

Several projects to make hollow more accessible

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ARKANSAS DEMOCRAT-GAZETTE

One of Arkansas' most legendary hollows won't be quite so sleepy this spring.

Van Winkle Hollow, located on Arkansas 12 about 10 miles east of Rogers, will undergo a makeover to make it easier for tourists to see the ruins of a steam-powered lumber empire that played a major role in the Arkansas history. The Van Winkle Hollow construction is one of four projects under way to make the newly created Hobbs State Park-Conservation Area more accessible.

Construction crews are building a new maintenance facility to help rangers keep the park clean, and a new visitor center that will include class-

rooms and a nature lab, said Hobbs State Park Interpretive Naturalist Steve Chyrchel. Crews also will carve out a new 17-mile nature hiking trail in the park.

The Van Winkle Hollow improvements include enlarging a parking lot, burrowing a pedestrian tunnel under the highway, and installing a special filtration system to make sure runoff from the lot doesn't create pollution.

Chyrchel said the existing lot is too small to allow buses or trailers to turn around and has no room for restrooms.

The new parking lot will have room for two buses or large recreational vehicles and 18 passenger cars. Clay dug from

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