spectacular scenery provided by 113 foot tall Yahoo falls, towering sandstone cliffs, and a huge rock shelter. Every other week this hike is our Healthy Hike of the Week, so be sure to join us for your weekly dose of exercise! Pets are welcomed as long as they are on a leash and well behaved.	<i>Yahoo Falls Parking Area</i>	<i>1 hour</i>	11:00 AM						
Blue Heron Hike Enhance your understanding and enjoyment of the Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area by taking an enjoyable hike along one of the trails starting from the Blue Heron Interpretive Center. Please watch for our program announcements around the park and surrounding newspapers for this week's hiking destination. Every other week this hike is our Healthy Hike of the Week, so be sure to join us for your weekly dose of exercise! Pets are welcomed as long as they are on a leash and well behaved.	<i>Blue Heron Interpretive Center</i>	<i>45 minutes</i>				2:30 PM			
Blue Heron Campground Evening Programs Park rangers offer a variety of interpretive evening programs. Park-related topics vary week to week and may range from general natural and cultural history to special topics of concern. 	<i>Blue Heron Campground</i>	<i>45 minutes</i>							7:00 PM

KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

All programs are free. Program schedules are effective from Memorial Day Weekend until Labor Day. Up-to-date program announcements will be posted throughout all campgrounds and visitor centers.

Wear sturdy walking shoes for hikes. You may also want to bring along bug spray and drinking water.

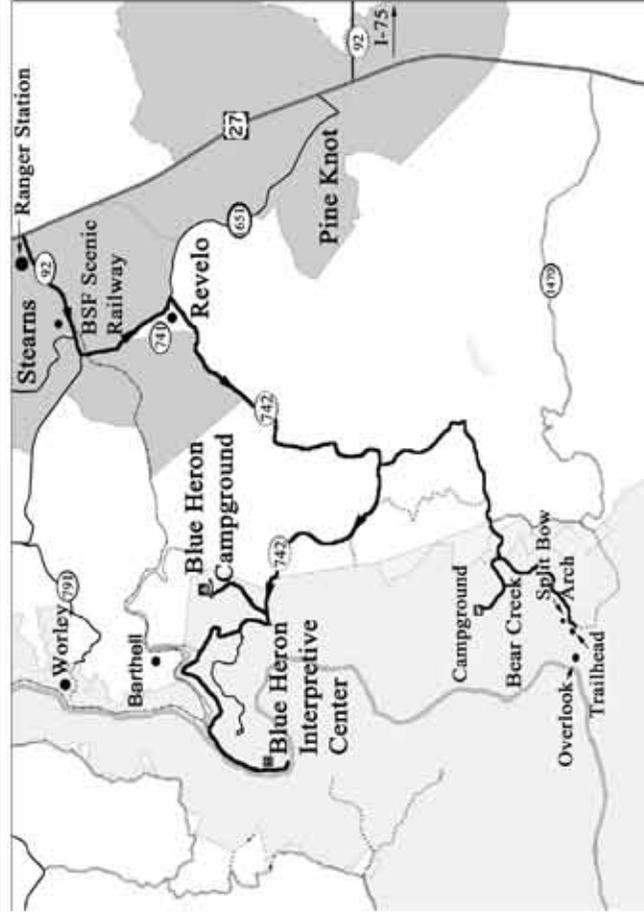
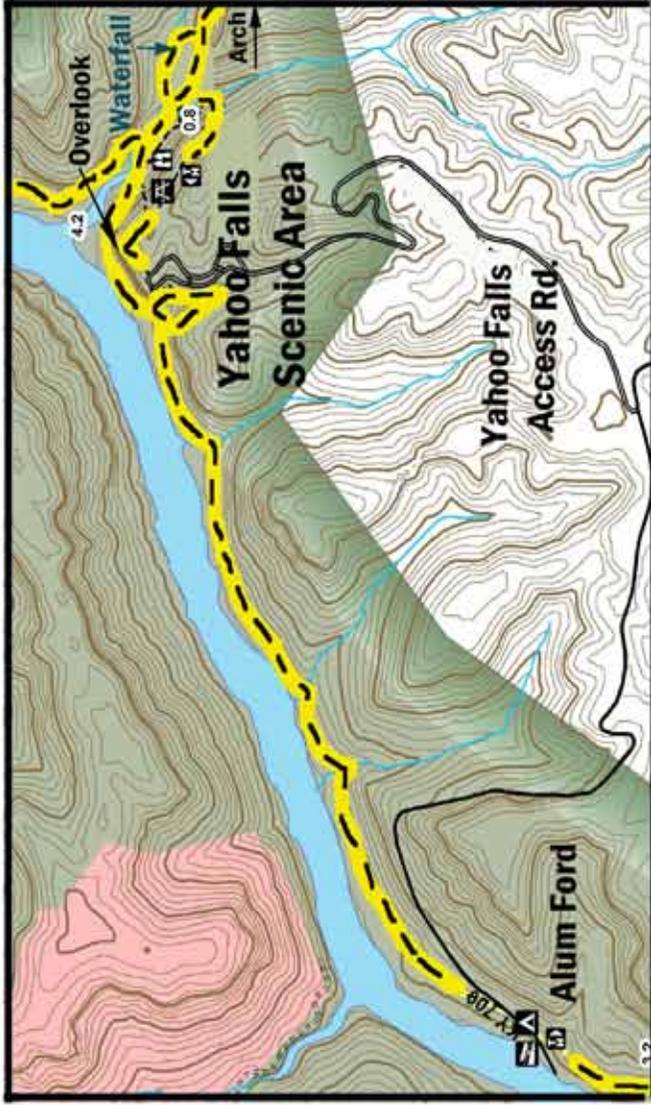
All children must be accompanied by a parent or guardian at all times.

Programs may be cancelled due to high winds or lightning.

Black bears and other wildlife frequent the area; visitors must follow food and garbage storage regulations.

