



Boone Extension Nature Center Trails

Location: south-central Boone County in Northern KY

Address: 9101 Camp Ernst Road, Union, KY 41091

Website:

Unknown. This trail is open to the public only during limited hours on certain days. For more information, phone the Boone County Extension office at 859.586.6101.

Driving Directions: From the KY-536 interchange at I-71/75, go west on KY-536, passing the US-42 intersection. After leaving Union KY, continue westbound on 536 until reaching Camp Ernst Rd on the right. Turn right (northward) on Camp Ernst Rd and travel almost 1.5 miles (just past Central Park on the right), then turn left (west) into the Nature Center parking lot.

Hiking Trail Miles: 3 miles covered by 3 trails – several trail loops are possible

- **Red Trail** is the longest trail, a 1.9 mile loop
- **Yellow Trail** is 0.7 miles, over half of which is a shared section of Red Trail
- **Blue Trail** is a 0.4 mile shortcut between 2 sections of Yellow Trail

Rating: Relatively easy, but there are climbs which may tire some walkers. There are no restrooms or water supplies along the trail, but there are restrooms and water at the welcome center near the parking lot where hikers must register before hiking.

Trail Features: The trails are unpaved except in some gravel-covered sections. They are well-marked with colored arrows along the trail, so it is difficult to get lost, even when red and yellow trails merge or separate. Many trees along the trails have numbered signs which coincide with numbered tree descriptions in a handout available at the welcome center during registration, so the trails are excellent for learning local tree identification.

Along the trails are several wildlife observation shelters as well as a shelter at a vernal pond. The observation shelters are usually open only during scheduled visits by teachers and students.

Dogs: Not permitted.

Park History: These trails are owned and managed by the Boone County Cooperative Extension to the University of Kentucky and Kentucky State University to offer off-campus information, education and assistance to local consumers about local nature, agriculture, gardening, wildlife, farm animals and health. The nature center also hosts a variety of scheduled programs which require attendees to register in advance.

These trails are only open to the public during limited hours on certain days, so it is important to contact the Boone Extension office before hiking there (see phone number above).

Central Park is across the street (on the east side of Camp Ernst Rd) from the Boone County Extension Nature Center. Central Park offers several miles of paved and unpaved walking trails which are not only open to the public without advanced reservations, but are also accessible for handicapped individuals, wheelchairs and child strollers.

Trail map courtesy of Boone Extension Nature Center:

