

present

bouldering in

# DeSoto State Park

([www.desotostatepark.com](http://www.desotostatepark.com))

Unveiling another southern sandstone gem

a guide by

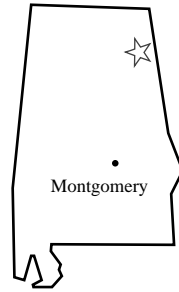
Lee Means

- 1. **Project**  F  R  
Hug up arete and hit slopers.
- 2. **No Preservatives**  F  R  
Optional SDS, but has chossy feet. Go out right to side pull. Go straight up water groove.
- 3. **Project**  F  R  
SDS- under roof. Go out to sloper, trend left.
- 4. **Project**  F  R  
SDS- left under roof, come out to jug and finish same as #3.

- 5. **Two-ball Corner Pocket**  F  R  
Use pockets around side and hit slopy rail with left hand.
- 6. **Project**  F  R  
Go up blunt arete via slopers.
- 7. **The Lotus**  F  R  
Start on obvious shelf. go up via side pulls.
- 8. **Knife In Sock**  F  R  
SDS- go out and up finger crack.
- 9. **Scottish Mafia**  F  R  
(can SDS, but hey, some SDS just simply suck) Start on two mid level holds and step on. Big left up to slanted shelf. Trend right.
- 10. **Project**  F  R  
SDS- Go up and hit right side pull.
- 11. **V-diculous**  F  R  
Start on eye level crimper, step up mantle out.
- 12. **Project**  F  R  
Go up awkward small holds
- 13. **Feelin' Like a Gypsy**  F  R  
Go up via bad slopers and side pulls.

# DeSoto State Park, Alabama

Officially opened in the summer of 2002, before, DeSoto State Park saw only a minute amount of traffic from climbers passing through on their way in/out of Little River Canyon. It is unknown just where John Gill himself climbed in the park during his Ft. Payne stay. Park Ranger Ken Thomas saw the potential to open the park up to the bouldering community and approached local Birmingham climbers Brandon Miller and Lee Means with the developing proposition. Eager to get started Means spent an entire week living in the park and developing a number of the boulder field's problems during his stay. The Park now boasts home to its own classics. With its incredible slopers, slabs, roofs and its close distance to other excellent climbing destinations as well as magnificent sites, DeSoto State Park is definitely worth a visit.



