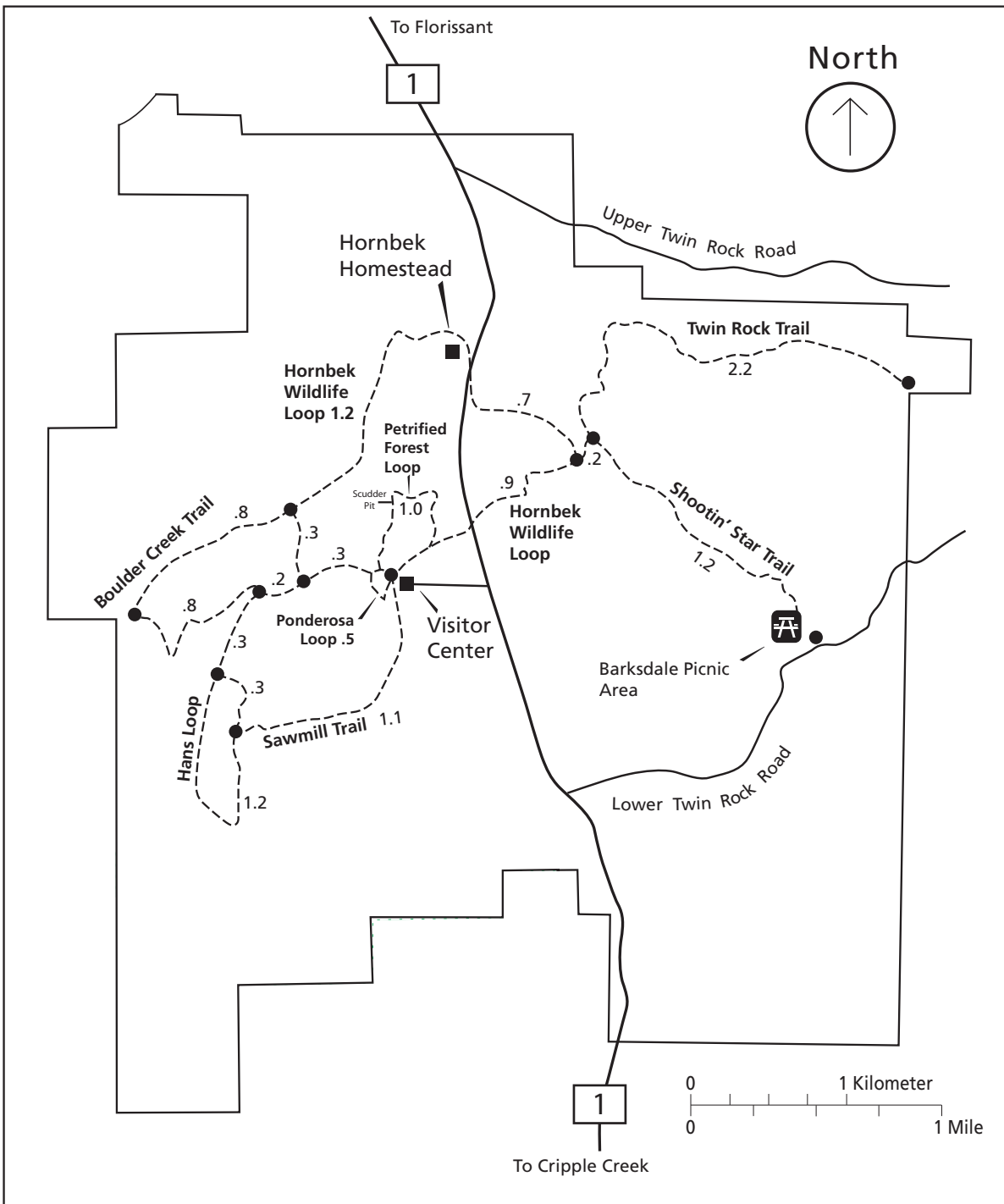




Florissant Fossil Beds Hiking Trail Map



Introduction

There are over 15 miles of hiking trails at Florissant Fossil Beds National Monument. The self-guiding Petrified Forest Loop offers the best views of petrified redwood stumps. The other trails provide excellent opportunities to view scenery and explore the modern ecosystem.

Hiking Trails

All mileages, except Shootin' Star and Twin Rock Trails, begin and end at the visitor center.

Hornbek Wildlife Loop - 4 miles

Following meadows, the trail to the Hornbek Homestead crosses land once covered by ancient Lake Florissant. The return route overlooks the ancient lake bed and the mountain ranges beyond and signs of wildlife are common. MODERATE

Sawmill Trail - 2.2 miles

The varied terrain provides a good example of Colorado's Montane Life Zone. Forests of pine, spruce and fir, meadows frequented by elk, ridgetops viewing Pikes Peak, and shaded streams make this a favorite. MODERATE

Twin Rock Trail - 2.2 miles

This trail features quiet views of rock formations, open meadows, aspen groves, riparian or stream habitats, willows, and pond life. Signs of wildlife are common. MODERATE

Hans Loop - 1.2 miles

The Hans Trail is an extension of the Sawmill. Part of the trail follows a gentle ridge that provides vistas of Pikes Peak and then drops into a drainage that passes the remnants of a rustic cabin. MODERATE

Boulder Creek Trail - 3.2 miles

This trail begins and ends in the ponderosa pine forest. A portion of the trail skirts wet meadows and passes a formation of giant eroded granite boulders. MODERATE

Shootin' Star Trail - 2.2 miles

This trail follows an old roadbed and leaves the meadows to travel through the Ponderosa pine forest. The trail gets its name from a historic ranch. Look for signs of former agricultural activity. MODERATE

