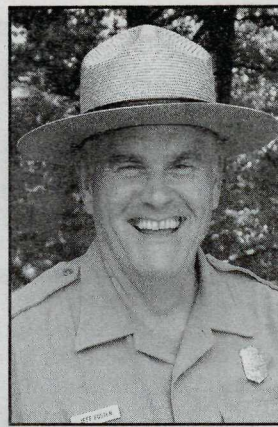




MAMMOTH CAVE GUIDE

Mammoth Cave National Park • Volume VI, No. 2 • 2000



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Inside

Unexpected Sloan's Crossing Pond

Still waters, cattail-strewn banks, floating turtles, frogs in plop and chorus – few places seem more natural than a pond. In central Kentucky, though, most ponds are anything but natural. The karst, or cave-bearing, geology of the region draws most water underground, and most ponds you see are the work of farmers providing drinking water for their stock. Only in a few places has water defied convention here, and one such place is Sloan's Crossing Pond.

The ridges of Mammoth Cave National Park are topped with layers of sandstone and shale. These insoluble rocks act like a waterproof cover over the lower soluble limestone in which caves form. Depressions in the sandstone hold water,

creating a "perched aquifer" in an otherwise dry upland forest.

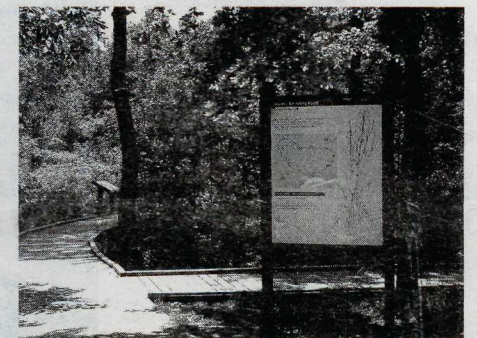
The berm, or dam, that holds the pond on the downhill side was built by people when the land was privately owned before becoming a national park, to deepen its waters and extend its life. More recent efforts include a "cattail pull" designed to reduce the numbers of these exotic plants and unclog some of the pond's open water.

Even with these changes, the pond is showing its years. Ponds have a life cycle, not unlike living things. They appear, flourish, and fade away as organic material gradually fills a pond in. Plants begin to encroach from the margins, and the pond becomes first a marsh – then a

meadow – and later, perhaps, a forest. Sloan's Crossing Pond is now only four feet deep at its deepest point, and in most places wouldn't wet your knees. It is a pond in its elder years.

But its end is still in the future. Now, as a wetland, the pond plays a significant role in the park, supporting hundreds of plant and animal species. Ponds such as this support a biological ecosystem in which solar energy is turned into food by one-celled plants (phytoplankton) such as algae, and by larger aquatic plants. Tiny zooplankton (one-celled animals) filter the phytoplankton from the water, while tadpoles, snails, and insect young forage on the aquatic plants.

These plant eaters are prey, in turn, for



New wayside exhibits help you discover the pond.

frogs, insects, turtles, and other higher forms, which are then eaten by birds, raccoons, and other predators. Other sources of energy for the pond include the decaying leaf matter from the surrounding forest, which feeds bacteria, fungi, and tiny invertebrates on the pond

Continued on page 4



A salamander's-eye view of the soggy margins of Sloan's Crossing Pond

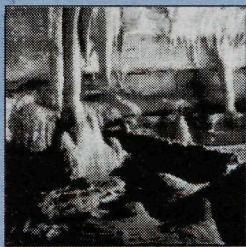
BEEHIVE

Historic Tour

2 hours, 2 miles (strenuous). Visit the cave passages and learn about the rich human history that made Mammoth Cave famous. View artifacts left by Native Americans, discover ruins of mining operations, and see evidence of early visitors, explorers, and workers at Mammoth Cave. Must descend and climb one stairway with more than 60 steps and must climb more than 130 steps on a steel tower. If you fear heights or close places and/or cannot climb steps, do not take this tour. Restrooms available. Limit: 120

Frozen Niagara Tour

2 hours, ¾ mile (strenuous). Descend in search of the spectacular. Ride a bus to the entrance, explore huge pits and domes and view decorative dripstone formations, including stalactites and stalagmites. Must navigate approximately 300 steps and traverse steep terrain. If you fear heights or close places and/or cannot climb steps, do not take this tour. The Travertine Tour route is included in this more strenuous tour. Restrooms not available. Limit: 120



Discovery Tour

½ hr. minimum, ¾ mile (moderate). Visit one of the largest rooms in Mammoth Cave, explore a large canyon passage, talk with park rangers and learn about 19th Century saltpeter mining operations and the geologic origins of Mammoth Cave. Must descend and climb one stairway with more than 60 steps. To get the full picture, hike the River Styx Spring Trail or the Green River Bluffs Trail in conjunction with this tour. Overlaps a small part of the Historic Tour. **Unlimited availability during periods of high visitation.**



Travertine Tour

1-1¼ hours, ¼ mile (easy). This short introductory tour benefits those who experience difficulty in walking, and those with infants and toddlers. Ride a bus to the Frozen Niagara entrance and view some of the cave's finest geologic artistry, including stalactites, stalagmites, pits and domes. Must climb 18 steps; an additional 98 steps are optional. Limit: 40

Great Onyx Tour

2¼ hours, 1 mile (moderately strenuous). Even before the creation of this national park, the private owners of Great Onyx Cave understood the need for stewardship. Join a Park Ranger on a visit to Flint Ridge and Great Onyx Cave and learn how past and present ways of treasuring these resources have come together. Must climb and descend 20 stairs and several hills. Use lanterns to explore this beautiful and varied cave which features stalactites, stalagmites, helictites, and "soda straw" stalactites. Limit: 40

Mammoth Passage Tour

1¼ hours, ¾ mile (moderate). Visit the large passage referred to by early cave explorers as "Main Cave," whose high vaulted ceilings and broad avenues gave birth to the cave called "Mammoth." Park Rangers discuss the cave's creation by water, the absence of what many people refer to as "typical" cave formations, the cave's cultural history and contemporary environmental concerns. Visitors must descend and climb more than 60 stairs. Must walk up a steep hill to return to the Visitor Center. Limit: 100