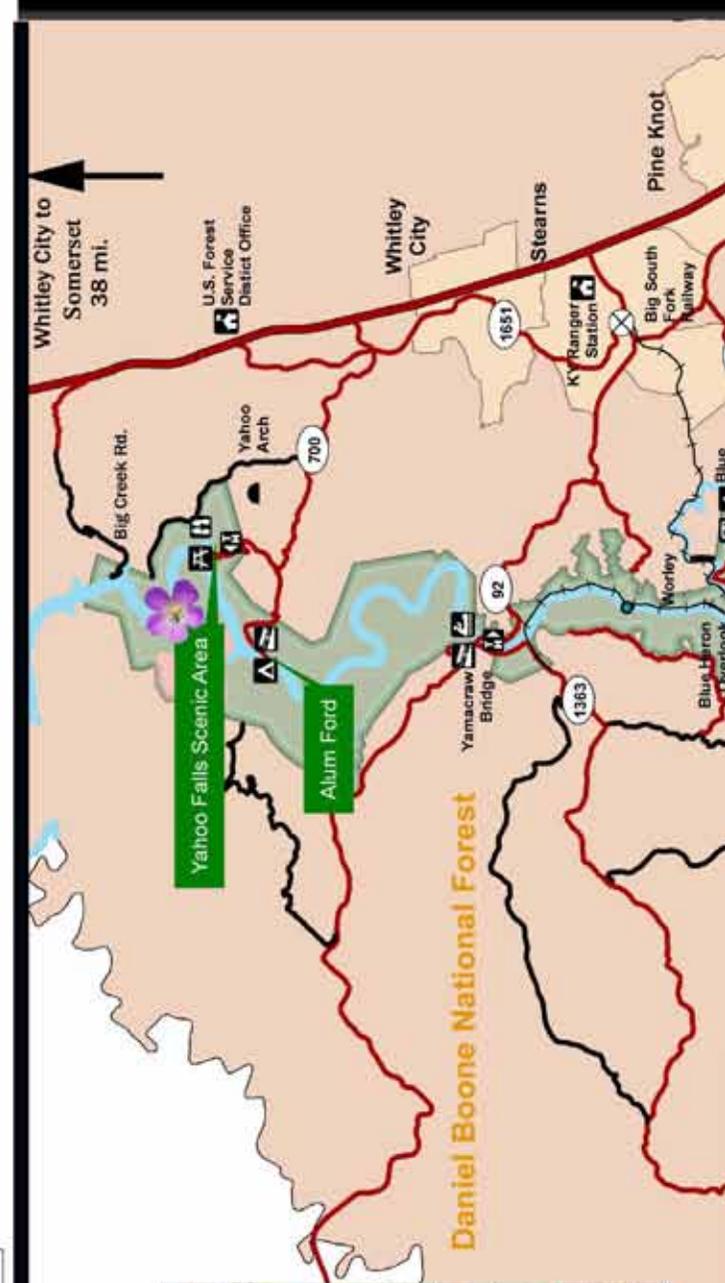
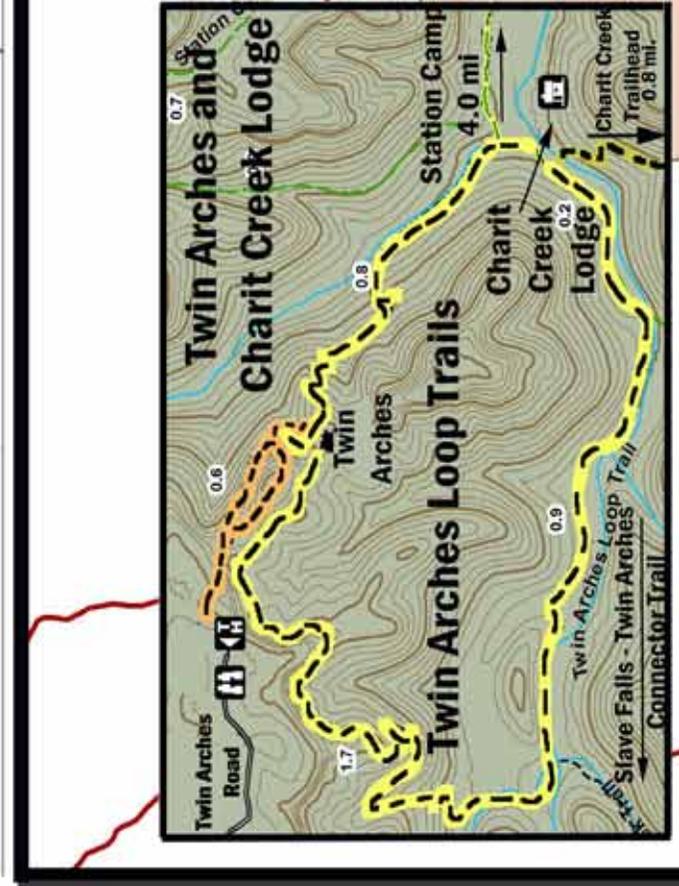
Pets must be restrained on a leash at all times. Owners are expected to clean up pet waste and dispose of it properly.

