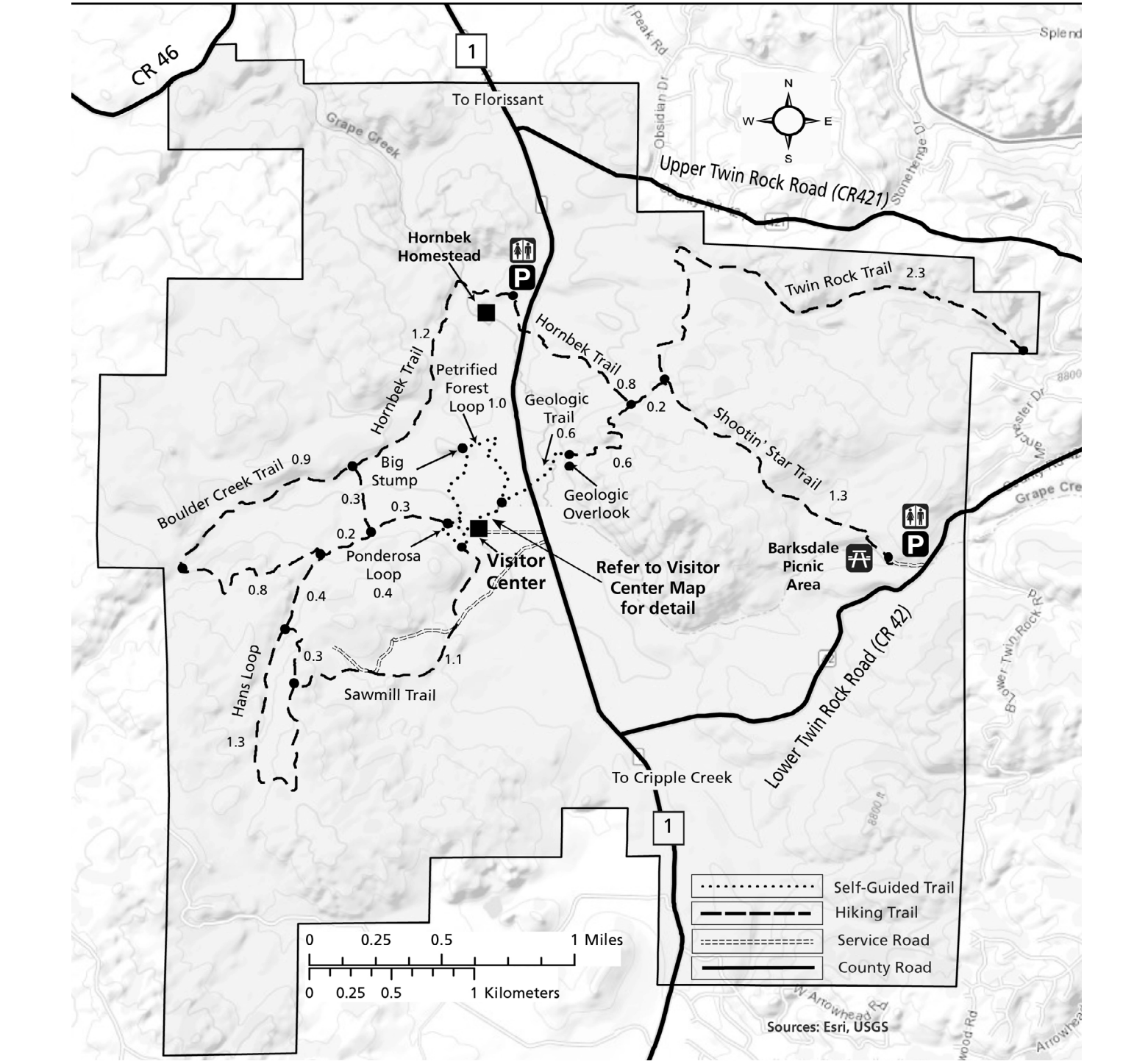


# Florissant Fossil Beds

## Hiking Trail Map

National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior  
  
Florissant Fossil Beds  
National Monument




### Introduction

14 miles of trails exist at Florissant Fossil Beds National Monument. The self-guiding Petrified Forest Loop offers the best views of petrified redwood stumps. Other trails provide excellent opportunities to view scenery and explore the modern ecosystem.