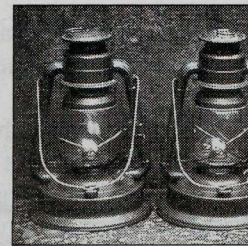
Making of Mammoth Tour

2½ hours, 2½ miles (strenuous). Get back to basics – discover the geologic beginnings of Mammoth Cave and learn why it is unique throughout the world. Trip will investigate the cave's ancient

origins 325 million years ago all the way to its ongoing formation today. This exploration of the cave's diversity will descend to the very bottom of the cave – the water table. Must descend and climb the entrance stairway with more than 60 steps and must climb a steel tower with more than 130 steps. If you fear heights or close places and/or cannot climb stairs do not take this tour. Restrooms available. Two miles of passageway overlap the Historic Tour route. Limit: 60

Violet City Lantern Tour

3 hours, 3 miles (strenuous). Follow the path of the cave's famous explorers along a nostalgic journey into Mammoth Cave's historic past. By the light of coal-oil lantern, view a saltpeter mining operation, evidence of prehistoric exploration, historic tuberculosis hospital ruins, and some of the largest rooms and passageways in



the cave. The first half-mile follows the Historic Tour route. Do not bring flashlights. Flash photography not permitted. Hiking boots recommended. Restrooms not available. **Participants must be 6 years of age or older.** Limit: 60

Mobility Impaired Tour

1 mile, 1¼ hours (easy). Designed for visitors in wheelchairs and for physically challenged visitors unable to participate in other cave tours. Ride a van to the elevator entrance, descend, and see tubular passages with delicate gypsum minerals encrusting the walls. Two wheelchairs available. Restrooms not wheelchair accessible. Golden Age and Access passport discounts do not apply on this tour; discounts have been applied to tour price. Limit: 9. *Note: Only one attendant may accompany each impaired visitor.*

Wild Cave Tour

6 to 6½ hours, 5½ miles (extremely strenuous). Must be 16 years or older to participate. (Be prepared to show proof of age.) Must have a chest size of no larger than 42 inches – anyone larger will not fit through the tight spaces. Crawl, climb, and squeeze through small passages off traditional tour routes. Helmets and lights provided. Kneepads available for this tour, but you may bring your own – rollerblade-type or hard plastic kneepads not allowed. High-top (over-the-ankle) lace-up boots, with lug or deeply-treaded soles, are required. Gloves and long pants recommended. Visitors should bring a lunch and a small water bottle in a small "fanny" pack. (Lunches may be available for purchase, seasonally, for an additional charge.) Restrooms available. Visitors with tickets being held at "Will Call" must check in 30 minutes prior to departure or your tickets will be released. Limit: 14

Trog Tour

2½ hours (moderately strenuous). The environment is in many parts, and they all work together – children 8-12 years old can discover the connections between the sunlit world and the underground world on this environmentally-focused activity. Parents must accompany their children for the first 15 minutes of the program and then promptly pick up children at the end of the program. Designed for children 8-12 years old – the trip is too physically challenging for younger children. (Be prepared to show proof of age). Be prepared for crawling. Helmets



and lights provided. Long pants and sturdy shoes or hiking boots required. Gloves recommended. We also recommend that you bring kneepads – rollerblade-type or hard plastic kneepads not allowed. Restrooms not available. Limit: 12

Underground Activities

Availability of these interpretive tours varies from season to season. Consult the enclosed seasonal schedule or call the park for information on what parts of the Cave will be shown during your visit.

Introduction to Caving

3 to 3½ hours (strenuous). Designed for youths, adults, and families to learn and explore the basics of responsible caving. Visit passages off traditional tour routes. Stooping, bending and crawling. Helmets and lights provided. Bring your own knee pads; no rollerblade-type or hard plastic kneepads allowed. Long pants and high-top (over-the-ankle) lace-up athletic shoes or boots, with lug or deeply-treaded soles, are required. Gloves recommended. Restrooms not available. Youths must be at least 10 years old. Ages 10-15 must be accompanied by an adult. Visitors with tickets being held at "Will Call" must check in 30 minutes prior to departure or your tickets will be released. Limit: 20

Grand Avenue Tour

4½ hours, 4 miles (Very Strenuous). Experience the cave's geologic variety. Hike through avenues representing four separate aspects of cave formation and discover why some of these passages were originally named "Grand Avenue." A short bus ride to Carmichael Entrance begins the trip. Consider your physical limitations – must ascend and descend steep switchback trails and a total of more than 500 stairs. Restrooms available. Scheduled 35-minute lunch stop at Snowball Room – lunch may be purchased at an additional charge. Age restriction: **children must be at least 6 years old to take the Grand Avenue Tour.** Overlaps a portion of the Frozen Niagara and Travertine tours. Limit: 120.

For more information on ranger-led cave trips, call the park at (270)758-2328 Monday through Friday, 8 am – 4:30 pm Central Time.

Notes for Those Who Venture Below

Read This Before You Go into the Cave ...

- Consider your physical limitations realistically when choosing a cave tour. Some tours are not recommended for visitors who fear heights or close places and/or cannot climb steps. **Do not** let friends or family members talk you into joining a cave tour if you feel uncomfortable about it.

- Hard-packed dirt trails can be somewhat rough and uneven and may be wet and slippery. You'll encounter numerous stairs and some steep inclines on many cave tours. Therefore, **durable, flat-soled footwear** suitable for walking is essential. If you have difficulty walking on uneven surface trails, cave trails will also pose a problem.

- **Walking sticks and canes** are permitted on cave tours only when sufficient need is demonstrated.

- **Tripods** (and monopods) can be hazardous to other visitors and may damage cave formations. Therefore, they are **not permitted** in the cave.

- **Strollers** are impractical on bumpy, narrow cave walkways and stairways and are therefore **not permitted** on cave tours. **Use caution** when carrying children in backpacks because of low ceilings; rangers will advise you when they may be used. Do not use them when entering the cave on the Frozen Niagara Tour.

- To protect air quality, **smoking** is not permitted in the cave.