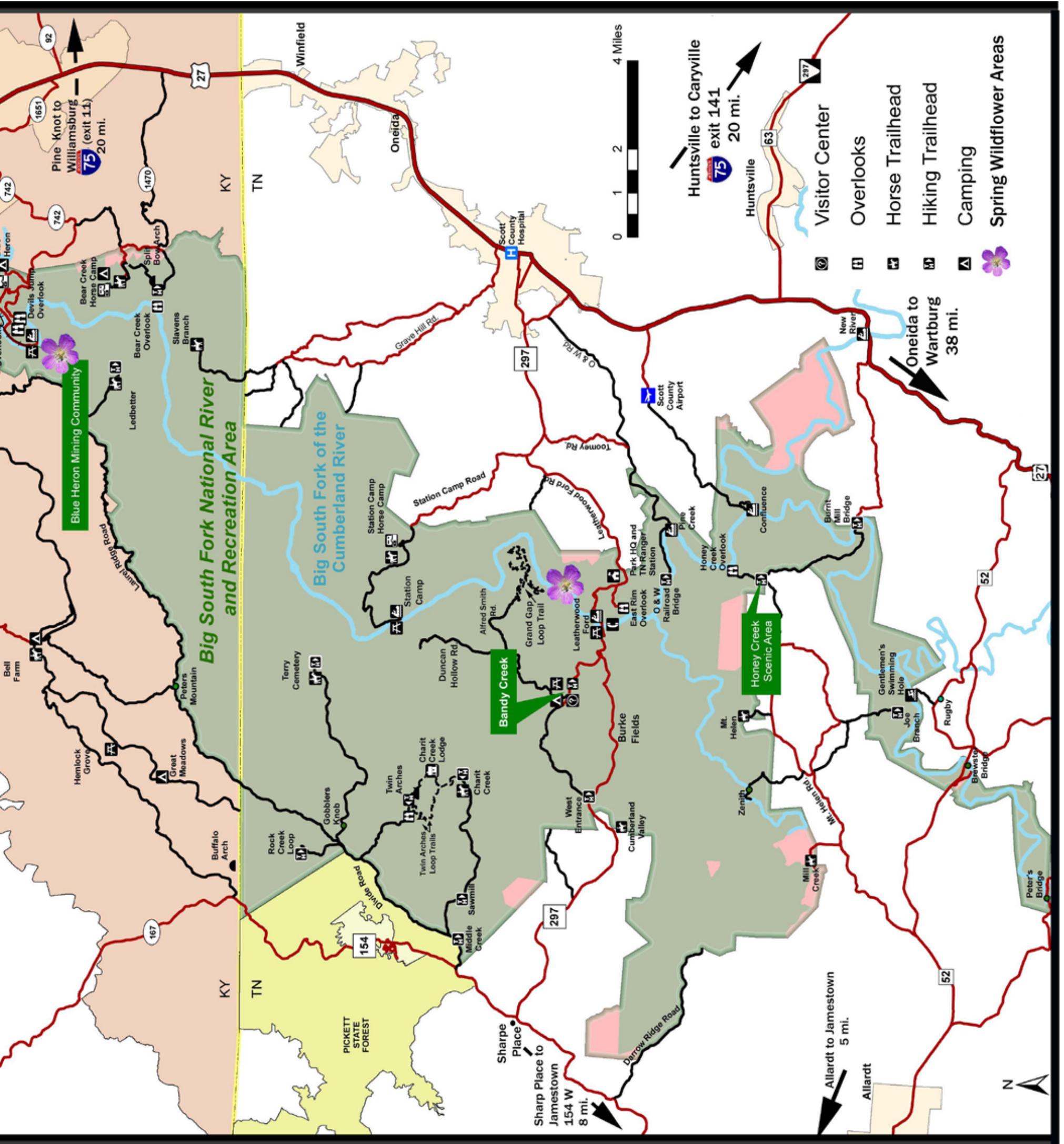




DIRECTIONS TO BLUE HERON CAMPGROUND AND INTERPRETIVE CENTER

- Turn off US 27 onto KY 92W at Stearns, Ky.
- Travel on KY 92W for approximately 1.3 miles.
- Merge left onto KY 1651 and go approximately 1 mile to reach Revelo, Ky.
- Turn right onto KY 742W and go approximately 5 miles. The campground entrance will be on your right.
- Continue on KY 742W for 3 more miles to reach the Interpretive Center at the Blue Heron Mining Camp.



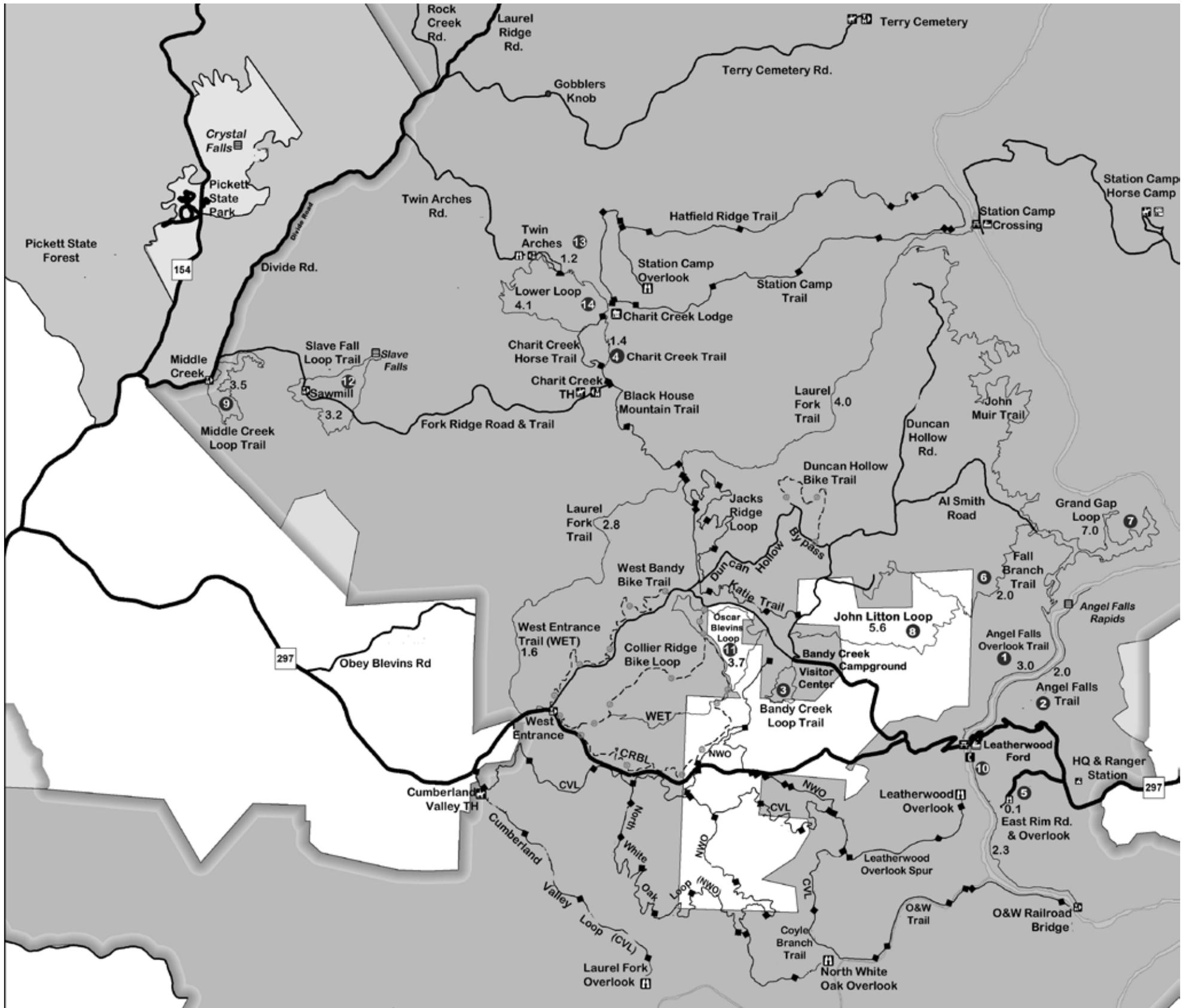


- Visitor Center
- Overlooks
- Horse Trailhead
- Hiking Trailhead
- Camping
- Spring Wildflower Areas



Popular Day Hikes

	Trail Name	Rating	Distance	Time	Description
1	Angel Falls Overlook	Moderate/Difficult	6 miles round trip	half day	Begin this trail by hiking across HWY 297 Bridge from the parking area. The trail passes along the river for the first 2 miles then travels up a series of switchbacks for 1 mile to the bluff. Turn right at the junction and follow the green hiking blazes for 350 yards to Angel Falls Overlook.
2	Angel Falls Rapids	Easy	4 miles round trip	2 hours	Beginning at the lower end of Leatherwood Ford parking area, this trail passes along the river to Angel Falls rapids. Expect to see wildflowers along this route during late spring through early summer.
3	Bandy Creek Loop	Easy	1.3 miles round trip	1 hour	Starting at the visitor center, this trail provides hikers with a quiet stroll through the woods. Please yield to horses crossing the trail near the stables.
4	Charit Creek Trail	Difficult	2.8 miles round trip	2 hours	Departing the trailhead, hikers continue along Fork Ridge road to reach this hiking trail at the rear of the old parking area. Hikers descend along switchbacks passing by bluffs, large beech trees, and field stones. At the trail's end, hikers walk across a swinging bridge and turn right to reach Charit Creek Lodge.
5	East Rim Overlook	Easy/Paved	0.2 mile	10 minutes	Starting at the parking area at the end of East Rim Rd, this trail provides visitors the easiest access to a gorge overlook.
6	Fall Branch Trail	Moderate	2.0 miles one way	1 hour	From the John Litton Farm Loop, this trail connects with the John Muir Trail (JMT). It threads through a rock passageway, passes a large rock shelter, rock bluffs and ascends along switchbacks to the JMT.
7	Grand Gap Loop	Moderate	7.0 miles round trip	half day	This trail provides spectacular views of formations and the Big South Fork of the Cumberland River. Please watch for mountain bikers who also enjoy this trail too.
8	John Litton Farm Loop	Moderate	5.6 miles round trip	2-3 hours	Descend into a valley where the John Litton historic farmhouse, barn and outbuildings provide hikers a glimpse of the lifestyle of Big South Fork families during the first half of the twentieth century.
9	Middle Creek Loop	Easy/Moderate	3.5 miles round trip	1-2 hours	This trail begins on an old roadbed atop a ridge then descends below the bluff line. Large rock overhangs, rock houses, and high cliffs are a treat for hikers along the way.
10	O&W Trail	Moderate	4.8 miles round trip	2-3 hours	Beginning at the front end of the Leatherwood parking area, this trail takes you southward up through the gorge to the old O&W Railroad bridge that was built in 1915.
11	Oscar Blevins Farm Loop	Easy	3.7 miles round trip	2-3 hours	This woodland trail takes visitors to the Oscar Blevins Farm. On your way to the farm enjoy wet-weather waterfalls, sandstone bluffs and rock shelters.
12	Slave Falls Loop Trails	Easy/Moderate	3.2 miles round trip	1-2 hours	From Sawmill trailhead, this loop trail also provides short side trip to the 60-foot Slave Falls. Hikers can also enjoy geological formations such as Needle Arch and a large rockshelter along this route.
13	Twin Arches Upper Loop	Easy/Moderate	1.2 miles round trip	1-1 1/2 hours	From the trailhead, this short loop trail travels to the Twin Arches. These double sandstone arches are considered the largest natural bridge in the states of Kentucky and Tennessee.
14	Twin Arches Lower Loop	Difficult	4.1 miles round trip	half day	This loop trail takes hikers by a spectacular series of rock houses, cliffs, Jake's place, and Charit Creek Lodge before ascending back up to the Twin Arches.



