Falls of the Ohio State Park was covered by a shallow tropical sea about 387 million years ago. The abundant fossilized remnants of the creatures from that time and the 16.000 square-foot interpretive Center that tells their story are the main attractions of this unique state park, the 20th in the system, which specializes in interpretation and education. Vast numbers of corals, sponges, brachiopods, mollusks and echinoderms thrived under the prehistoric seas. Fish were present, too, but remnants of them are rarely found, usually just tiny teeth and scales. The state park, which lies along the north shore of the Ohio River in Clarksville, Ind., contains approximately 165 acres of land but lies within the Falls of the Ohio National Wildlife Conservation Area, which includes 1,404 acres of federally protected land and water. As the corals and other prehistoric sea inhabitants died, they were buried in layers of limy sediment that caused them to fossilize. During the retreat of Ice Age glaciers, rushing meltwater carved the Ohio River.

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