

Things to Look for Along the Trail

Moss Rocks

Here you see the beginnings of soil formation? The moss living on the rock will combine with lichen to break down the rock surface. Lichen secretes an acid which creates fissures in the rock, and moss grows deep into the crevices, further splitting the rock. This moss combines with the effects of heating and cooling and breaks down the rock until it eventually forms soil. Continually working on the surface of the stone, the plants form a thin mat of soil, which permits grasses and ferns to take hold. These continue the soil building process and eventually give way to shrubs and trees.

Fallen Logs

Nature is constantly at work with natural succession taking place. As these giants of the earth mature and die, they continue the cycle of life in the forest. As the tree decays, it becomes a wildlife sanctuary and a food producer. Eventually it returns to the soil, nourishing the plants around it.

Fossil Rocks

Look closely for reminders of the earth's prehistoric days. A shallow sea teeming with marine life once covered this land. The fossil remains of the small animals which lived in these waters can often be found in sedimentary rock.

Ephemeral Streams

The trail is cut in places-by wet weather streams. They run with water only when filled by rains. The term "ephemeral" is appropriate for these short-lived streams. It is derived from the Greek language and means "lasting but a day."

Den Trees

Wild animals depend on hollow trees for food and protection. The trees provide protection from the weather and animal predators. The insects feeding on the decaying trees are ready food for small animals living there.

Lichen Rocks

Notice the small plants spreading across some rocks. Called lichen, they are really two organisms, an algae and a fungus, living together in a food-getting relationship which benefits both. This relationship is known as mutualism.

Fern and Moss Banks

Ferns and moss grow in abundance in damp, shaded environments. This vegetation is a very effective ground cover, keeping nature in place by preventing erosion.

Gall Tree

Nature is not always beautiful. The thick growths on some trees are called galls. These malformations can be caused by a fungus or bacteria and sometimes they appear for unknown reasons.

Cedar Glades

Cedars 'struggle for survival on thin, rocky soil. They rarely become dominant in areas of rich soil because they are crowded out by hardwoods. This species establishes itself on adverse hardwood sites and hastens soil changes.

Limestone Bluffs

The wandering river carved out the craggy scenery which surrounds the lake. Before the river was controlled, it roamed back and forth, eroding the limestone bed. It eventually cut out a valley, leaving these high white bluffs which testify to the river's travels.

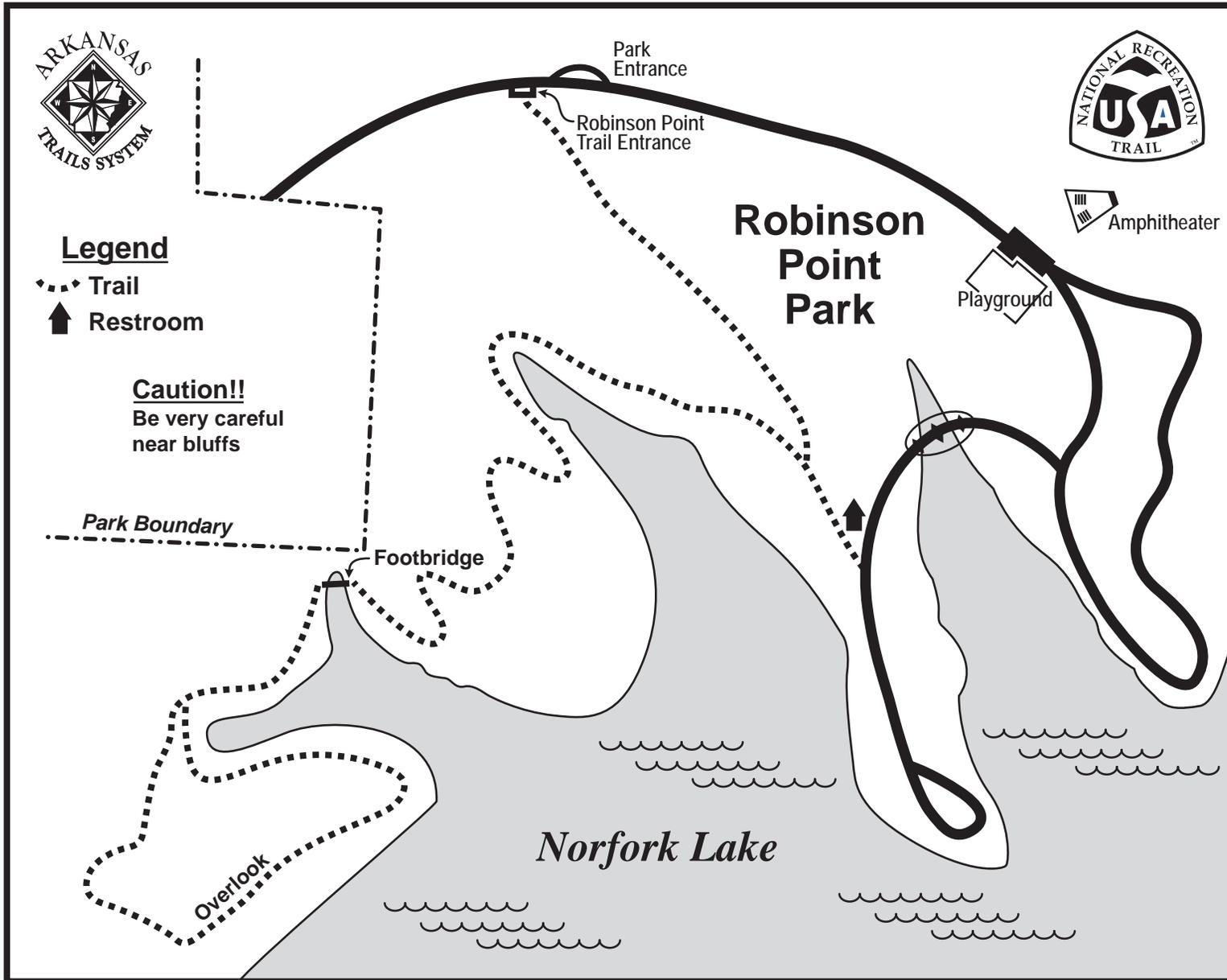
Robinson Point National Recreation Trail



(Drawing courtesy Missouri
Department of Conservation)



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Whatever the time of year, your camera should be considered standard equipment. Spring offers a profusion of flowering plants, shrubs and trees; fall has its dress of many colors; and the occasional snows of winter clothe the hills in a mantle of white. The often intense heat of summer suggests traveling early in the day and taking along plenty of drinking water. Climbing to a bluff high above Norfolk Lake, you will reach an overlook which provides an outstanding view. The trail has a length of three miles for the round trip and is rated moderately difficult. Please exercise extreme caution when on the trail. The steep terrain and loose footing require your attention to ensure a safe and enjoyable hike. For more information on trails and parks at Norfolk Lake, contact the Park Manager at the Mountain Home Project Office, (870) 425-2700.

Robinson Point Trail

The public lands and waters of the Norfolk Lake project have been preserved and are managed to provide many recreational opportunities, which include enjoying the exceptional scenery and

beauty of the Ozarks. During your visit to Robinson Point Park and Norfolk Lake, you are invited to hike the Robinson Point National Recreation Trail.



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