Driving Directions to Twin Arches from Bandy Creek Visitor Center: Make right turns at the following intersections in sequence-Visitor Center parking lot, Bandy Creek Rd, TN 297, TN 154, Divide Rd, and Twin Arches Rd. The trailhead is located at the end of the road.

Campgrounds in our Park

Experience all that Big South Fork has to offer by staying a while. There are plenty of overnight lodging options to choose from. Whether you're camping with a big rig, RV, conversion van, fifth wheel, trailer or tent, we have the campsites to accommodate you. Most have hot water showers, restrooms, water hook-ups, electric hook-ups, and dump stations. Bandy Creek Campground and the Station Camp Horse Camps are located in the Tennessee portion of the park. Blue Heron Campground, Alum Ford Campground and Bear Creek Horse Camp are located on the Kentucky side of the park.

BANDY CREEK CAMPGROUND-TN

98 hook-up sites - \$22.00 per night

49 tent sites - \$19.00 per night

Open year round

Reservation system period - April - October

Honor system period - November - March

Phone number: (423) 286-8368

Reservations: (877) 444-6777

Area A offers 49 tent sites. Areas B, C and D offer 98 sites which have electric/water hookups. Restroom/bathhouse facilities are located in areas A, C and D which have hot showers and are handicapped accessible. There are three accessible campsites in area A and four campsites in area D.

Although Area A has no electric hook-ups on each site, RVs, pop-ups, and horse trailers are permitted in sites A1 – A12. Sites A13 – A49 are restricted for tents only.

Horseback riders staying at Bandy Creek Campground need to make separate reservations for their horses at Bandy Creek Stables. The stables are located a short distance across the road from the campground. Paddocks and stalls are available for rent. For more information call (423) 286-7433.

BANDY CREEK GROUP CAMPS-TN

2 sites - \$100.00 per night for up to 25 persons, plus \$3.00 for each additional person.

Open April to November

Phone number: (423) 286-8368

Reservations: (877) 444-6777

Group Area E-1 and E-2 are for large groups. E-1 offers 19 campsites and E-2 offers 16 campsites. Each area has one accessible site. There are no electric/water hookups. The group areas offer a covered pavilion with electric/water and a cooking area. A fire ring for campfires is available. Separate bathhouses for each area offer hot showers and dishwashing facilities. Reservations can be made for the group camp up to one year in advance by calling 1-877-444-6777 or by going online at www.recreation.gov.

BLUE HERON CAMPGROUND-KY ALUM FORD CAMPGROUND-KY

45 hook-up sites - \$17.00 per night

Open April to November

Phone number: (423) 286-7275

Reservations: (877) 444-6777

Blue Heron offers 45 sites, with one site designated as accessible to mobility impaired individuals. Restroom facilities are also handicapped accessible. There is a fire ring and a dump station provided. Although a reservation system is in place, campers are still welcome on a first-come, first-served basis for unreserved campsites.

BEAR CREEK HORSE CAMP-KY

23 sites - \$28.00 per night

Reservations: (877) 444-6777

Bear Creek Horse Camp offers 45 sites with water and electric hookups. There is a dump station provided. The bathhouse has hot water showers. Although a reservation system is in place, campers are still welcome on a first-come, first-served basis for unreserved campsites.

STATION CAMP HORSE CAMP-TN

Station Camp - 24 sites

Reservations: (931) 319-6893

Station Camp is operated by a concessionaire.

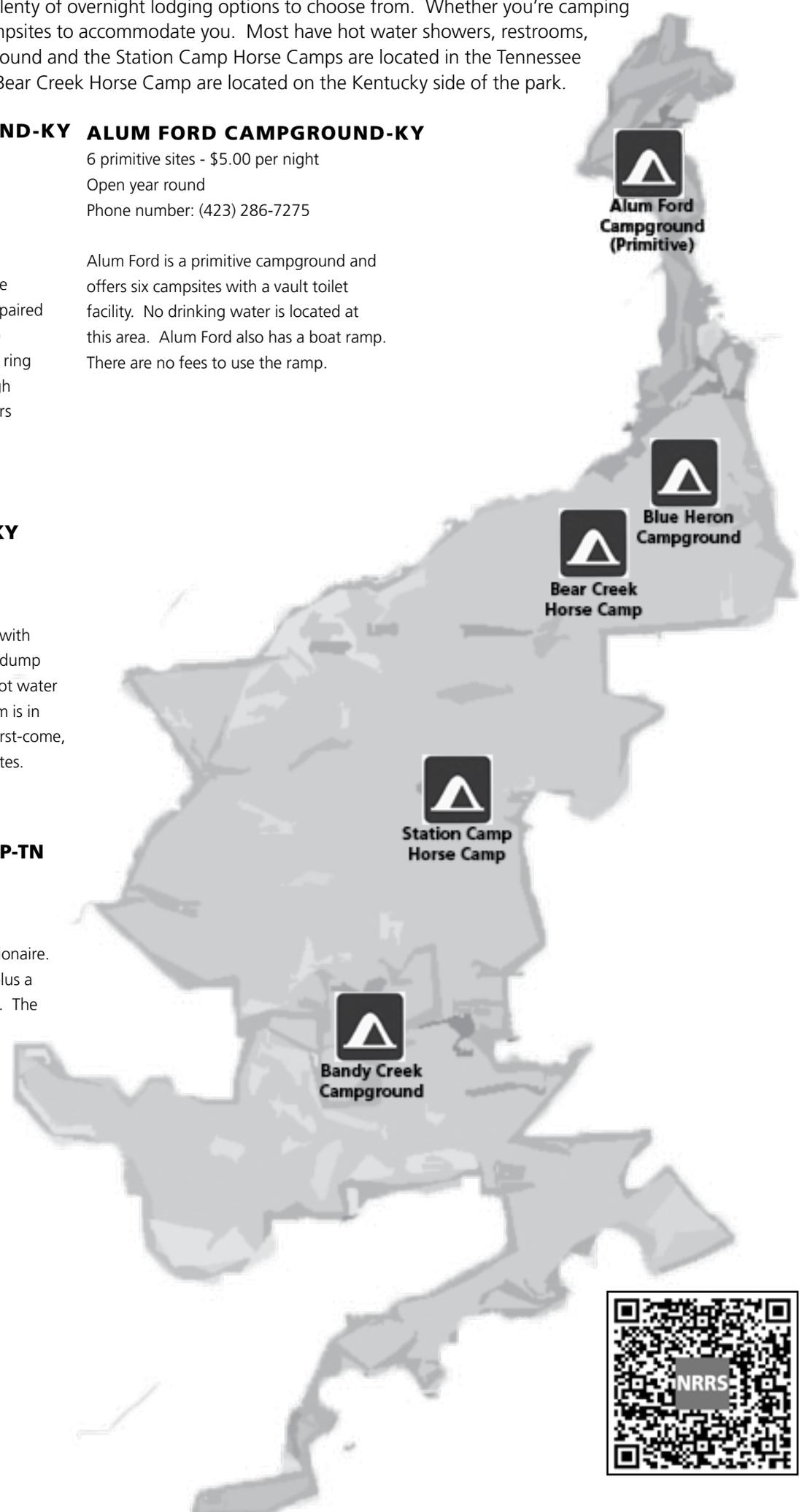
There are water and electric hookups plus a tie out area for four horses at each site. The bathhouse has hot water showers.

