

World Class Cement Plant and Hawn State Park

Leaders – Tom Newman, CPG, Chief Geologist, Cement Plant

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Date – Tuesday, October 7, 2025

Times – 7:00 am – 4:00 pm

An hour of travel to the southeast to Bloomsdale, MO along the mighty Mississippi River will take us to a 4000-acre cement plant and limestone mine hosting the largest kiln in the world making up the most environmentally efficient cement plant on our planet.

Environmental permitting began in 1998 and construction in 2006, with the plant going on-line in 2009. Today the plant produces 4.5 million metric tons of cement annually.

There is more than 100 years of limestone supply, and 2,000 acres are to be preserved as a conservation area. The mine exposes a rock record of northeasterly gently dipping strata some 500 feet thick, ranging in age from middle Mississippian to lower Ordovician, consisting of mostly carbonate rocks, some shale and a bit of sandstone. This portion of the tour is expected to take 3 hours. Following the tour, we will depart for the 5000-acre Hawn State Park about 30 minutes west of the Holcim plant.

Hills of stately pine and oak trees, sandy-bottom streams with sandstone canyons and cliffs create one of the most scenic landscapes in Missouri. Hawn State Park may be the only location in Missouri to have igneous, metamorphic, and sedimentary rocks juxtaposed essentially in one place. With a bit of geologic touring on foot to see the basal sedimentary unit and its relationship to the basement rock of Missouri, attendees can relax with lunch and take some time to stretch their legs in this amalgamation of flora, fauna, streams and rocks. The leisurely stay here is expected to be about two and one-half hours, returning to the hotel at 4:00 PM.

The cement plant requires hard hats, steel-toe shoes, a visible safety vest, and safety glasses. You will need to bring your own gear.



Hawn State Park in Missouri, [Kbh3rd](#), [CC BY-SA 3.0](#)

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