- Year-round, the cave temperature in interior passageways fluctuates from the mid-50s to the low 60s (in Fahrenheit degrees). However, winter temperatures can be below freezing at entrances! In most areas of the cave, you'll be comfortable if you wear long pants and take a sweater or jacket with you.

Photo Tips in the Cave

Even though it is electrically lighted, taking photos in the cave can be tricky – especially in large caverns where the light dissipates. To make picture-taking more successful, follow these tips:

- Use a flash, especially with disc, instamatic and Polaroid cameras.
- Be careful not to blind other visitors with your flash.
- Use a fast-speed film (ASA 400 or greater).
- Take photos of objects less than 12 feet away.
- High intensity lights attached to video cameras spoil the ambience of visiting the cave. Please use video cameras that work effectively in low light and leave attachment lights on the surface.

Although you are welcome to bring your video camera into the cave, you may not use it while the tour is moving or you are walking. **Film only at stops** to avoid hazard to yourself and others.



Steps lead you to adventure through the Historic Entrance to Mammoth Cave

Are You Between 6 and 13 Years Old?



Do you want to learn all you can about Mammoth Cave National Park? If so:

Take the Trog Tour, a summer trip for young people 8-12 years old. You get to go into parts of the cave no one else – no parents, anyway – gets to see. Put on a hard hat and headlamp and learn

how the cave was formed, what lives in it, who has been there before you, and how you can help protect it.

Become a Junior Ranger: Young people are eligible to become Junior Rangers. Purchase the Junior Ranger packet at the book sales area in the Visitor Center and start rangering! Follow a ranger on guided activities and

record your own discoveries in the booklet to become a Junior Ranger.

Bring Mom and Dad for an **Introduction to Caving:** This is a good trip for people 10 and up, crawling into dark, twisting tunnels and learning why people go caving, how they do it safely, and what they find when they're there.

Above Ground Temperatures

Below Ground Temperatures

| Month | J | F | M | A | M | J | J | A | S | O | N | D |
|--------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| Normal Highs | 45 | 49 | 58 | 70 | 78 | 86 | 88 | 88 | 82 | 72 | 58 | 48 |
| Normal Lows | 25 | 26 | 35 | 45 | 52 | 60 | 64 | 62 | 56 | 44 | 36 | 28 |

54°

Fahrenheit, more or less, year-round. The cave temperatures can fluctuate as much as six degrees either way in passageways close to the surface. Entrances may be very cold. The lower passages are more constant.

Unexpected Sloan's Crossing Pond

Continued from page 1



From single-celled algae to large trees, the pond supports a diversity of plant life.

The tenuous nature of ponds in the karst region is reflected in this recent work by Kentucky author Davis McCombs. The poem is based on the New Madrid earthquake of 1811-1812, which caused the sudden disappearance of many of the region's ponds.

Ponds

The night we lost thirteen of them, tremors shook along New Madrid fault. In field after field the moon rose to its own face echoed back, cattle circling a crater's rim. Along these margins, life had fixed — an algal bloom, its underwater thud. They were sucked through vast caverns. In the Caveland, every pond's a fluke. Let them be brief, then, as the land gives up the ghost of fog, morning in the sway-backed enclaves. Already the clay dries and separates along small faults. We expect no return. Not even a tadpole's kink in mud where Jesus bugs made miracles the only way they could — as if there were no underworld, as if the pond would last.

Davis McCombs
from *Ultima Thule*
©2000 Yale University Press
Used by permission.

bottom. These "detritus feeders" provide food for zooplankton, aquatic insects, and salamander larvae.

The pond is a focal point for teaching biodiversity in a field situation. Currently, the park environmental education staff assists more than 2,000 students in studying the pond, and park rangers conduct guided walks around the pond three times a week in summer.

Making this unexpected place available to more visitors was the aim of a partnership project begun three years ago. Mammoth Cave National Park planned a 2,000-foot boardwalk encircling the pond, and partners from outside helped get it built. Target Stores employee-volunteers, Unilever Home and Personal Care - USA, and American Airlines each made

significant contributions, in sore muscles, recycled plastic lumber, and funding, respectively. A ribbon cutting ceremony Saturday, June 3, officially opened the new boardwalk. "We could not have done it without Unilever, American Airlines, and the Target workers," said Park Superintendent Ronald Switzer. "Target volunteers put down the last board in

September 1999, and already use of the area has greatly increased. The parking lot is never empty."

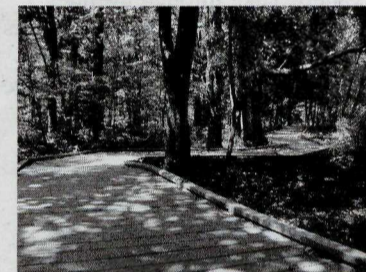
The boardwalk replaces a dirt path and makes the whole area more accessible to students, local residents and visitors, while being more sensitive to flora and fauna. The six-foot wide, curbed boardwalk is appropriate for wheelchair users, strollers, and walkers, and is one of a few places in the park where visitors can reach and touch water. Sloan's Crossing Pond joins the Heritage Trail as areas designed specifically with the mobility impaired in mind.

Unilever, through its Recycling At Work program provided 10,000 square feet of 100% post-consumer recycled plastic lumber (valued at \$50,000) as part of a fundamental commitment to sustainable development. Working in partnership with the National Park Foundation, Unilever's *Recycling at Work* program spans seven years and more than \$4 million in donations and in-kind support. Unilever has donated sustainable lumber to 55 national parks, representing 12 million plastic detergent containers recycled rather than landfilled.

The American Airlines Miles For Trails program, in partnership with the National Park Foundation, provided a matching grant of \$40,000 for this project to be used for carpenter expertise and materials.

The American Airlines grant was matched by an in-kind donation of labor, meals, lodging and transportation provided by Target store employees from three states, valued at \$39,840. As part of its Good Neighbor Program, Target volunteers worked for three September weekends in 1998 and 1999 constructing the boardwalk.

"Partnerships then are not simply finding parties who will donate money, but are a long-



established means of finding people who care whether we succeed in our mission and responsibility of providing protection for resources and sustainable public use and education," added Switzer.