6 primitive sites - \$5.00 per night

Open year round

Phone number: (423) 286-7275

Alum Ford is a primitive campground and offers six campsites with a vault toilet facility. No drinking water is located at this area. Alum Ford also has a boat ramp. There are no fees to use the ramp.



Lodging

There are no motels or rental cabins located within the Big South Fork other than **Charit Creek Lodge**. The lodge is located in the Station Camp Creek drainage and offers a full range of amenities including cabin and dormitory rentals, meals, restrooms and showers. Access to the remote lodge is by foot, bike or horse only. Well-maintained hiking and horse trails lead you through interesting and beautiful places on your way to the lodge. For information about Charit Creek lodge or reservations call (865) 696-5611. You may also send an email to charitcreeklodge@gmail.com.

Communities surrounding the national park offer a wide choice of accommodations including hotels, cabins, bed and breakfasts, and campgrounds. For information about accommodations please contact the County Chambers of Commerce listed below.

Tennessee

Fentress County (931) 879-9948 or (800) 327-3945

Morgan County (423) 346-5740

Pickett County (888) 406-4704

Scott County (423) 663-6900

Kentucky

McCreary County (606) 376-7275

Wayne County (606) 348-3064

Pets

Pets are allowed within Big South Fork. However, in order to protect your pet and the park's wildlife, all pets must be kept on a leash (no longer than 6 feet) at all times even if you have your dog with you when riding a horse. Be sure to clean up after your pet especially in the campground.

During hunting season, a dog that is with a licensed hunter and actively following game does not have to be leashed. However, when entering a designated Safety Zone, hunting dogs must be restrained on a leash, crated or caged.

Know that some trails have steep ladders and rock ledges. Some pets may not be able to negotiate these areas without your help. Check with park rangers for trail information.



Concessions

Bandy Creek Stables
Horse Boarding, Camp Store and Wifi
(423) 286-7433
www.bandycreekstables.com

Big South Fork Scenic Railway
Ride the Train to Blue Heron
(800)-462-5664
www.bsfsry.com

Blue Heron Concession Stand
Open every day the train runs
(606) 376-5620

Eastern National Bookstores
(423) 286-7275
www.eparks.com/store

Station Camp Horse Camp
(931) 319-6893
stationcamphorsecamp.com

Outfitters

Sheltowee Trace Outfitters
Guided River Trips, Equipment Rental and Shuttles
P.O. Box 1060
Whitley City, Kentucky 42653
1-800-541-RAFT or (606) 376-5567
www.ky-rafting.com

Ace Kayaking School
River Guide
2368 Old Federal Rd
Ocoee, TN 37361
423-716-7666
acekayaking@gmail.com
www.acekayaking.com

Backwoods Adventures
Hiking and Backcountry Guide
3144 Martha Washington Rd
Clarkrange, Tennessee 38553
931-863-3853
931-397-3490
<http://backwoodsadventures.wix.com/backwoods-adventures>
backwoodsadventureshiking@gmail.com

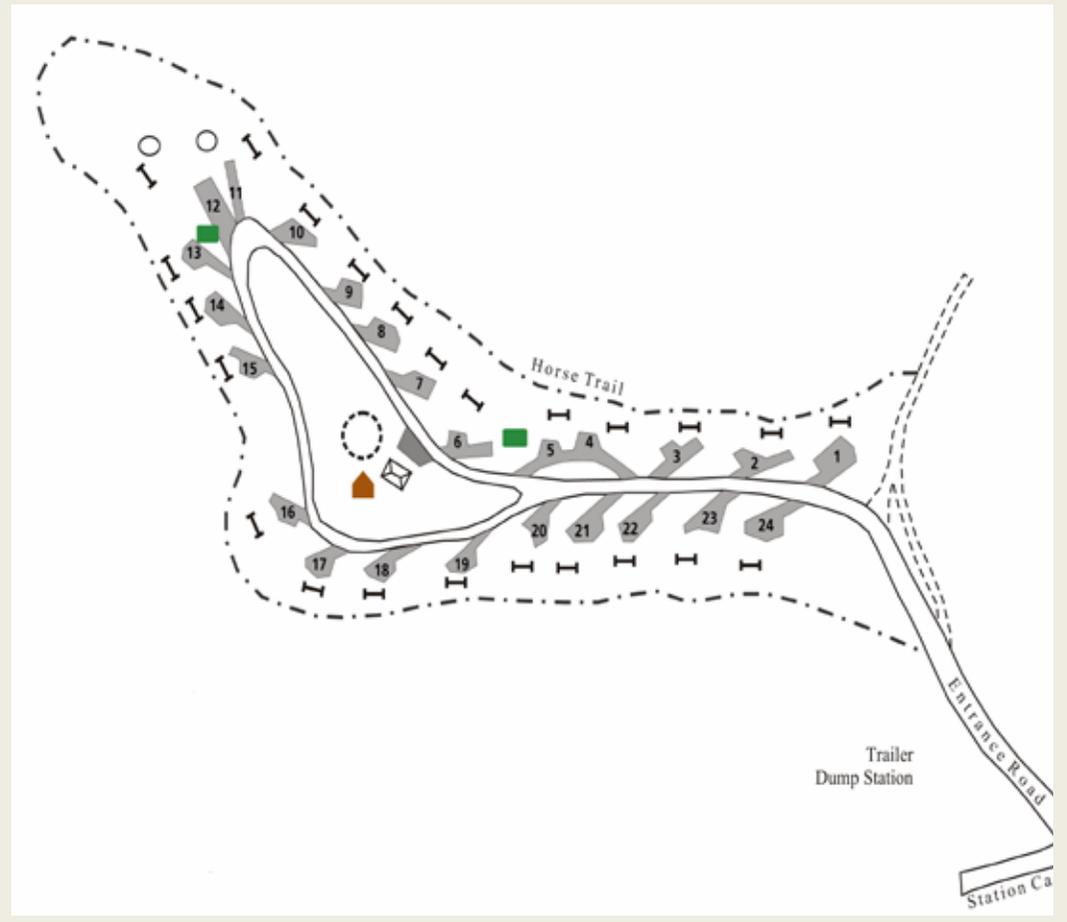
Borderland Expeditions
Guide/outfitter, Equipment Rentals, Land and Water Transport
PO Box 384
Jamestown, Tennessee 38556
844-344-2109
borderlandexpeditions.com
andrew@borderlandexpeditions.com