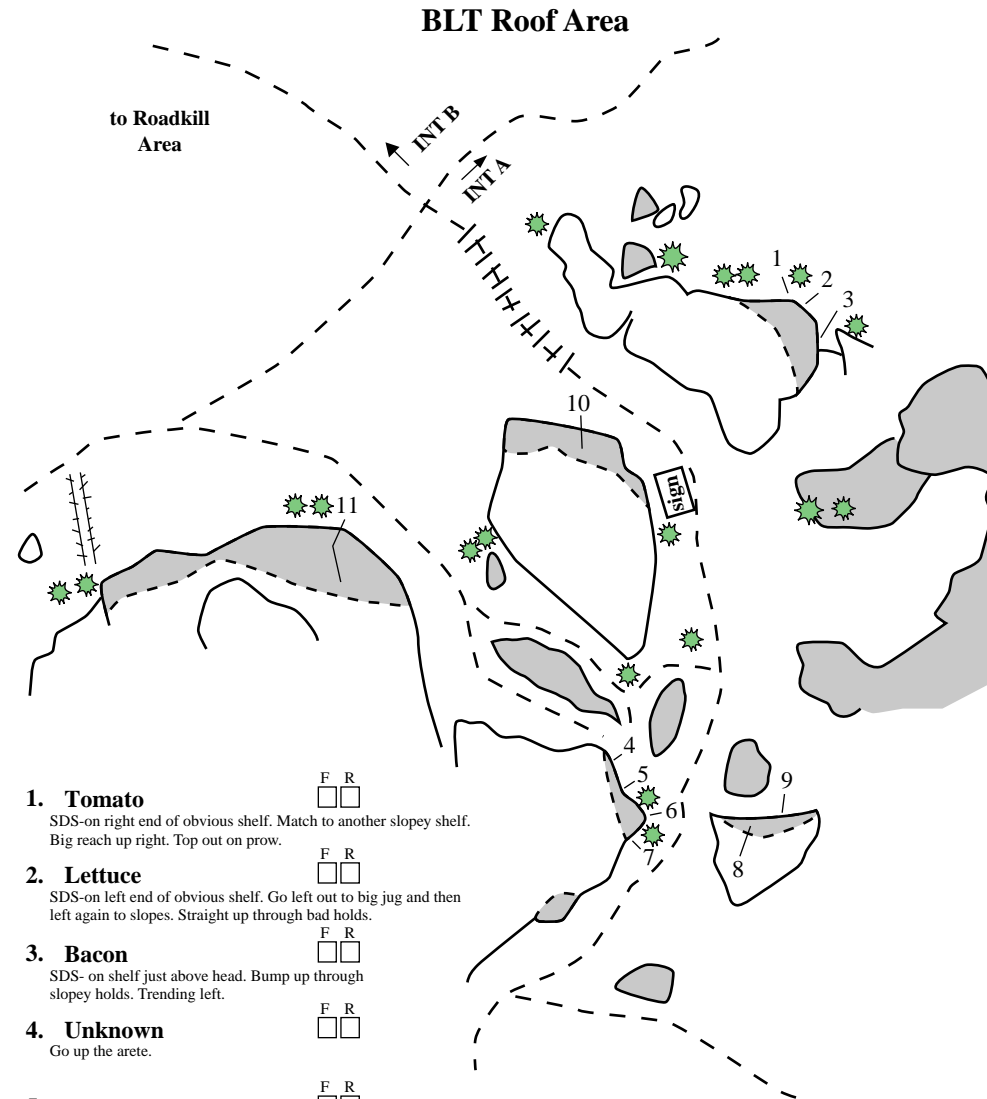
**How to get there:** From Chattanooga get on I-20 heading south towards I-59. From I-59 get off at the Ft. Payne exit 218 and take a left under the bridge. Go as you would heading towards LRC by going up the mountain via Ala. 35, at the caution light take a left onto Co. Rd. 89 (Desoto Pkwy.) and this road will go directly into the park. From Birmingham take I-59 north as you would going towards Sand Rock, but get off on the next exit (218), then follow the directions above.

Check out the overview map on pages 6 & 7 to find each bouldering areas.

**When:** As with any climbing in the southeast, the best times to go are during the cooler months, but with all of the great swimming holes in the Canyon any time would be worth the trip.

**Eat:** At the bottom of the mountain in Ft. Payne you will be able to find everything you need in the ways of basic supplies. There is a Save-A-Lot grocery store that has some great low prices. The Park also has a restaurant with breakfast, lunch and dinner menus.

**Sleep:** The best place to stay is the Park itself. There are primitive campgrounds (\$8.00 a day for a single site) including outhouses and a water pump. The primitive campground is also the home to a small bluff in the back of the campground which has some nice things to warm up on. There are also more expensive options located in the Park including a motel and cabins. For more information or reservations call 1-800-ALA-PARK or visit the website ([www.desotostatepark.com](http://www.desotostatepark.com)).



## 1. Tomato

SDS-on right end of obvious shelf. Match to another slopy shelf. Big reach up right. Top out on prow.



## 2. Lettuce

SDS-on left end of obvious shelf. Go left out to big jug and then left again to slopes. Straight up through bad holds.



## 3. Bacon

SDS- on shelf just above head. Bump up through slopy holds. Trending left.



## 4. Unknown

Go up the arete.



## 5a. Unknown

Start on eye level crimps, up right to shelf. (Note: there are a couple of variations on this face).



## 5b. Unnamed SDS

SDS - Start on crimps, then up to left crimp. Finish same as 5a.



## 6. "Between the Trees"

SDS-go out between the trees via jugs.



## 7. Dirty South

SDS-matched on flake under roof. Go out and up along the tree. (look for under clings).



## 8. Wasp Nest Invader

SDS - Go up via left incut, big move to right jug, up to left jug. Go up via left crimper and huge juggy bulge.



## 9. Officially Summer

Start high left on unusual hold and right on jug. Come out to slopy lip and big move/ toss up to top. Mantle out. (Note: there are a couple of variations to the left of this problem).