Although the pond may one day transform into a different, drier habitat, it still has many years to educate and inspire, in its own unexpected way.

Follow the South Entrance Road from the Visitor Center until you arrive at its junction with the West Entrance Road. Sloan's Crossing Pond is immediately to your left. ♿



Summer at Sloan's Crossing Pond

UserFee Program

What will your money do for the park?



Investments in our parks – We need your support.

Welcome! Mammoth Cave National Park is being cared for today and preserved for future generations by the American people. This dual objective – use and preservation – comes at a price. Protecting our natural and cultural heritage while ensuring that all our visitors have a safe, enjoyable, and educational experience costs money.

Due to the popularity of these national treasures, the number of visitors continues to climb. But government funding available for necessities such as road and building repairs, campground maintenance, visitor protection, and other services has not kept pace with the demand.

To address these needs, Congress directed the U.S. Department of the Interior in 1996 to implement the Recreation Fee Demonstration Program in four of its agencies, including the National Park Service.

The Recreation Fee Demonstration Program:

- Allows a significant portion of the fees collected at a public area to be spent directly on behalf of that area for deferred construction projects and/or certain ranger services to support visitor use.
- Allows each agency to develop fair and equitable fee collection programs, whether the public areas are large or small, urban or wilderness, natural or historical.
- Allows each agency to collect fees efficiently and to determine the activities to be covered by fees. In some cases, visitors may have to pay for activities that have never had an associated fee.

We encourage you to participate in recreational activities – such experience will enhance your visit and create memories. The future of these public lands rests with all American Citizens. The actions we take today will reflect the price we are willing to pay to pass these lands to future generations. We need and welcome your support.

Recreation Use Fees at Mammoth Cave National Park

The new fees are used here at Mammoth Cave National Park for projects such as:

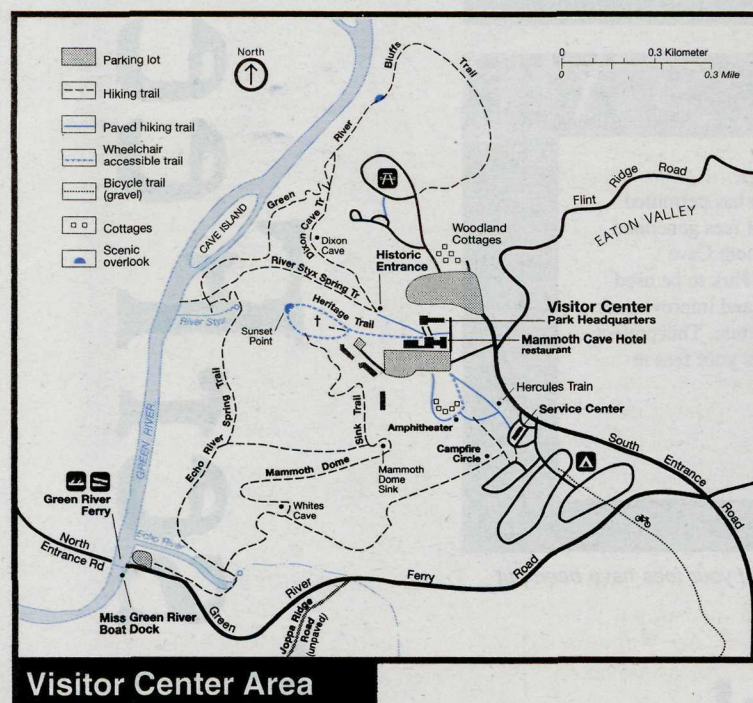
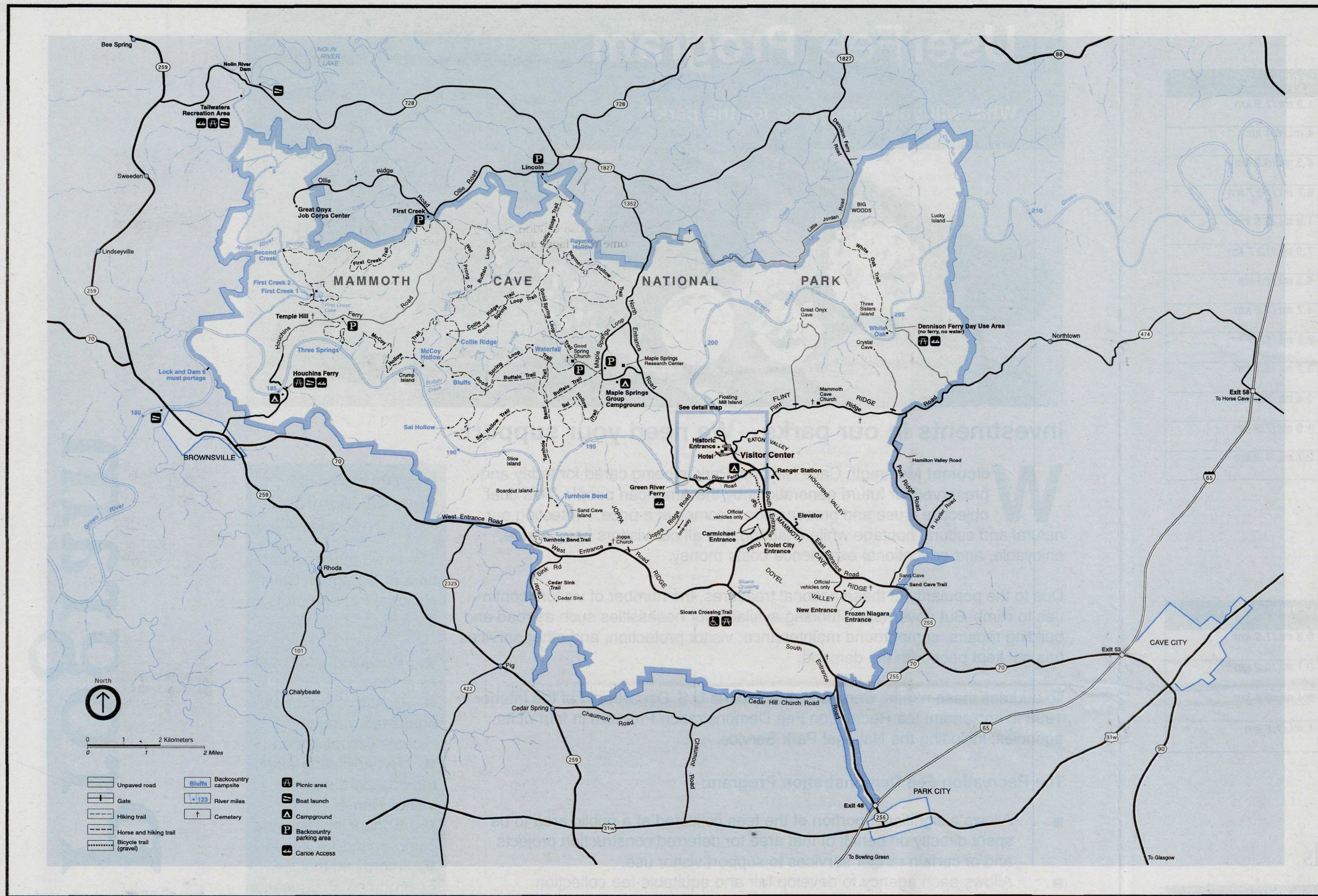
- Providing additional cave tours
- Constructing a new boardwalk around Sloan's Crossing Pond
- Rehabilitating and remodeling the park Visitor Center
- Enhancing/repairing campground facilities
- Improving the Environmental Education Facility



