

The Bald Eagle: Our National Symbol

The area just below Dardanelle Lock and Dam, including Old Post Road Park, is a favorite winter feeding spot for large numbers of bald eagles. Eagles can be seen in the park most mornings between sunrise and 10 a.m. during December, January and February. Eagle sightings are most likely during extended periods of near-freezing weather on mornings when there is little or no wind. As many as 30 eagles have been counted between the dam and the Highway 7 bridge.

The bald eagle reaches maturity at around five years of age, when all the head and tail feathers have turned white. There is no difference in appearance between the male and female except that the females are usually slightly larger.

The bald eagle remains on the endangered species list. Killing an eagle can result in a \$10,000 fine and/or five years in prison. Please report any harassment of eagles to a park ranger.

Norristown

Old Post Road Park occupies the former site of Norristown, a once thriving river town and former seat of Pope County. The park derives its name from the fact that the first postal route in this part of Arkansas ran through Norristown. As early as 1834, a four-horse coach was used to carry mail through Norristown on the route between Little Rock and Dwight Mission, which was the Cherokee school west of present-day Russellville.

The Military Road from Little Rock to Fort Smith also passed through Norristown. Traffic on this road, which crossed the river by ferry, included military personnel, postal riders, wagons, and the famous Butterfield stagecoaches.

During its heyday, steamboats would stop at Norristown to deliver goods to local merchants and to take on wood for fuel and bales of cotton for shipment to New Orleans.

Park Facilities

Old Post Road Park is operated and maintained by the Corps of Engineers' Russellville Project Office, which is located in the park adjoining the Arkansas River Visitor Center.

Recreation facilities include campsites, picnic shelters, boat launching ramp, playground, baseball/softball field, football/soccer field, tennis courts, basketball courts, and the Visitor Center.

The picnic shelters, athletic fields and campsites are open year round. Shelters and athletic fields may be reserved in advance for a fee by calling or visiting the Russellville Project Office. Campsites also may be reserved in advance for a fee by calling or visiting the Russellville Project Office. Campsites also may be reserved for a fee from March 1st through October 31 by calling 1-877-444-6777 or visiting the Old Post Road Gatehouse. The remainder of the year will be on a first come, first served basis.

Old Post Road Gatehouse

Telephone: (479) 968-7962

Open: March 1 - October 31

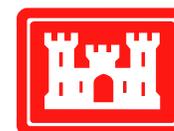
Russellville Project Office

Corps of Engineers

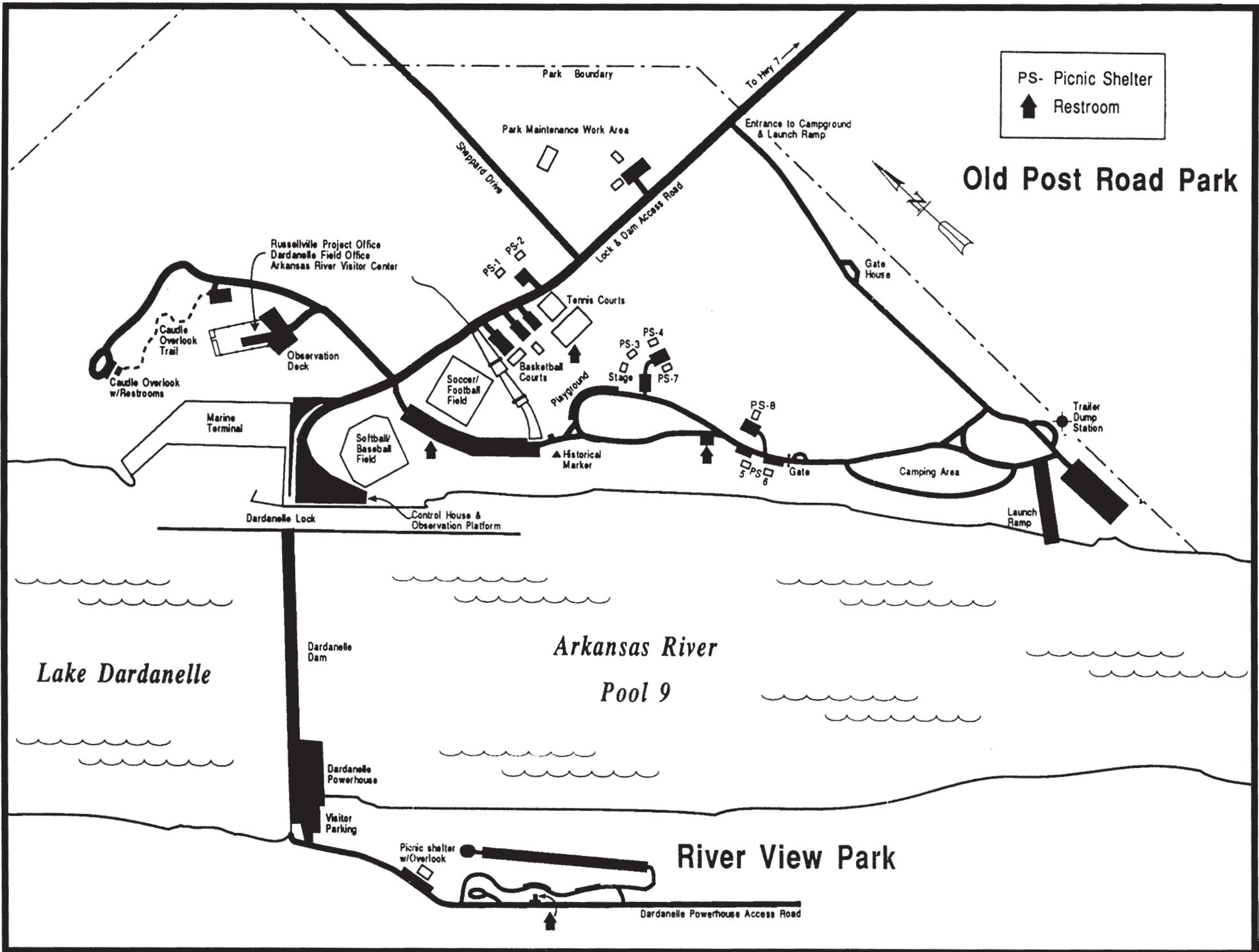
1598 Lock and Dam Road
Russellville, Arkansas 72802

Telephone: (479) 968-5008

Old Post Road Park



**US Army Corps
of Engineers®**
Little Rock District



Old Post Road Park

PS- Picnic Shelter

↑ Restroom

Lake Dardanelle

Arkansas River
Pool 9

River View Park