Self-Guided Trails and Visitor Center Area

Ponderosa Loop - ½ mile

This wheelchair accessible trail starts behind the exhibit area and enters the modern forest, passing ponderosa pines, aspen, douglas fir, and spruce trees. EASY

Petrified Forest Loop – 1 mile

This trail leads through the bed of ancient Lake Florissant. It passes numerous giant petrified redwood tree stumps, including the colorful “Big Stump.” The trail also passes the historic “Scudder” excavation pit. This trail starts behind the outdoor exhibit area. EASY

Visitor Center Area Features

Outdoor Exhibit Area

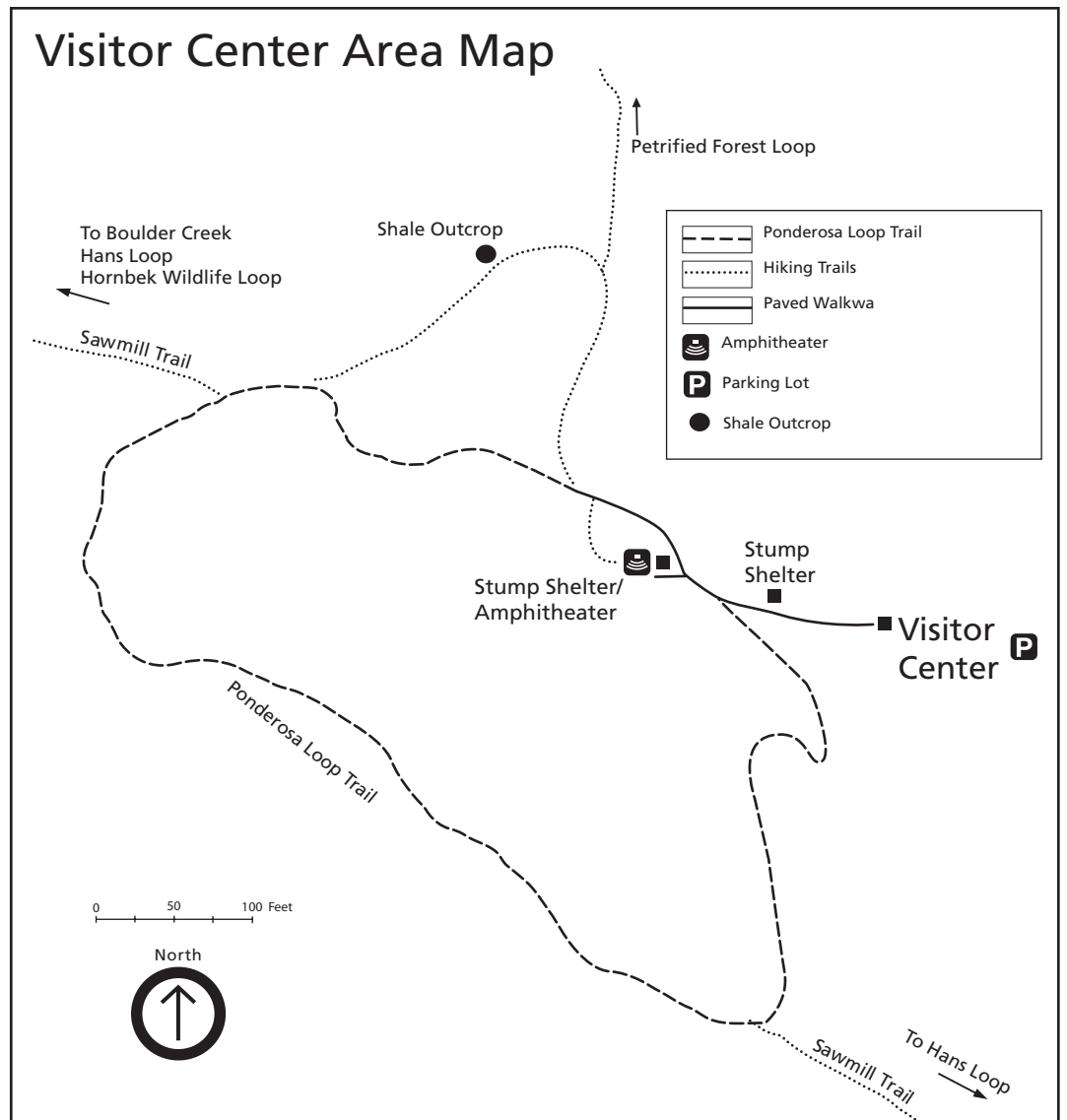
Behind the visitor center are two shelters covering petrified redwood trees, exhibits, and the amphitheater.

Visitor Center and Bookstore

The visitor center contains exhibits, fossil displays, and the Rocky Mountain Nature Association Bookstore.

Shale Outcrop

Located just north of the amphitheater is an outcrop of shale that is a remnant of ancient Lake Florissant.



Protect The Park Protect Yourself

Protect Your Park

- Pets are prohibited
- Collection of any natural or cultural objects such as fossils, petrified wood, rocks, flowers, etc. is prohibited.
- ATV's, snowmobiles, and bikes are prohibited.
- Do not feed, approach, or disturb wildlife.
- Camping and campfires are prohibited.
- Pay park entrance fees and observe park hours.

Protect Yourself

- Florissant is located at 8,400 feet of elevation.
- Drink plenty of water and pace yourself to avoid altitude sickness.
- Lightning is common during summer afternoons. Seek shelter, stay low, avoid standing next to trees or on ridges.
- The sun is intense. Use sun block and hats.
- Wildlife may carry diseases and may bite or scratch. Do not feed or approach wildlife.

For More Information:

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