If you see this sign in the park, you will know that your fees have been put directly to work for you at that location.

Thank you!

UserFee Program



On the Surface of Mammoth Cave National Park

On the **North Side** over a dozen campsites dot the 70+ miles of trail. Hike here and you may not see another living soul. Seek solitude in the rugged hills and deep valleys, camp by river, lake or waterfall, explore bluffs and ridgetops. Ride horses along these backcountry trails. Drive the scenic routes of Houchins Ferry Road and Little Jordan Road. If you have a large group of friends, camp out at the Maple Springs Group Campground.

On the **South Side** a quick drive and an easy walk will show you some of the park's most beautiful scenery. Take a picnic, stroll the circle of Sloan's Crossing Pond Nature Trail and listen for bullfrogs, green frogs and red-winged blackbirds among the cattails. Descend into Cedar Sink to look through a "window" into the way water travels beneath the ground, then go to Turnhole Bend Nature Trail and find out where and how that same water joins the Green River.

In the **Visitor Center Area** walk on top of what lies below – six miles of beautiful woodland trail lead you into huge sinkholes and down to flowing springs, both windows to the underworld. Take a ranger-led walk and get some first-hand knowledge about the animals and plants of the region. Sit in on an Evening Program at the Amphitheatre. Bicycle along the bike trail or stroll along the Heritage Trail. Drive the winding and beautiful Flint Ridge Road and stop by historic

Mammoth Cave Church. Walk down the Sand Cave Trail. See the park's two short films, *Voices of the Cave* and *Water and Stone*. Listen to a mini-talk in the Auditorium.

Over 30 miles of the Green and Nolin Rivers trace through the park and offer a wealth of recreational opportunities. Angle for muskellunge, bluegill, catfish, bass, perch, crappie and other game fish. Canoe the rivers and camp along their shores. Camp by the river at the Houchins Ferry Campground. Cross the

North Side

Hints and regulations:

- A **backcountry use permit** is required for all backcountry camping.
- **Maple Springs Group Campground** accommodates groups of 1-24 campers.
- Hikers and horseback riders must **sign in at trailhead registers**.
- **Horses are available** through a licensed livery outside the park. *Double-J Stables and Campground* offers horseback riding in the park: (800)730-HRSE / (270)286-8167
- **Useful guides** to the backcountry include *A Guide To The Surface Trails of Mammoth Cave National Park*, by Stanley D. Sides, available in the Visitor Center book sales area. Also find the *Trails Illustrated*® map of Mammoth Cave National Park, and *Wildflowers of Mammoth Cave National Park*, by Randy Seymour. See page 11 for ordering information.

HORSEBACK RIDING

All trails north of the Green River are open for horseback riding. When hikers and horses meet, horses must be slowed to a walk and hikers must remain quiet. Three campsites at Maple Springs Group Campground are available for riders March through November. Each site can accommodate up to eight horses. Campsites cost \$20 per night and require reservations. For reservations, call (800)967-2283. Day-use horseback riders can park trailers at Lincoln Trailhead and across the road from Maple Springs Campground; trails are nearby. Always hitch horses more than 100 feet away from designated campsites, trails, or water sources. You may take a guided ride in the park with horse liveries outside the park. Inquire at the Visitor Center or call 1-800-346-8908.

South Side

Hints and regulations:

- The **Sloan's Crossing Pond Walk** offers a handicap-accessible boardwalk around the entire perimeter of this uncommon pond. Wayside exhibits explain its natural history.
- Explore **Cedar Sink Trail** – descend into the bottom of a colossal sinkhole. Use caution, however; some rock faces are precipitous.

Visitor Center

Hints and regulations:

- A **schedule of ranger-led walks**, campfire and evening programs, and auditorium programs is available at the Visitor Center.
- **Bicycles are not available** in the park.
- **No roller-blades or roller skates** are permitted on the trails in the park.
- **Feeding wild animals is PROHIBITED.** Feeding animals has the potential to harm both the animals and the visitor.

CAMPING

The park has three campgrounds. Houchins Ferry camping area has 12 primitive campsites and is open year-round, \$7 per night. The other two camping areas are open March through November. The main visitor center campground has 109 sites, \$13 per night. Token-operated showers, coin-operated laundry, and a campstore near Headquarters Campground are operated from spring to fall by a concessioner. Maple Springs group campground accommodates horses and large groups of people (limit 25 per site), \$20 per night. Headquarters and Maple Springs campgrounds will be closed December through February. All park campgrounds have toilets, picnic tables and potable water. Campground reservations can now be made by calling the National Park Reservation System at (800)967-2283, or online at reservations.nps.gov.