Wilderness Taxi and Tours
Shuttle services
1171 Leatherwood Rd
Oneida, Tennessee 37841
423-215-4800
423-569-2669
wilderness-taxi.wix.com/wilderness-taxi
wilderness.taxi.bsfgmx.com

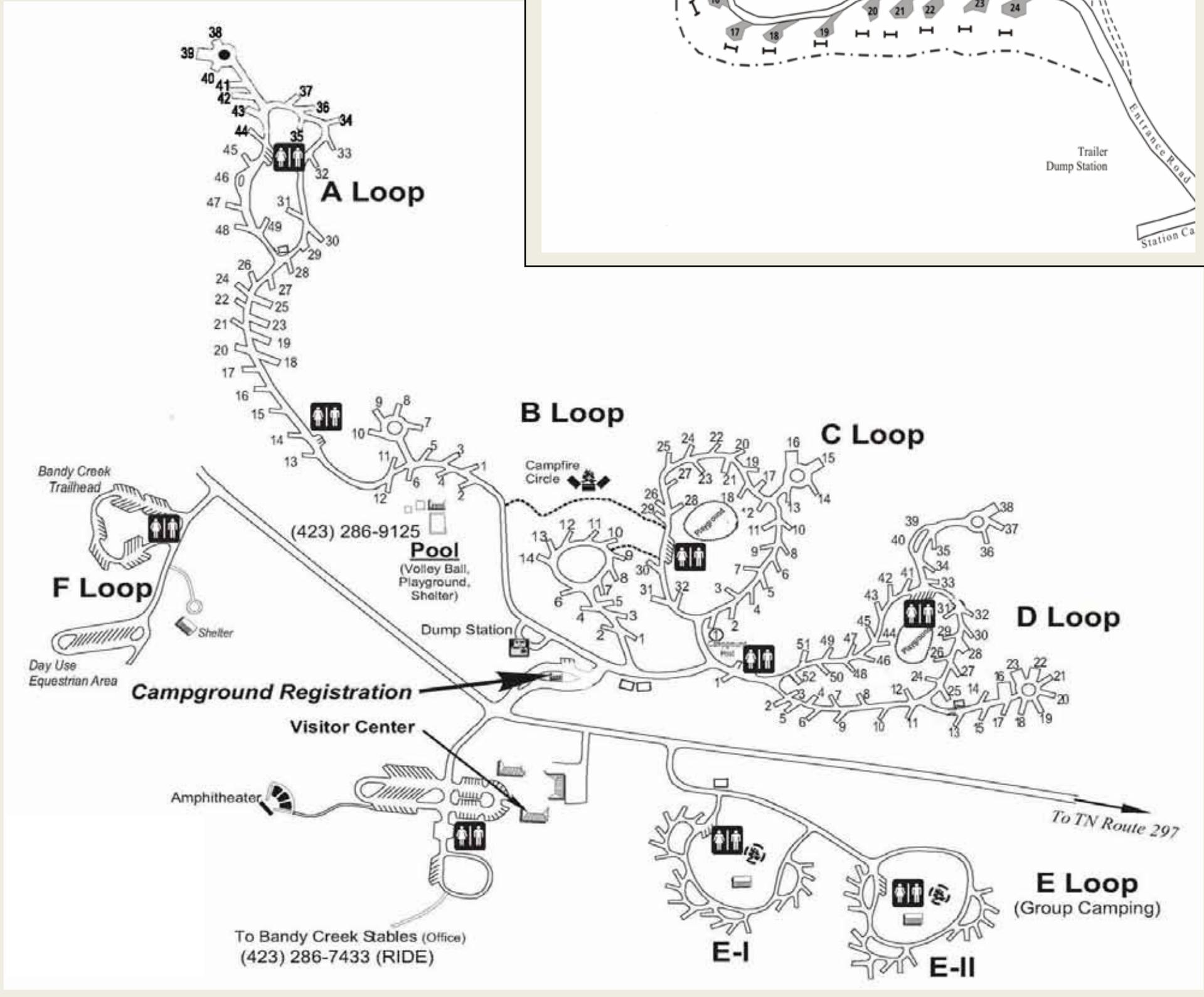
Southeast Pack Trips
Guided Horse Rides
299 Dewey Burks Rd
Jamestown, Tennessee 38556
931-879-2260
www.southeastpacktrips.com