Hiking Trail	Trailhead	Roundtrip Mileage	Elevation Change	Difficulty	Description
Sawmill Trail	Visitor Center	2.6	310	Moderate	The varied terrain provides a good example of Colorado’s Montane Life Zone. Forests of pine, spruce, and fir; meadows frequented by elk; ridgetop viewing of Pikes Peak; and shaded streams make this a favorite.
Hans Loop	Visitor Center	3.6	380	Moderate	The Hans Loop is an extension of the Sawmill. The trail follows a gentle ridge that provides vistas of Pikes Peak and also a stroll through a scenic valley.
Boulder Creek Trail	Visitor Center	3.0	265	Moderate	This trail winds through ponderosa pine forest and skirts wet meadows. At its western end, pass by a formation of giant eroded granite boulders.
Hornbek Trail	Visitor Center	3.9	320	Moderate	Following meadows, the trail to the Hornbek Homestead crosses land once covered by ancient Lake Florissant. After the Homestead, cross County Road 1 (CR1) and climb to the crest of a hill that overlooks the ancient lake bed and the mountain ranges beyond. The Hornbek Trail connects with both the Geologic Trail (east of CR1) and Boulder Creek Trail (west of CR1).
Shootin’ Star Trail	Barksdale	1.3*	160	Moderate	This trail follows an old roadbed and leaves the meadows to travel through the ponderosa pine forest. Look for signs of former agricultural activity.
Twin Rock Trail	Visitor Center	3.6*	375	Moderate	The trail intersects with both the Hornbek and Shootin’ Star Trails. It features quiet views of rock formations, open meadows, aspen groves, stream habitats, willows, and pond life. Signs of wildlife are common.
	Hornbek Parking Lot	3.3*	420		
	Barksdale	3.5*	280		

\* Shootin’ Star and Twin Rock Trails mileages are one-way.

Self-Guided Trail	Trailhead	Roundtrip Mileage	Elevation Change	Difficulty	Description
Petrified Forest Loop	Visitor Center	1.1	70	Easy	This trail leads through the bed of ancient Lake Florissant. It passes numerous giant petrified redwood tree stumps, including the colorful “Big Stump.”
Ponderosa Loop 	Visitor Center	0.4	40	Easy	This short wheelchair-accessible trail leaves the exhibit area and enters the modern forest past ponderosa pines, aspen, Douglas-fir, and spruce trees. A highlight of this trail is a modern pine tree growing out of a petrified redwood.
Geologic Trail	Visitor Center	0.6*	105	Moderate	This trail highlights over a billion years of geologic history in the Florissant valley. It passes over the ancient lake bed, crosses County Road 1 (CR1), then ascends past the remnants of a massive pyroclastic flow, and ends at a scenic overview of the Florissant valley.

\* Geologic Trail mileage is one-way

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 Conservancy Bookstore.