## 10. project

project



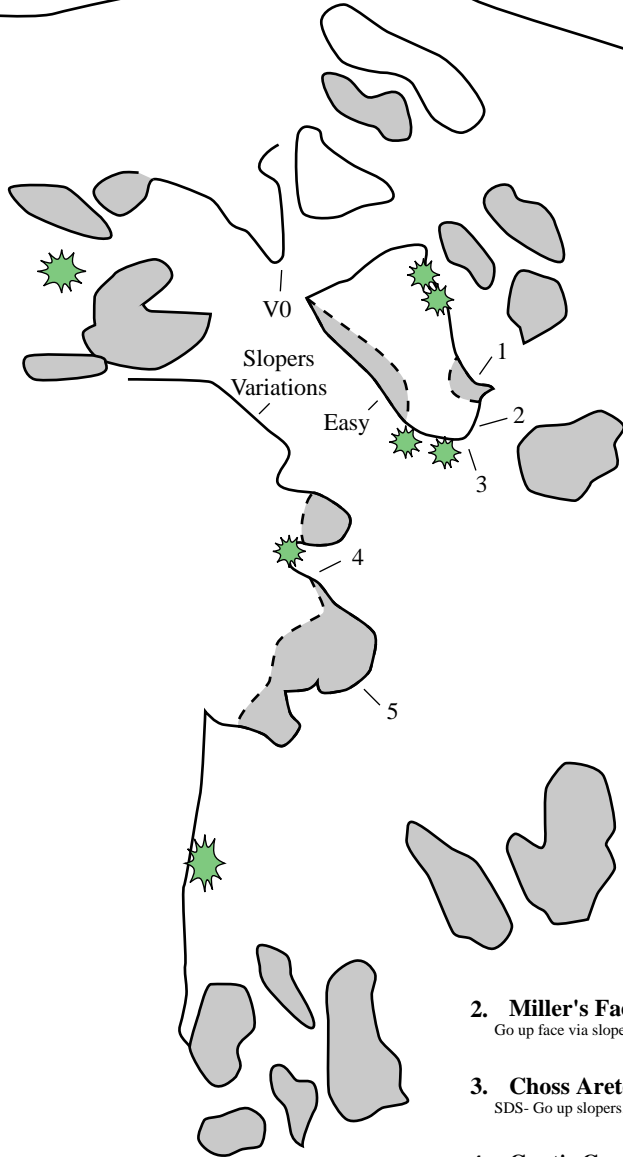
## 11. Table Top

Come out along obvious crack and end on cave lip.



# Orphan Bluff Area

Old Fire Road



**1. Lady Pacman**  
Go up and over small roof.



**2. Miller's Face**  
Go up face via slopy holds.



**3. Choss Arete**  
SDS- Go up slopers.



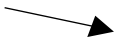
**4. Goat's Gruff**  
Start on undercling. Go up using sidepull and slopers.



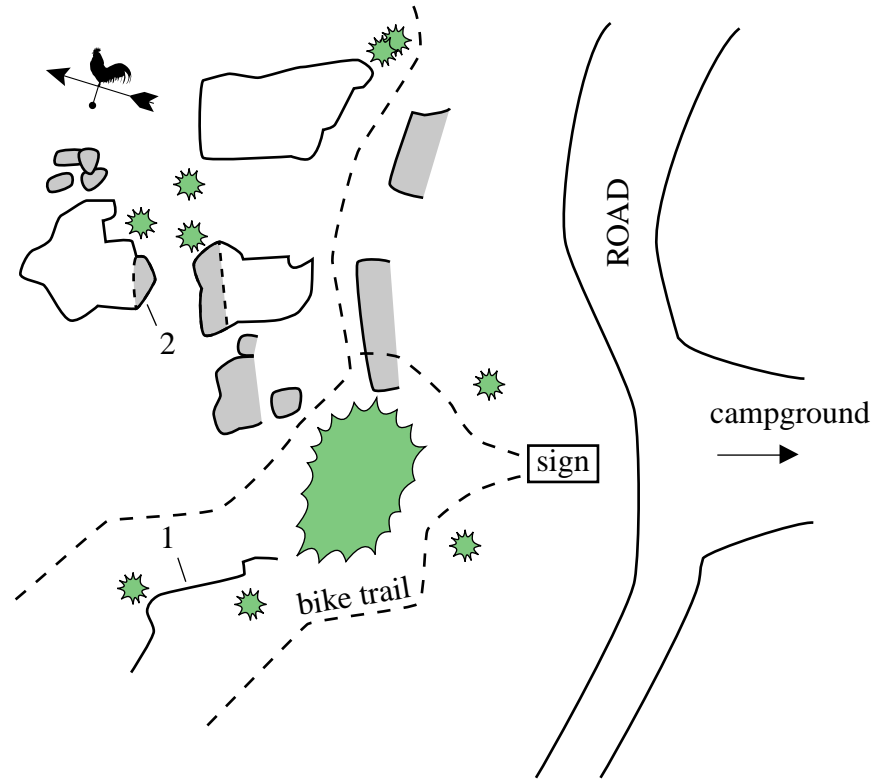
**5. The Spine**  
Start under roof. Go out left to jug and out to pocket system.