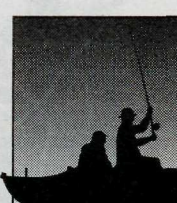
River

Hints and regulations:

- **No fishing license is required** in the park. Otherwise, Kentucky fishing regulations apply. Inquire at the Visitor Center before fishing. Fish by handline, rod and reel, or trot and throw line. All other methods are prohibited.
- **Harvesting of mussels is prohibited** in the park.
- **Swimming in the river is not recommended** because of strong currents and deep holes.
- **Camping along the floodplain** is by permit only. Inquire at the Visitor Center before camping along the river.
- **Observe weather conditions.** Flooding is possible. In case of storms, leave the water and seek shelter.
- **Canoes are available** through three licensed liveries outside the park: *Green River Canoeing, Inc.:* (800)651-9909 / (270)597-2031 *Barren River Canoe Rentals, Inc.:* (270)796-1979 *Mammoth Cave Canoe and Kayak:* (270)773-3210
- **Boats** may be taken in and out of the water at Green River Ferry and Houchins Ferry. Canoes may be taken in and out at Green River, Houchins and Dennison Ferries.
- Tickets for **Miss Green River II** cruises are available at the Visitor Center, through the concessionaire.

BOATING AND CANOEING

Almost 30 miles of the Green and Nolin Rivers carry boaters past dramatic bluffs and large trees. To explore the Green River, launch your canoe at Dennison Ferry day-use area or Green River Ferry; you'll find the best take-out points at Green River Ferry or Houchins Ferry. On the Nolin River, launch your boat just below Nolin River Dam at Tailwaters Recreation Area. When you reach the Green River, paddle upstream against a gentle current and take out at Houchins Ferry. We do not recommend that paddlers continue down the Green River to Lock and Dam #6. Located outside the park, the approach to the dam is not marked with warning signs. Being sucked into the current above the dam could be extremely hazardous. You may rent canoes from concessionaires located near the park. With a backcountry camping permit, you can camp anywhere within the floodplain more than 1/2 mile from ferry crossings or developed campgrounds. River levels and current fluctuate dramatically, particularly during the winter months, and snags or sandbars may be hidden underwater. You must bring at least one Coast Guard-approved life preserver for each person.



ABOVE

Trails

With nearly 80 miles of hiking trails, Mammoth Cave National Park offers plenty of space to stretch your (or your horse's) legs. Pick up a trail guide, a trail map, and perhaps a topographic map at the Visitor Center and get to know the "other half" of your park (the upper half) first hand.



A hiker explores the park's inviting trails.

Vickie Carson



A Note About Mountain Bikes –
The park is experimentally allowing the use of mountain bikes on specific backcountry trails. Please stop at the Visitor Center Information Desk for information before using your Mountain Bike on the park's trails.

North Side Trails

| Trail | Begins At | Length |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------------------|-----------------|
| Blair Spring Hollow Trail | Collie Ridge Trail at Raymer Hollow | 1.2 mi./1.9 km |
| Buffalo Trail | Maple Springs Trailhead | 4 mi./6.4 km |
| Collie Ridge Trail | Lincoln Trailhead | 4.3 mi./6.9 km |
| First Creek Hollow Trail | Temple Hill Trailhead | 6.7 mi./10.7 km |
| Ganter Cave Trail | Maple Springs Trailhead | 1.8 mi./2.9 km |
| Good Spring Loop Trail | Maple Springs Trailhead | 7.9 mi./12.7 km |
| McCoy Hollow Trail | Temple Hill Trailhead | 6.3 mi./10 km |
| Raymer Hollow Trail | Maple Springs Trailhead | 4.7 mi./7.5 km |
| Sal Hollow Trail | Maple Springs Trailhead | 8.7 mi./13.9 km |
| Turnhole Bend Trail | Maple Springs Trailhead | 3.2 mi./5.1 km |
| Wet Prong-McCoy Hollow Spur | Wet Prong Trail | 0.4 mi./0.6 km |
| Wet Prong Trail | First Creek Trailhead | 4.9 mi./7.9 km |
| White Oak Trail | Little Jordan Road | 2.7 mi./4.3 km |

South Side Trails

| Trail | Begins At | Length |
|-----------------------------|---|----------------|
| Cedar Sink Trail | Cedar Sink Trailhead, Hwy. 422 | 0.8 mi./1.3 km |
| Sand Cave Trail | Sand Cave Trailhead, Hwy. 255 | 0.1 mi./0.2 km |
| Sloan's Crossing Pond Trail | Sloan's Crossing Pond Trailhead, Hwy. 80 | 0.4 mi./0.6 km |
| Turnhole Bend Nature Trail | Turnhole Bend Nature Trail Trailhead, Hwy. 70 | 1 mi./1.6 km |

Visitor Center Area Trails

| Trail | Begins At | Length |
|--------------------------|----------------------------|----------------|
| Campground Trail | Campsite 11, Loop A | 0.5 mi./0.8 km |
| Dixon Cave Trail | Historic Entrance | 1.2 mi./1.9 km |
| Echo River Spring Trail | Green River Ferry | 0.4 mi./0.6 km |
| Green River Bluffs Trail | Visitor Center Picnic Area | 1.1 mi./1.8 km |
| River Styx Spring Trail | Historic Entrance | 0.6 mi./1 km |
| Mammoth Dome Sink Trail | Heritage Trail | 2 mi./3.2 km |
| Heritage Trail | Mammoth Cave Hotel | 0.3 mi./0.5 km |

Services

For park information: 1-270-758-2328

For cave tour, campground, and picnic shelter reservations: 1-800-967-2283

For accommodations within the park: 1-270-758-2225

For accommodations and attractions outside the park: 1-800-346-8908

Check out our
World Wide Web
site at:

www.nps.gov/maca/

ACCOMMODATIONS

In the park:
Mammoth Cave Hotel,
758-2225
Outside the park:
call 1-800-346-8908

POST OFFICE

Service Center near Headquarters
Campground, 758-2311

EMERGENCIES

Dial 911. For non-emergency
assistance, dial the following, in
order, until you receive a reply:
758-2328, 758-2322, 773-2111

FUEL

Service Center Camp Store near
Headquarters Campground

SHOWERS & LAUNDROMAT

Service Center at Headquarters
Campground. Hours vary by
season. Token-operated showers.

