



Capitol Reef National Park Field Station Open House

October 16, 2008

The Capitol Reef National Park Field Station

The Capitol Reef National Park Field Station supports the National Park Service mission of protecting the Park so that all may experience our heritage. Using the Field Station for educational and research programs will provide opportunities for environmental education, experiential learning and interpretation at a permanent facility.

A General Agreement between Capitol Reef National Park and Utah Valley University was initiated in 2000 with the goal of developing a

classroom and teaching facility that could be used by other educational organizations and institutions as well.

The Field Station will also benefit park resources by providing students with a heightened awareness of desert ecology. The facility will complement the Park's educational outreach initiatives through activities, programs, media, and services that encourage student understanding of the geologic, natural, and cultural aspects of the region.

Open House

Visitors are invited to an Open House between 2:00 and 5:00 PM. A free shuttle bus will carry visitors from the Cal Pendleton Field in the Fruita area to the Field Station (refer to map on back), where they may

tour the facility. National Park Rangers and Utah Valley University staff will be available on-site to explain special features of the Field Station and to answer questions.

Facility Features

The environmentally intelligent Field Station includes a classroom, meeting room, caretaker residence, multi-room dormitory accomodating up to 24 people, and a utility building. The facility is designed to blend with the natural setting and incorporates energy efficient features.

A hybrid power system of solar panels backed up by a propane generator provides electricity.

Structures are oriented to maximize use of sunlight for natural lighting and heating. Building overhangs are

optimally positioned for summer shade and winter sunlight. Passive solar walls absorb heat during the day and release warmth to interior spaces at night. Natural convection currents transport excess heat upwards through cooling towers drawing cooler air inside below.

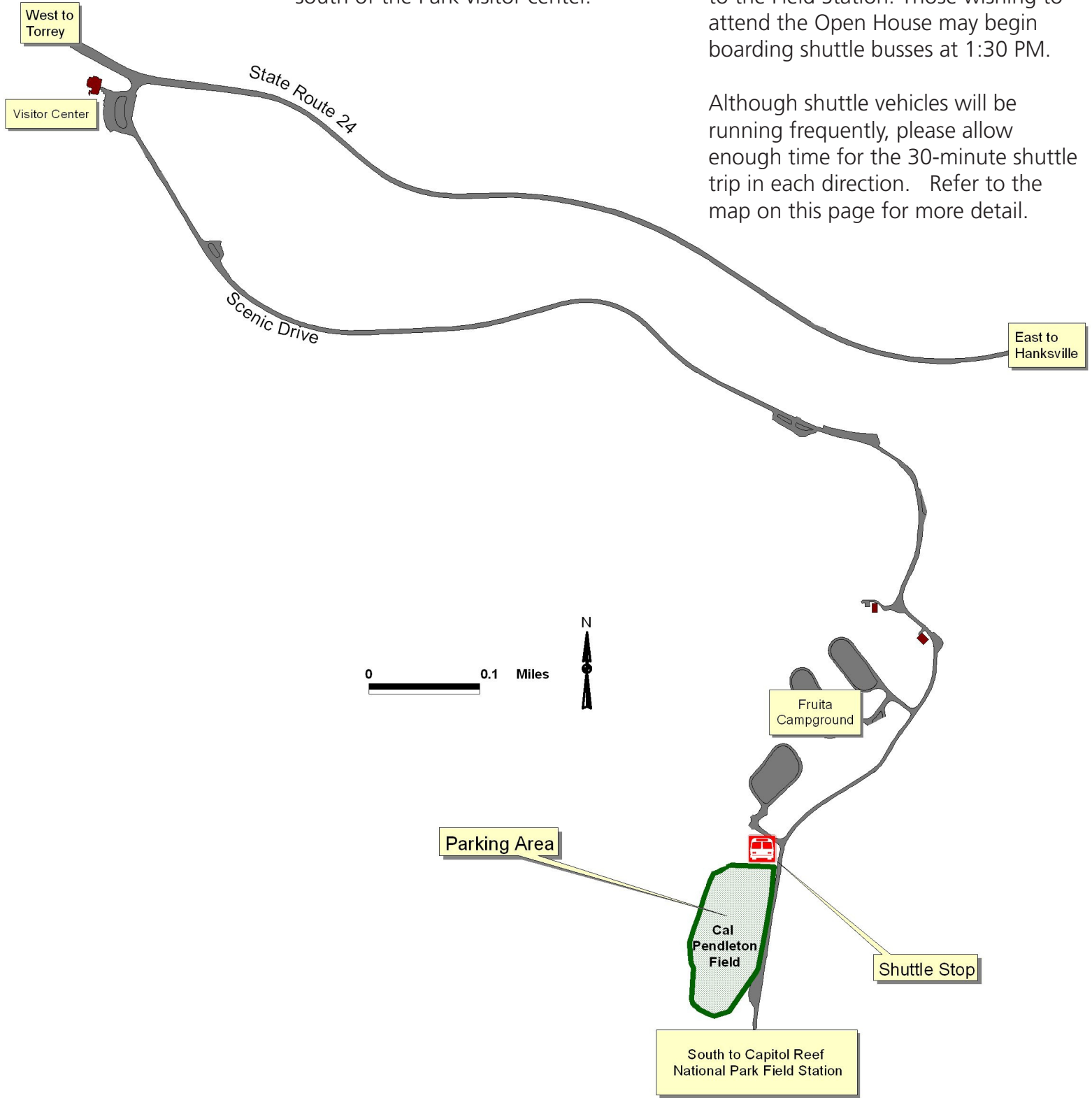
Downward-positioned exterior lighting and slatted blinds minimize lighting impacts to the surrounding area. Sound-absorbing insulation reduces noise from the utility building. The low-profile complex was designed with minimal impact to the area, and disturbed areas are being reclaimed.

Shuttle Service

Event Parking will be located in the Cal Pendleton Field past the campground along the Scenic Drive, approximately one and one-half miles south of the Park visitor center.

Private vehicles cannot be accommodated at the Field Station due to minimal parking space. Shuttle vehicles will transport guests from the parking area to the Field Station. Those wishing to attend the Open House may begin boarding shuttle busses at 1:30 PM.

Although shuttle vehicles will be running frequently, please allow enough time for the 30-minute shuttle trip in each direction. Refer to the map on this page for more detail.



Interpretive Opportunities in the Park

Initially established as a National Monument in 1937 to conserve and protect significant natural and cultural resources, Capitol Reef was increased in size in 1969 and designated as a National Park in 1971.

The park features the Waterpocket Fold and Cathedral Valley geological formations. Archeological evidence of the prehistoric Fremont Culture and historical vestiges of the Mormon pioneer community of Fruita are preserved. A wide range of habitats support diverse plant and animal life.

Today's Interpretive Services:

- Visitor Center open 8 AM to 6 PM
- Gifford House open 9 AM to 4:30 PM
- Schoolhouse open 10 to 11:30 AM
- Nature Center open 10 AM to 3 PM
- Geology Talk at 10:50 AM & 1:30 PM
- Petroglyph Talk at 3 PM
- Junior Geologist Hike at 3:30 PM
- Cohab Canyon Hike from 3 to 6 PM
- Evening Program at 7:30 PM
- Self-guided Junior Ranger booklets and Family Fun Packs are available at the visitor center

Details and locations are posted on all park bulletin boards.