to Little  
Needle Eye  
Rock Area



# Sasquatch Area 1



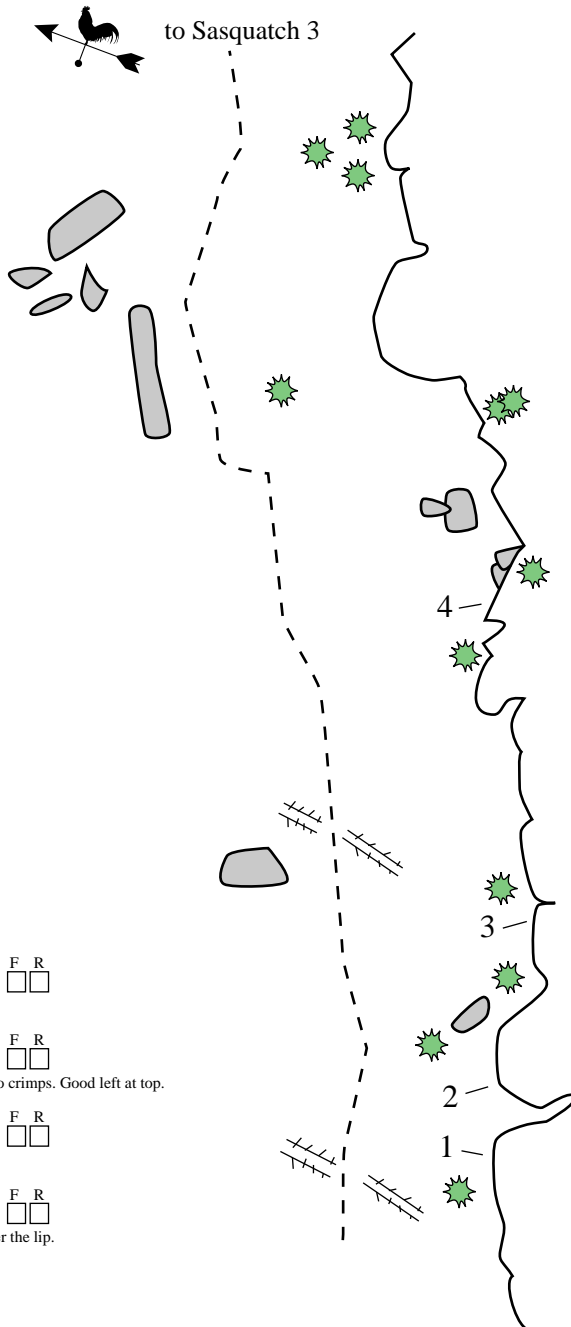
**1. Unnamed**  
Go up the slab.



