



ROCK ISLAND STATE PARK

Rock Island is an inviting community located between McMinnville and Sparta that offers a bounty of attractions for residents and visitors.

The beautiful Rock Island State Park is one of 54 state parks in Tennessee, with 883 acres nestled in the confluence of the Collins River and Caney Fork River.

The park draws approximately 600,000 visitors annually, is filled with waterfalls, and is great for hiking. Guided hikes with the park naturalist are available. Trail maps and park information may be accessed by the visitor center, the website

www.tnstatepark.com/parks/about/rock-island, or by calling 931-686-2471.

Park rangers patrol the park grounds day and night to ensure the safety of park visitors. They also enforce park regulations and state laws. They are state-certified police officers with many hours of additional training.

From Memorial Day through Labor Day, the park offers a weekly schedule of programs which include ranger-led hikes, animal programs, canoe floats, and much more.

The scenic beauty of this wooded park is dominated by the Great Falls of the Caney Fork

River, an imposing limestone gorge. It provides scenic overlooks, waterfalls and deep pools for fishing, rock hopping and exploring. There is a natural sand beach on Center Hill Reservoir.

Historic features of the park include a 19th century textile mill and one of Tennessee's early hydroelectric plants, now over 100 years old.

Boating and fishing are very popular. There is a free public launching ramp on Great Falls Lake. The Blue Hole lies adjacent to the park and is well known for great fishing. It's accessible via a boat launching ramp located in

the park. A valid Tennessee fishing license is required.

Rock Island State Park features 10 cabins for visitors. The three-bedroom, two-bath cabins are completely equipped for lodgers. Each cabin also features a fireplace with gas logs, TV, VCR, and charcoal grill. The cabins are open year round, with a no pets policy enforced.

Cabin reservations can be made up to a year in advance and can be done by calling 800-713-6065, or on the website.

Rock Island has 60 renovated campsites. Each site is equipped with wifi connections, 50-amp electrical and water hookups,

grill and picnic table. Three modern bathhouses (with hot-water showers and commodes) are located in the camping area. The campground is open year-round. Reservations can be made by calling the office or by going online. Tent camping is also allowed.

A visit to the Rock Island community is not complete without visiting the unique antique and gift shops, each featuring an eclectic display of items suitable for every taste. Restaurants include Cotten's Grill, located on the water, Bino's Market, Foglight Foodhouse, and Smoke & Bricks.