

Annual Programs

SPRING

Desert Alive!

2nd Saturday of April

Native Plant sale begins at 8 a.m. Then celebrate spring with a salute to the wildflowers, bees, butterflies, hummingbirds and other pollinators. Guided walks, talks and programs.

SUMMER

Music in the Park

3rd Saturday, June through August

Listen and dance to live music under the stars.

Mariachi Festival and Folklorico

3rd Saturday of September

Sponsored by First New Mexico Bank
Insurance provided by Lions Club

FALL

Star Parties

Call for schedule or visit www.nmparks.com.
Explore the darkest night skies you'll find
anywhere! Program provides telescopic views.

WINTER

Holiday Lights

2nd Saturday of December

1,000+ luminarias will light up the park. Sing carols, sip hot cocoa, and spend time with family and friends.

Visit our Web site

www.FriendsOfRockhound.org
for more information about events

Facts

Rockhound State Park and Spring Canyon

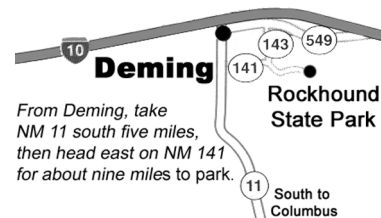
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*From Deming, take
NM 11 south five miles,
then head east on NM 141
for about nine miles to park.*

*Become a member of the "Friends"
of Rockhound State Park. Contact:*

Friends of Rockhound State Park

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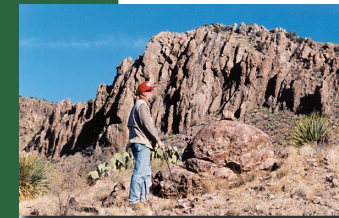
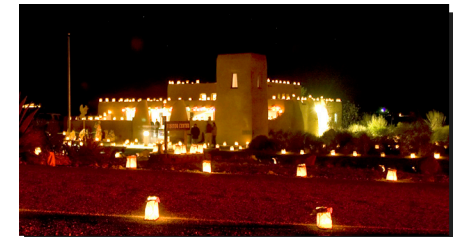
The mission of "Friends" is to promote,
preserve and protect the parks through
education and sharing.

"Friends" is a non-profit 501c3 Corporation.

**Printed by the Friends of
Rockhound State Park**

*Luminaria photo courtesy of Ron Wolfe.
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ROCKHOUND STATE PARK and Spring Canyon



**Energy, Minerals and
Natural Resources Department**



Rockhound State Park

Established because of its interesting geology, Rockhound State Park provides a variety of desert recreational opportunities. Mild winters make it a popular winter stopover with access to nearby public lands, historical places to visit, and community events year-round.

Nestled within the rugged Florida (*pronounced flo rita*) and Little Florida mountains, the park offers day-use activities as well as overnight camping facilities. Travelers on Interstate 10 will discover that Rockhound is a great place to visit over and over again.

The Campground

The campground is located at the foot of the Little Florida Mountains. It faces the southwest, and provides breathtaking views of Southern New Mexico sunsets.

It offers spacious primitive and developed campsites, restrooms and showers, a dump station, covered shelters and tables, picnic areas, a playground, hiking trails and gardens, all at very reasonable fees.

Juniper, mesquite, and other low bushes and trees provide little shade, but the campsites are spacious.

Spring Canyon

The park has two sections. About three miles south of Rockhound is a day-use area called Spring Canyon. With elevations that range up to 7,800 feet, the Florida Mountains of Spring Canyon are more rugged than the Rockhound section of the park.

Picnic sites and hiking on animal-formed trails are the most popular activities at Spring Canyon. There is a good possibility of seeing wildlife here, particularly Persian Ibex, a type of goat that was imported into this area in 1976.

Flora and Fauna

Within the campground are two unique gardens: a botanical garden containing numerous species of cacti and other desert plants; and a native garden, displaying the relationship between the plants and animals of the Chihuahuan Desert, the largest desert in North America.

An abundant number of desert wild flowers and blooming cactus explode in spring and were the inspiration behind the name that early Spanish explorers gave these mountains, *Sierra Floridas*, or flowering mountains.

Rocks O' Plenty

Located at the rugged slopes of the Little Florida Mountains, Rockhound State Park offers rockhounds a wonderful experience.

The Little Florida's are an extrusive formation, made mostly of volcanic mud called rhyolite.

Silica minerals, quartz crystals, chalcedony, blue agate, and white and pink common opal may be found within the park area. Many colors of jasper are also here for the hunting.

In addition, nodules, known as thunder eggs or geodes, filled with either agate or common crystals, have also been found.

Hiking Trails

The hiking trails at the park provide visitors with climbs of varying degrees of difficulty and breathtaking views. A 1.2-mile loop trail provides access to rock collecting areas, plus adjacent state and federal lands that are open to the public. Reaching the top, visitors can survey the 7,000-foot peaks of the Florida Mountains up close. Turquoise is mined in the Burro Mountains to the northeast.



Visitor Center

The eye-catching, state-of-the-art visitor center has welcomed visitors to Rockhound State Park since it opened its doors in 2001.

Made of adobe and styled to fit perfectly into the surrounding desert environment, the center has exhibits about historical Apache groups and Buffalo Soldiers who lived in the area. Other exhibits provide information about the local geology, flora and fauna of the park and surrounding area.

Staffed by park rangers and volunteers, visitors can get information about the park, all of its facilities and how to get the most enjoyment out of their visit. Admission fees to all facilities will be collected here. New Mexico State Parks also offers annual permits for day-use and camping.

The visitor center includes restrooms, water fountains, snack machines and souvenirs. The center is open year-round from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

How to Get Here

Deming, New Mexico, is located along Interstate 10, exits 81, 82 and 85, in southwest New Mexico. From Deming, take State Highway 11 south for 5 miles. Turn east on State Highway 141 and drive about 9 miles.

Other Area Attractions

Located near the U.S./Mexican border, Rockhound can be your starting point to many adventures outside of the park. Ask park rangers for more information about: Deming-Luna Mimbres Museum; Old Customs House; Historic Deming Walking Tour; Columbus, N.M. and Pancho Villa State Park and Exhibit Hall; Palomas, Mexico; Shakespeare Ghost Town; City of Rocks State Park; Gila Cliff Dwellings; The Catwalk; and year-round local community events.