**2. Just A Hunch**  
SDS - Go out and over.



## Sasquatch Area 2

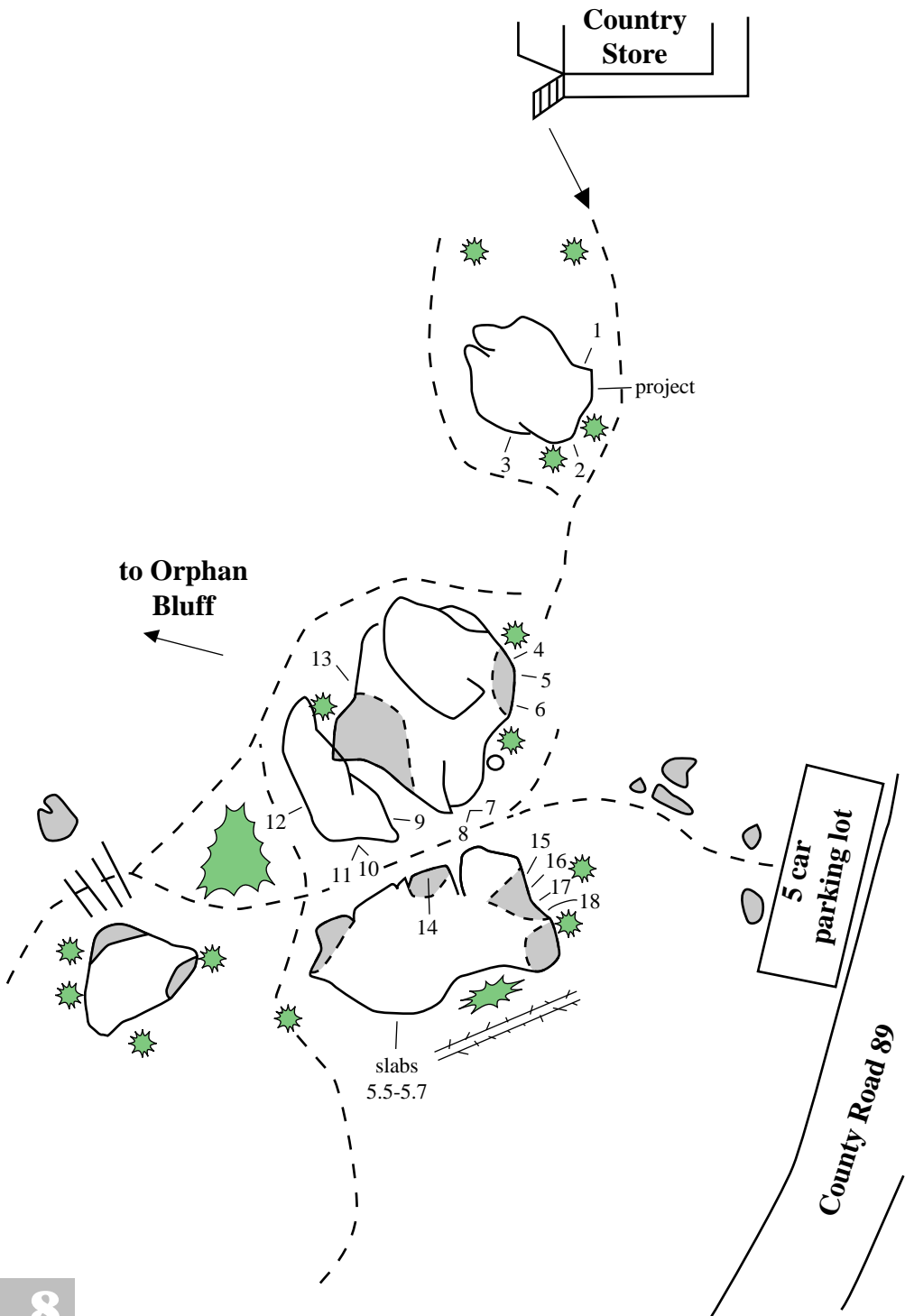


1. **project** F R  
□ □  
Description
2. **Dixie-Lee-Delight** F R  
□ □  
SDS - Bump up to better holds then up to crimps. Good left at top.
3. **Tall Boy** F R  
□ □  
Go up the face via good holds.
4. **Moby's Dick** F R  
□ □  
Start on lower slopy holds, work up over the lip.

