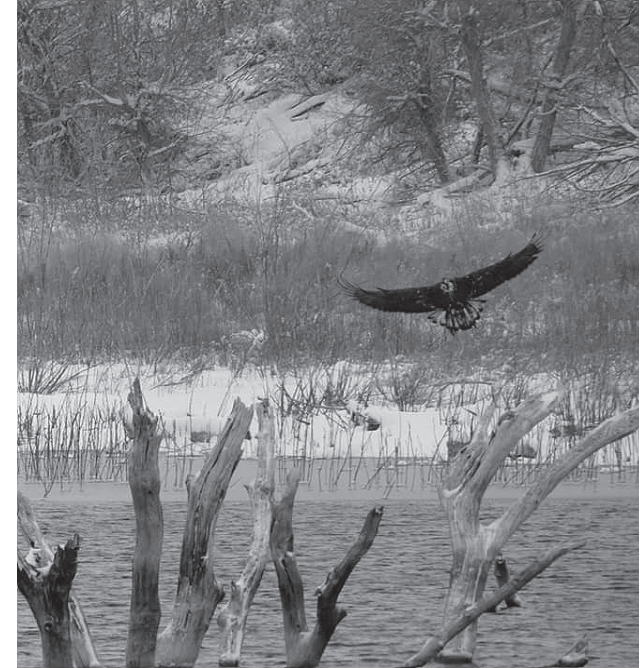
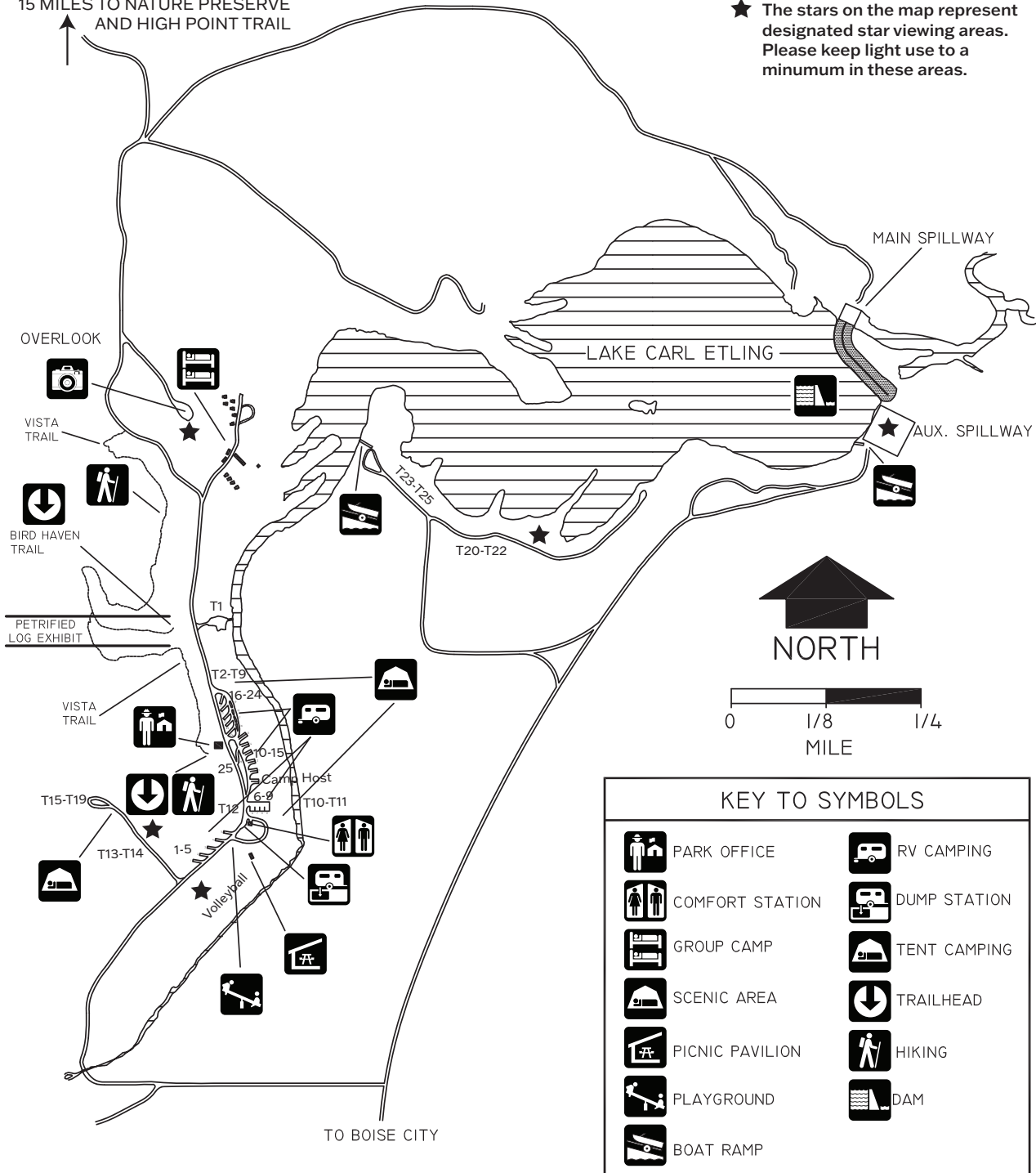


Online Reservations: TT001-TT025 = T1-T25 (tent Sites/No water or Electricity)
BM001-BM025 = 1-25 (RV Sites/Water and Electricity)

15 MILES TO NATURE PRESERVE
AND HIGH POINT TRAIL

★ The stars on the map represent designated star viewing areas. Please keep light use to a minimum in these areas.



