

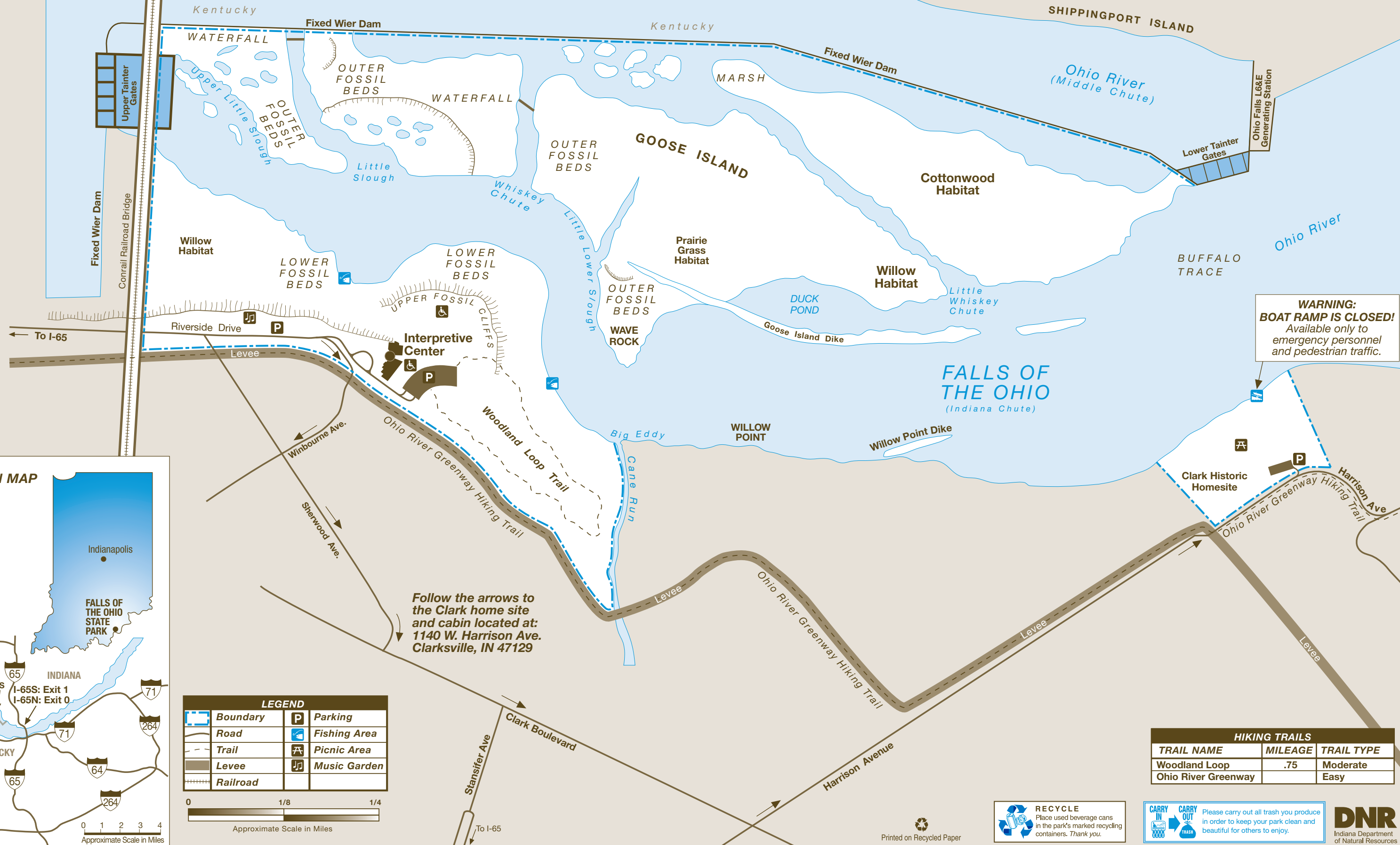
FALLS OF THE OHIO STATE PARK

201 W. Riverside Dr. • Clarksville, IN 47129 • (812) 280-9970
165 acres Established 1990

DANGER: Leave fossil beds when you hear siren. Water subject to sudden rise and turbulence when gates open. Remember, life jackets save lives.



This map has been turned around to make it easier for locating areas while viewing from the observation deck.



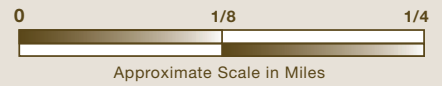
WARNING:
BOAT RAMP IS CLOSED!
Available only to emergency personnel and pedestrian traffic.

Follow the arrows to the Clark home site and cabin located at: 1140 W. Harrison Ave. Clarksville, IN 47129

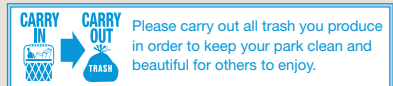
LOCATION MAP



LEGEND	
	Boundary
	Road
	Trail
	Levee
	Railroad
	Parking
	Fishing Area
	Picnic Area
	Music Garden



HIKING TRAILS		
TRAIL NAME	MILEAGE	TRAIL TYPE
Woodland Loop	.75	Moderate
Ohio River Greenway		Easy



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05/2024

During the retreat of Ice Age glaciers, rushing meltwater carved the Ohio River basin and exposed the Devonian fossil beds, providing a unique view of the ancient coral sea floor, preserved in stone.

This natural stopping place gave rise to the establishment of not only Clarksville, but New Albany and Jeffersonville, Ind., as well as Portland, Shippingport and Louisville, Ky. The interpretive center provides a panoramic view of the Louisville skyline.

WHAT ARE THE FALLS?