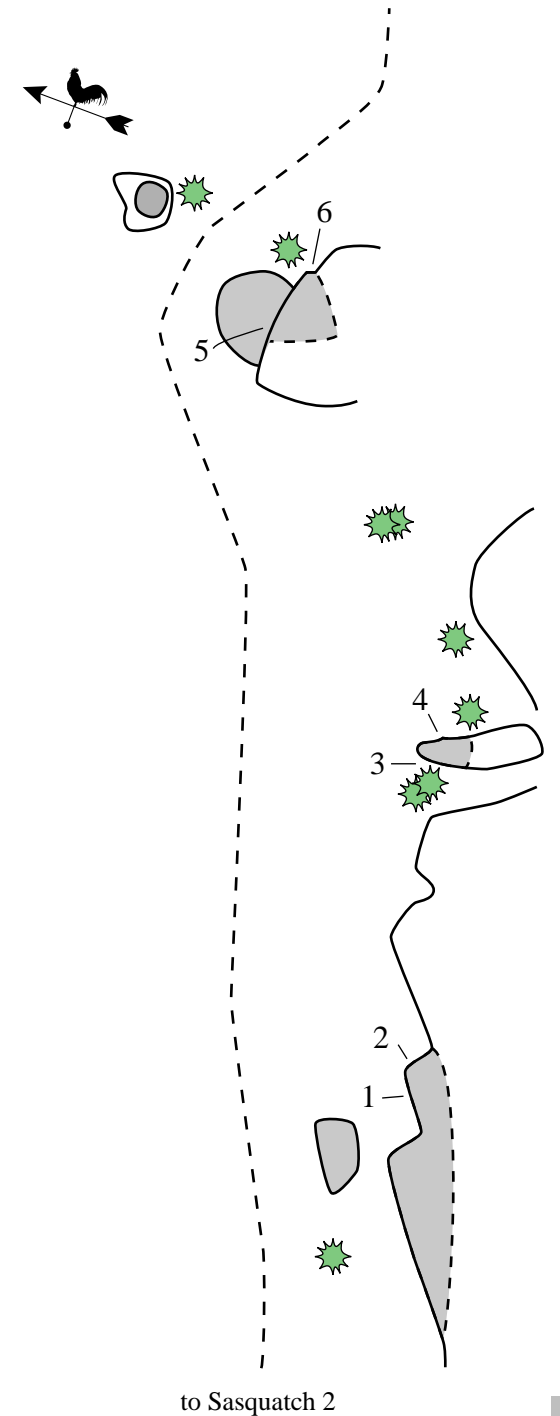
## Little Needle Eye Rock Area

1. **Hot Stepper** F R  
□ □  
Use good left slopers. Step up on shelf.
2. **Warts and All** F R  
□ □  
Hug starting slopers. Go up through slopers.
3. **Gorilla** F R  
□ □  
Hug starting slopers. Pop right up to dish, go up slopers.  
NOTE: There are many slab variations and easier problems around the back of this boulder including the rail slab to the left of Gorilla.
4. **The Grasshopper Incident** F R  
□ □  
SDS-matched on flake. Move out right to crimper on lip, then bump right to sloper. From big dish sloper go up left to side pull.
5. **McLeod's Problem** F R  
□ □  
SDS-matched on lower left flake. Trend left, go up slopers.
6. **Worms and Things** F R  
□ □  
SDS- go up right to shelf, then left to sloper.
7. **Unfriendlies Right** F R  
□ □  
SDS - Go out right to dishes.
8. **Unfriendlies Left** F R  
□ □  
SDS - Go left to dishes.
9. **Unnamed Dyno** F R  
□ □  
From rail dyno to sloper.
10. **"T-Crack Right"** F R  
□ □  
Start in crack, go out and up right.
11. **"T-Crack Left"** F R  
□ □  
Start in crack, go out and up left.
12. **"Off width"** F R  
□ □  
Start matched and go out to jug and up crack.
13. **Catwalk** F R  
□ □  
Start on eye level jug. Go up face via shelf. Go over roof. Walk up slab.
14. **"Unknown Roof"** F R  
□ □  
Go up slab and over roof. Walk down right side.
15. **Jason's Roof** F R  
□ □  
SDS- in right most part of cave. Come out and up the crack. Finish on any of the three triangular jugs.
16. **Variation 2** F R  
□ □  
Start right in back-cut hold. Go out and up sharp prow via jugs.
17. **Variation 3** F R  
□ □  
Start on left obvious hold under roof and right on jug. Move up right to next jug, bump left out to most comfortable of the horrible holds. Bump right to next jug. And up through the cut out sloper.
18. **Emergency Exit** F R  
□ □  
Start just right of tree on left and right crimps. Go out right to jug, up left via slopy rail, up right via opposite slopy rail.