FIRST AID

Visitor Center

LOST AND FOUND

Ticket Sales Area, Visitor Center,
758-2328

RESTAURANTS

In the park:
Mammoth Cave Hotel,
758-2225
Outside the park:
call 1-800-346-8908

GIFTS

Mammoth Cave Hotel, 758-2225

KENNEL

Mammoth Cave Hotel, 758-2225

GROCERIES

Service Center Camp Store near
Headquarters Campground

Accessibility

Visitor Center

The Visitor Center and its
restrooms are accessible. One or
more rangers are trained – to
some degree – in sign language.
Call the park ahead of time to
find out if a sign language
interpreter will be available for
your tour date.

Headquarters Campground Area

Headquarters Campground has
two designated wheelchair
accessible campsites. Restroom
facilities are also accessible. The
nearby campstore, post office,
and laundry facilities are also

accessible. Camping facilities
are available March through
November.

Picnic Area

Open seasonally, the Picnic
Area is minimally accessible.
There are two handicapped
parking spaces and picnic
tables.

Heritage Trail

This level offers all visitors a
leisurely stroll and has been
specially designed to accommo-
date visitors with disabilities.
The trail features wheelchair
turnouts, rest areas with
benches, and lights for evening

use. Along this trail, you'll find a
beautiful overlook, large trees,
and the historic "Old Guide's
Cemetery." You can borrow a
cassette tape describing the walk
at the Visitor Center. The trail
begins at the end of the
footbridge near the Mammoth
Cave Hotel.

Sloan's Crossong Pond Trail

This easy boardwalk takes
visitors around the edge of a
marshy pond. Wayside exhibits
along the way help you
understand the pond.

Ranger Activities

Some ranger-led activities are
accessible. Refer to page 2 for
details.

Hotel & Restaurant

The hotel provides access for
visitors in a wheelchair. Four
fully accessible overnight
accommodations and two fully
accessible sets of restrooms are
available.

EARTHSPEAK! 2000

SPRINGFEST (APRIL 15-23)

Earth Day and National Park Week provide the backdrop as we
celebrate the natural world with this great
slate of spring activities.

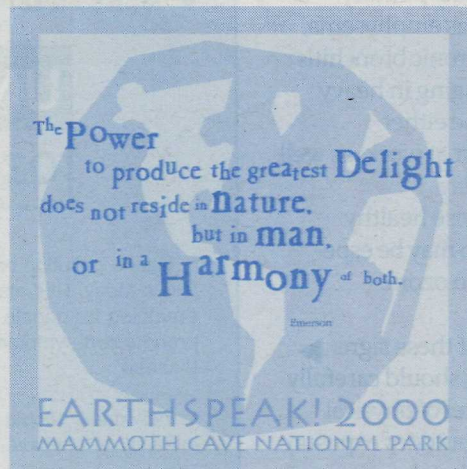
KARSTLANDS JURIED ARTS EXHIBITION

Kentucky artists are invited to enter works on
paper and canvas for this nine-day celebra-
tion of Central Kentucky's artistic and
aesthetic excellence. The "ExpressYourself!"
workshop lets your own talent come forth.

WILDFLOWER WEEKEND

Your national park explodes in natural color
as its native wildflowers come into their own.
Discover this pageant for yourself – join over
twenty guided walks led by some of the
Commonwealth's preeminent naturalists.

Several naturalist seminars will also be offered free to the public.



KARSTLANDS MUSIC SERIES

Styles from bluegrass to folk to brass to choral celebrate our Ken-
tucky heritage all summer long.

COLORFALL (OCTOBER 7-15)

Changing leaves add color to this varied tapestry
of offerings celebrating the rich cultures of the
Karstlands of Central Kentucky.

Archeologists and folklorists will share their
knowledge through shows, demonstrations and
seminars in Native American life, modern area
history, genealogy, and cemetery preservation.
Professional craftspeople will demonstrate
traditional Kentucky crafts, from broommaking
to quilting to spinning to storytelling

COLORFALL FOLKWAYS EXHIBITION

Works on paper as well as the work of professional crafters, will
illustrate the rich culture of the region in a fantastic nine-day exhibi-
tion.

For detailed event-specific
information, call
(270)758-2254 or
visit our website at
<http://www.nps.gov/maca/>

More Info
Events

Safety

"This is a national park. Nothing bad can happen to me here, right?"



A new touch-screen interactive kiosk has been installed in the Visitor Center with information about the hazards and safety concerns for each cave tour! Check out the kiosk when deciding which tour is right for you.

Wrong.

The National Park Service is constantly looking for ways to make the park safer, but remember – you are in a natural resource and a public place and you must always look out for your own safety. Here are some tips to help ensure that your visit is a safe one:

Underground

Take a little time to ensure that the activity you have chosen is the best one for you. All cave tours and nature walks are strenuous, so be sure you understand what will be required of you before the start of your activity. If you are unsure, ask a park ranger to explain what will be required of you. NEVER let someone talk you into doing an activity if you feel uneasy about it.

Cave and surface trails are uneven and slippery so be sure you have the proper footwear and always look before you step. Camera tripods and monopods and child strollers are prohibited in the cave because they present a tripping hazard.

Outside

When leaving your car at the Visitor Center or a remote trailhead, always lock the doors and store all items out of sight. When possible, park in an open, well-lit area.

Do not approach or feed animals. All animals in the park are wild, and feeding them harms their well-being. All animals can be dangerous, even the most harmless-looking deer, squirrel or raccoon. Do not approach.

Examine yourself for ticks after spending time outside. Ticks can carry diseases such as Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever and Lyme disease. For more information, ask at the Visitor Center.

Do not drink from rivers, ponds, lakes or springs in the park without first treating the water ... potable water is available in the visitor center area and at Houchins Ferry Campground.

When you begin a trail hike, always leave word. Sign in at trailhead registers where they are available.

Use caution on rocky or slippery trails.