Tennessee Campgrounds

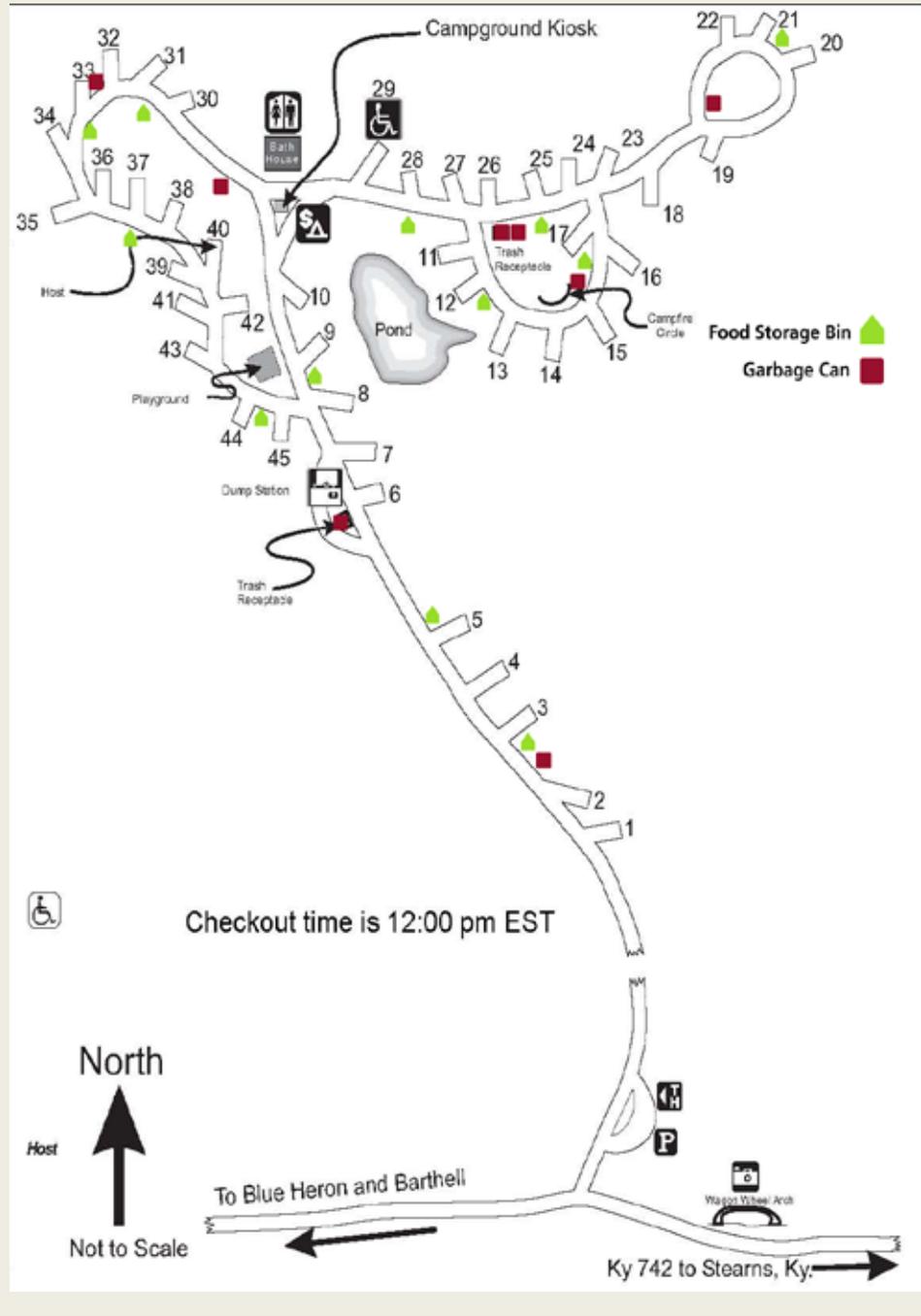
STATION CAMP HORSE CAMP



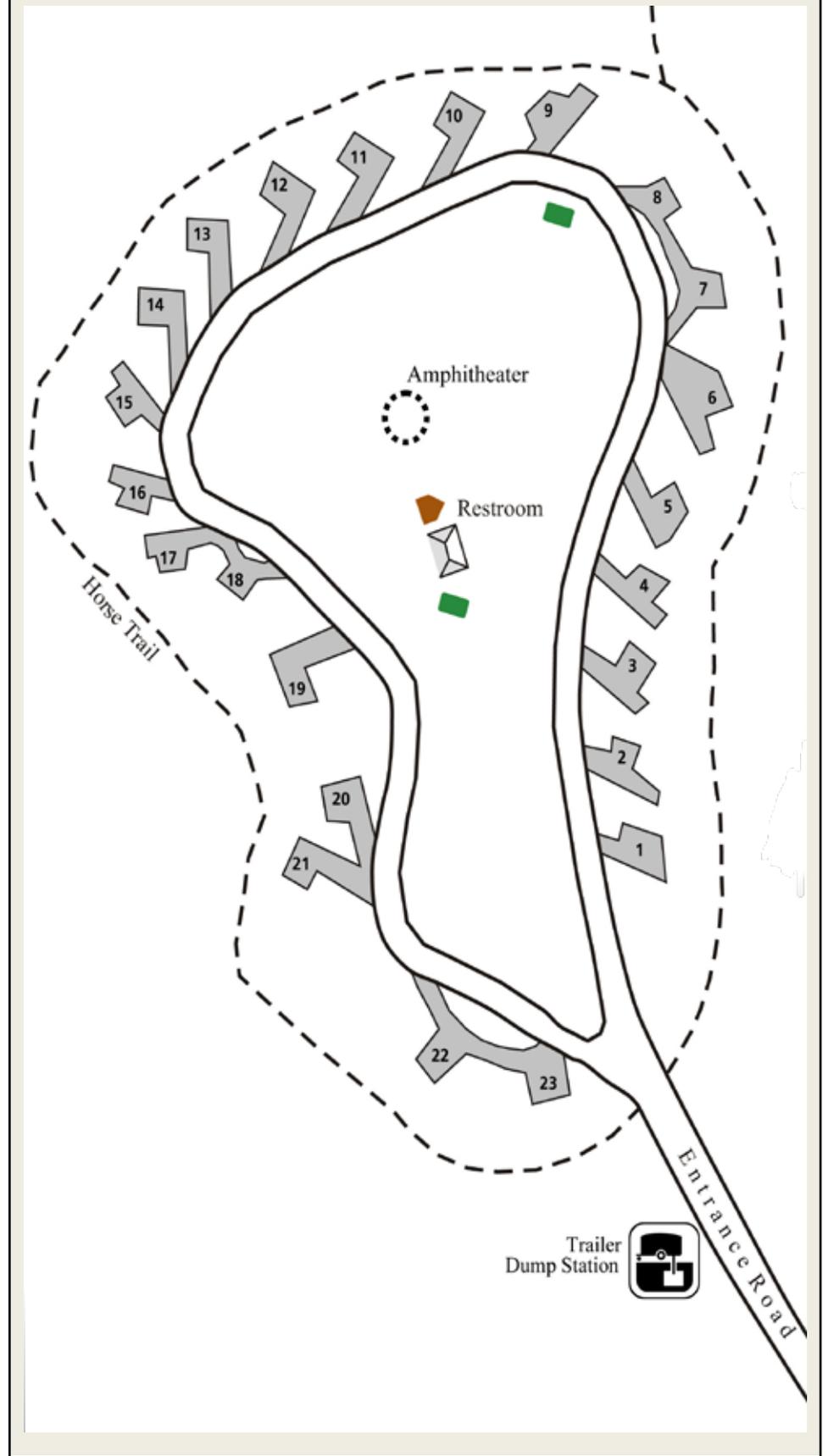
BANDY CREEK CAMPGROUND



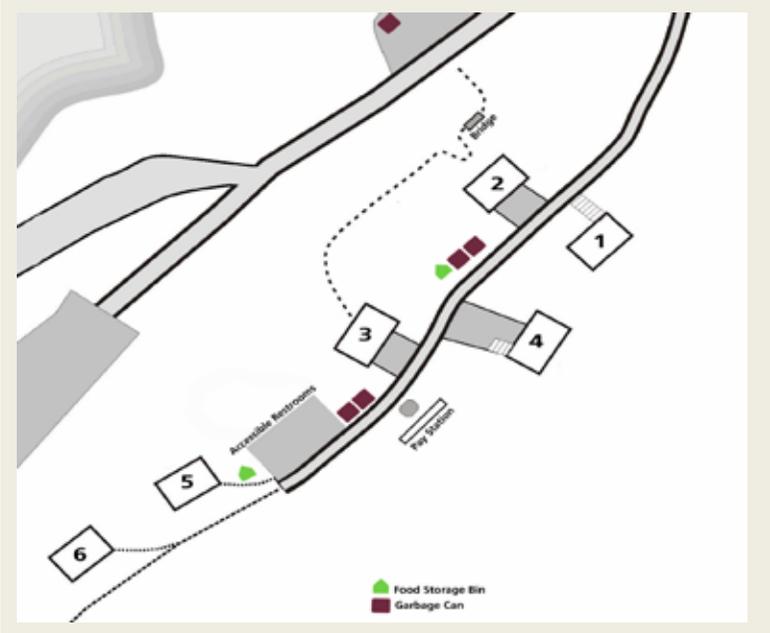
BLUE HERON CAMPGROUND



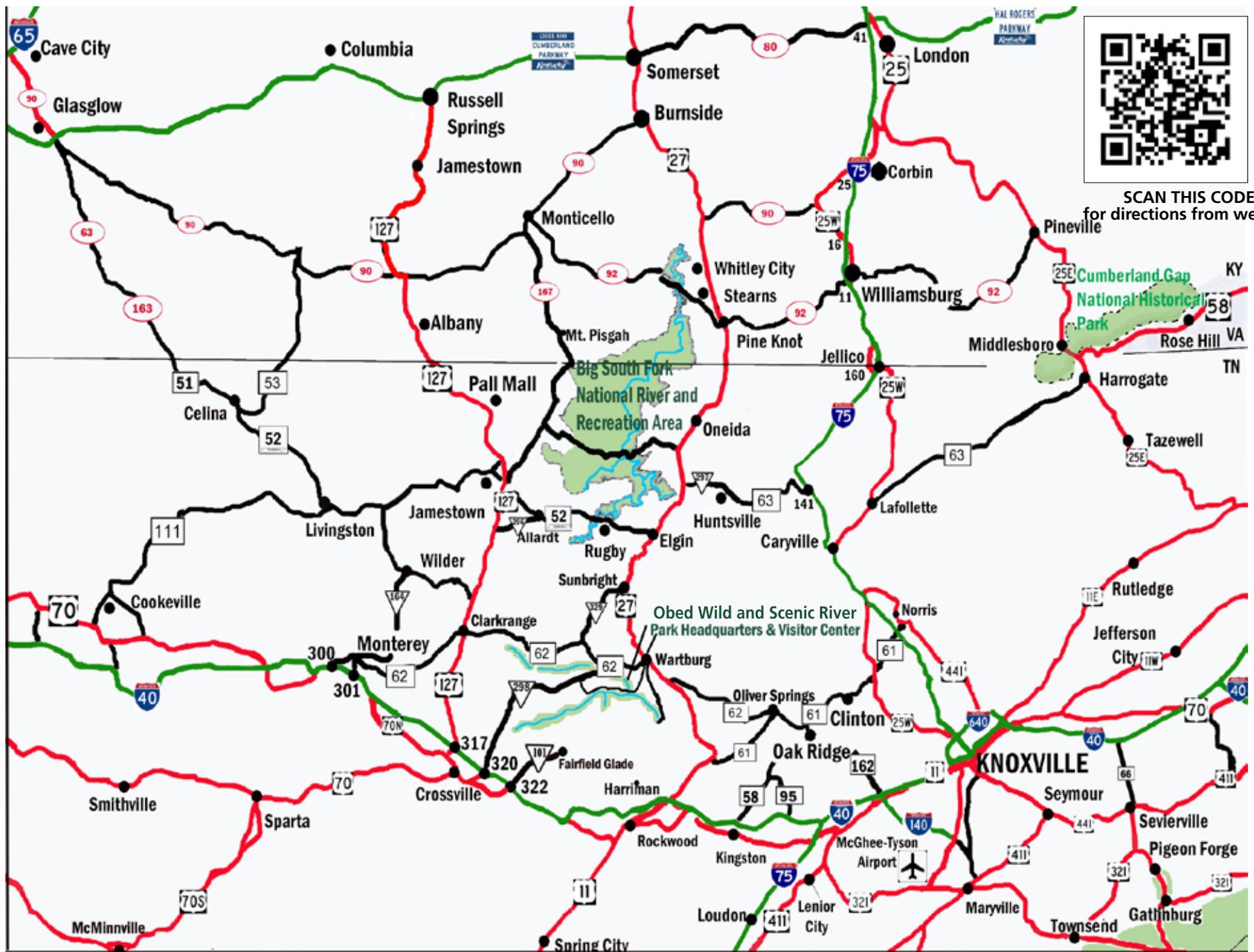
BEAR CREEK HORSE CAMP



ALUM FORD CAMPGROUND



**Kentucky
Campgrounds**



SCAN THIS CODE for directions from website

CONTACT STATION NUMBERS

Bandy Creek Visitor Center

151 Stable Road
 Oneida, TN
 (423) 286-7275 (PARK)
 2015 Spring Season: 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. ET
 2015 Summer Season (May 23-Sept 7)
 Mon-Thu 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m ET
 Fri, Sat, Sun and Holidays:
 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. ET

Rugby Visitor Contact Station

Historic Board of Aid Building
 1487 Rugby Parkway
 Rugby, TN
 (423) 628-2991
 2015 Summer Season (May 23-Sept 7)
 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. ET
 Saturdays and Sundays

Crossville Visitor Center

176 River Otter Drive
 Crossville, TN 38571
 (931) 787-1755
 Open Year Round
 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. CT

Blue Heron Interpretive Center

8249 Mine 18 Rd
 Strunk, KY
 (606) 376-3787 Office
 (606) 376-5073 Bookstore
 Open: April-October
