While you visit - things to know

Hours: Open sunrise to sunset year-round for hiking, mountain biking, horseback riding, picnicking and historic mine viewing.

Trails: Five miles of trails with elevations ranging from 5.800-6.100 feet.

Office: 37 Main Street, southwest of the railroad crossing in the village of Cerrillos.

Fees: Daily entrance fee is \$5 per vehicle. Exact change cash or check. Use the permit envelopes to deposit your fee, and place the white portion on your vehicle.

A day-use pass good for a full year at 35 New Mexico State Parks is \$40 and available from any Ranger.

Please:

- Rock collecting and metal detecting are not allowed in this State Park.
- Keep pets leashed.
- Stay on the trails.
- Pack litter out.
- X Respect private property boundaries.
- Yield to horseback riders.

37 Main Street • PO Box 460 Cerrillos, NM 87010 1-505-474-0196



From Magma to Mines

Thirty-four million years ago, magma oozed up through the earth's crust into sediments deposited by an ancient inland sea. Heat from the magma and acidic groundwater dissolved minerals that eventually formed into veins of galena, manganese, zinc, copper, iron and turquoise.

Over the next 30 million years, erosion shaved off some 5,000 feet of igneous material, leaving the mineral deposits near the surface and the interior plumbing of the volcano exposed.

About 900 AD, native peoples started mining turquoise north of here that they prized for its blue-green color. Galena, a lead-silver sulfide, became popular throughout the region as a pottery glaze starting about 1300 AD. Spanish colonists also valued galena for its silver and used the lead for munitions.

The mines in the park are from a brief mining boom in the late 1800s. Prospectors endured a hard life, but the little money made went mostly to speculators. The boom ended with stricter mining laws in 1884.



