



The Discovery Room next door has no formal exhibits but that's how it was meant to be – strictly hands-on. This is where school groups, families and other visitors get a feel for wild things.

Remember to pick up a souvenir, field guide or handy gear at the gift shop.

Get outside

Wells Lake covers 12 acres and is the center's hub of outdoor fun and adventure. Canoes, kayaks, backpacks for watching wildlife, and rods and reels may be checked out at the front desk during certain periods.

A series of walking trails, boardwalks and bridges surrounds the lake. They're perfect for watching wildlife, including ducks, beavers, geese, great blue herons and raccoons. More than 140 species of birds have been spotted on the grounds. Grab a hiking guide at the front desk and hit the trail.

The nature center provides a world of programs – from staff assisted archery to canoeing and story time to critter feedings (ask for a program guide).

If you're a teacher and would like to schedule a program or visit for your class, ask for the Teacher's Program Guide or visit www.rivervalleynaturecenter.com. Volunteers are always needed – find out more by talking to a staff member or calling (479) 452-3993.



The Janet Huckabee Arkansas River Valley Nature Center rests on 170 acres typical of land between the Ozark and Ouachita mountains. This area east of Fort Smith once was part of Fort Chaffee – today it helps reveal the importance of habitat, wildlife and recreation to visitors.

Come on in

The story of the surrounding uplands and valley is told inside with a 1,700-gallon aquarium stocked with fish found in the Arkansas River. A life-sized post oak tree inhabited by a black bear spreads its branches to the ceiling. Below its canopy are northern bobwhite quail, mourning doves, squirrels and an interactive eastern wild turkey that can be "called" by visitors.

This room also holds a watchable wildlife corner with wraparound windows that overlook a bird-feeding area and a circulating "creek," plus an indoor interactive "fishing pond." A giant bluebird box is big enough for kids and adults to experience the inside of a bird's digs.

JANET HUCKABEE
Arkansas River Valley
 nature center



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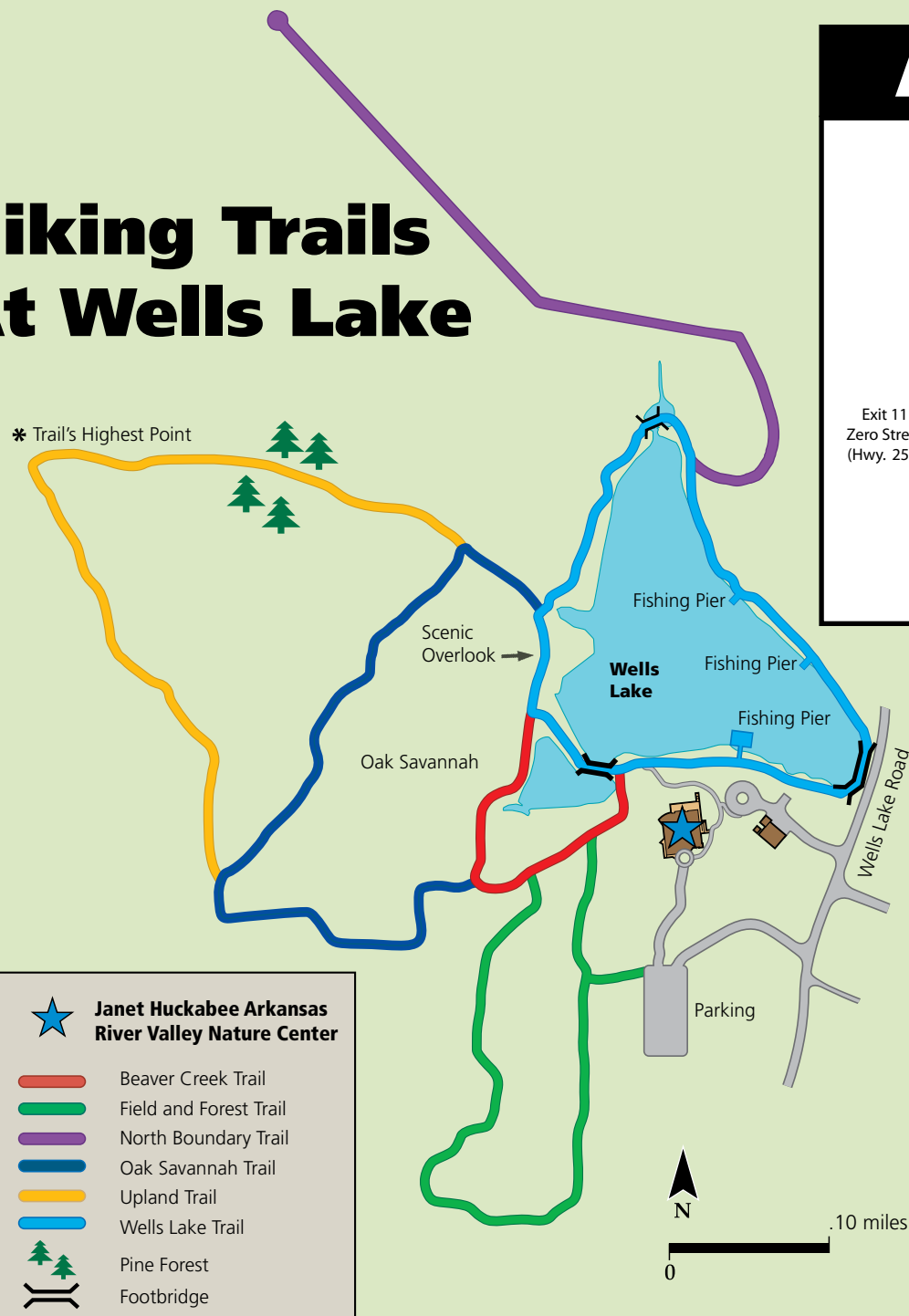
8300 Wells Lake Road
 Fort Smith, AR 72916
 (479) 452-3993
info@rivervalleynaturecenter.com
www.rivervalleynaturecenter.com
www.agfc.com

The Commission provides services on a nondiscriminatory basis and is an Equal Opportunity Employer.