 Sun: 12:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. ET
 Mon-Tues: CLOSED
 Wed-Thur: 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. ET
 Fri-Sat: 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. ET Sa

Stearns Visitor Contact Station

300 Wilburn K Ross Highway
 Stearns, KY
 (606) 376-5652
 2015 Summer Season (May 23-Sept 7)
 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. ET
 Saturdays and Sundays

Scott County Visitor Center

12025 Scott Hwy
 Huntsville, TN
 (423) 663-6900
 2015 Summer Season (May 23-Sept 7)
 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. ET
 Saturdays and Sundays

EMERGENCY NUMBERS

Kentucky

McCreary County Ambulance
 (606) 376-5062

McCreary County Sheriff
 (606) 376-2322

Tennessee

Scott County Ambulance
 Oneida, TN
 (423) 569-6000

Pioneer Community Hospital of Scott
 Oneida, TN
 (423) 569-8521

Scott County Sheriff
 Huntsville, TN
 (423) 663-2245

Jamestown Regional Medical Center
 Jamestown, TN
 (931) 879-8171

Fentress County Ambulance
 Jamestown, TN
 (931) 879-8147

Fentress County Sheriff
 Jamestown, TN
 (931) 879-8142

Pickett County Sheriff
 Byrdstown, TN
 (931) 864-3210

Morgan County Sheriff
 Wartburg, TN
 (423) 346-6262

POISON CONTROL
 1-800-222-1222

DIAL 911
for EMERGENCIES