Shale Outcrop

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







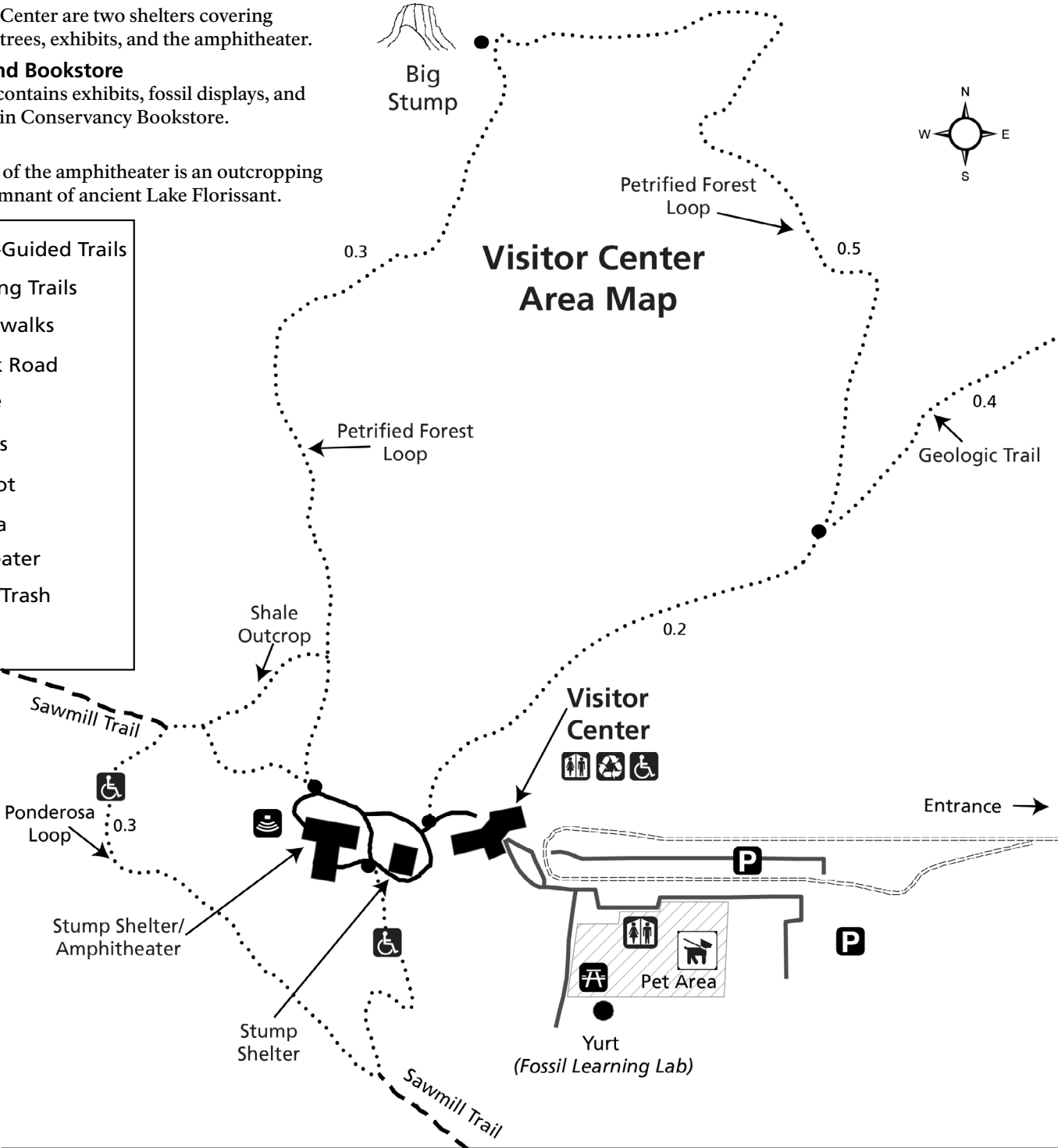








Self-Guided Trails  
Hiking Trails  
Sidewalks  
Park Road  
Accessible  
Bathrooms  
Parking Lot  
Picnic area  
Amphitheater  
Recycling/Trash  
Pet Area



Protect Your Park  
Protect Yourself

**For More Information:**  
Florissant Fossil Beds  
National Monument  
P.O. Box 185  
Florissant, CO 80816  
[www.nps.gov/flfo](http://www.nps.gov/flfo)  
(719) 748-3253

Protect Your Park

- Pets are prohibited in all park areas and trails. However, there is a pet exercise area within the picnic area located off the main parking lot at the Visitor Center. Pets are also allowed along public roads and in parking areas. All pets must be on a leash of 6 feet or less.
- Horses and pack animals are prohibited on all trails and developed areas. Ride in a dispersed manner to prevent the creation of unapproved trails.
- Collection of any natural or cultural objects such as fossils, petrified wood, rocks, flowers, etc. is prohibited.
- Bikes, ATVs, and snowmobiles 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 sunblock and hats.
- Wildlife may carry diseases and may bite or scratch. Do not feed, approach, or disturb wildlife.