

CLARK CREEK NATURAL AREA



*Waterfalls?
In Mississippi?
Let's face it - the thought
isn't on the tip of everyones
tongue. And you don't just see
them everywhere.*

But there's one spot in the Magnolia State where you can experience them amid the colorful splendor of a mixed hardwood and pine forest. The land is open to the public year-round and awaits your visit. And you won't be sorry you went.

The Clark Creek Natural Area in southwestern Mississippi is one of the Magnolia State's most beautiful outdoor treasures. Comprising more than 700 acres, it is highlighted by some 50 waterfalls, ranging in size from 10 to more than 30 feet in height. Creation and protection of this fabulous area came about in 1978 from cooperation between the Mississippi Wildlife Heritage Committee, Wilkinson County, David Bramlette, International Paper Company and the Department of Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks.

Clark Creek's steeply sloping hills host a mixed hardwood and pine forest dominated by beech and magnolia. Here, visitors discover a variety of colorful migrating and resident birds; invertebrates; poisonous snakes; a rare land snail; the federally endangered Carolina magnolia vine; and a state endangered fish, the Southern red belly dace. This forested tract provides excellent habitat for another threatened species in Mississippi - the black bear.

Location

The Clark Creek Natural Area lies amid the lush vegetation of Wilkinson County southeast of the historic old town of Fort Adams and the Mississippi River, and 13 miles west of Woodville in the Pond Community. Natchez is about 40 miles north on U.S. 61, Jackson is 140 miles northeast, and Baton Rouge is about 44 miles south.

Directions

From Jackson, visitors should take Interstate 55 south to McComb. Proceed west on Highway 24/48 to Woodville. Continue through Woodville on Highway 24, and at the Clark Creek sign (near the outskirts of Woodville), turn left onto the Woodville-Pond road. Drive about 13 miles to the community of Pond, turn right and proceed across the cattle gap up toward the large, white building that serves as the Pond Store. The Clark Creek parking lot is about 200 yards down the road on the left.

Owned by Norman Chaffin, the Pond Store has a unique history and offers a small museum, food, soft drinks and other merchandise. Be sure and sign the guest register at the store.

To get to Clark Creek from Natchez, take U.S. 61 south to Woodville and turn right on Highway 24 and proceed as above. From Baton Rouge, take I-110 north to Highway 61 and from there north to Woodville. Turn left onto Highway 24 and proceed as above.

S. BEBERS

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Public Use

Bird-watching, hiking, photography and botanizing are available at Clark Creek on the established trails.

Hunting is not allowed on the property.

Camping and Motorized vehicles are not allowed. Due to the

area's small size and the highly erodible nature of the loess soil, only foot traffic is permitted. The

terrain at Clark Creek is physically demanding. Visitors should be medically fit before going afield. Since Clark

Creek is located in a somewhat remote part of the county, medical and other assistance can be a long way off. So, be careful and watch your footing on steep trails and around waterfalls.

There is no potable water or other amenities at Clark Creek. Users should plan to take plenty of water on any outing. It is recommended that visitors review a topographic map (USGS Fort Adams quadrangle) of the area before visiting and carry a compass on your outing.

Clark Creek's Big Trees

World Record Trees

- Roughleaf Dogwood
- Bigleaf Snowbell

State Record Trees

- Mexican Plum
- Devil's-Walkingstick



Best Times to Visit

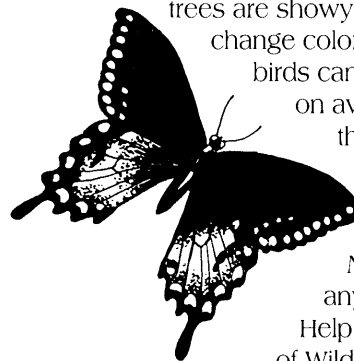
Clark Creek is beautiful and enjoyable year-round. April and May bring many

blooming wildflowers and a host of colorful neotropical migratory birds in migration, some of which will nest on the property. Large deciduous shade trees make the area comfortable on even the hottest summer days. Giant beech, sweetgum and hickory

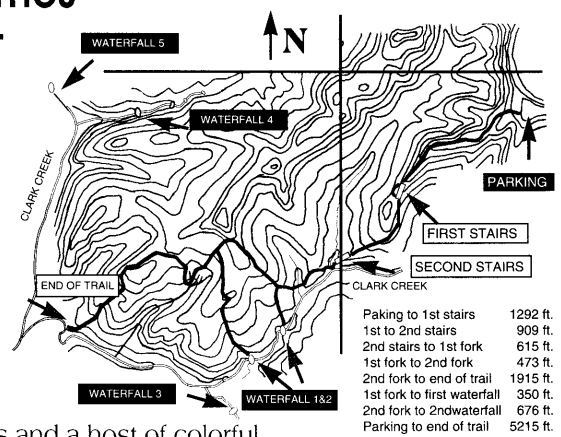
trees are showy in October as their leaves change colors. Numbers of migratory birds can be seen in the fall foraging on available insects and fruits as they prepare to head south for the winter.

Please help keep the Clark Creek Natural Area clean. Pack out any trash or disposable items.

Help the Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks maintain this unique area in a pristine condition for future generations of outdoor-loving visitors to enjoy.



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The Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks

The Mississippi Chapter of the Nature Conservancy contributed to this publication.