



Natural Arch Scenic Area

Stearns Ranger District • Daniel Boone National Forest • Kentucky



Stearns District

3320 US 27 North
Whitley City, KY 42653
606-376-5323



Location

Take US 27 south from Somerset for 21 miles; turn right on KY 927 and follow the signs for 2 miles. From Whitley City, go north on US 27 for 5 miles; turn left on KY 927 and follow the signs for 2 miles.



Fees

A fee is required at the Natural Arch Scenic Area. You may pay at the site or buy a pass at a local vendor or at the Stearns office.



Parking

At the picnic shelters and amphitheater.



Open Dates

Open all year.



Operational Hours

6 a.m. to 10 p.m.



Picnic Tables

There are 8 picnic tables and 2 shelters with 6 tables each.



Water

Drinking water from faucets near shelters.



Restrooms

Accessible vault toilets

Natural Arch Scenic Area, located on Stearns District of the Daniel Boone National Forest, is a great place to enjoy the outdoors with your family and friends. The scenic attraction in this area is a spectacular sandstone arch that spans nearly 100 feet. You can see a panoramic view of the arch from several overlooks.

Picnic sites, group picnic shelters, playgrounds and hiking trails provide year-round enjoyment. Interpretive signs explain the natural and cultural resources in the area.

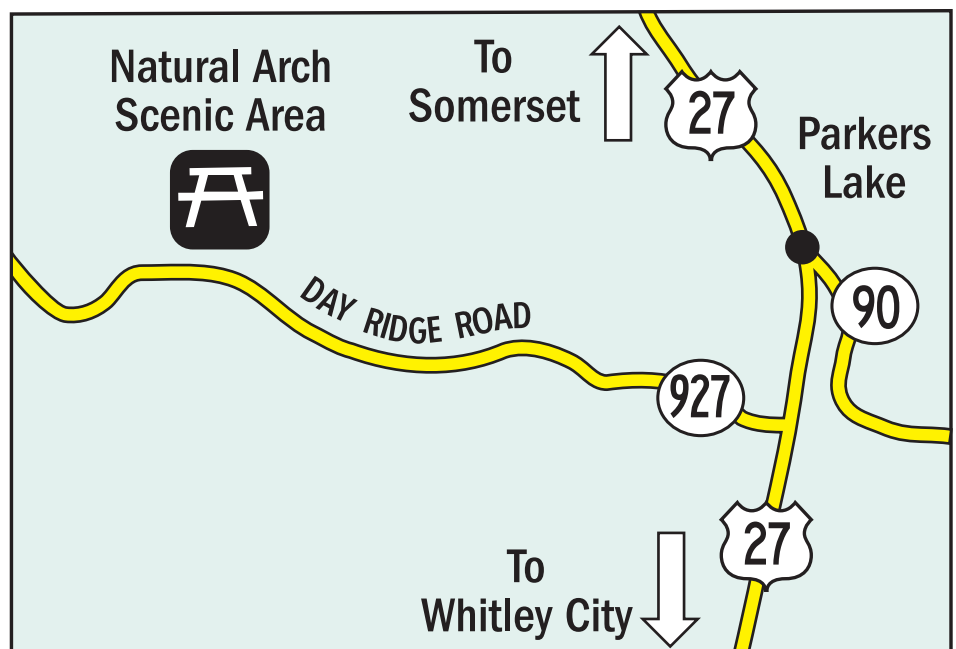
Picnic Areas: Eight picnic sites and two group picnic shelters with nearby grills, water fountains and toilets are available on a first-come, first-served basis.

Group Shelters: Each group shelter has six picnic tables, a large grill, a serving table, electricity and water to accommodate up to 36 people. The shelters may be rented up to one year in advance by contacting the Stearns District office at 606-376-5323.



You are responsible
for your own safety.

All outdoor activities have inherent risks and you may encounter a variety of unexpected and/or dangerous conditions. It is your responsibility to be informed and take precautions. Learn more at www.fs.usda.gov/r8.



Guides like this are
available at
www.fs.usda.gov/dbnf.
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U.S. Department of Agriculture - Forest Service
Southern Region - Daniel Boone National Forest
<http://www.fs.usda.gov/dbnf>

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Trash

Receptacles at shelters.



Horseshoes

2 pits



Playing field

At picnic area



Playground

Tether ball and swings.



Accessibility

Picnic sites, upper shelter, main overlook, amphitheater, restrooms, and most paths within the picnic area are accessible. Area trails do not meet accessibility standards for persons with disabilities.



Restrictions



Day use only. No camping or overnight use.



Trails are closed to motorized vehicles.



Consumption of alcohol and open containers of alcohol are prohibited.



Camping and firebuilding in rock shelters is prohibited.



No climbing, rappelling or ascending or descending from cliffs, arches or other rock formations at Natural Arch.

Playground

Swings, horseshoe pits and tether-ball poles are provided for your use. Additional play equipment can be set up in the playground area. Please remove your personal play equipment when leaving the site.

Nearby Trails

Natural Arch Trail #510, Buffalo Canyon Trail #508, Panoramic View Trail #528.

Quad: Nevelsville
Closest Town: Whitley City

Latitude: 36.840417
Longitude: -84.512351

Cultural History

Natural Arch and the surrounding forest are part of our nation's cultural heritage. This region was once the home and hunting grounds of prehistoric peoples. They left no written records, but evidence throughout this area provides many clues about how they lived.

To help preserve the area's cultural integrity, leave everything as you find it. Avoid moving rocks or disturbing the soil. Observe signs and obey the rules. The artifacts and cultural resources in this area are protected by state and federal laws.

Special Events

The amphitheater can seat a crowd of about 300 people in a rustic outdoor setting. The covered stage is equipped with electrical hookups for audio and visual equipment. Do not attach anything to the amphitheater with staples or nails.

Commercial events and groups of 75 people or more require a special-use permit from the U.S. Forest Service. These permits take time to process, so plan ahead when organizing an event that may require a permit.

Safety

Natural Arch Scenic Area is located in a secluded forest environment. Be aware of outdoor hazards, including poison ivy, venomous snakes and biting insects. Black bears have been sighted in this area. When hiking or leaving a picnic site, you must move foods to a closed vehicle for safe storage or dispose of in trash receptacles.



Reduce odors that attract bears

Unless cooking or eating, store your food inside a closed vehicle with a hard top, the trunk of a car or a bear-resistant container. In backcountry, hang food and trash from a tree, out of bear's reach.

Food and trash storage is mandatory on the Daniel Boone National Forest.



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