The Falls of the Ohio were nothing like Niagara Falls. There were a series of rapids caused by water flowing over ledges of hard limestone composed of vast numbers of fossils. The first rapids began in front of what is now downtown Louisville and continued to Sand Island, a distance of 2.5 miles and a drop of 26 feet. When a dam was built in the 1920s, the river's flow was restricted and most of the rapids were covered with water. Today, only remnants of these rapids remain below the dam.

ACTIVITIES AND FACILITIES

FISHING—Sauger, striped bass, white bass, walleye, crappie, catfish, etc. A state fishing license is required, either from Indiana or Kentucky.

HIKING—175 acres of fossil beds are available for easy to rugged hiking, when water level is low.

INTERPRETIVE CENTER—Offerings include a movie and exhibits on the geology, history and cultural development of the Falls of the Ohio, as well as an auditorium, educational classroom, wildlife observation area, river observation room, and gift shop. An entrance fee is charged for adults and children. The DNR Annual Entrance Permit and Golden Hoosier Passport are sold and accepted at the interpretive center.

CURRENT HOURS

Monday-Saturday: 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Sunday: 1 p.m. - 5 p.m.

INTERPRETIVE NATURALIST SERVICE—Explore the world of natural resources while enjoying interpretive and recreational programs. Program schedules are available at interpretiveservices.IN.gov or calling the interpretive center at (812) 280-9970. Inquire at interpretive center for family or group tours.

PICNIC AREAS—Tables available. Shelter and grills at Clark home site are available for groups on a first-come, first-served basis.

MUSICAL GARDEN—Experience the sounds of the musical garden.

SPECIAL EVENTS—A number of events are held annually near the interpretive center and Clark home site cabin. Check fallsoftheohio.org for schedule.

For a list of park events, visit interpretiveservices.IN.gov

DNR PROPERTIES NEARBY

For a full list/map of all DNR properties visit on.IN.gov/recguide or on.IN.gov/recfinder.

O'Bannon Woods State Park

boat rental, bridle trails, camping, cave tours, fishing, group camp, shelter house, swimming pool, hiking trails, historical features, interpretive services & center

Deam Lake State Recreation Area

archery range, boating, boat ramps, camping, dump station, fishing pier, hiking trails, hunting, interpretive services, picnic area, play/sports area, shelter house, swimming beach

RULES AND REGULATIONS

- Do not injure or damage any structure, rock, tree, flower, bird or wild animal within the Park. Do NOT gather limbs, brush or trees (either dead or alive) for firewood because it rebuilds the natural humus.
- Any firearm, including a handgun, BB gun, air gun, CO2 gun, bow and arrow, or paint gun must be unloaded or un-nocked and stored in a case or locked in a vehicle except in accordance with the terms of a one-day hunting permit and record card obtained from a hunter sign-in station and possessed by the person in the field for a specified date.
- 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 prohibited.
- Fires shall be built only in designated places.
- Please comply with the Carry In/Carry Out trash policy in all day-use areas.
- Motorists shall observe posted speed limits and park only in designated areas.
- Swimming is prohibited.
- Drinking water should be taken only from pumps, hydrants or fountains provided for that purpose.
- Report lost or found articles to the park office.
- All motorized vehicles shall remain on paved roadway. Snowmobiles are prohibited.
- Use of metal detectors prohibited.
- Park closes from 11 p.m. until 7 a.m. No one is allowed in the park after close, except to night fish.
- Fossil, rock and mineral collecting is prohibited.
- Fireworks are prohibited.

For a complete list of rules and regulations, visit the property office or go online at:

on.IN.gov/INStateParksRules

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.
Call: **1-866-6campIN** (1-866-622-6746)
Online: **camp.IN.gov**

Reservations for the Indiana State Park Inns and Inn-operated cabins can be made online or by phone.
Call: **1-877-lodges1** (1-877-563-4371)
Online: **IndianalInns.com**

FOR MORE INFORMATION



Write: Falls of the Ohio State Park
201 West Riverside Dr.
Clarksville, IN 47129
Call: (812) 280-9970
Online: on.IN.gov/fallsoftheohiosp



Please carry out all trash you produce to help keep the property clean and beautiful for all to enjoy!



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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 Street, W256, Indianapolis, IN 46204, (317) 232-4020.

FALLS AREA FACTS

- More than 600 species of fossils have been described at the Falls, two-thirds of which have been “type specimens,” which are fossils described for the first time. More than 250 species of corals have been identified.
- In 1778, George Rogers Clark established the first permanent English-speaking settlement in the Northwest Territory on Corn Island. Later he lived on the shore and founded Clarksville. His homesite, below the Falls, is now part of the state park, though his cabin no longer exists.
- In 1806 Aaron Burr trained troops in Jeffersonville and built ships at Silver Creek for a possible invasion of Mexico.
- William Clark, younger brother of George Rogers Clark, set out from here with Meriwether Lewis to explore the territory of the Louisiana Purchase.
- “The rumbling sound of the waters as they tumble over the rock-paved rapids, is at all times soothing to the ear.” — John James Audubon. Audubon made more than 200 sketches of 14 species of birds while living in the Falls area.
- Over 270 species of birds have been recorded at the Falls.
- Mark Twain and Walt Whitman both wrote about the Falls area.
- The primitive paddlefish is but one of the 125 species of fish found at the Falls.
- Hard limestone layers presented an obstacle to navigation for early explorers and settlers. This was the only place between Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania (where the Ohio River starts) and New Orleans, Louisiana where boats had dangerous rapids or a low water barricade of rock.

DNR Indiana Department of Natural Resources

INDIANA

FALLS OF THE OHIO STATE PARK



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 waters. 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 lime sediment that caused them to fossilize.

on.IN.gov/stateparks