

People come from far away to visit a park in the desert. This area has trees that have turned into stone. These tree fossils lay scattered on the sandy ground. It is an amazing sight to see. The red, blue, green, and yellow remains of the trees sparkle in the sun.

How did the trees turn into stone?
Why do the fossils have different colors?
Long ago the trees died. They fell to the ground. When the wind blew, sand and dirt covered the trees. Each time it rained, minerals dissolved in the soil. Rain helped the minerals seep into the dead trees. The minerals were different colors.

The water evaporated in the hot sun. The minerals stayed in the trees. They filled the cracks of the trees' trunks and branches. The wood rotted away. The minerals had replaced the wood. The trees had turned into fossils that were shaped just like the trees. Some are small. Others are huge.

Laws help preserve this park for future visitors.