



Big Bone Lick State Historical Site

Location: southwest Boone County KY: 3380 Beaver Rd, Union 41091. Park phone: 859-384-3522

Website: <http://parks.ky.gov/parks/historicsites/big-bone-lick/default.aspx>

Driving Directions: Park is on KY-338. KY-338 is 1st exit off I-75 / 71 north of I-71 / I-75 split near Walton. Follow 338 west, changing roads to follow the 338 signs, the last at a blinking light where US-42 & KY-338 split. KY-338 descends a long hill into a valley. Park entrance is on left.

Hiking Trail Miles: About 4.1 miles unpaved and mostly through woods, also about 0.9 miles on a partially paved interpretive trail. Gobblers Trace (about 0.6 mile) connects the museum parking lot to the campground. Cedar Run (about 0.9 mile) is a loop trail with both trailheads accessible from the ridge along Gobblers Trace. Bison Spur (about 0.2 mile) connects Cedar Run to Bison Trace trail along the bison pens. Bison Trace (about 0.5 mile) is a flat path along the bison pens and to-from the museum parking lot. Coralberry Trail (about 1.9 miles) circles Big Bone Lake, but the northern part of this trail was closed in 2020 (see map). Big Bone Creek Trail (about 0.9 mile) is a mostly flat, partially paved interpretive trail behind the museum.

Trail Features: Mostly wooded trails with climbs & descends, some up to 150'. Restroom access is uncertain November to April except when museum is open. Coralberry Trail loops around Big Bone Lake which is partially visible at times through the woods, fully visible where trail crosses an earthen dam. Cedar Run and Bison Spur were created by NKY Sierra Club in early 2000s. Coralberry and Cedar each cross wooden footbridges over creeks. Bison Trace parallels the fenced pastures where the herd is often visible.

Dogs: Allowed if leashed.

Park History: The park's history is quite unique and the landscape is also interesting. The park sits atop warm salt springs that have bubbled up since the Pleistocene and can still be seen today. Large Pleistocene mammals such as woolly mastodon were attracted by the salt springs. Some became trapped in marshy soil and their bones became the fossils for which Big Bone was

