

Nature Station Trails



Land Between The Lakes National Recreation Area

January 2011

Nature Station Trails are family friendly and offer good opportunities for viewing wildflowers, birds, and other wildlife. All the trails are located near the facility and the trailheads are easy to find. Remember to use tick and insect repellent, carry plenty of water, pack out your trash, and please leave the flowers for others to enjoy! Nature Station Hiking Trails are open year-round. The Nature Station Parking Lot is open until 5pm, March through November. Other parking areas are open year-round. Trails are for hiking only.

Center Furnace Trail (0.3-mile – 30 minutes)

The Center Furnace Trail gives visitors a look at historic Center Furnace and the impact the iron industry had on the land and its people. On this interpretive trail, you will see evidence of how this busy community thrived over 100 years ago.

Hematite Trail (2.2 miles – 1 hour, 30 minutes)

This scenic trail offers an opportunity to see various species of birds and other wildlife, as well as a diversity of plant life along the lakeshore and marshland. Two observation stations, a boardwalk, and wildlife photography blind are located along the trail. Picnic and toilet facilities are available near trail entrance.

Honker Trail (4.3 miles – 3 hours)

Named for the Canada geese often seen along the trail, this loop meanders near the shoreline and through forests and fields along Honker Lake. Hikers might see deer, osprey, and bald eagles.

Long Creek Trail (0.26 miles – 20 minutes)

Boasting a rich variety of plant life, Long Creek Trail provides paved access for visitors to view a bottomland hardwood forest along a drifting creek. This area is often a favorite feeding and resting spot for many wildlife species.

Woodland Walk Trail (.9 miles – 1 hour) Beginning and ending at the Nature Station Parking Lot, this trail brings you through scenic woodlands and offers several scenic lookouts onto Honker Lake.

Length: Approximately 8 miles total

Trailheads: Nature Station, *Small* Trailheads with parking located at Center Furnace Trail, Hematite Trail, and Long Creek Trail

Trail Connections: Nature Station Trails & North/South Trail

Surface Type: Dirt, Pavement

Difficulty Level: Easy to Moderate

Center Furnace Trail ~ Easy. Mainly flat; some stairs.

Hematite Trail ~ Easy to Moderate. Travels on flat land along the woods and lakeshore of Hematite Lake; some hills.

Honker Trail ~ Easy to Moderate. Travels up moderate hills and ridges, and along flat lakeshore meadows.

Long Creek ~ Easy. Flat, paved, and accessible.

Woodland Walk ~ Moderate. Meanders around the Nature Station with access to Honker Lake.

Recommended Seasons: Spring, Fall, Winter (*Some portions of trails may flood after spring rains.*)

Facilities: Nature Station (water, telephone, restrooms, recycling, nature programs, interpretive staff), Picnic Pavilion

Trail Markings: *Woodland Walk Trail*–White Paw Print Blazing

Honker Trail–White Diamonds ◊

Trail Ethics: Pack it in. Pack it out! If you want to see more wildlife, try to keep your group quiet and alert.

Backcountry Camping: Camping is not allowed in the Nature Watch Area, including all of these trails.

Safety: *You are responsible for your own safety.* Trail use has inherent risks. You may encounter a variety of unexpected and/or dangerous conditions. It is your responsibility to be informed and take precautions. Trail Markers are placed to better orient hikers. Please refer to map for specific location. The Lone Star Tick and the American Dog Tick are very abundant; precautions should be taken primarily from mid-March through mid-October. Poison ivy flourishes in many areas in LBL, please use caution.

Due to the 2009 Ice Storm, trail users should be looking for overhead hazards such as snags, hanging limbs, and leaning/uprooted trees. During windy conditions, users should exercise extra caution.

Nature Station Trail Rules

1. For your safety, all hikers are requested to register at either the North or South Welcome Station or the Golden Pond Visitor Center.
2. Low impact camping/hiking/biking techniques should be followed at all times. Stay on the trail, even through wet areas, to help prevent soil erosion. All garbage must be packed out.
3. Nature Station Trails are open to foot traffic only. Motor vehicles are strictly prohibited.
4. *Respect the Resource*–leave plants and flowers for others to enjoy, and do not harass the wildlife!
5. Firearms are strictly prohibited.
6. Pets must be on a leash of 6' or less and under physical control at all times. Respect other users.
7. LBL strongly encourages users to “Call Before You Haul” to check current trail conditions at 270-924-2000 ext. 3, or visit us on the web at www.lbl.org under Alerts & Notices.
8. ♻️ Help us eliminate garbage–take your trash to one of our Recycling Stations located at Golden Pond Visitor Center, The Homeplace, Woodlands Nature Station, and Wranglers Campground.

Land Between The Lakes National Recreation Area has been set aside for your recreation and education. As you hike these trails, take time to enjoy the natural beauty and learn something about the natural or cultural history of this special place.

{Various trail information originally compiled by Johnny Molloy and captured in his book, “Land Between The Lakes Outdoor Recreation Handbook.”}



USDA Forest Service is an equal opportunity provider and employer.



Emergencies

Call 877-861-2457 or 911 for 24-hr Dispatch, or the USDA Forest Service Law Enforcement Office 270-924-2196 Mon-Fri 8am-4:30pm

For More Information

USDA Forest Service Land Between The Lakes 100 Van Morgan Drive Golden Pond, KY 42211 270-924-2000 or 800-LBL-7077 www.lbl.org

Volunteer Opportunities

Friends of LBL Volunteer Coordinator 270-924-2007 www.friendsoflbl.org

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