Swimming in the Green River is at your own risk, and is *not* recommended.

Carry a flashlight if you hike in late evening.

Report any suspicious activity to a park ranger right away.

If you set aside a little time to think about safety, your visit to Mammoth Cave National Park will be remembered as an enjoyable time that you will want to experience again.

Be Aware of Ozone Alerts

Mammoth Cave National Park, like many other regions across the country, occasionally falls under an ozone pollution advisory. These occur on hot, sunny days, when air pollutants "bake" into ground-level ozone – usually between March and September. An advisory is issued because ozone (O₃) can be harmful to human health, causing shortness of breath, coughing, wheezing, chest pain when breathing deeply, and scratchiness in eyes, nose, and throat.

The following persons should be especially conscious of ozone alerts:

- Persons with respiratory problems such as emphysema, asthma, and chronic bronchitis
- Persons engaging in heavy outdoor exercise either recreationally or at work, as well as children at play
- A few otherwise healthy individuals who may be especially sensitive to ozone

If you see one of these signs in the park, you should carefully consider the level of physical activity and/or outdoor exposure you wish to undertake.

Public Health Advisory

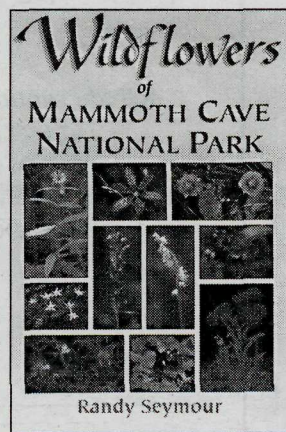
**UNHEALTHFUL
OZONE POLLUTION**

- Ozone pollution has reached or is expected to reach unhealthy levels today. This may cause irritation to lungs and discomfort in breathing for people engaged in outdoor activities, and more pronounced symptoms in children and in people with respiratory disease.
- Individuals should limit their exposure by reducing the duration or intensity of physical exertion or by rescheduling activities.



Serving America's National Parks
and other Public Trusts

Wildflowers of Mammoth Cave National Park provides an in-depth field guide to 400 wildflowers found along the trails and roads within the park, nearly all of them species found throughout Kentucky and in neighboring states. Each wildflower is represented by a brilliant full-color photograph and accompanied by a text that identifies its characteristics: colors, floral and leaf forms, flowering time, and native or introduced status, as well as the plant's folklore, past herbal or medicinal use, and myriad other myths and historical facts. For those enthusiasts eager to search for new discoveries, the appendixes provide tables showing the observed flowering period, a flower hunting planning guide, and an index of flowers by trail. Here is an indispensable book for the amateur enthusiast and the professional botanist alike.



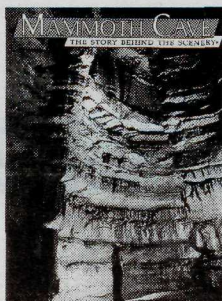
Eastern National is a non-profit organization. All proceeds are used by the association to support interpretive, historical, scientific, and educational activities of the National Park Service.

"The illustrations are superb. They alone are worth the price of the book."
— John W. Thieret, Botanist

Now Shop Online! <http://www.nationalparkbooks.org/stores/index.asp?store=11>

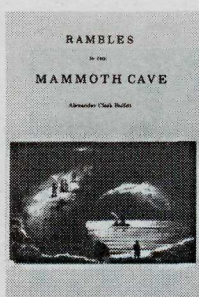
**Mammoth Cave –
The Story Behind the Scenery**
Joy Medley Lyons

From natural history to human history, this book offers both the park visitor and the armchair explorer a complex insight into the inner – and outer – workings of one of the nation's most unusual national parks.



**Rambles In The
Mammoth Cave**
Alexander Clark Bullitt

Originally published in 1844, *Rambles* takes the reader on a tour with one of the legendary guides of Mammoth Cave during the era of Dr. John Croghan, the cave's owner. Vivid descriptions of places, sights, sound and conversation bring vintage Mammoth Cave to life.



Trapped!
Robert K. Murray &
Roger W. Brucker

"The story of Floyd Collins' entrapment in a Kentucky cave makes for chilling and exciting reading in what will probably stand as the definitive study of the 1925 tragedy."

— *Library Journal*



The Longest Cave
Roger W. Brucker &
Richard A. Watson

This is the gripping and suspenseful story of the magnificent achievement that has been compared to the conquest of Everest – the final connection between the Flint Ridge and Mammoth Cave systems.



To Order:

- Wildflowers of Mammoth Cave National Park \$14.95
- Gunpowder From Mammoth Cave \$3.75
- Rambles in the Mammoth Cave \$5.95
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P.O. Box 33
Mammoth Cave, KY 42259

Bookstore

MAMMOTH CAVE GUIDE

Mammoth Cave National Park • Volume VI, No. 2 • 2000



Cave Guide Matt Bransford, circa 1925

HOW TO RESERVE CAVE TOUR TICKETS

Call 1-800-967-2283

Cave tours sell out quickly, so in order to participate in the tour of your choice, we strongly urge you to make reservations. For all cave tours, you can make reservations in advance, no later than 24 hours before you wish to tour the cave.

In addition to cave tours, campground and picnic shelter reservations may also now be made using the National Park Reservation Service. Visitors may reserve sites in Headquarters Campground and in Maple Springs Group Campground. One shelter in the park's picnic area is available for reservation.

FOR RESERVATIONS

By Phone: (800)967-2283
By Fax: (301)722-1174
TDD (hearing impaired): (888)530-9796
International: (301)722-1257
Online: reservations.nps.gov

CALL CENTER HOURS

9:00 am – 9:00 pm Central Time, 7 days a week

PAYMENT



Checks and money orders through deferred payment only. Visitors who reserve using deferred payment must do so no less than 20 days in advance of their arrival at the park.

CANCELLATION

All changes of reservation will be considered a cancellation and charged \$1.55 per tour ticket. Cancellations made less than 24 hours in advance of the tour will not receive a refund.



U.S. Department of the Interior
National Park Service
Mammoth Cave National Park
P.O. Box 7
Mammoth Cave, KY 42259