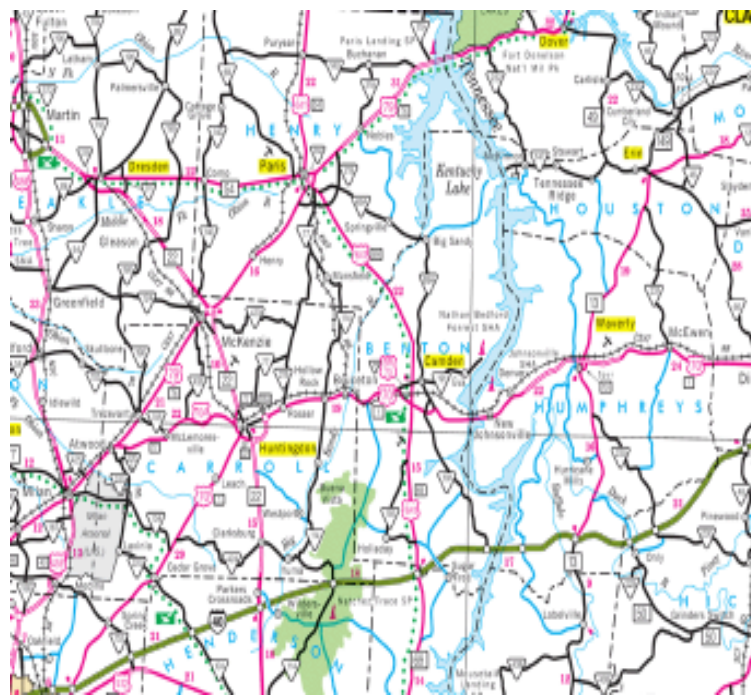


Nathan Bedford Forrest State Park

Background

This park was named for General Nathan Bedford Forrest when it opened in 1929. General Forrest was considered by many to be one of the most fearsome warriors in the Civil War. After destroying a federal munitions depot at the mouth of nearby Trace Creek, General Forrest's cavalry engaged Union gunboats from bluffs overlooking the Tennessee River. The defeat of the union gunboats marked the only time in recorded history that a cavalry unit defeated a naval force.



Camping

Nathan Bedford Forrest State Park has three campgrounds, two of which are primitive campgrounds. Happy Hollow has thirty-eight sites with tables, grills, water, and electrical hookups. The campground has a central bathhouse and a playground. One of the primitive campgrounds has water and a central restroom. The third campground is a primitive camping area for groups such as Scout troops. It has porta-johns and water is nearby. The park office is also close to this campground. Be careful while in this campground, as there may be a few locust trees with very sharp thorns.



Folklife Festival

The Tennessee River Folklife Center is located at Pilot Knob, the highest elevation in West Tennessee and a lookout point used by General Forrest during the Battle of New Johnsonville. The center features exhibits on the families and communities that lived on the shores of the Tennessee River as well as exhibits on logging practices, fishing, mussel diving, canning, religion, and river boats. Many of the exhibits feature recorded interviews, folk music, and old river stories. Once a year, the center holds the Folklife Festival. This festival features local performers and craftsmen who teach today's generation about the old ways.

Hiking

There are over twenty miles of hiking trails in Nathan Bedford Forrest State Park. This is a great way to see the park. The terrain varies somewhat, but it is not very difficult. This is an excellent park for younger Scouts to learn about the history of their nation while getting some experience hiking. The trails provide access to the museum and various overlooks of Kentucky Lake.



Nathan Bedford Forrest State Historic Area

(731) 584-6356

Nathan Bedford Forrest State Historic Area

1825 Pilot Knob Road

Eva, TN 38333