About the Park

OKLAHOMA
STATE PARKS

Park Office and Visitor Center—The park office is located at Black Mesa State Park is on the west side of Lake Carl Etling. The office provides nature displays including a small number of native reptile and invertebrate species. At the office you can get assistance with reservations, purchase firewood, and find a small gift shop with a few camping essentials and Black Mesa branded items. Office hours are staff dependent but are generally between 8:30am and 4:30pm.

Regulations—Please obey the following regulations to help preserve the park resources and ensure the safety of all visitors.

- Park is closed from 11pm to 7am unless actively camping, or making use of designated stargazing areas (no camping in stargazing areas).
- Quiet hours are from 11pm to 7am
- Build fires only in metal fire rings or grills provided.
UNATTENDED FIRES ARE PROHIBITED.
- Burn Bans are strictly enforced, propane grills only.
- Keep vehicles on maintained roads or in parking areas.
DO NOT DRIVE ON GRASS.
- Keep pets on leash no longer than 6 feet.
- Clean up after your pets.
- Place litter in receptacles provided.
- Do not remove or cut living or dead trees.
- Follow all boating and fishing regulations.
- No swimming allowed in the lake.

Parking Pass— Black Mesa State Park is exempt from the Parking Pass program. Parking is free at Black Mesa State Park (all camping fees still apply)
There is no Day Use Fee at Black Mesa State Park.

Camping—All camping must be reserved online, with advanced reservations preferred. Camping may be reserved the day of your stay when you arrive at the park. Wifi is available at the park office as an open network. Please visit RV.OKPARKS.COM to make your reservation, click on Black Mesa State Park and select the dates and site that you would like to reserve. There is a two night minimum on weekends and holidays. Prices are dynamic and will vary depending on the night of your reservation. If you need assistance making a reservation office staff may be available between 8:30-4:30 at the office.

About the Park—Black Mesa is located in Oklahoma's panhandle along the tri-state border with Colorado and New Mexico. Black Mesa takes its name from the layer of black lava rock that coated the mesa about 30 million years ago.

Visitors can hike to the top of the plateau, Oklahoma's highest point at 4,973 feet above sea level, while in the Black Mesa Nature Preserve. The unique area marks the point where the Rocky Mountains meet the shortgrass prairie and many species are at the easternmost or westernmost point of their natural range.

Black Mesa State Park & Nature Preserve are a birder's paradise with golden eagles, scaled quail, black-billed magpies, and pinyon jays frequently spotted. Other wildlife in the area includes black bear, bobcat, mountain lion, mule deer, bighorn sheep and antelope.



Black Mesa Nature Preserve is open dawn to dusk only. Allow six hours to hike to the top of the mesa from the parking area and back. A waterless restroom is available at the nature preserve trailhead. **No camping is allowed in the nature preserve.** Hikers need to be prepared for high temperatures during the summer and are advised to bring plenty of water.

Located about 15 miles from the nature preserve, Black Mesa State Park is near Lake Carl Etling and offers RV campsites with water and electric hookups, tent campsites, picnic facilities, boat ramps, trout fishing in season, a playground, restrooms with showers and a group camp with 10 bunkhouses.

Black Mesa State Park boasts some of the darkest nighttime skies on publicly accessible land in the country. The state park is especially popular each August when the annual Perseid meteor shower is visible.

Wildfires are a real danger in Black Mesa State Park as this area receives the lowest rainfall totals of anywhere in Oklahoma. In 2018 much of the Nature Preserve burned and the high point trail was closed for a time due to the fire. With the high fire danger campers are encouraged to keep fires small and respect all county and park burn bans.

Star Gazing at Black Mesa State Park—Black Mesa State Park has some of the darkest night time skies in the country, and therefore stargazing is an important part of our visitors experience. We ask all visitors to try and be respectful of this and keep their light to a minimum at night. Designated star viewing areas have been created to accommodate those who want darker night time experiences than some of our campgrounds can provide. These areas are for stargazing only and are not to be used for camping. Access to the Nature Preserve is not allowed at night, please stay within the State Park boundaries to view the stars. The State Park has removed all street lights and reduced outdoor lighting to a minimum.

Dinosaur Tracks—The well known tracks are located on private property in Carrizo Creek just northeast of the Black Mesa Summit Trail. These large Dinosaur Tracks were left by an allosaurus. There is a small dirt road that forks right about 1/4 mile when heading north from the summit trail parking lot which will take you to an overlook of the dry creek, the tracks are in the creek. These tracks are in the Jurassic formation sandstone and are estimated to be around 150 million years old. The dinosaur that made the tracks was 25-30 feet long from head to tail and walked on its hind legs and did not drag its tail.



Within the park young Hadrosaur footprints have been identified at the **Overlook**. Become a paleontologist and see if you can identify any footprints on the rippled rocks encircled by the boulders. (Note: prints are very faint*) The particular environment this rock was formed in, is a near shore area of shallow water such as a lake or overflow pond formed after a flood. The wind acting on the water causes the water to flow back and forth. The ripples are called oscillation ripples because of the water's flow. The water stays in the pond for a short time and a dinosaur walked through the mud leaving tracks. Shortly after formation, the ripples and tracks would have been covered by additional mud or sediment preserving



*****Notice***** Park and facilities will remain open for RV and tent camping through the winter with the group camp closing from 11/1/20 through 5/1/21.