F O R T S M I T H

Hiking Trails At Wells Lake



Area Overview



Check it out

Your nature center offers these items for checkout during your visit:

- Fishing poles and tackle
- Wildlife watching backpacks
- Binoculars
- Canoes and kayaks (call for times)

The multipurpose room may be reserved by educational or conservation groups, or for conservation purposes. Call to make reservations.

Across the state

This is one of four nature centers built across Arkansas with funds from the 1/8th-Cent Conservation Sales Tax:

- Gov. Mike Huckabee Delta Rivers Nature Center, Pine Bluff.
- Forrest L. Wood Crowley's Ridge Nature Center, Jonesboro.
- Witt Stephens Jr. Central Arkansas Nature Center, Little Rock.

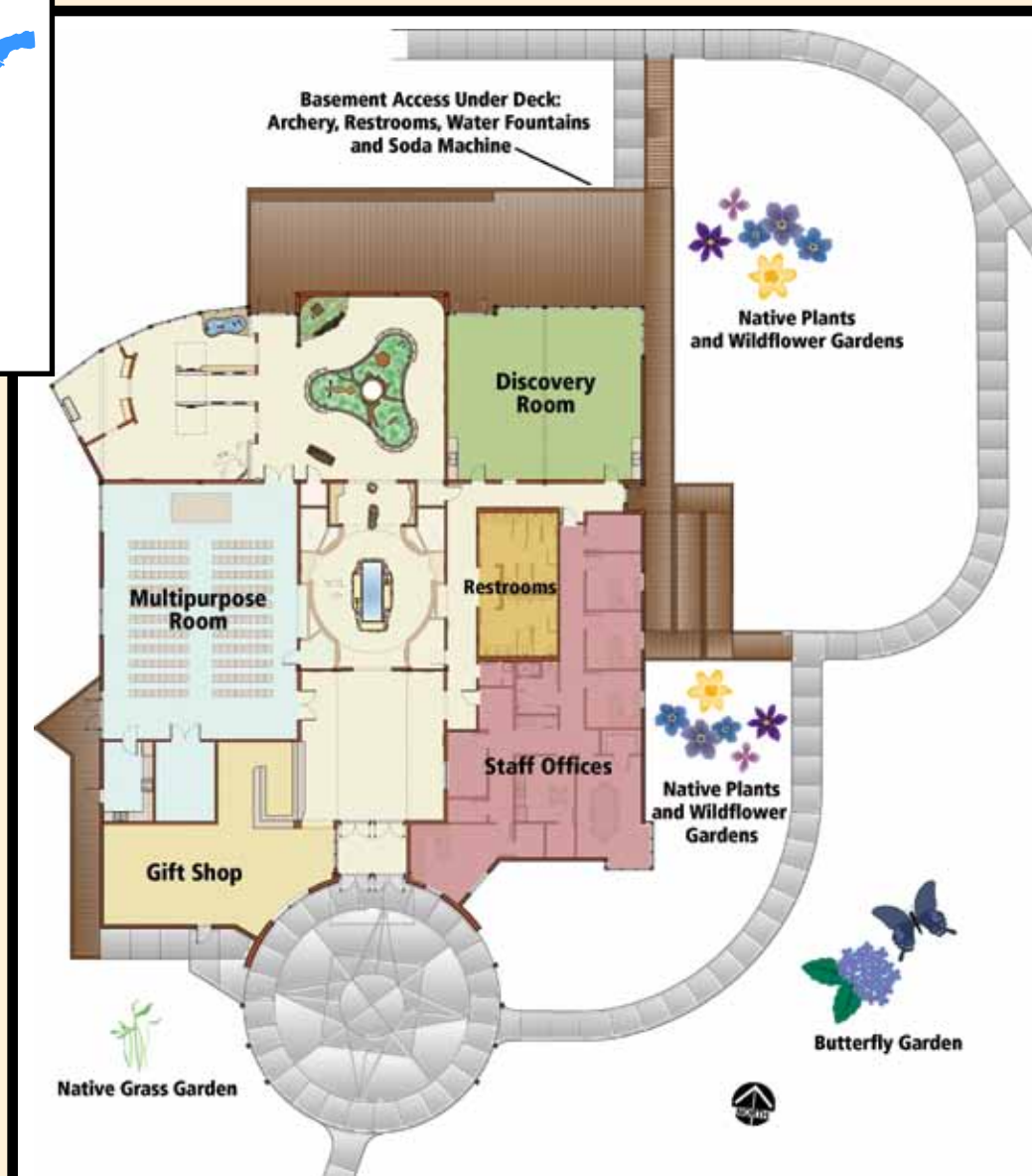
Directions

From I-40 take the Fort Smith/Van Buren exit (Exit 7) onto I-540. Go south 11 miles to Zero Street (Exit 11); turn left onto Zero Street, travel 4 miles and turn right on Veterans Avenue. Take a right on Frontier Boulevard at the first stop sign. Follow Frontier Boulevard, which turns into Wells Lake Road, 2 miles. The nature center and Wells Lake are on the right.

Open all year

8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Tuesday-Saturday
1 p.m.-5 p.m. Sunday

Closed Monday, Easter, Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Eve, Christmas Day and New Year's Day. Admission is free. Easily accessible to the mobility impaired.



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