**Little Needle Eye  
Rock Area**



**Sasquatch Area 3**

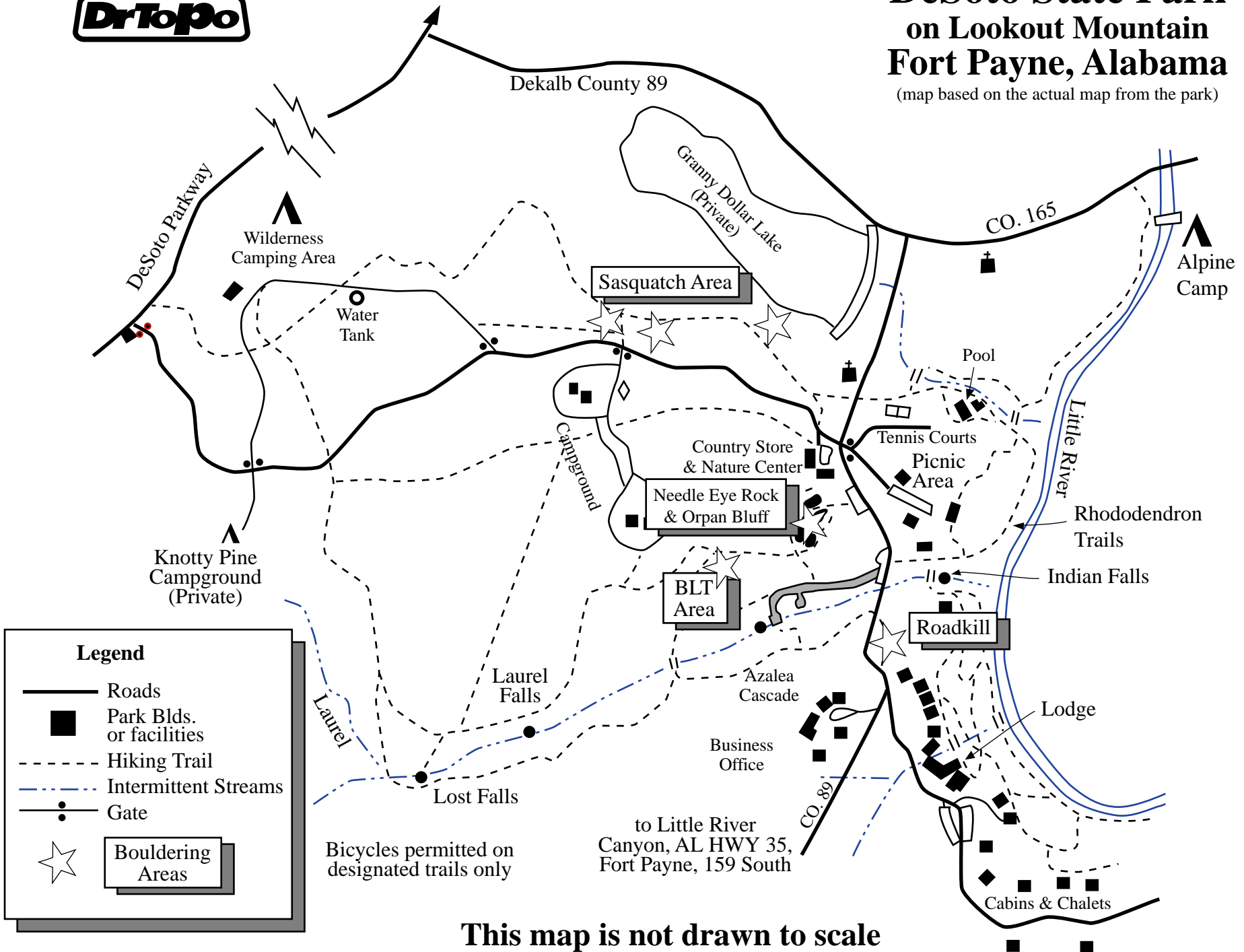


All these are still projects.



# DeSoto State Park on Lookout Mountain Fort Payne, Alabama

(map based on the actual map from the park)



to Little River Canyon, AL HWY 35, Fort Payne, 159 South

**This map is not drawn to scale**